



Drumlins Park Wind Farm

Chapter 1: Introduction

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1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared by Galetech Energy Services Limited (GES) on behalf of Drumlins Park Limited (DPL) to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out in respect of a planning application submitted pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the proposed development of a wind farm comprising 8 no. turbines and all associated site development and ancillary works ('the project')¹.

The proposed wind farm is located in northwest County Monaghan approximately 2km southwest of the village of Newbliss, 5km south of Clones and 7km northwest of Cootehill. The proposed wind farm will be located in the townlands of Corlougharoe, Correvan, Drumlina, Tullyard, Drumacreeve, Drumanan, Cornawall, Drumgramph, Closdaw, Killyleg, Crossbane, Lislongfield and Drumcrow, County Monaghan.

EIA is a process carried out by the relevant competent authority, in this case Monaghan County Council and/or An Bord Pleanála ('the Planning Authority'), to ensure that projects which are likely to have significant effects² on the environment are subject to a comprehensive examination, analysis and evaluation of their likely significant effects; including direct, indirect and cumulative effects; prior to being granted planning permission. Pursuant to Part X of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), EIA is integrated into the planning application process and helps to ensure that decisions are made in the full knowledge of their likely significant impacts on the environment.

An EIAR is a written statement prepared by the developer of the likely significant effects, if any, which the proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment. The EIAR consists of a systematic analysis of the potential effects of the proposed development in relation to the existing environment. It is an iterative process carried out throughout the project design process so as to allow for preventative action, where changes can still be made to the project that anticipate, avoid and mitigate foreseen impacts. This process has resulted in repeated modification of the project design to avoid or reduce effects through continuous redesign and the consideration of reasonable alternatives.

The EIAR is the principal document that informs the EIA process and provides integral information which competent authorities can use, among other considerations, in undertaking EIA and informing their decision to grant or refuse planning permission, or to seek further information. The EIAR can also be used by third parties, including members of the public concerned, as part of the public participation process, to evaluate the proposed development and its likely significant environmental impacts.

¹ For the purposes of this EIAR, the terms 'project', 'development', 'proposed development', 'proposed development site', 'site', 'wind farm' and 'wind farm development', and any variation thereof, are used interchangeably throughout and to encompass and refer to the entire project being assessed including wind turbines and associated secondary and off-site developments such as the grid connection options, haul routes upgrade works and all elements referred to in **Chapter 3**. As described in **Section 1.18**, not all elements of the project shall be included in a single planning application.

² For the purposes of this EIAR, the terms 'impact' and 'effect', and any variation thereof, are used interchangeably throughout. The EPA *Draft Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (August 2017) define both 'effects' and 'impacts' as "A change resulting from the implementation of a project." It is also noted that the Draft Guidelines also identically define 'likely effects/impacts', 'potential effects/impacts' and 'residual effects/impacts'.

1.2 Screening

The first stage of the EIA process involves deciding whether an EIA needs to be undertaken or not. This ensures that EIA is only undertaken for projects which may be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In accordance with the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), EIA is mandatory when certain prescribed classes of projects exceed specific sizes and thresholds. Planning applications for such projects must be accompanied by an EIAR.

Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) provides that the following class of development proposal shall be subject to EIA:-

“Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts”

As the project consists of 8 no. wind turbines, it is therefore of a scale which exceeds the mandatory threshold for EIA. Accordingly, an EIAR has been prepared and submitted with the planning application.

1.3 Content

In order to be relevant, complete and legally compliant, the content of this EIAR includes all of the information required by EIA Directive 2014/52/EU and national legislation, as appropriate and necessary to the specific characteristics of the proposed development, and includes:-

- (a) A description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;
- (b) A description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;
- (c) A description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- (d) A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- (e) A non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and
- (f) Any additional information specified in Annex IV of the EIA Directive relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.

