

## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** Tina Aughney <tinaa@batconservationireland.org>  
**Sent:** Monday 29 March 2021 09:43  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Re: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Morning Karen,  
thank you for your email.

My apologies, but BC Ireland do not have the administrative capacity to comment on planning projects.

In light of this, please ensure that bat surveying undertaken meets the best practice guidelines for bat surveys and in relation to wind farms, in particular.

If any bat data is required, the Bat Conservation Ireland database can be accessed through [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie) or directly from BC Ireland (please contact [niamhr@batconservationireland.org](mailto:niamhr@batconservationireland.org), please note there is an administrative charge in relation to data requests).

Regards,  
Tina

Dr Tina Aughney

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----- On Wed, 24 Mar 2021 16:51:46 +0000 **Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>** wrote -----

Good afternoon Tina,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 5 May 2021 18:04  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** FW: Reply from DECC - ESI 21/97 - Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co Mayo  
**Attachments:** 21\_97 Proposed wind energy development at Sheskin South Co. Mayo.pdf

Good afternoon Karen,  
Please confirm receipt of the email and attachment which is the first email from Ms. Trish Smullen, on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland.

Regards,  
Enda Brady,  
Corporate Support Unit,  
087 623 7714

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**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Sent:** 05 May 2021 15:46  
**To:** kmulryan@mkoireland.ie  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** Reply from DECC - ESI 21/97 - Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co Mayo

Good afternoon Karen,

Please see attached and below a reply from Ms. Trish Smullen, on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland, (a division of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) for the subject below. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to [CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie) at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,  
Enda Brady,  
Corporate Support Unit,  
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.  
087 623 7714

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**From:** Trish Smullen  
**Sent:** 05 May 2021 12:51  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Cc:** Clare Glanville; John Butler  
**Subject:** Re: ESI 21/97 - Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co Mayo

Hi Enda,  
Please see attached for return to MKO.  
Thanks and regards,  
Trish

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**From:** John Butler  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 17:56  
**Subject:** ESI 21/97 - Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co Mayo

ESI 21/97

Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co Mayo. Request for observations by MKO to be forwarded via the CSU mailbox. Scoping Document is enclosed.

Regards,

John

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**From:** Karen Mulryan [mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie]  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 17:28  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

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If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**  
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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.



Karen Mulryan  
MKO  
Tuam Road,  
Galway H91 VW84

05 May 2021

**Re: Proposed wind energy development at Sheskin South Co. Mayo**

**Your Ref: 201119**

**Our Ref: 21/97**

Dear Karen,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 24 March 2021, concerning the proposed wind energy development at Sheskin South Co. Mayo, Geological Survey Ireland would like to make the following comments.

**Geoheritage**

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit of County Geological Sites of County Mayo was completed in 2014, revised in 2019 and published in November 2020. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there is no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed wind energy development.**

**Groundwater**

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#), which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels ([gwlevel.ie](#))).



Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates two aquifers classed as a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive' and a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones', underlie the proposed wind energy development. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your EIAR.

### **Geological Mapping**

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.

### **Geotechnical Database Resources**

Geological Survey Ireland continues to populate and develop our national geotechnical database and viewer with site investigation data submitted voluntarily by industry. The current database holding is over 7500 reports with 134,000 boreholes; 31,000 of which are digitised which can be accessed through downloads from our [Geotechnical Map Viewer](#). We would encourage the use of this database as part of any baseline geological assessment of the proposed development as it can provide invaluable baseline data for the region or vicinity of proposed development areas. This information may be beneficial and cost saving for any site-specific investigations that may be designed as part of the project.

### **Geohazards**

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Landslides are common in areas of peat, rock near surface and in fine to coarse range materials (such as glacial tills), areas which are found within the proposed area. Landslide susceptibility in the area of the proposed wind energy development is variable and is classed from Moderately Low / Moderately High to High. There have been previous landslide events in the vicinity of the proposed wind energy development. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

### **Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)**

Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#).

In keeping with a sustainable approach, we would recommend use of our data and mapping viewers to identify and ensure that natural resources used in the proposed wind energy development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.

### **Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments**

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>.





This page also hosts Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural and Grazing Land Soil of Europe (GEMAS) and lithochemistry (rock geochemistry) from southeast Ireland datasets. GSI and partners are undertaking applied geochemistry projects to provide data for agriculture ([Terra Soil](#)), waste soil characterisation ([Geochemically Appropriate Levels for Soil Recovery Facilities](#)) and mineral exploration ([Mineral Prospectivity Mapping](#)).

#### **Geophysical data**

Geological Survey Ireland produces high-resolution geophysical data (Magnetic field, electrical conductivity, natural gamma-ray radiation) of soils & rocks as part of the [Tellus programme](#). These data currently cover approximately 75% of the country and provide supporting geological information on a regional scale useful for assessing environmental impact and risk.

#### **Other Comments**

Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the EIA and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment.

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. Should any significant bedrock cuttings be created, we would ask that they will be designed to remain visible as rock exposure rather than covered with soil and vegetated, in accordance with safety guidelines and engineering constraints. In areas where natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface and could be included as additional sites of the geoheritage dataset, if appropriate. Alternatively, we ask that a digital photographic record of significant new excavations could be provided. Potential visits from Geological Survey Ireland to personally document exposures could also be arranged.

The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to Beatriz Mozo, Geological Mapping Unit, at [Beatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie](mailto:Beatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie), 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at [GSIPlanning@gsi.ie](mailto:GSIPlanning@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Clare Glanville  
**Senior Geologist**  
**Geological Survey Ireland**

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.



## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental\_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 8 April 2021 08:54  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Dear Karen,

The following are the comments from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling Licence from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>. A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/tree-felling/FellingReforestationPolicy240517.pdf>. As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2020 are published online at:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/public-consultation/environmental-impact-assessment-ei-a-public-consultation-for-afforestation-forest-road-construction-and-felling-licences-2020/>
3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also

informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2020 are published online at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-2020registerofdecisions/>

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and

- c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,

1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;

and

1. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.

Kind regards

**Cathy Hewitt**

*Executive Officer*

**An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh,**  
*Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division |*

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**

*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

**Pailliún A, Páirc Gnó Grattan, Bóthar Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Co Laoise, R32 K857**

Pavilion A, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857

T +353 (0)57 868 9915 [environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie)

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

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**From:** Karen Mulryan [<mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>]

**Sent:** 24 March 2021 17:16

**To:** Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)

**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

**CAUTION:** This Email originated from Outside of this department. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Otherwise Please Forward any suspicious Emails to [Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie) .

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the

project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

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If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist  
**MKO**  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceangláin leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-ghaigh an seolaí amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolaí a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.

## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 7 April 2021 12:40  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Cc:** Sarah Zacharia (Defence); Don Watchorn (Defence)  
**Subject:** FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo  
**Attachments:** DOD observations - 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo.pdf

Dear Ms. Mulryan,  
Further to your email below, please see the attached observations from the Department of Defence.  
Yours sincerely,  
Gareth.

**Gareth O'Flaherty**

*Higher Executive Officer – Property Management Branch*

---

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

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T +353 (0)45 45 2162 M +353 (0)87 437 4237

[gareth.oflaherty@defence.ie](mailto:gareth.oflaherty@defence.ie)

[www.defence.ie](http://www.defence.ie)

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**From:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 17:32  
**To:** Don Watchorn (Defence) <[Don.Watchorn@defence.ie](mailto:Don.Watchorn@defence.ie)>; Defence Property Management Planning <[PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie](mailto:PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie)>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence) <[Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie](mailto:Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie)>; Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <[Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie](mailto:Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie)>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to

the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

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**Ms. Karen Mulryan**  
**Environmental Scientist**  
**MKO**  
**Tuam Road,**  
**Galway**  
**Ireland**  
**H91 VW84**

7 April 2021 – VIA EMAIL

**RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo**

Dear Ms. Mulryan,

I refer to the above-referenced matter and your email of 25 March 2021 regarding same. Following consultation with the Air Corps, the Department of Defence has the following observations:

1. All turbines or tall structures, should be illuminated by high intensity obstacle lights that will allow the hazard be identified and avoided by aircraft in flight.
2. Obstruction lights used should be incandescent or of a type visible to Night Vision Equipment. Obstruction lighting fitted to obstacles must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum specifically at or near 850nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.
3. Due to the nature of flight operations by the Irish Air Corps the above lighting requirements are separate to ICAO and IAA lighting requirements.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*[via email]*

---

**Gareth O'Flaherty**  
**Property Management Branch**

**Tel:** 045 – 452162

**Email:** [gareth.oflaherty@defence.ie](mailto:gareth.oflaherty@defence.ie)



## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 29 March 2021 14:20  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo  
**Attachments:** Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

Hello Karen,

Thank you for your email regarding the scoping and consultation request for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo.

In response to your email, please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Waterford Flood Defences project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Regards,

Yvonne

### Yvonne Jackson

**Product Development-Environment & Planning Support** | Fáilte Ireland  
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 Please consider the environment before printing this email

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**From:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 17:48  
**To:** planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

**[ATTENTION]** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the

project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

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**Fáilte Ireland**

National Tourism Development Authority

## **EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects**



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## 1. Introduction

Tourism is a growing sector and substantial part of the Irish Economy. It contributes to both urban and rural economies in every part of the country. The impact and interaction of tourism with the environment is complex and the assessment of environmental impacts is of utmost importance to creating a sustainable tourism economy and protecting the natural resources that are so often a tourism attraction.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

This guidance document has been prepared by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds on behalf of Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative requirements.

## 2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€8.4 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.78 billion** in 2018, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2018 Ireland welcomed **10.6 million overseas visitors**.

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

Fáilte Ireland also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy.

Fáilte Ireland promotes Ireland as a holiday destination through a domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland.

Tourism related projects cover a broad range of plans, programmes and developments, from the Wild Atlantic Way to a single hotel conversion. These guidelines apply to projects involving or impacting upon tourism. A tourism plan, strategy or programme where it is part of the statutory plan making process under the Planning and Development Acts (as amended), may be more appropriately assessed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as discussed in the next section.

It should be borne in mind that EIA is required where there is anticipated to be a significant impact on the environment, where tourism projects are of a prescribed type or meet thresholds identified below.

Where Natura 2000 Designated Sites are potentially affected by tourism development Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the appropriate authority in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

### **3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance**

Environmental Impact Assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before planning based decisions are made. The assessment results in a report, called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

#### ***Legislation***

These guidelines are produced under current EIAR legislative requirements, having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' – EIA Directive), as amended by Directive EU 2014/52 which came into effect in May of 2017. These requirements were transposed into Irish Law on 1 September 2018 as most of the provisions of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) came into effect. The principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.

#### ***Statutory Guidance***

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Draft guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in August 2017. At the time of this document the guidelines have not been adopted from draft.

In addition to the EPA statutory guidance, the Department of Housing has produced Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment in August 2018.

The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, which this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breadth and scope of an EIAR is known as 'scoping'. Guidance on this can be found in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines.