1.4 Format

The EIAR is presented as 2 no. volumes, which should be read in conjunction with each other, as follows:-

- **Volume I** comprises the Main EIAR text and follows a 'grouped format' structure where each environmental factor is assessed and presented as a separate chapter. The EIA Directive prescribes the range of environmental factors which should be used to organise descriptions of the environment and likely environmental impacts. These have been supplemented with additional environmental factors owing to the characteristics of the project under assessments, as follows:-
 - Chapter 1: Introduction;
 - Chapter 2: Assessment of Project Alternatives;

- Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development;
 - Chapter 4: Population & Human Health;
 - Chapter 5: Biodiversity;
 - Chapter 6: Land & Soils;
 - Chapter 7: Water;
 - Chapter 8: Air Quality & Climate;
 - Chapter 9: Landscape;
 - Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage;
 - Chapter 11: Noise & Vibration;
 - Chapter 12: Shadow Flicker;
 - Chapter 13: Material Assets; and
 - Chapter 14: Interactions of the Foregoing.
- **Volume II** comprises a range of annexes, including technical data and reports, which informed the impact assessment provided in **Volume I** so as to ensure the EIA is transparently supported by evidence.

A Non-Technical Summary of the EIA is provided as a separate standalone volume in order to facilitate the wider public concerned in their involvement in the statutory consultation during the planning application determination stage.

1.5 Structure

In order to provide for a consistent approach and to communicate clear, concise, unambiguous information, each chapter is systematically organised so as to follow a similar basic structure, as follows:-

- **The existing environment:** A description of the context, character, significance and sensitivity of the receiving (baseline) environment using standard descriptive methods, in order to predict the likely significant impacts of the proposed development;
- **The likely significant effects of the proposed development:** The aspects of the construction, existence and operation of the proposed development that are likely to affect the existing environment including, as appropriate, predicted, potential, residual, 'do nothing' and 'worst case' impacts. The significance of impacts is determined with reference to magnitude, intensity, integrity, duration and probability; and
- **The measures to mitigate and monitor adverse impacts:** The range of methods which are proposed for mitigation by avoidance, reduction and remedy of likely significant effects (including potential unplanned events) together with ongoing monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

This structure, which clearly separates data (descriptions of the receiving environment and of the project) from predictions (impacts and mitigation measures), is designed to ensure that replicable impact assessments, based on rigorous scientific information and evidence, is carried out using recognised methods that are presented and documented in a fully legible, transparent and objective manner. This methodological structure reduces any potential for subjective information and bias, to facilitate the Planning Authority in their independent EIA of the proposed development.

1.6 Guidance

A range of general statutory and non-statutory guidance documents were consulted in undertaking and preparing this EIA, including *inter alia*:-

- Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2017);
- Draft Advice Notes for preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2006);
- Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines – Preferred Draft Approach (DoHPCLG, 2017);
- Best Practise Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry (IWEA, 2012);
- Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment (European Commission; 2013); and,
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DoHPCLG, 2018)

Additional guidance documents specific to each environmental factor is referenced in each chapter of this EIAR, as relevant.

1.7 Project Team

The EIA Directive requires that an EIAR must be prepared by a team of competent, qualified experts with an appropriate combination of experience, expertise and knowledge related to the significance, complexity and range of effects that an EIAR needs to assess. Such competence includes an understanding of the legal context of the decision-making process and a variety of technical experts to address different environmental topics, and their interactions, in order to ensure that the information included in the EIAR is complete to a high level of objective quality.

GES has been appointed by DPL to manage and co-ordinate the management and preparation of this EIAR. GES is an Irish multi-disciplinary renewable energy consultancy that specialises in the project management of planning, environmental and technical engineering services of wind energy developments from project feasibility through to delivery and operation. GES combines the expertise of leading experts in wind farm design, planning and environmental assessment. Some examples of wind energy EIAR projects managed by GES are provided in **Table 1.1** below.

Development	Development Description	Status
Carrickallen Wind Farm, Co. Cavan	Wind Farm comprising 10 no. wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure.	Operational
Oldmill Wind Farm, Co. Monaghan	Wind Farm comprising 7 no. wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure.	Operational
Taghart Wind Farm, Co. Cavan	Wind Farm comprising 7 no. wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure.	Permitted
Taghart Wind Farm Grid Connection, Co. Cavan & Co. Meath	Approximately 12km of underground electricity line located predominately within the carriageway of the public road network.	Permitted
Cloghan Wind Farm, Co. Offaly	Wind Farm comprising 9 no. wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure.	Permitted
Cloghan Wind Farm Grid Connection, Co. Offaly	Approximately 8km of underground electricity line located predominately within the carriageway of the public road network.	Proposed
Pinewoods Wind Farm, Co. Laois	Wind Farm comprising 11 no. wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure	Permitted

Table 1.1: Examples of EIAR Wind Energy Projects managed by GES

The EIAR is critically dependent on the expertise, experience, independence and objectivity of environmental specialists. They characterise the existing environment and evaluate its significance and sensitivity. Individual specialist and technical consultants were also appointed in order to undertake assessments and prepare chapters on specific environmental topics, where necessary.

Each specialist is a recognised expert in their field and was selected having regard to their knowledge of relevant environmental legislation; their experience of involvement in EIAR projects for wind energy developments; familiarity with pertinent standards and criteria for the evaluation and classification of significance of impacts; the ability to interpret technical documents and to work with project designers to arrive at practical and reliable measures to avoid, mitigate and monitor impacts; and to clearly and comprehensively present their findings in a concise and objective manner.

An overview of the specialist consultants involved in the preparation of each chapter of this EIAR, together with their relevant qualifications and key environmental factors covered, is provided in **Table 1.2** below. GES undertook overall editorial management of the EIAR to ensure consistency and cross-referencing between different chapters and identifying potential interactions between separate environmental factors, together with general project management and briefing of specialist and technical consultants. A statement of competence for all of the specialist consultants who contributed to the preparation of this EIAR is provided in each individual chapter of this EIAR, as appropriate.

Ch.	Environmental Topic	Specialist Consultant	Personnel
1	Introduction , including:	GES	Gavin Daly BA Dip (ERM) MIPI Simon Carleton BA MSc MIPI Declan Owens BSc MSc MIPI
2	Assessment of Project Alternatives , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Sites; Alternative Technologies; and Alternative Project Designs. 	GES	
3	Description of the Proposed Development , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind Farm; Turbine Component Haul Route; Grid Connection; and Construction Materials & Aggregates. 	GES	
4	Population & Human Health , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment; Human Health (considered with reference to benchmark standards under other chapters such as noise, shadow flicker, air quality etc.); and Amenity. 	SLR Consulting	Alan Mitchell
5	Biodiversity , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitats Birds Bats Non-volant mammals; and Aquatic ecology 	Ecofact Environmental Consultants	Dr. William O'Connor
6	Land & Soils , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superficial Geology; Bedrock Geology; Geological Heritage & Designated Sites; and 	Hydro- Environmental Services	Michael Gill David Broderick

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Contamination. 		
7	Water , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local & Regional Hydrology; • Flood Risk; • Hydrogeology; • Ground/Surface physical characteristics; and • Drainage Management. 	Hydro-Environmental Services	Michael Gill David Broderick
8	Air Quality & Climate , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality; • Climate; • Dust; • Greenhouse gas emissions; and • Contribution of Proposed Development to binding targets. 	AWN Consulting	Dr. Avril Challoner
9	Landscape , including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character; • Views & Prospects • Landscape Impact; and • Visual Impact. 	Macro Works	Richard Barker Cian Doughan
		GES (photomontages)	Cormac McPhillips
10	Cultural Heritage , including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known archaeological monuments; • Areas of archaeological potential (including unknown archaeology); • Architectural heritage; and • Designations or sensitivities 	Dermot Nelis Archaeology	Dermot Nelis
11	Noise & Vibration , including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daytime Noise; • Night time Noise; • Vibration sources; and • Sensitive receptors. 	AWN Consulting	Mike Simms
		GES	Cormac McPhillips
12	Shadow Flicker , including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worst Case Effects; • Expected Effects; and • Mitigation Measures. 	GES	Cormac McPhillips Gavin Daly Simon Carleton Declan Owens
13	Material Assets , including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport & Access; • Aviation; • Telecommunications; and • Resources & Utility Infrastructure. 	Jennings O'Donovan & Partners	David Kiely
		GES	Gavin Daly Simon Carleton Declan Owens
14	Interaction of the Foregoing	GES	Gavin Daly Simon Carleton Declan Owens
Non-Technical Summary		GES	Gavin Daly Simon Carleton Declan Owens

Table 1.2: Specialist Consultants involved in the preparation of this EIAR

1.8 Scoping

The scoping process involves identifying the issues that are likely to be significant during EIA and eliminates those that are not. The prior determination of the nature and detail of the information to be contained in the EIAR is one of the most important stages of EIA and may be conducted through a formal or informal process. Scoping helps ensure that the EIAR remains focused on issues that are

environmentally based, likely to occur and may have significant and adverse effects.

The Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides for a discretionary provision whereby a developer may formally request the opinion of the Planning Authority on the scope of this EIAR. In this case, however, informal scoping was carried out, primarily through ongoing iterative dialogue and feedback processes between the Project Team and the developer, and through the consultation process described in **Section 1.9** below.

Informal scoping was considered the most appropriate means, as it was envisaged from the outset that no environmental factors would be scoped out or eliminated from the EIAR. Accordingly, all environmental factors, as prescribed in the transposing legislation, have been fully addressed and included in this EIAR, as described in **Section 1.3** above.

In undertaking scoping, the statutory obligations as set out in Schedule 6 of the Regulations and a range of guidance documents were consulted, including the EPA *Draft Advice Notes for preparing Environmental Impact Statements (2015) (Project Type 33)* and the *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2006)*. Relevant precedents of EIAs carried out for similar wind farm developments together with other relevant policy documents, such as the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019–2025 and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), were also consulted. The scoping process also considered relevant secondary and off-site developments, including those not included within the planning application, as described in **Section 1.18** below.

Scoping continued throughout the preparation of the EIAR, including during the impact assessment stage, and the Project Team maintained a flexible view of the scope throughout by way of open, effective and ongoing communication, and consultation. The project design was iteratively informed and continually reviewed in light of environmental criteria emerging during the scoping process, and *vice versa*. This process resulted in the anticipation of any likely significant environmental effects and the consequent modification of the proposed development to avoid or reduce effects through redesign and identification of mitigation measures. This has resulted in the assessment and consideration of a number of Reasonable Alternatives as described in **Chapter 2**.

This scoping process resulted in the preparation of an initial Scoping Report which was issued to all statutory consultees, including the Planning Authority. Following further project design revisions and updates, taking account of the feedback received, an updated Scoping Report was prepared and recirculated for further feedback. A copy of the Scoping Report is provided in **Annex 1.1**. The Scoping Report details the step-wise approach taken in identifying the likelihood for any impacts, methodologies for identifying the significance or magnitude of the impacts, and the likely significant effects on the environment.

The scoping process also includes an assessment of relevant 'secondary' or 'off-site' developments including:-

- The proposed connection to the national grid (in accordance with the judgement of the High Court in respect of *O'Gianna & Ors v An Bord Pleanála ([2014] IEHC 632)*);
- Indirect impacts in respect of the extraction of aggregates and materials to be used in the construction phase; and

- Transport and access considerations, including the haul route for turbine components and importation of construction materials.

In addition to EIA, scoping for the potential for any significant effects on European nature conservation sites designated under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) was undertaken through the preparation of an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. The Screening Report concluded that it could not be confirmed, with scientific certainty, that in the absence of avoidance or reduction measures, designated conservation sites would not be adversely affected by the proposed development. As a result of this scoping process, it was determined that the project should be subject to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) should be prepared.

1.9 Consultation

1.9.1 Community Consultation & Engagement

Consultation is a key element of each stage of the EIA process and there are procedures for statutory public consultation at various stages in the EIA process. While it is not obligatory during the scoping and preparation of an EIAR, DPL has undertaken extensive public consultation throughout the development design and EIAR process. For the most part, these consultations comprised one-to-one discussions between DPL personnel with homeowners and local residents. A number of public consultation days were also held which allowed members of the local population to discuss the project directly with DPL staff. A full report on the public consultation process undertaken as part of this EIAR is presented at **Annex 1.2**.

The public consultation process undertaken facilitated the early identification of the potential concerns of the public concerned in respect of the proposed development and a more focused consideration of likely significant impacts, including the identification of design modifications and opportunities to factor mitigation measures into the design process.

In compliance with the Aarhus Convention, once the planning application and EIAR is formally submitted for consideration, the Planning Authority will make arrangements for public access and dissemination of the information contained in the EIAR in accordance with the procedures contained in the transposing legislation. This will ensure that the public concerned is made as fully aware as possible of the likely environmental impacts of the proposed development prior to a decision being made by the Planning Authority.