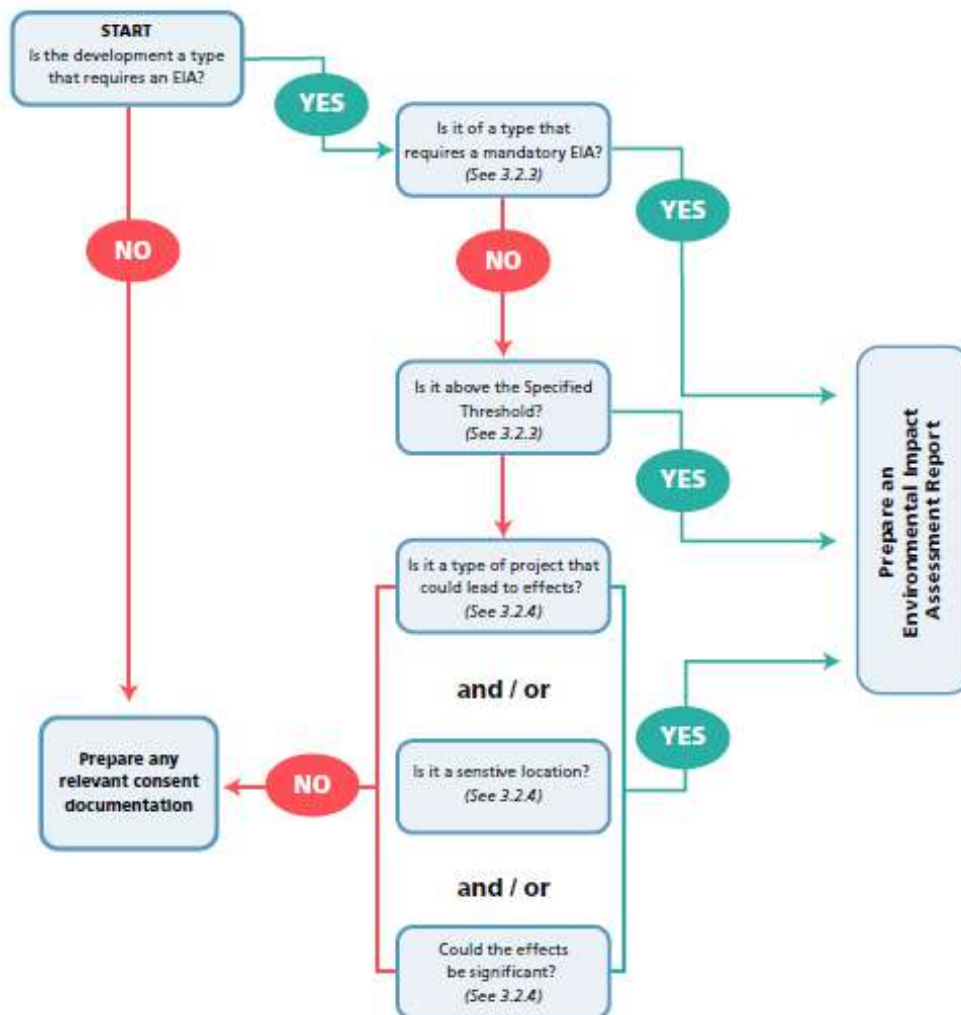
#### ***Screening***

Through EIAR Screening, developments are either considered as requiring an EIAR due to the project type or because they exceed a threshold level. The screening process begins by establishing whether the proposal is a 'project' as understood by the Directive (as amended).

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which do not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule

but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

Tourism locations should be identified as sensitive receptors in screening assessments for particular impacts, depending on scale and sensitivity, as they would in a full EIAR. Section 6 below can act as guidance for Screening Reports as well as for full EIAR.

The screening process for considering where an EIAR is necessary, is summarised below in Figure 1 (excerpted from Figure 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a more strategic level of environmental assessment that examines plans, policies, objectives and programmes specifically rather than projects. For some tourism developments it may be more appropriate that they be examined through SEA, while individual projects or specific proposals are likely to be more assessed through EIAR. If a project is part of a plan, programme or policy/objective assessed by SEA there will still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development.



## *EIAR Scoping*

Scoping an EIAR is an opportunity to look at the breadth of issues and ensure that any areas of possible significant impact are assessed. Identifying sensitivities and stakeholders should take account of tourism facilities and consider Fáilte Ireland in scoping requests where necessary.

### **4. Assessing Tourism**

There is no legal definition of 'tourism' in Irish legislation. The UNWTO definition of sustainable tourism is "*Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities*". This is widely accepted as a key definition of tourism as we move to a more sustainable future.

Tourism assessments are frequently carried out by economic consultants and by specific tourism consultants. It is always advisable, particular for tourism projects, that suitably qualified and experienced personnel are used to determine the impact of tourism related projects or to assess the impact of more general proposals on a tourism asset identified in a particular location. There is a requirement for EIAR under current legislation to contain a statement of competency within all EIAR documents, including screening and scoping reports.

#### ***Projects which involve a tourism element***

Tourism projects are wide ranging and diverse. While there are some projects which cater to tourism and are easily identified as such - Hotels, Museums, etc. there are other projects where tourism is a key service or element, but which may not be immediately obvious - forest trails, community facilities and others. EIAR conducted for developments containing tourist elements should be completed in accordance with the current guidance from the EPA.

Projects which include a tourism element have potential particular environmental effects which differ from a non-tourism development. These impacts can be intermittent, event related, inconsistent, dependent on weather, temporal, temporary or seasonal. This is considered within the prescribed environmental topics for EIAR outlined in Section 7 below.

#### ***Projects which may have an impact upon tourism***

While tourism projects may be diverse, the projects which can impact tourism are considerably more wide ranging, from large infrastructural developments to local energy developments. Disruption to or suppression of a tourist resource or amenity can have very local or more strategic impacts, directly or indirectly- for example energy projects in a rural area can have both a negative and positive impact in different regards. There can be temporary, periodic or even seasonal impacts occurring during construction or operational periods.

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2018 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

- Beautiful Scenery and Unspoiled Environment
- Hospitality
- Safety
- Nature, Wildlife and Natural Attractions
- History and Culture
- Pace of Life

These factors used for the promotion of tourism in Ireland are also barometers of sensitivity to change in tourism sensitive or dominant locations where development may have an impact upon the tourism asset. The potential for development to impact these sensitivities, and the environmental criteria under which they can be considered, are identified in section 7 of the guidelines.

## **5. Guiding Principles of EIAR**

As outlined in the EPA Draft EIAR Guidelines, the fundamental principles to be followed when preparing an EIAR, including screening and scoping, are:

- Anticipating, avoiding and reducing significant effects
- Assessing and mitigating effects
- Maintaining objectivity
- Ensuring clarity and quality
- Providing relevant information to decision makers
- Facilitating better consultation.

Environmental assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

## **6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications**

As per Section 2.5 of the EPA Guidelines, EIAR is required to be completed by 'competent experts'.

Contributors to the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, including screening and scoping assessments, should be qualified and competent. Sufficient expertise, in the relevant field of the project concerned, is required for the purpose of its examination by the competent authorities in order to ensure that the information provided by the developer is complete and of a high level of quality so that a full and proper assessment can be undertaken.

For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment.

The competency of all involved in the production of an EIAR or any related report (eg. Screening and scoping) is required to be stated at the beginning of the EIAR report with further details as necessary in each following chapter.

Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required.

## **7. EIAR Requirements**

The following are the key requirements for an EIAR under the current guidance. This is not a definitive list and should be read in conjunction with regulations.

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;

- baseline assessment;
- impact assessment;
- cumulative impact
- interaction of impacts
- mitigation.

### ***Project Description***

Project descriptions are required to describe the whole project including site, scale, design and key factors. It is important that the EIAR and design team have a consistent understanding of the development description in full. The key requirements are outlined in section 3.5 of the EPA Guidelines however they identify the following;

- the location of the project
- the physical characteristics of the whole project
- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions

The location of the project should include identifying key sensitive receptors (including tourism receptors). In the operational phase of the project any tourism based, or potentially tourism related activity, should be identified.

### ***Assessment of Alternatives***

The assessment of alternatives is a requirement of EIAR

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of alternatives should consider alternative methods and technologies, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the design, the reasoning for these and the environmental effect of these decisions. This is particularly important for tourism projects which are often location tied. The developer is expected to consider reasonable alternatives. What is considered reasonable may vary from case to case.

### ***Baseline Assessment***

Baseline descriptions are evidence based, current descriptions of environmental characteristics with consideration of likely changes to the baseline environment evidenced in planning histories, unimplemented permissions, and applications pending determination. Baseline assessments should identify any tourism sensitivities in the zone of influence of a development. This zone of influence of a development is highly dependant on its **Context, Character, Significance, and Sensitivity**, as outlined in the Draft Guidelines. These characteristics apply to both the development and the environment.

For example, in a tourism context;

The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development.

The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. Where relevant, the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values should be stated and where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities.

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or

recognition of such significance should be. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should be provided.

If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened or impacted.

In addition, the baseline should include any methodologies employed in the study to obtain information, if particular databases are used to locate sensitive receptors they should be acknowledged. In relation to tourism information, the suggested information sources at the end of this document are a non-exhaustive list which may be of assistance in identifying tourism receptors.

### ***Impact Assessment***

The topics for consideration of impact are prescribed in the EIA Directive and transcribed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018). Impact assessment should contain the likely significant effects of a development arising from both construction and operation of a development. Advice on describing the effects is contained within the Draft Guidelines and includes the **quality, significance, extent, probability, type** and **duration** of the effect, with particular descriptors for each. In describing effects upon tourism receptors these descriptors should take account of the particular aspects and sensitivities of tourism, for example a temporary annual effect from a development may have different impacts upon tourism if it falls at peak season rather than off-peak.

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism assets under the 'material assets' topic below.

#### Population and Human Health

The consideration of tourism projects within the Population and Human Health is extensive, with impacts ranging from rural employment population impacts of seasonal tourism, to the health impact of air pollution from increased traffic in urban areas.

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section.

#### Biodiversity

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are 'unspoiled' can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impact. Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

#### Land, Soils and Geology

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however particular activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology, such as mountain biking trails, recreational uses of old quarries etc. Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

## Water

Tourism uses can be water intense, depending on development type. Recreational use of a surface water feature, water-based leisure centres etc have different impacts to standard development.

## Air Quality and Climate

Tourism impact upon air quality is dependent on activity proposed and sensitivity of the location.

## Noise and Vibration

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however the impact upon tourism of issues of noise and vibration can be significant. Construction adjoining hotels for example should consider the sensitivity of the development and ensure mitigation is in place.

## Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

The different transport patterns associated with tourism activities is a key impact of tourism and should be considered especially for tourism projects. These produce temporal and seasonal changes on the norm and specialist consideration and interpretation should be given. Tourism proposals should, where possible, be well served by public transport and should be accessible by modes other than the car. The impact of traffic on tourism assets can be substantial and can vary in severity according to season, the weather, etc. The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

## Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be a key component of tourism projects and the impact of tourism on the maintenance of cultural heritage should be given the utmost consideration, whether positive or negative. As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact.

## Archaeology

Archaeology can be of tourism interest and can be an attractive or key component of tourism projects. Archaeology can be a tourism attractor but is generally not kept in situ except in key cases which could also be considered under cultural heritage.

## Material Assets; Waste Management

Tourism is a resource heavy activity and can impact waste streams and waste segregation. Impacts here should be considered strongly and with knowledge of the variation that arises from the particular tourist activity. Waste and Waste disposal issues can also impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, effecting tourism, which should be considered.

## Material Assets

Material assets are utilities and infrastructure. Tourism itself could be considered a material asset as its impact upon the economy and the infrastructure in place to support it is a material consideration in assessing economic impact.

## Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A

development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

### ***Major Accident and Natural Disaster***

There is a requirement for tourist developments to describe expected significant effects on the environment of the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents and/or natural disasters relevant to it. Where appropriate measures should be identified to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such accidents or disasters, including resulting from climate change, on the environment and detail the preparedness for the proposed response.

### ***Interaction of Effects***

Where two or more environmental impacts combine or interact they should be considered under the prescribed topics. It is best practice to provide a table of interactions within an EIAR or EIAR Screening Report.

### ***Mitigation***

Mitigation should follow the hierarchy of minimisation in descending order of preference- Avoid, Reduce, Remedy

*Avoid* sensitive tourism resources- such as views, access and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.

*Reduce* the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact

*Reduce* the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities, especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance.

*Remedy* any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities.

Mitigation measures must be measurable and achievable within the bounds of the project.

### ***Cumulative Impact***

The cumulative impact is that of the project combined with any known likely project which will interact or compound an environmental impact.

### ***Transboundary Impact***

Transboundary impacts should be included in EIAR. In the case of tourism, especially international travel, the transboundary impacts may not be proximate to the EIAR site.

## **8. Sources of information on Tourism**

### ***Information available online***

#### ***Fáilte Ireland***

Fáilte Ireland offers detailed research analysis and insights into the Irish Tourism Industry. The National Tourism Development Authority has a portfolio of research across a number of areas including facts and figures, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed [here](#)

### *Tourism Ireland*

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a holiday and business tourism destination. Tourism Ireland publishes a range of research documents including; visitor facts and figures, seasonal updates and industry insights which are accessible [here](#)

### *Local Authorities*

Local Authorities are an invaluable source of information. They produce tourism strategies and audits of tourism assets within their jurisdiction. Local authorities will also produce landscape and seascape studies. Protected views and prospects as well as the record of protected structures and other designated protected buildings are contained within the Statutory Development Plans.

### *Regional Authorities*

Regional Authorities can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) should be consulted.

### Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's national statistical office and their purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. The Tourism and Travel Section of the Central Statistics Office is the major source for tourism statistics in Ireland and is updated regularly.



## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Donncha O'Sullivan <Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 18 May 2021 12:36  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Cc:** Ray Cummins; David Mitchell  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed SSE RENEwables Wind Farm Development at Sheskin Co. Mayo 201119  
**Attachments:** GNI-DLE-6447.pdf; GNI Code of Practice for Working in Vicinity of Tx Network.pdf

Karen,

You recently contacted Gas Networks Ireland and requested information on its infrastructure in the vicinity of your forthcoming works. The Gas Transmission Pipeline in the general area of interest to you is shown, in **RED**, on the drawing attached. Please treat all Gas Networks Ireland Drawings as 'indicative' only.

To verify the *in situ* position of the Gas Transmission Pipeline please contact our David Mitchell, 087-987 9022, [david.mitchell@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:david.mitchell@gasnetworks.ie). All work in the vicinity of a Gas Transmission Pipeline must be completed in compliance with the attached 'Code of Practice 2015'. Section 14.9 therein refers to Wind Turbines. Please revert once the design location of the proposed turbines is selected.

The Gas Transmission Pipeline exists within 14m wide Gas Networks Ireland Wayleaves. No excavation may take place within any such Wayleave unless consent, in the form of a valid Excavation Permit, has been granted by Gas Networks Ireland. For further advice in regard to such Wayleaves please contact our Niamh Ryan, [Niamh.Ryan@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:Niamh.Ryan@gasnetworks.ie).

Regards,

Donncha

**Donncha Ó Sullivan BE CEng MIEI MIGEM**  
Development Liaison Engineer

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***You are reminded that all work in the vicinity of Gas Networks Ireland Pipelines and Installations must be completed to comply fully with the relevant guidelines to be found in the current editions of the Health & Safety Authority publications, 'Code Of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services' and 'Guide To Safety In Excavations'. Both documents are available free of charge from The Health And Safety Authority. [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), 1890-28 93 89.***

---

**From:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 18 May 2021 11:24  
**To:** Donncha O'Sullivan <Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie>  
**Cc:** Eoin McCarthy <emccarthy@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** Proposed SSE RENEWables Wind Farm Development at Sheskin Co. Mayo 201119  
**Importance:** High

Hi Donncha,

Thanks for taking my call. As discussed, please see attached scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo.

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass in excess of 16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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**From:** Holly Witter <[hwitter@mkoireland.ie](mailto:hwitter@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 29 January 2021 11:59  
**To:** Donncha O'Sullivan <[Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: GNI Infrastructure.

Hi Donncha,

Thanks for your email,

We're the environmental consultants for SSE on a feasibility study for Sheskin windfarm. I believe you may already be in touch with either them or ourselves on this project.

I'm not on the environment team myself so wouldn't know the ins and outs but I believe it's very early stage and we're just trying to identify constraints in the area

A drawing (I think produced by yourself, judging by the initials) was provided to me to be georeferenced and I used the DBYD service to verify the coordinates.

If you've any further queries please let me know,

Kind regards

Holly



Holly Witter  
GIS Technician BSc

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**From:** Donncha O'Sullivan <[Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie)>  
**Sent:** 29 January 2021 11:32  
**To:** Holly Witter <[hwitter@mkoireland.ie](mailto:hwitter@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Cc:** Ray Cummins <[Ray.Cummins@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:Ray.Cummins@gasnetworks.ie)>  
**Subject:** GNI Infrastructure.

Holly,

You downloaded a map recently. Might we ask what the nature of your enquiry is? We are required to monitor activity in the vicinity of the Gas Pipelines.

Thanks,

*Regards,*

*Donncha*

**Donncha Ó Sullivan BE CEng MIEI MIGEM**  
*Development Liaison Engineer*

**Gas Networks Ireland**

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***You are reminded that all work in the vicinity of Gas Networks Ireland Pipelines and Installations must be completed to comply fully with the relevant guidelines to be found in the current editions of the Health & Safety Authority publications, 'Code Of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services' and 'Guide To Safety In Excavations'. Both documents are available free of charge from The Health And Safety Authority. [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), 1890-28 93 89.***

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Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimisce the agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghníomh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmisce the na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire.

Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truailithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoírí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig nó ó Líonraí Gáis Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Líonraí Gáis Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

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chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmiscthe na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire.

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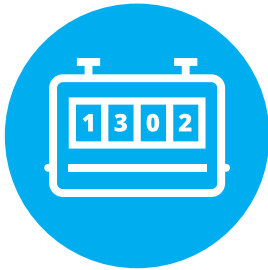
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Thank you for your attention.

# Code of Practice

## for Working in the Vicinity of the Transmission Network



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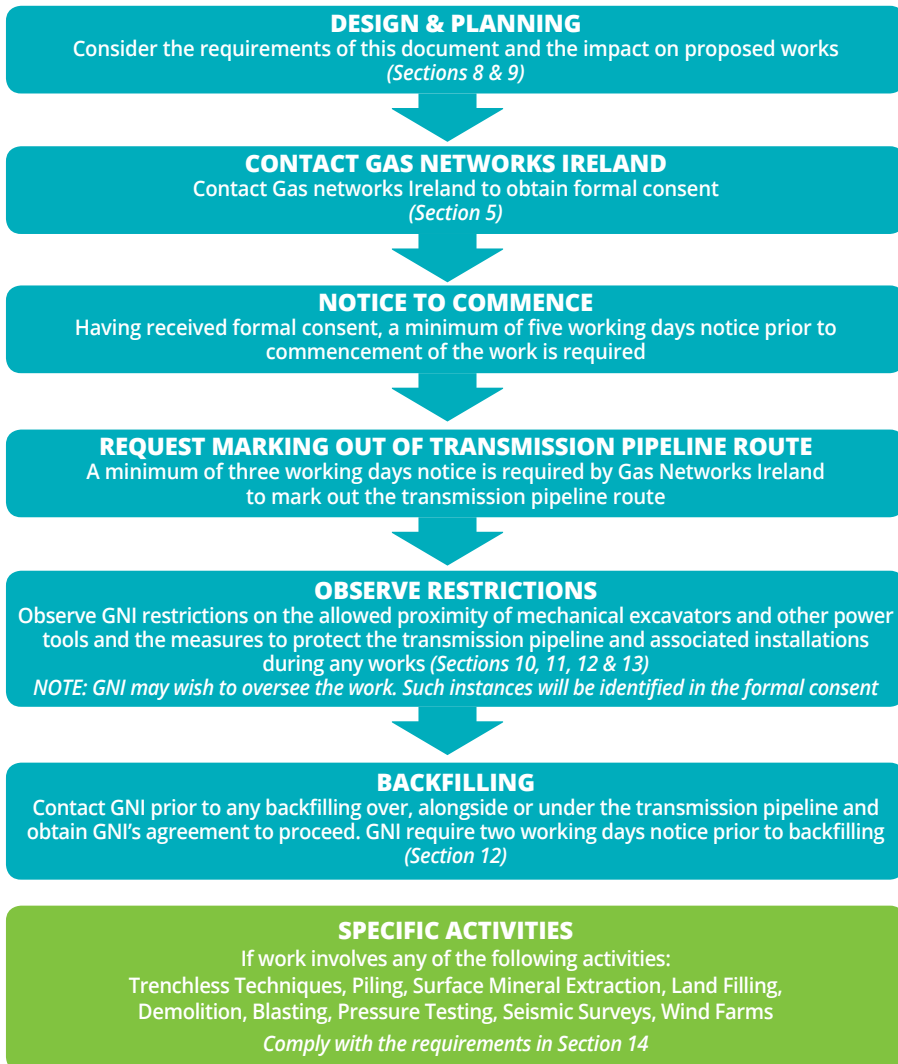
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## When carrying out work in the vicinity of the transmission network follow the following process

### IMPORTANT:

The flowchart should be used in conjunction with this Code of Practice and not in isolation. If at any time during the works the transmission network is damaged, even slightly, then observe the precautions in Section 1 of this document.



**If in doubt contact Gas Networks Ireland**

---

## Foreword

**Compliance with this Code of Practice does NOT confer immunity from prosecution for breach of statutory or other legal obligations.**

This code of practice does **not** cover emergency work or normal agricultural work (as defined on page 7), but it is recommended that in such cases the requirements of the code should be observed as far as possible.

Any damage to a transmission pipeline or its coating can affect its integrity and can result in failure of the transmission pipeline with potentially serious hazardous consequences for individuals located in the vicinity of the transmission pipeline. It is therefore essential that the procedures outlined in this document are complied with when working near the transmission network.

Failure to apply for consent and/or to comply fully with this Code of Practice to the satisfaction of GNI may result in the commencement of legal proceedings by Gas Networks Ireland to stop such works.

Activities associated with working in the vicinity of the transmission network may impact on the safety of the general public, site workers, GNI staff and contractors, and may affect the local environment. All Third Parties working close to the transmission network shall carry out suitable and adequate risk assessments prior to the commencement of work to ensure that all such issues are properly considered and risks mitigated.

Contractors and other users external to GNI should direct their requests for further copies of GNI engineering documents to Gas Networks Ireland.

---

# 1 Safety Procedure in the Case of Damage to the Transmission Network

If the GNI transmission network is damaged or leaking, the following precautionary measures shall be taken immediately:

- In the event of gas leakage do **not** switch any machinery on or off in the vicinity of the leak.
- Prohibit smoking, the use of naked flames, the use of electrical switches, the use of mobile phones and the use of all other ignition sources in the vicinity of the leak/damage.
- Evacuate all personnel away from and upwind of the affected area.
- Ensure that no one approaches the affected area without the consent of Gas Networks Ireland.
- Once clear of the area, report the damage or leakage, however minor it may appear, to the Gas networks Ireland **24hr Emergency Service on 1850 20 50 50**.
- Do **not** attempt to repair the damage or stop the leak.