1.9.2 Stakeholder Consultation

A variety of statutory and non-statutory organisations, including all bodies prescribed in the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), were consulted at early stage in the scoping process to gather their views on the scope of likely significant environmental impacts of the proposed development. The written consultation provided a brief description of the proposed development and outlined the developer's proposed impact assessment approach, accompanied by a suite of maps and drawings, and invited comments from each consultee.

Annex 1.3 provides a sample copy of the consultation letter, while a copy of all responses received is enclosed at **Annex 1.4. Table 1.3**, below, lists all organisations which have been consulted, details whether or not a response was received and provides a summary of the content contained therein.

It should be noted that consultees were consulted on 2 no. separate occasions. Consultation requests were initially issued in January/February 2019 and, following revisions to the proposed site layout, a subsequent consultation request was issued in May 2019. Where a consultee did not respond to the second consultation request, it has been assumed that they have no further comments and their initial response is provided *in lieu* below.

Following the submission of the planning application to the Planning Authority, the Planning Authority is obliged to consult with certain bodies or authorities. While the consultation undertaken to date has allowed for any identified concerns to be addressed within the EIAR, this statutory consultation process will allow these bodies or authorities to make any further comment, as necessary.

1.9.3 Transboundary Consultation

The EIA Directive requires that, where appropriate, consultations regarding the potential transboundary effects of a project shall be undertaken. Given the proposed development's proximity to the international boundary with Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), a range of organisations in Northern Ireland have also been consulted with to further inform the scope of the EIAR. Again, a copy of all responses received is enclosed at **Annex 1.4. Table 1.4**, below, lists all organisations which have been consulted, details whether or not a response was received and provides a summary of the content contained therein.

1.9.4 Planning Authority Consultation

An applicant for planning permission is not obliged to consult with the relevant Planning Authority prior to the submission of a planning application. Notwithstanding this and in addition to the scoping request issued to the Planning Authority dated 10 May 2019, in order to provide the Planning Authority (Monaghan County Council) with an opportunity to discuss the project directly with the Project Team, a pre-planning consultation meeting was held on 24 April 2019. During the meeting the project was described in detail together with the relevant environmental topics, including, *inter alia*, population & human health (proximity to residential dwellings), biodiversity, transport, flooding, and landscape and visual amenity. A series of planning application/procedural items were also discussed at length. In accordance with Section 247(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a written record of the meeting was prepared by the Planning Authority and a copy of same is enclosed at **Annex 1.5**.

Consultee	Response Received	Summary of Feedback
Airspeed Telecom	No	
An Garda Síochána	No	
An Taisce	No	
Arden Broadband	Yes	No impact on service operations.
Bat Conservation Ireland	No	
Birdwatch Ireland	No	
Bord Gáis Energy	No	
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland	Yes	Proposed development is not located close to any existing or planned transmission site.
BT Communications Ireland	Yes	No impact on BT Ireland microwave radio network.
Cavan County Council	No	
Commission for Communications Regulation	No	
Commission for Regulation of Utilities	No	
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Yes	Felling Licence to be obtained should the proposed development require trees to be felled or removed.
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	No	
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Yes	Recommendation that a full Appropriate Assessment is carried out. Further recommends that suitable in-season surveys to determine the status of habitats and species be undertaken.
Department of Defence	Yes	The Irish Air Corps would be interested in this development and may have observations for the EIAR. Please inform us when the planning application has been made.
Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government	Yes	Department may not comment on development proposals. Consultation request forwarded to Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Yes	Query should be addressed to Sustainable Energy Authority.
Eir Ltd	Yes	No transmission or radio service within 2km and development does not pose any risk to Eir Mobile (formerly Meteor).
Eirgrid	No	
Environmental Protection Agency	Yes	EPA advised (via telephone) that they have no comment to make.
ESB	No	