**Note: Any damage to the coating of a GNI transmission pipeline, no matter how apparently insignificant, shall be brought to the attention of GNI in order to carry out repairs. Minor damage to pipe coating and/or ancillary connections brought to the attention of GNI will be repaired *free of charge*.**

---

## 2 Definitions

**For the purpose of this Code of Practice the following definitions shall apply:**

**GNI:** Gas Networks Ireland.

**GNI Inspector:** The person appointed from time to time by GNI, to act as the GNI Representative on site, to ensure compliance with this Code of Practice.

**Third Party:** The promoter of New Works, the person or persons, firm, company or authority for whom new services or other works are being provided, including their servants, agents and contractors.

**Wayleave:** A strip of land, upon and over which GNI has, under the terms of Gas Act (1976 as amended), acquired the rights to lay, construct, inspect, maintain, protect, use, replace, remove or render unusable a main or pipe for the transmission or storage of gas or other materials connected with the exercise and performance of the functions of GNI and all necessary apparatus ancillary thereto. The wayleave can extend up to 9 metres either side of the transmission pipeline.

A GNI wayleave is a legal burden on the title of the property within which it exists and is noted as such on the relevant Land Registry Folio.

**Normal Agricultural Works:** For the purpose of this Code of Practice, 'Normal Agriculture Works' are such works which do **not** involve the use of

- a) Excavators (tracked or wheeled) irrespective of the proposed excavation depth, or
- b) Other mechanical soil penetrating machines such as fence post augers.

**Installation:** GNI transmission installations are primarily above ground (AGI) with a number below ground (UGI) comprising some or all of the following: Main stream pipework, control pipework, telemetry, instrumentation, boiler houses, analyser kiosks, generators and services.

**Hot Works:** Hot works is any tool, equipment and/or activity, which produces sparks, fire or has the potential to cause fires or explosions including, but not limited to, electric/battery powered tools, welding, cutting, brazing, soldering, grinding, etc.

---

## 3 Scope

This Code of Practice sets out the requirements and considerations for the design, construction and maintenance of services and/or structures and other works in the vicinity of existing Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) Gas transmission pipelines and associated Installations located in both Wayleaves and public roadways.

---

## 4 Purpose

### **The purpose of this Code of Practice is to:**

- Set out considerations for the design, planning and execution of works.
- Advise on the GNI procedures associated with works.
- Identify the measures to be taken to ensure the integrity of the gas network, and
- Assist in ensuring the safety of persons involved in the works.

---

## 5 Formal Consent

- 5.1** Work shall **not** be undertaken within a wayleave, installation, **or** within 3 meters either side of a transmission pipeline in a public roadway **without the prior Formal Consent of Gas Networks Ireland.**
- 5.2** GNI shall be consulted if work is to be undertaken within 10 meters either side of a transmission pipeline in a **public roadway.**
- 5.3** Formal Consent may be issued by GNI following receipt of the following items.
- (a) Written agreement to implement the terms and conditions of this Code of Practice and any site specific requirements as advised by GNI.
  - (b) A method statement detailing the work which will be undertaken and the means of ensuring the integrity of the gas network.
  - (c) An indemnity as outlined in Section 5.
  - (d) Evidence of insurance cover to the level required by GNI.
- 5.4** Formal Consent may, in its simplest form, consist of a valid GNI Permit or a more comprehensive list of conditions.
- 5.5** Where Formal Consent has been issued, the Third Party shall notify GNI, 5 working days in advance of commencing the works.

---

## 6 Indemnity

It is an essential part of the granting of Formal Consent in the terms of this document that the Third Party shall indemnify GNI, its servants, agents and contractors against all loss, damage, expense, claims and actions incurred by or brought against GNI, its servants, agents and contractors in consequence of the provision of the new service and any works and activities associated therewith, or ancillary thereto.

---

## 7 Role of GNI Inspector

- 7.1** The primary role of the GNI inspector is to ensure the integrity of the gas network.
- 7.2** The GNI Inspector has the right to stop any work where in his/her opinion, the actions of the Third Party may adversely affect the integrity of the gas network.
- 7.3** The GNI Inspector shall inform the person in charge on site of his/her reason for stopping work and afford them the opportunity to address the issue to the satisfaction of the GNI Inspector.
- 7.4** A 'Corrective Action' shall be issued and recorded against the Third Party if the reason for stopping work is for non conformance to any, some or all of the following:
- (a) This Document,
  - (b) Conditions of the Formal Consent,
  - (c) Conditions of GNI Permits.
- 7.5** The GNI Inspector reserves the right to inspect any plant or equipment and/or any or all documentation/certification associated with plant, equipment and/or personnel associated with the work and **not** permit the use of any such plant, equipment and/or personnel in the works if found to be non compliant.



---

## 8 Design Considerations for Proposed Works

### 8.1 Services Crossing Transmission Pipelines

**8.1.1** Where a new service is to cross over the transmission pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service shall be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross under the transmission pipeline with a minimum clearance distance of 0.6 metres.

### 8.2 Services Parallel to Transmission Pipelines

#### 8.2.1 Pipelines within a wayleave

No new service shall be laid parallel to the transmission pipeline within a wayleave.

#### 8.2.2 Pipelines within a roadway

Any new service running parallel to a transmission pipeline in a roadway may, in consultation with GNI, be laid with a minimum horizontal clearance of 1m (5m for High Tension Cables) to the side of the pipeline and may **not** be above or below a transmission pipeline within that distance.

Under certain circumstances consideration may be given to the relaxation of the above conditions on a case by case basis following prior consultation with GNI Asset Integrity, where the methods and safeguards to be employed have been considered and specified under a Safe System of Work Plan and where the work is supervised by GNI on site.

### 8.3 Cathodic Protection

Cathodic Protection is applied to GNI's transmission network and is a method of protecting pipelines from corrosion by maintaining an electrical potential difference between the pipeline and anodes placed at strategic points along the pipeline.

Where a new service is to be laid and is to be similarly protected, GNI will need to carry out interaction tests to determine whether its own system is adversely affected. The cost of any mutually agreed remedial action shall be borne by the Third Party.

Should any cathodic protection posts or associated apparatus need moving to facilitate construction operations, reasonable notice shall be given to GNI.

---

## **8 Design Considerations for Proposed Works** *(continued)*

### **8.4 Installation of Electrical Equipment**

Where electrical equipment is being installed close to the transmission network, the effects of a rise of earth potential under fault conditions shall be considered by the third party and a risk assessment shall be submitted to GNI for its approval as part of the Formal Consent process.

### **8.5 Slabbing and Other Protective Measures**

- 8.5.1** Protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall **not** be installed over or near to the transmission pipeline without the prior written consent of GNI.
- 8.5.2** Where consent has been given, a GNI Inspector must be present for the entire installation.
- 8.5.3** The material, composition, dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure shall be agreed with GNI and shall form part of the submission for Formal Consent.

### **8.6 Changes to Depth of Cover**

Any works, which will result in an increase or decrease in the cover of an existing Transmission Pipeline on completion of those works, shall be agreed with GNI in advance.

---

## 9 General Considerations for Proposed Works

### 9.1 GNI Protective Measures

Where protective measures are required by GNI, work shall **not** commence until such time as the GNI Inspector is satisfied that those measures meet the requirements of GNI.

### 9.2 Gaseous Atmospheres

Third Parties shall be mindful of potentially gaseous atmospheres and the generation of sparks, particularly indoors or when a change in wind conditions/direction occurs.

### 9.3 Inductions

Personnel involved in the works may be required to attend a GNI induction. Such a requirement shall, if required, be identified in the Formal Consent.

### 9.4 Method Statements

Method statements, where required, shall include risk assessments and be submitted to GNI for review no fewer than 10 working days in advance of commencing works associated with that method statement.

### 9.5 Identification of Transmission Pipeline Route

**9.5.1** Before any work is carried out in the vicinity of existing transmission pipelines, GNI shall, with 3 working days notice, mark/peg out the transmission pipeline route.

**9.5.2** The Third Party shall confirm the position of the pipeline before work commences.

**9.5.3** A GNI Inspector shall be in attendance for the duration of the excavation of any trial holes necessary to confirm the position of the pipe.

### 9.6 Handheld Power Assisted Tools

Where the use of handheld power assisted tools is required in the vicinity of the live network, alternatives to electrically/battery powered tools should, in the first instance, be considered. These tools, as with others, by virtue of their makeup generate a spark when activated/run and as such are in themselves subject to 'Hot Work' permits and associated procedures.

---

## 9 General Considerations for Proposed Works *(continued)*

### 9.7 Hot Work

Hot works shall **not** take place within an installation, wayleave or within 3 metres either side of a transmission pipeline in a public roadway without the prior written consent of Gas Networks Ireland.

### 9.8 Induced Voltage

Where high voltage power lines run parallel to a transmission pipeline, there is potential to induce high voltages on the pipeline. To prevent injury, people working on exposed pipe in this area must have suitable protection against electric shock. GNI can provide advice in relation to suitable protection measures and a GNI Inspector must be present when any such work is being performed.

### 9.9 Construction Traffic

**9.9.1** Construction traffic shall **not** be sited over or moved along or across a transmission pipeline without the prior written approval of GNI.

**9.9.2** Construction traffic shall only cross a transmission pipeline at previously agreed and clearly marked crossing lanes.

**9.9.3** All crossing lanes shall be fenced on both sides over a width to be specified by GNI. These fences shall be returned along the wayleave on both sides for a distance of 6m away from the crossing.

**9.9.4** The crossing lane shall be protected by laying approved sleeper rafts or by protection made from other GNI approved materials, unless otherwise agreed in writing with GNI.

**9.9.5** Construction traffic shall be operated at “dead slow” when using crossing lanes.

**9.9.6** Suitable warning notices, drawing attention to the danger of not using the crossing, shall be erected and maintained in a clearly legible condition.

### 9.10 Lifting

**9.10.1** Any plant and/or equipment involved in lifting shall be certified fit for purpose.

**9.10.2** Slewing across an exposed pipe shall **not be permitted in any circumstances.**

---

## 9 General Considerations for Proposed Works *(continued)*

### 9.11 Storing Materials

**9.11.1** Materials, including those excavated or stripped shall **not** be stored within a wayleave or Installation without the prior written approval of GNI.

**9.11.2** Materials, including those excavated or stripped shall **not** be stored over a transmission pipeline.

### 9.12 Fires

Fires shall **not** be permitted within a wayleave or in the vicinity of an installation.

---

## 10 Preliminary Works

### 10.1 Demarcation

Where work is being carried out parallel to a transmission pipeline within or immediately adjoining a wayleave, a demarcation line shall be erected, to the satisfaction of GNI, so as to clearly delineate the boundary between the works site and the wayleave/pipeline

### 10.2 Surface Stripping

#### 10.2.1 Cultivated/Unmade Ground

Where trial holes have established that sufficient depth of cover exists, light tracked vehicles may strip top soil to a depth of 0.25 metres using a toothless bucket.

#### 10.2.2 Metalled Surfaces

Bituminous or concrete surface layers may be stripped to a depth of 0.3 metres by mechanical means.

Where the bituminous or concrete layer extends below 0.3m, only the use of handheld power assisted tools is permitted, and only in the presence of GNI.

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# 11 Excavations

## 11.1 Plant/Equipment Limitations

The following limitations shall be observed when working in the vicinity of a transmission pipeline.

- (a) Hand dig within 1.5 metres of the pipeline.
- (b) Handheld power assisted tools permitted beyond 1.5 metres of the pipeline.
- (c) Mechanical excavators permitted beyond 3 metres of the pipeline.
- (d) The use of 'chain trenchers' is not permitted within 3 metres of the pipeline.
- (e) A mechanical excavator may **not** reach across a pipeline while working, i.e. cab at one side of pipeline with bucket (rock breaker, etc.) on opposite side of pipeline.
- (f) A mechanical excavator shall **not** 'pull' towards the pipeline.