Consultee	Response Received	Summary of Feedback
Fáilte Ireland	Yes	Recommendation that Fáilte Ireland's 'Guidelines for the treatment of Tourism in an EIS' be taken into account.
Gas Networks Ireland	Yes	No comment.
Geological Survey of Ireland	Yes	No envisaged impacts on County Geological Sites. Groundwater vulnerability and peaty soils should be taken in account.
Health and Safety Authority	No	
Health Service Executive – Environmental Health Department	Yes	Health gains should be considered e.g. recreational use and community benefit; private well data should be verified by ground-truthing; dust minimisation to be included in EIAR; and recommends noise impact methodology.
Iannród Éireann	No	
Imagine Group	No	
Inland Fisheries Ireland	Yes	On-site watercourse is a lower order tributary of Annalee River and site is located in Upper Erne Catchment Area. All watercourses are to be fully assessed.
Irish Aviation Authority	Yes	Requests details of measures to be implemented if warning lights are not functioning. Requests details to be provided should planning permission be granted.
Irish Peatland Conservation Council	Yes	Requests that consideration be given to a range of potential receptors including designated sites, identified wetland areas, national monuments, Water Framework Directive, bats, and the cumulative effects with other wind farms.
Irish Raptor Study Group	No	
Irish Red Grouse Association	No	
Irish Water	No	
Irish Wildlife Trust	No	
Meteor Mobile Communications Ltd (Eir Mobile)	Yes	No transmission or radio services in the vicinity of the proposed windfarm site. The nearest is over 2km away and no risk posed to the Eir Mobile (formerly Meteor) network.
Monaghan County Council – Planning Department	No	While a response has not been received, a pre-planning consultation meeting was held with the Planning Department. A copy of the recorded minutes is enclosed at Annex 1.5 .
Mosaic Net	No	
National Ambulance Service	Yes	No direct comment. Should be considered in relation to road closures, site infrastructure, equipment locations and first aid/medical facilities.

Consultee	Response Received	Summary of Feedback
National Federation of Group Water Schemes	No	
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Yes	See Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
National Trails Office	No	
Netshare Ireland	No	
Northern & Western Regional Assembly	Yes	Northern & Western Regional Assembly does not comment on individual projects.
Office of Public Works	No	
Open Eir	Yes	No impact on Eir microwave radio network.
Ripplecom	Yes	No impact on existing radio infrastructure.
2rn (RTE Transmission Network Ltd)	Yes	Possibility for interference to be caused in marginal coverage areas. Recommends that a pre-construction survey be undertaken for comparison with post-construction levels. Also recommends that a protocol be put in place with 2rn.
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	No	
Tetra Ireland Communications Ltd	Yes	No impact anticipated.
The Arts Council	No	
The Heritage Council	No	
Three (3) Ireland	Yes	No adverse impact on transmission network.
Towercom	Yes	No anticipated significant impact based on initial assessment. Will require final turbine location and coordinates.
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Yes	Provides general guidance for impact assessment.
Údarás na Gaeltachta	Yes	No comment.
Virgin Media Ireland	No	
Vodafone Ireland Ltd	Yes	No impact on transmission services.
Waterways Ireland	Yes	The project has been considered in the context of the Ulster Canal and it appears that there will be no physical impact.
Transboundary Consultation		
Department for Communities – Historic Environment Division	Yes	Known archaeological and listed buildings to be assessed.
Department for Infrastructure - Rivers	Yes	No comment.
Department for Infrastructure - Roads	Yes	No consultation required as transport routes do not enter Northern Ireland.
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs – Planning Response Team	Yes	Impacts on surface water are unlikely to be significant subject to appropriate mitigation and best practice measures; and development is unlikely to present a significant risk to NI or transboundary bird populations

Consultee	Response Received	Summary of Feedback
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council – Environmental Health	Yes	Noise assessment methodologies should be presented in the EIAR including an assessment of other developments in counties Cavan, Monaghan and Fermanagh.
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council – Planning	Yes	Request to consider the Fermanagh Omagh Council area in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
Forest Service - Planning	Yes	No comment.
Loughs Agency NI	Yes	No jurisdiction for County Monaghan. Refer to Inland Fisheries Ireland.
Northern Ireland Water	Yes	No comment.
Office of Communications – Fixed Links	Yes	Pro-forma response.
RSPB Northern Ireland	Yes	Full habitat survey should be carried out; Scoping Report should include details of impact assessment (including bird surveys); and provides general impact assessment advice and guidance.
Tourism NI	Yes	No comment.

Table 1.3: Summary of Written Consultations

1.10 Cumulative Impact

This EIAR has considered the potential for the proposed development, in its totality including secondary and off-site developments, to act in combination with other existing, permitted and proposed developments in the wider vicinity of the proposed development site, to result in likely effects on the environment which, when combined, may result in impacts which are cumulatively significant.

In the first instance, a desktop review of available data sources was undertaken to identify existing developments in the local area. Secondly, the EIA Portal³ was consulted to assess for the presence of proximate developments which have been subject to EIA. Finally, the online Monaghan County Council ePlan Portal⁴ was examined to assess for extant planning permissions which had not yet been commenced. Developments warranting a cumulative impact assessment range from on-off rural dwellings to large scale intensive poultry rearing units. **Table 1.4**, below, provides a non-exhaustive list of developments which have been considered in the cumulative impact assessment of this EIAR.

Development	Planning Register Reference	Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) or Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) License	Development Description
One-off Rural Dwellings	Various	N/A	Assorted developments including detached dwellings, bungalows and extensions.
Agricultural Developments	Various	N/A	Assorted developments including livestock housing buildings, silage pits and dairy facilities.
Free-Range Poultry Unit	06/299	N/A	Erect a free-range hen house, feed storage silo, wash-down water storage tank, ancillary fencing and modify existing entrance to the public road.
Poultry Manure Storage Shed	07/474	N/A	Construct 1 no. poultry manure storage shed with wash-down water storage tank and make new entrance to the public road and all associated site works.
Free-Range Poultry Unit	08/318	N/A	Construct 1 no. Free Range Hen House, Feed Storage Silo, Wash-Down Waters Storage Tank, Use previously approved entrance (Ref. No. 07/474) and ancillary site works.
Poultry Rearing Units	18/160	P1079-01	Permission to demolish existing derelict dwelling and farm yard structures and to construct 6 no. poultry houses

³ <http://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1>

⁴ <http://www.eplanning.ie/MonaghanCC/searchtypes>

			together with all ancillary structures.
Poultry Rearing Units	19/61	N/A	Permission to construct a new free range poultry unit, new litter store, roads underpass, hardened area, vertical meal bins, underground washings, tanks and all ancillary site works.
Poultry Rearing Unit	12/126; 18/57; and 18/358	P1086-01	Construction and operation of 3 no. poultry houses and ancillary structures.
Poultry Rearing Unit	19/279	N/A	Permission to construct 2 new poultry units together with underground washings tanks, vertical meal bins, construct new agricultural entrance and all ancillary site works.
Anglo Beef Processors (ABP), Clones	Various	P0190-01; P0190-02; and P0190-03	Developments associated with the ABP meat processing plant.
Scotshouse Quarries	Various	N/A	Quarrying Activities including crushing plants, site offices and wastewater treatment units.
Mullananalt Wind Farm	03/454 and 06/1688,	N/A	Construction and operation of a 5 no. turbine wind farm.
Carrickallen Wind Farm (Cavan)	Various	N/A	Construction and operation of a 10 no. turbine wind farm.
Mountain Lodge Wind Farm (Cavan)	01/1331	N/A	Construction and operation of a 22 no. turbine wind farm.
Bindoo Wind Farm (Cavan)	00/1497, 01/1576, 05/2021,	N/A	Construction and operation of a 32 no. turbine wind farm.
Edrans Wind Farm (Cavan)	99/253, 99/1309, 00/73 & 00/74	N/A	Construction and operation of a 2 no. turbine wind farm.

Table 1.4: Developments addressed in cumulative impact assessment

1.11 Impact Assessment

This EIAR focuses on describing environmental impacts that are both likely and significant by reference to the individual environmental factors described in **Section 1.3** and their sensitivities. In order to provide for clarity of method, language and meaning, and to accurately explain the full range of impacts, the impact classification and sensitivity terminology described in the *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2017)* is used in this EIAR to ensure that all likely significant effects are adequately considered and clearly and transparently communicated.

Further specific guidance, legislation and technical standards for describing environmental impacts, and pertinent to particular environmental topics, are also described in each individual chapter of this EIAR, as necessary.