Under certain circumstances consideration may be given to the relaxation of the above conditions on a case by case basis provided that the excavation methods and safeguards to be employed have been considered and specified under a Safe System of Work Plan and the work is approved and supervised by GNI on site.

**Factors that should be considered in this determination include, but are not limited to:**

- Pipeline size, pressure, wall thickness and location.
- Excavator size (weight)
- Operator competency and experience
- Type and width of bucket/attachment (e.g. toothless)
- Ground conditions (e.g. rock, soft ground etc.)
- Weather conditions
- Visibility, particularly of the machine operator
- Machine orientation (e.g. working along the axis of the pipe)
- Supervision arrangements

**Note: Mechanical excavators must never be permitted to work closer than 0.5 meters from the pipeline.**

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## 11 Excavations *(continued)*

### 11.2 Exposed Pipeline Protection

- 11.2.1 Once a pipeline has been exposed, it shall be immediately protected with timber or nylon batons at least 50mm wide and 25mm thick secured to each other with webbing at a distance of no greater than 10mm over the entire exposed area of the pipeline. The method of securing the webbing to batons should be such that any impact would not cause damage to the pipeline coating.
- 11.2.2 Where heavy gauge trench sheets are used in addition to batons to protect a pipeline, care should be taken while placing the trench sheets that buried stones, debris, etc. are not dislodged against the pipeline.
- 11.2.3 Depending on the type of work being carried out, ground conditions, etc., GNI may require additional measures.

### 11.3 Pipeline Support

Where it is necessary to excavate below a transmission pipeline, the pipeline shall, during stages of the operation, and for the duration of the works, be supported to the satisfaction of GNI, by means of ratchet straps secured to a steel beam (or GNI approved equivalent) across the pit/trench. On completion, permanent supports shall, if necessary, be constructed to avoid future settlement.

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## 12 Backfilling

- 12.1 The Third Party shall give GNI at least 2 working days notice of their intention to backfill below, above or adjacent to an existing transmission pipeline.
- 12.2 The Third Party shall afford GNI the opportunity and facility to inspect the coating on the pipeline and/or ancillary connections to the pipeline prior to backfilling.
- 12.3 A GNI Inspector shall be in attendance to monitor backfill around the pipeline during the whole of the backfilling operations.

**Note: Any damage to the coating of a GNI transmission pipeline, no matter how apparently insignificant, shall be brought to the attention of GNI in order to carry out repairs. Minor damage to pipe coating and/or ancillary connections brought to the attention of GNI will be repaired *free of charge*.**

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## 13 Above Ground Installations

### 13.1 PPE Requirements

GNI's minimum PPE requirements for working in a live installation are hard hat, safety glasses, safety shoes/boots, gloves and Hi-Viz Jacket/vest. All clothing shall be anti static and flame retardant. Contact GNI Safety Department for information on compliance of PPE.

### 13.2 Above Ground Pipework With Ancillary Connections

Where construction plant and machinery are used in an AGI, all above ground pipework with ancillary control pipework, telemetry and/or instrumentation adjacent to the work, shall be protected on all sides by timber/metal hoarding, secured in place, a minimum of 2 metres from any extremity and extending vertically to the uppermost point of any pipe/equipment. A suitable point of access shall be provided in the hoarding. Where this 2 meter separation distance cannot be physically achieved due to the layout and size of an installation, the works may be allowed to proceed but only where suitable precautions have been agreed and implemented to protect all relevant pipework and personnel.



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## 13 Above Ground Installations *(continued)*

The risks and associated mitigating measures shall be identified on the relevant risk assessment and method statement for the proposed works. The relevant details supporting any relaxation of this code of practice shall be recorded on the relevant general works permit or excavation permit by the permit issuer.

Heras type fencing may be used where a distance of 6m from any extremity can be achieved.

### 13.3 Above Ground Pipework Without Ancillary Connections

Where construction plant and machinery are used in an AGI, all above ground pipework which does **not** have ancillary connections adjacent to the work, shall be protected on all sides by heras type fencing a minimum of 2 metres from any extremity. A suitable point of access shall be provided in the fencing. Where this 2 meter separation distance cannot be physically achieved due to the layout and size an installation, the works may be allowed to proceed but only where suitable precautions have been agreed and implemented to protect all relevant pipework and personnel. The risks and associated mitigating measures shall be identified on the relevant risk assessment and method statement for the proposed works. The relevant details supporting any relaxation of this code of practice shall be recorded on the relevant general works permit or excavation permit by the permit issuer.

### 13.4 Plant and Machinery

Petrol powered plant, machinery or vehicles shall **not** be permitted within the confines of an AGI.

### 13.5 General

This code of practice shall apply to all work carried out within an AGI.

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## 14 Specific Activities

This section details the precautions that need to be taken when carrying out certain prescribed activities in the vicinity of the transmission network. Consult GNI if you are intending to undertake one of the listed prescribed activities and/or you require further advice on whether the work that you are intending to undertake has the potential to affect the transmission network.

The table below shows, for some specific activities, the prescribed distances within which GNI shall be consulted.

Activity	Distance within which GNI shall be consulted
Any Excavation Actions	10 m
Piling	15 m
Surface Mineral Extraction	100 m
Land filling	100 m
Demolition	150 m
Blasting	400 m
Wind Farm	2 times the turbine mast height from the nearest edge of a transmission pipeline

### 14.1 Trenchless Techniques

Trenchless techniques must **not** take place within 10m of the GNI Transmission Network without prior consultation with GNI.

### 14.2 Piling

Piling shall **not** be permitted within 15 metres of the transmission network without an assessment of the vibration levels at the pipeline. Contact GNI with regard to peak particle velocity criteria and other precautionary measures.

Where ground conditions are of submerged granular deposits of silt and sand, an assessment of the effect of vibration on settlement and liquefaction at the transmission pipeline shall be made.

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## 14 Specific Activities *(continued)*

### 14.3 Surface Mineral Extraction

An assessment shall be carried out on the effect of surface mineral extraction activity within 100 metres of the transmission network.

Where the mineral extraction extends up to the transmission pipeline wayleave, a stable slope angle and stand-off distance between the transmission pipeline and slope crest shall be determined by GNI. The wayleave strip should be clearly marked by a suitable permanent boundary such as a post and wire fence, and where appropriate, slope indicator markers shall be erected to facilitate the verification of the recommended slope angle as the slope is formed, by the Third Party. The wayleave and slope needs to be inspected periodically to identify any signs of developing instability. This may include any change of slope profile including bulging, the development of tension cracks on the slope or wayleave, or any changes in drainage around the slope. The results of each inspection should be recorded.

Where surface mineral extraction activities are planned within 100 metres of the transmission pipeline but do not extend up to the pipeline wayleave boundary, an assessment, by GNI may be made on whether the planned activity could promote instability in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may occur where the transmission pipeline is routed across a natural slope or the excavation is deep. A significant cause of this problem is where the groundwater profile is affected by changes in drainage or the development of lagoons.

Where the extraction technique involves explosives the provisions of section 14.6 apply.

### 14.4 Land Filling

The creation of slopes outside of the wayleave may promote instability within the vicinity of the transmission pipeline. An assessment should therefore be carried out on the effect of any land filling activity within 100 metres of a transmission pipeline. The assessment is particularly important if land filling operations are taking place on a slope in which the pipeline is routed.

### 14.5 Demolition

Demolition shall **not** be permitted within 150 metres of a transmission network without an assessment of the vibration levels at the pipeline. Contact GNI with regard to peak particle velocity criteria and other precautionary measures.

Where ground conditions are submerged granular deposits of silt or sand, an assessment of the effect of vibration on settlement and liquefaction at the transmission pipeline shall be made.

---

## 14 Specific Activities *(continued)*

### 14.6 Blasting

Blasting shall **not** be permitted within 400 metres of a transmission network without consulting GNI and making an assessment of the vibration levels at the pipeline. Contact GNI with regard to peak particle velocity criteria and other precautionary measures.

Where ground conditions are of submerged granular deposits of silt or sand, an assessment of the effect of vibration on settlement and liquefaction at the transmission pipeline shall be made.

### 14.7 Pressure Testing

Hydraulic or pneumatic testing shall **not** be permitted within 8m of the transmission network unless precautions have been taken against the effects of a possible burst. These precautions may include the use of pre installation tested pipe, sleeving, barriers, etc., as agreed with GNI.

### 14.8 Seismic Surveys

GNI shall be advised of any seismic surveying work in the vicinity of a transmission pipeline. Contact GNI with regard to peak particle velocity criteria and other precautionary measures.

### 14.9 Wind Farm Development

GNI should be consulted if wind turbines are to be sited any closer than 2 times the proposed height of the turbine mast away from the nearest edge of a transmission pipeline or associated installation.

---

## 15 Reference Documents

**IS328: Code of Practice for Gas Transmission Pipelines & Pipeline Installations.**



The main contact details for Gas  
Networks Ireland are:

**General Enquiries**

**1850 200 694**

**Dial Before You Dig**

**1850 42 77 47**

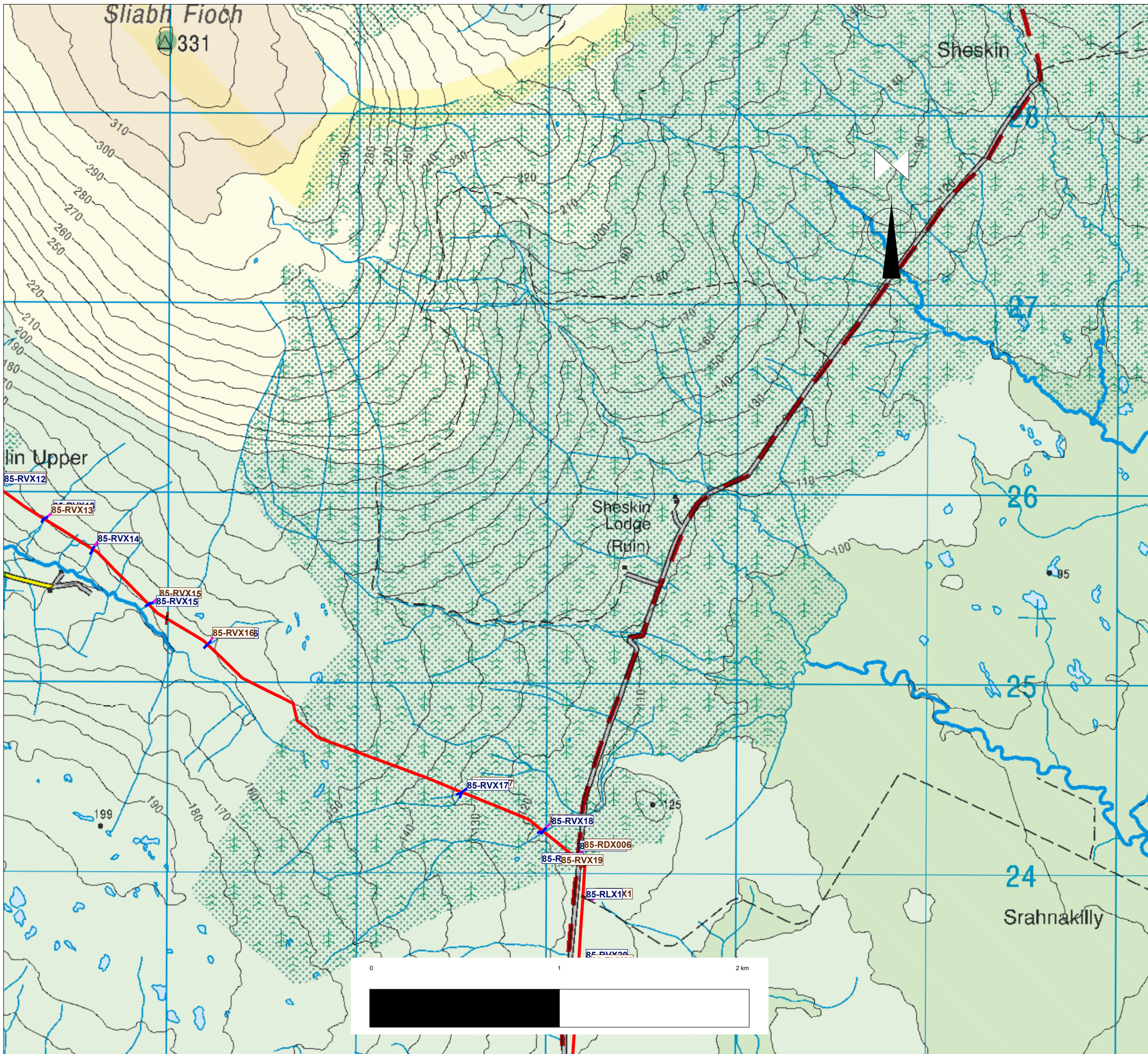
**24hr Emergency Service**

**1850 20 50 50**

**[networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie)**

**[gasnetworks.ie](http://gasnetworks.ie)**





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**Important Safety Notice:**  
 Damage to gas pipelines can result in serious injury or death. Gas network information is provided as a general guide. The exact location and depth of medium or low pressure distribution gas pipes must be verified on site by carrying out necessary investigations, including, for example, hand digging trial holes along the route of the pipe. Service pipes are not generally shown but their presence should always be anticipated.