Magnitude	Sensitivity of Receptor
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	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Very High	Profound	Profound-substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Slight
High	Profound-substantial	Substantial	Substantial - moderate	Moderate-slight	Slight-imperceptible
Medium	Substantial	Substantial - moderate	Moderate	Slight	Imperceptible
Low	Moderate	Moderate-slight	Slight	Slight-imperceptible	Imperceptible
Negligible	Slight	Slight-imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible

Table 1.5: Impact Significance Matrix

- * Categories with dark grey shading are considered to equate with 'significant' impacts/effects
- ** The significance matrix provides an indicative framework from which the significance of impact is derived.

1.12 Mitigation & Monitoring Measures

Each chapter of the EIA includes a description of the measures proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset, as appropriate, any likely significant impacts on the environment together with any proposed monitoring measures in respect of both construction and operational phases. Many mitigation measures have already been incorporated in the project design at an early stage, through the iterative scoping and impact assessment processes, to avoid any likely significant environmental effects. Monitoring measures have also been proposed, where appropriate, to demonstrate compliance with, and efficacy of, the mitigation measures proposed.

In order to ensure clarity of the mitigation and monitoring measures proposed, all such measures are included in a compendium as a separate annex to this EIAR (see **Annex 1.6**).

1.13 Non-Technical Summary

A short, accessible non-technical summary has been prepared as a separate and self-contained document which can be distributed to the public who are likely to be affected by the proposed development. It also contains the details on how members of the public and other organisations can submit any observations they may have to the EIA process.

The non-technical summary is laid out in a similar, but condensed, format to the main EIAR, i.e. describing the project, existing environment, impacts and mitigation measures, in a manner that avoids technical language such that it is easily understandable to a layperson.

The purpose of the non-technical summary is to facilitate the public concerned in their involvement in the statutory consultation during the planning application determination stage.

1.14 Public Access

Compliance with the Aarhus Convention requires that the structure, presentation and the non-technical summary of the EIAR, as well as the arrangements for public access, all facilitate the dissemination of the information contained in the EIAR. The core objective is to ensure that the public is made as fully aware as possible of the likely environmental impacts of projects prior to a decision being made by the Competent Authority.

The Planning Authority will make arrangements for public access and dissemination of the information contained in the EIAR in accordance with the procedures contained in the transposing legislation. This will include making the EIAR, and accompanying planning application documents, available to view and purchase at the offices of the Planning Authority and on the website of the Planning Authority. This will ensure that the public concerned is made as fully aware as possible of the likely environmental impacts of the proposed development prior to a decision being made by the Planning Authority.

A centralised EIA Portal⁵, managed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, is a public accessible map-based database that provides users with access to all applications for development consent which have been accompanied by an EIAR since 16 May 2017. Following the submission of the planning application to the Planning Authority, the public will be able to access the EIAR via the portal website.

This EIAR, including Non-Technical Summary, will be also be made available online by the developer at a dedicated project website (www.drumlinsparkwindfarm.ie).

1.15 Habitats Directive – Appropriate Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) describing the significant effects of the proposed development on European nature conservation sites designated under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) has been prepared and is presented as a separate standalone document to inform an 'Appropriate Assessment' to be carried out by the Planning Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Habitats Directive. The Biodiversity chapter of this EIAR (**Chapter 5**) does not repeat the detailed assessment included in the NIS but cross refers to the findings of this separate assessment.

1.16 Limitations and Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the EIAR

No general difficulties or limitations, including technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge, were encountered in compiling the information required to be provided in this EIAR. Where specific difficulties or limitations were encountered in relation to specific environmental factors, they are reported in the individual chapters of this EIAR, as appropriate.

1.17 Note on Quotations

It is important to acknowledge that statutory EIAR requirements call for a comprehensive description of the existing environment as well as all likely impacts. The EIAR therefore contains statements describing the positive and negative aspects of a proposed development. Selective quotation, out of context, may not be representative of the overall findings of the EIAR and, therefore, any quotations should be provided in their proper context.

⁵ [EIA Portal](#)

1.18 Relationship to the Planning Application

For the avoidance of doubt, not all elements of the entire development will be subject to a single planning application and this EIAR should be read in conjunction with the plans and particulars of the applicable planning application.