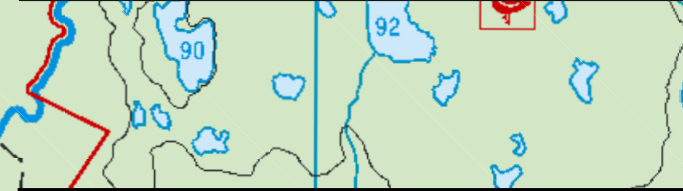
High pressure transmission pipelines are shown in red. If a transmission pipeline is identified within 10m of any intended excavations then work must not proceed before GNI has been consulted. The true location and depth of a transmission pipeline must be verified on site by a representative of GNI. Contact can be made through 1850 427 747.

All work in the vicinity of the gas network must be completed in accordance with the current edition of the Health & Safety Authority publication, Code of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services which is available from the Health and Safety Authority (1890 289 389) or can be downloaded at www.hsa.ie.

**Legal Notice:**  
 Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and its affiliates, accept no responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained in this document including data concerning location and technical designation of the gas distribution and transmission network (the Information). The Information should not be relied on for accurate distance or depth of cover measurements.

Any representations and warranties, express or implied, are excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. No liability shall be accepted for any loss or damage including, without limitation, direct, indirect or consequential loss, arising out of or in connection with the use or re-use of the Information.

	Transmission Pipe (As laid)		Landowner Boundary
	Transmission Heavy Duty Pipe		Transected Boundary
	Transmission Pipe (Construction)		Crossing Transmission (Road)
	Transmission Pipe (Discontinuity)		Lead Drain
	Filling		Electrical Utility
	Bend		Water Utility
	Cover		Telecom Utility
	Dome End		Fuel Water
	Nitrogen Fill Point		Duct
	Pipe Support		Archaeological Site
	Pipeline Marker Post		Ground Condition
	Pit		Inhabitation (Location)
	Production		Inhabitation (Concept)
	Reducer		Associated Drawing File (Bar Chart)
	Tap		Customer
	Transition		Leak Survey (1 Month)
	Valve		Leak Survey (1 Year)
	Well		Incident
	Cathodic Protection		Data Capture Problem Point
	CP AC Discharge		Hydro-mechanical Control Point
	CP Anode		
	CP Cable		
	CP High Voltage Earthing		
	CP Insulation Joint		
	CP Lug		
	CP Transformer Rectifier		
	CP Marker		



Design Department - CORK			
<b>GAS TRANSMISSION NETWORK INFORMATION</b>			
Issue:	MKO - GNI/DLE/6447		
Location:	Sheskin Co Mayo		
Plot Date:	18/05/21	Contact:	1800-427747
Plotted by:	D O'S	Scale:	1:20000



## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Keane, Evelyn (EHO Mayo) <evelyn.keane@hse.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 22 April 2021 14:50  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo  
**Attachments:** Proposal to develop a commercial scale windfarm at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

Please find attached Environmental Health Service (Mayo) submission in relation to the above proposed development.

I would appreciate acknowledgement of your receipt of same.

Kind regards,  
Evelyn Keane  
EHO  
PCC,  
Claremorris,  
Co. mayo

Need information and advice on COVID-19? Go to [www.hse.ie/coronavirus](http://www.hse.ie/coronavirus)





Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

An tSeirbhís Sláinte Chomhshaoil  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (Iarthar)  
Ceanncheathrú Naomh Muire  
Caisleán an Bharraigh  
Contae Mhaigh Eo

Environmental Health Service  
HSE West  
St. Mary's Headquarters  
Castlebar  
Co. Mayo

☎ (094) 90 42260 / 90 42105  
📠 (094) 90 27312

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

MKO Planning & Environmental Consultants,  
Tuam Road,  
Galway,  
H91 VW84.

**Re: HSE SCOPING SUBMISSION REPORT**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed the HSE consultation report in relation to the above proposal.  
The following HSE Departments were notified of the consultation request for this development on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

- Emergency Planning – Kay Kennington
- Estates – Helen Maher
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection – Kevin Kelleher / Laura Murphy
- CHO – Breda Crehan-Roche

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the scoping request.

If you have any queries regarding this report the contact is Maria Horkan, Principal Environmental Health Officer at the above address or email [maria.horkan@hse.ie](mailto:maria.horkan@hse.ie)

Yours sincerely,

Maria Horkan,  
Principal Environmental Health Officer.

Enc.



dhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

**HSE EIS SCOPING REPORT**  
**Environmental Health Service Consultation Report**  
(as a Statutory Consultee (Planning and Development Acts 2000,  
& Regs made thereunder).

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021</b>
<b><u>Type of consultation:</u></b>	<b>Scoping</b>
<b><u>Planning Authority:</u></b>	<b>An Bord Pleanála</b>
<b><u>EHIS Reference:</u></b>	<b>1677</b>
<b><u>Applicant:</u></b>	<b>SSE Renewables &amp; Coilte CGA</b>
<b><u>Project Number:</u></b>	<b>201119</b>
<b><u>Proposed Development:</u></b>	<b>Proposal to develop a commercial scale windfarm in excess of 50 megawatts at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo.</b>

The proposed wind energy development will likely comprise approximately 12—16 No. wind turbines, access roads and entrance(s), electricity substation and wind farm control buildings, battery storage area, borrow pit(s), peat repository area(s), electrical cabling for grid connection, temporary construction compound, turbine components laydown area and a permanent anemometry mast. Tree felling and replacement lands will also be required. New sections of turbine access routes will be required. All wind farm site cabling, including connection to the onsite substation, will be laid underground.

Grid connection will also be assessed as part of the EIAR. The proposed wind farm connection to the national grid will be by either overhead or underground connection. A potential grid connection between the site and Bellacorick 110kV substation is currently being considered.

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the proposed development. The EHS have made observations on the following specific areas:

### **Description of the Project**

The EIAR must fully describe the characteristics and construction of the project and the reasons for proposing same. It should also describe the existing physical environment and detail any potential impacts on the existing environment both during the construction and operational phase of the project.

### **Later Consents Required**

Information on possible future monitoring requirements for the operation of the wind farm should be included in the EIAR.

### **Consideration of Alternatives**

The EIAR should fully describe and consider any alternatives to this project. The applicant should outline a rationale for site selection and proposed individual turbine location and design.

### **Public Consultation**

The EIAR should describe measures the applicant shall take to inform the public about the project. The proposal to appoint a Community Liaison Officer and ambition for the project team to consult with established community or residents groups is noted and welcome. Details of feedback from the public regarding the proposal should be included within the EIAR. Public consultation should be a two way process between the applicant and the public. The EIAR should clearly demonstrate how the legitimate concerns of the public have been assessed and evaluated and how the outcome of consultation with the public influenced decision making within the EIA.

### **Noise**

A full and thorough noise survey must be carried out to assess the impact of noise from the proposed turbines on the residents living in the vicinity.

It is essential that up to date baseline monitoring is carried out to establish the existing noise environment. All noise sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the turbines shall be identified. The selection of noise monitoring locations for background noise is of critical importance in the noise survey, therefore the rationale for choosing the number and the positioning of these should be provided by the applicant.

Once the existing noise environment has been established, the predicted increase in noise from the proposed turbines should then be quantified and assessed. It is this department's opinion that adherence to specified noise limit values does not always protect sensitive receptors from noise nuisance therefore the significance of the

predicted change in the noise environment should be fully assessed. It is requested that this information is outlined and displayed clearly in the EIS.

The potential cumulative effects of other windfarms, industry, quarrying etc in the vicinity of the development should be assessed as part of the noise survey. All mitigation measures for the control of noise shall be described.

#### **Shadow Flicker**

A shadow flicker assessment should be carried out. All possible impacted dwellings and sensitive receptors shall be identified. The assessment should include identification of the room use in properties potentially impacted by shadow flicker. If reduction factors are applied as part of the shadow flicker assessment, the rationale for applying same shall be clearly outlined. Any mitigation measures for the control of shadow flicker shall be described. If the exact model of turbine is not finalised, it is recommended the impact of all various turbine designs considered by the applicant should be modelled in the assessment.

#### **Geological Impacts/Land Stability**

A detailed assessment of the current ground stability of the site for the proposed wind farm development together with all proposed mitigation measures should be included in the EIAR. The assessment should include the impact construction work will have on the future stability of ground conditions taking into consideration extreme weather events, site drainage, and the potential for soil erosion.

The Environmental Health Service recommends that a detailed Peat Stability Assessment should be undertaken to assess the suitability of the soil for the proposed development. The EIAR should include provision for a peat stability monitoring programme to identify early signs of potential bog slides ('pre-failure indicators' see the Scottish Government's 'Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Developments 2017)

#### **Water**

All drinking water sources, both surface and groundwater (including individual private wells) shall be identified. Any potential impacts to these drinking water sources shall be assessed. Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows and gradients, inner and outer zones of protection and catchment areas should all be considered when assessing potential impacts and possible mitigation measures. The EHS would recommend that all information is gathered by means of a site survey as desktop studies do not always accurately reflect the current use of water resources.

#### **Dust**

The impact of dust generation from construction should be assessed and a dust minimisation plan or similar mitigation measure that meets current national standards for construction sites should be addressed.



**Construction**

A construction management plan should be provided with the EIAR. This should comprehensively outline proposed working procedures and any mitigation measures that will be provided. The impact of any proposed road upgrade works or road widening, along with the impact of increased construction traffic on residents in the vicinity, should be assessed in the EIAR. Mitigation and traffic management measures should be outlined.

**Complaints procedure**

The EIAR should include proposals for dealing with issues of nuisance from members of the public should they arise.

**Ancillary Facilities**

The EIAR should provide location details of any site office, construction yard(s), fuel storage depot, sanitary accommodation, canteen, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, disposal of waste water and the provision of potable drinking water supply.

**Cumulative Impacts**

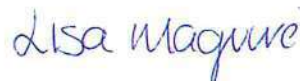
In line with the EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (2002) and their Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (2003) the EIA should include the assessment of cumulative impacts of the neighbouring permitted Sheskin Wind Farm, Oweninny Wind Farm and Bellacorick Wind Farm along with any other industrial or energy developments in the area e.g. quarrying, heavy industry, intensive agriculture, composting facilities etc.

**Health Gain**

It is noted the site is accessible via the Western Way track. The impact of the proposed Wind Farm on this tourism amenity should be assessed at both the construction and operational phase. The Developer should explore the possibility for recreational facilities to be provided on the Wind Energy Development. Any potential for health gain from the development should be exploited.



Evelyn Keane  
Environmental Health Officer



Lisa Maguire  
Environmental Health Officer

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** O'BRIEN Christophe <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>  
**Sent:** 21 December 2021 16:22  
**To:** Shaun Doolin  
**Cc:** RAFFERTY Audrey; O'SULLIVAN Stephen; Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Consultation Regarding EIA Scoping Document for Proposed SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA Wind Farm Development at Glenora, Co. Mayo. Ref: 201120

Thanks Shaun,

We appreciate the clarification.

Best Regards,

Christophe

---

**From:** Shaun Doolin <sdoolin@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 21 December 2021 16:17  
**To:** O'BRIEN Christophe <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>  
**Cc:** RAFFERTY Audrey <audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie>; O'SULLIVAN Stephen <Stephen.OSULLIVAN@IAA.ie>; Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Consultation Regarding EIA Scoping Document for Proposed SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA Wind Farm Development at Glenora, Co. Mayo. Ref: 201120

**\* This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. \***

Good afternoon Christophe,

Thank you for your email.

These turbine coordinates are part of further developments of the preliminary environmental impact assessment. They are not as constructed coordinates.

At this stage, these coordinates have been provided solely for your records as we prepare the EIA for submission, although we would welcome any further comments that you may have, should you wish to do so.

In the event of planning consent being granted, we will be in contact with you to agree on the conditions as previously stated below.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Merry Christmas

Wishing our clients and colleagues a very happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous new year

Our office will be closed from 1pm on Thursday 23rd of December and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 4th of January

MKO | Tuam Road | Galway | H91VW84

T: (091) 73 56 11 | E: [info@mkoireland.ie](mailto:info@mkoireland.ie) | W: [www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)

**From:** O'BRIEN Christophe <[Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie](mailto:Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie)>

**Sent:** Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:53

**To:** Shaun Doolin <[sdoolin@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdoolin@mkoireland.ie)>

**Cc:** RAFFERTY Audrey <[audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie](mailto:audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie)>; O'SULLIVAN Stephen <[Stephen.OSULLIVAN@IAA.ie](mailto:Stephen.OSULLIVAN@IAA.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Consultation Regarding EIA Scoping Document for Proposed SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA Wind Farm Development at Glenora, Co. Mayo. Ref: 201120

You don't often get email from [christophe.o'brien@iaa.ie](mailto:christophe.o'brien@iaa.ie). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Shaun,

I refer to the files attached and your emails in relation to final turbine locations for Sheskin South, Co. Mayo and Glenora, Co. Mayo.

Can I please confirm whether these are as constructed coordinates and the turbines have been erected or is this as part of further development of preliminary environmental impact assessments, as appears to have been the subject of the original correspondence?

Are you requesting that the IAA's Safety Regulation Division provide further review of proposed locations or are you making the Authority aware of turbines that have been constructed and are in situ?

Best Regards,

Christophe

*Christophe O'Brien*

Aerodromes Inspector

Safety Regulation Division

Irish Aviation Authority

T: + 353 (1) 603 1492

M: + 353 86 33 22022

E: [obrienc@iaa.ie](mailto:obrienc@iaa.ie)



---

**From:** Shaun Doolin <[sdoolin@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdoolin@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** 17 December 2021 14:24  
**To:** RAFFERTY Audrey <[audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie](mailto:audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie)>  
**Cc:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pre-Application Consultation Regarding EIA Scoping Document for Proposed SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA Wind Farm Development at Glenora, Co. Mayo. Ref: 201120

**\* This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. \***

Good afternoon,

The final turbine locations for the proposed Glenora Wind Farm have been confirmed.

For your records, please find attached a KML file and spreadsheet containing the coordinates (in ITM, Irish Grid and WGS84) for the turbines at the proposed wind farm.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Shaun Doolin  
Graduate Environmental Scientist

**MKO**  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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---

**From:** RAFFERTY Audrey <[audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie](mailto:audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 14 April 2021 11:14  
**To:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Pre-Application Consultation Regarding EIA Scoping Document for Proposed SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA Wind Farm Development at Glenora, Co. Mayo. Ref: 201120

Dear Ms Mulryan

Thank you for your letter and request for comments for the preliminary environmental impact assessment for the proposed windfarm to be located Glenora, Co. Kerry.



As the number of proposed turbines, the blade tip height and elevations of each turbine and the layout is not provided, Safety Regulation Division - Aerodromes cannot make any specific comments at this time.

The development appears to be approximately 57kms West of Sligo Airport and 56 km North West of Ireland West Airport, as such, it is likely that the following general observations would be proffered during a formal planning process: In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to:

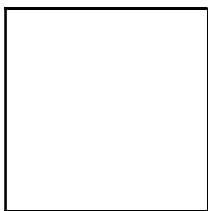
- (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development,
- (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with above mean sea level tip height elevations at each wind turbine location

<i>Turbine No.</i>	<i>WGS-84 Co-ordinates</i>	<i>Ground elevation (Malin Head OD)</i>	<i>Blade tip elevation of turbine (Malin Head OD)</i>	<i>Height of turbine (height from ground level to blade tip)</i>	<i>Confirm if turbine has obstacle lighting.</i>
T1	53.346125, -6.258288	75m	225m	150m	No

(3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection.

Kind Regards

Audrey Rafferty  
 Corporate Affairs  
 Irish Aviation Authority  
 11-12 Dolier Street  
 Dublin 2  
 01 603 1103



=====

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=====

=====

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Shaun Doolin  
**Sent:** 13 January 2022 11:33  
**To:** Aisling Donegan  
**Subject:** RE: MKO re Reply from IFI re 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo  
**Attachments:** Sheskin South Turbine Layout V2 - 201119 - 2022.01.13.pdf

Hi Aisling,

Please find attached a PDF of the final turbine locations for the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Shaun Doolin  
Graduate Environmental Scientist  
**MKO**  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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---

**From:** Aisling Donegan <[Aisling.Donegan@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Aisling.Donegan@fisheriesireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Thursday 13 January 2022 09:50  
**To:** Shaun Doolin <[sdoolin@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdoolin@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: MKO re Reply from IFI re 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo

You don't often get email from [aisling.donegan@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:aisling.donegan@fisheriesireland.ie). [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for the updated information. Could you please provide a map of the turbine locations. I was unable to open the one attached. Any file sent must be less than 10MB to be able to access our system.

Kind Regards

Aisling Donegan  
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

-----  
Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)96 22788  
Mob +353 (0) 87 126 4446  
Fax +353 (0)96 70543

Email [aisling.donegan@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:aisling.donegan@fisheriesireland.ie)

Web [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)

Ardnaree House, Abbey Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland F26 KO29

---

**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <[CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie)>

**Sent:** Friday 17 December 2021 15:17

**To:** Aisling Donegan <[Aisling.Donegan@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Aisling.Donegan@fisheriesireland.ie)>

**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit <[CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie)>

**Subject:** MKO re Reply from IFI re 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo

**\*\*\*CYBER SECURITY WARNING\*\*\*:** This email originated from outside of Inland Fisheries Ireland email system and contains an attachment(s). Do not open attachments from unknown sources.

Good afternoon Aisling,

Please see correspondence below in the above regard from MKO Ireland for your information.

Regards,

Enda Brady,

Corporate Support Unit,

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

---

**From:** Shaun Doolin <[sdoolin@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdoolin@mkoireland.ie)>

**Sent:** Thursday 16 December 2021 16:33

**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit <[CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie)>

**Cc:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Reply from IFI re 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

The final turbine locations for the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm have been confirmed.

For your records, please find attached a KML file and spreadsheet containing the coordinates (in ITM and Irish Grid) for the turbines at the proposed wind farm.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Shaun Doolin  
Graduate Environmental Scientist  
**MKO**  
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Ireland, H91 VW84  
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**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <[CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 23 April 2021 17:50  
**To:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit <[CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Reply from IFI re 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo

Dear Ms. Mulryan,

Please see attached and below a reply from Ms. Aisling Donegan (Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer), on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) for the subject below. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to [CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie) at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,  
Enda Brady,  
Corporate Support Unit,  
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.  
087 623 7714

---

**From:** Aisling Donegan [<mailto:Aisling.Donegan@fisheriesireland.ie>]  
**Sent:** 23 April 2021 16:06  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo

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To Enda Brady,

Please find attached IFI observations on the EIAR Scoping request from MKO in relation to a proposed SSE and Coillte windfarm development at Sheskin South. Reference no. 201119

Kind Regards

Aisling Donegan  
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

-----  
Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel +353 (0)96 22788  
Mob +353 (0) 87 126 4446  
Fax +353 (0)96 70543  
Email [aisling.donegan@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:aisling.donegan@fisheriesireland.ie)  
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D'fhéadfaí go bhfuil an ríomhphost seo agus ceangaltáin ar bith atá in éineacht leis faoi rún agus iad beartaithe d'úsáid an duine a bhfuil a s(h)eoladh air amháin. Dearcthaí nó tuairimí ar bith atá curtha in iúl ann, baineann siad leis an údar amháin, agus ní chaithfidh go n-aontaíonn lascaigh Intíre Éireann leo. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, ná déan rud ar bith mar gheall ar an méid atá ann, ná é a chóipeáil ná é a thaispeáint do dhuine ar bith eile. Déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir, le do thoil, má chreideann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid.

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

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## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 23 April 2021 17:50  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** Reply from IFI re 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo  
**Attachments:** mko-ss-wf-0421.docx

Dear Ms. Mulryan,

Please see attached and below a reply from Ms. Aisling Donegan (Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer), on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) for the subject below. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to [CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie) at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,  
Enda Brady,  
Corporate Support Unit,  
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.  
087 623 7714

---

**From:** Aisling Donegan [mailto:Aisling.Donegan@fisheriesireland.ie]  
**Sent:** 23 April 2021 16:06  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed SSE Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Enda Brady,

Please find attached IFI observations on the EIAR Scoping request from MKO in relation to a proposed SSE and Coillte windfarm development at Sheskin South. Reference no. 201119

Kind Regards

Aisling Donegan  
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

-----  
Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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Web [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)  
Ardnaree House, Abbey Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland F26 KO29

Karen Mulryan  
MKO  
Tuam Road  
Galway  
H91 VW84



**Iascach Intíre Éireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

**Re: Proposed SSE and Coillte CGA Wind Farm Development at Sheskin South, Co, Mayo - Environmental Impact Assessment Report Scoping - 201119**

Dear Ms Mulryan,

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the state body responsible for the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries and sea angling resource in Ireland. Protection of the aquatic environment and habitat is a vitally important element of IFI's work.

The proposed wind farm site crosses a number of tributary streams of the Oweninny River which provides valuable salmon, sea trout and brown trout spawning and nursery habitat for the Owenmore River fishery.

In the past the aquatic habitat, particularly salmon and trout spawning beds in the Owenmore River system were significantly impacted by peat harvesting activities. Peat sediment covered salmonid spawning gravels smothering fish eggs and making the gravels inaccessible to adult fish. As a result of this damage the Owenmore River salmon stocks declined, and the fishery was closed to angling. Habitat monitoring and restoration projects were carried out in the Oweninny River catchment. IFI installed a fish counter on the Owenmore River at Bangor Erris to support sustainable fisheries management. Fish stock monitoring has shown this catchment is under environmental pressure with salmon stocks declining to below their conservation limit. As a result, the fishery was recently closed again to exploitation for commercial and recreational angling for a period of two years. Salmon stocks have recovered sufficiently to allow the fishery to reopen in 2021, for limited exploitation. It is imperative that no activity or development is permitted in this catchment that may negatively impact on the Owenmore River system, aquatic habitat or water quality. The Oweninny River and its tributaries have been allocated high ecological status in the River Basin Management Plan and this status must be protected.

The EIS should assess the potential impacts the proposed development may have including, damage to the aquatic and associated riparian habitat, pollution of water, introduction of non-native species, site hydrology and interference with upstream and downstream movement of aquatic life. The assessment should include all aspects of the development, forestry, roads, borrow pits, silt ponds, grid connection, electricity substation, battery storage etc.

Please find below IFI recommendations in relation to the proposed windfarm development EIAR:

1. All watercourses that will receive drainage from the construction site including the turbines or the access roads must be assessed in terms of aquatic biodiversity with particular emphasis on fish, the food of fish, spawning grounds and fish habitat in general. Invertebrate sampling to assess the Q value of each potentially impacted watercourse should also be carried out.
2. Electrofishing surveys will be required for all waters. Quantitative data in relation to all fish species should be compiled. The presence of salmonid species should be assessed. Appropriate permits for electrofishing must be obtained from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Authorised personnel must ensure that they comply with all the conditions contained in the permit. IFI request that a quantitative survey be carried out using a depletion method with multiple fishings.





3. The aquatic habitat and physical nature of any watercourse affected by the development must be fully described. This includes areas of open water, pool riffle glide sequences, density and types of aquatic vegetation, description of riparian zones to depth of at least 10 metres on either bank etc. The extent of the surveys should be sufficiently long enough so as to be representative of the habitat contained in that watercourse. There should be a particular focus on sections upstream and downstream of any point where an impact on the watercourse is likely to arise. Surveys of un-impacted (control) streams should also be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment.
4. A construction and operational phase water quality and habitat monitoring programme must be put in place.
5. The riparian habitat is integral to the functioning of the aquatic environment. The potential impacts of the development on the riparian habitat should be assessed. Adequately sized aquatic buffer zones must be established along all watercourses. The proposed 50m plus exclusion buffer zone should apply to all rivers and streams including those which may not be included on EPA maps. A site survey must be carried out identify all watercourses including drains/minor watercourses. IFI recommends a minimum width of 15metres from a drains/minor watercourse to low risk parts of the construction site with larger buffer zones required for more sensitive habitats and higher risk operations.
6. The Geological Survey Ireland map viewer identifies the higher elevations of this site to the northwest and the riparian areas along the watercourse to the north of the site as having a Landslide Susceptibility Classification as moderately high to high. A detailed geotechnical survey must be carried out and the potential for soil movement and landslides should be assessed fully for all areas of the site and all proposed activities including borrow pits, peat deposition sites, settlement ponds, turbines and access roads. The impact these works will have either directly or by vibration on the stability of the soils. A construction phases site stability monitoring programme must be put in place.
7. Assessment of the impacts on the hydrology of the site must be carried out particularly where excavations including excavations for road construction are being proposed. It is important that natural flow paths are not interrupted or diverted in such a manner as to give rise to erosion. There must be no diversion of waters from one catchment into another.
8. The impact of site drainage must be assessed including the pumping of waters from excavations such as turbine excavations. Settlement ponds and other silt treatment/mitigation measures must be engineered to ensure sufficient retention times are provided for sediment settlement. The silt traps should be designed to minimise the movement of silt especially during intense precipitation events where silt traps maybe hydraulically overloaded. It is essential that they are located with good access to facilitate monitoring, sampling and maintenance. A license to discharge to waters may be required from the local authority.
9. Road construction and surfacing materials used must be of adequate strength so as not to give rise to silt/fine solids discharges due to the action of traffic and erosion.
10. Watercourse crossings existing on site or along the proposed delivery routes must be assessed to determine if works will be required to facilitate site access and the potential impacts of such works. The locations and design of any proposed new watercourse crossings should be provided. IFI requests consultation in relation to the design; length, slope and width of any





instream structure, temporary or permanent. Clear span structures such as Bailey bridges should be used where possible. There must be no negative impact on fish passage as a result of the proposed development.

11. All instream works or other works which may impact directly on a watercourse should only be carried out during the open season which is from 1st July to 30th of September (so as to avoid impacting on the aquatic habitat during the spawning season.) It would be important that this is included in the contract for construction.
12. The impact of site offices and the services should form part of the EIA. Details should be provided in relation to the management of construction phase pollutants including cement waste, such as cement truck wash out, hydrocarbons and any other toxic materials.
13. Should works be approved a detailed method statement addressing the issues outlined above, including all mitigations measures, precautions and environmental incident procedures must be forwarded to Inland Fisheries Ireland before works commence
14. There must be no spread of invasive species as a result of the proposed development. A survey for the presence of invasive species should be carried out and a management plan put in place where found.
15. The IFI publication: Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites should be followed. <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/documents/624-guidelines-on-protection-of-fisheries-during-construction-works-in-and-adjacent-to-waters/file.html>

In summary IFI request the following to be addressed:

- Water quality
- Surface water hydrology
- Fish spawning and nursery areas
- Passage of migratory fish
- Areas of natural heritage importance
- Biological diversity
- Ecosystem structure and functioning
- Sport and commercial fishing and angling
- Sediment transport

IFI looks forward to further consultation in relation to this development in due course.

Yours sincerely

---

Aisling Donegan  
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

mko-ss-wf-0421

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 30 March 2021 08:13  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo. TII Ref: TII21-112883.

**Dear Ms. Mulryan,**

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2021 regarding the above EIAR scoping exercise. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in 'Spatial Planning and National Roads. Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at [www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie).

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- TII notes that the subject site accesses the local road network prior to access to the N59 national road. Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála, regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006).
- The EIAR/EIS should consider the 'Environmental Noise Regulations 2006' (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes' (1st Rev., NRA, 2004)).
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements

for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed, as TII will not be responsible for such costs.

- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal weight loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer, to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed.
- In relation to grid connection and cable routing, proposals should be developed to safeguard proposed road schemes, as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing, where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.
- In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for, future upgrade works to the national road network. The cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure, such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII. Any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Alban Mills**

Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive



Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Parkgate Business Centre

Parkgate Street

Dublin D08 DK10

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <http://www.tii.ie/about/>

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Cormac McCarthy <cormac.mccarthy@waterwaysireland.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday 25 March 2021 08:40  
**To:** Karen Mulryan; Sabine Browne  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Hi Karen

This is not within any Zone of Influence of our waterways so we will not be commenting.

Regards

Cormac

**Cormac McCarthy**  
**Environment & Heritage Officer**

WATERWAYS IRELAND  
Dock Road, Drewsborough,  
Scarriff, Co. Clare, Ireland.

General Line: +353-(0)61-922033  
Direct Line: +353-(0)61-922149  
Fax: +353-(0)61-922147

*Download the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020 [HERE](#), subscribe to our regular Heritage E-zine [HERE](#) or visit us online [HERE](#)*

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**From:** Karen Mulryan [mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 6:54 PM  
**To:** Sabine Browne <Sabine.Browne@waterwaysireland.org>; Cormac McCarthy <cormac.mccarthy@waterwaysireland.org>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment

process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**  
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Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** GCU - Reform Communications and Emergency Planning Divisional Mailbox <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 2 June 2021 16:15  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo  
**Attachments:** 20210602 DoT observations.docx

Good afternoon,

Please find attached for your attention observations for your consideration from Department of Transport in relation to the above mentioned project.

Regards  
Jacqui

**Jacqui Traynor**  
*Reform Communications Emergency Planning*

**An Roinn Iompair**  
*Department of Transport*

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60  
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T +353 (0)1 604 1177  
[Jacquitraylor@transport.gov.ie](mailto:Jacquitraylor@transport.gov.ie) [www.gov.ie/transport](http://www.gov.ie/transport)

---

**From:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 25 May 2021 10:34  
**To:** GCU - Reform Communications and Emergency Planning Divisional Mailbox <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good morning,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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\*\*\*\*\*



Ms. Karen Mulryan

MKO  
Tuam Road  
Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

**Re: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo**

Dear Karen,

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation MKO's preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo

The Department of Transport would like the following observations taken into consideration.

In the event that the developer proposes the placement of any cables (or additional cables) in one or more trenches within the extents of the (regional and local) public road network, it is necessary to consider the following:

- Their presence within the public road could significantly restrict the Road Authority in carrying out its function to construct and maintain the public road and will likely add to the costs of those works.
- Their installation within the lands associated with the public road may affect the stability of the road. In particular where the road is a "legacy road" (where there is no designed road structure and the subgrade may be poor or poorly drained) the design needs to take account of all the variable conditions and not be based on a sample of the general conditions.
- The possible effect on the remaining available road space (noting that there may be need to accommodate other utilities within the road cross-section in the future).

The proposal should include consideration of the following:

- Examination of options other than the routing of cables along the public road,
- Examination of options for connection to the national grid network at a point close to the wind farm so as to reduce the adverse impact on public roads.





- Details of where within the road cross section cables are to be placed so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance,
- Examination of details of any chambers proposed within the public road cross section so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance and
- Rationalisation of the number of cables involved (including existing electric or possible future cables) and their diversion into one trench, in order to minimise the impacts on the road network and the environment along the road boundary (hedgerows).

The proposal should take account of and liaise with Mayo County Council regarding the following :

- The design should comply with all appropriate standards and, inter alia the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads, 2017.
- The location of the cables should be recorded as exactly as possible (maybe using BIM type technology) so as to facilitate the further use of road space for utilities and the maintenance/construction of the public road by the local authority. This record should be lodged with the local authority and with ESB Networks for retention on their records.
- All electric cables should be routed away from bridge structures and specifically, the developer should avoid attaching cables to road bridges. This would allow for the future maintenance of bridges without interruption of the electricity supply along the cables.

Yours sincerely,

**Jacqui Traynor**

*Reform Communications Emergency Planning*

---

**An Roinn Iompair**

*Department of Transport*

**Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60**

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** Alison Harvey <aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 14:03  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Thank you Karen for the notification.  
Kind regards  
Alison Harvey

---

**From:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 13:05  
**To:** Alison Harvey <aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

I previously sent a scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo. Please see attached again for your records. If you have any comments or queries on the proposed development, we would be grateful for a response and/or acknowledgement of receiving this document.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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---

**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 18:05  
**To:** [aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie)  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

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## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Irish Peatland Conservation Council <bogs@ipcc.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 14:07  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Re: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Hi Karyn,

We have received the notification and if we have the time we will make comments.

Thank you

Tristram Whyte BSc (Hons) Applied Freshwater & Marine Biology  
Conservation, Policy & Fundraising Officer  
Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
Lullymore  
Rathangan  
Co. Kildare  
R51 V293

045 860133

[bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)

CHY6829

Registered Charity Number 20013547

Visit <http://www.ipcc.ie> to learn all about the Save the Bogs Campaign or to arrange your visit to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre

On 24 May 2021, at 12:55, Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I previously sent a scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo. Please see attached again for your records. If you have any comments or queries on the proposed development, we would be grateful for a response and/or acknowledgement of receiving this document.

Kind regards,

Karen.

<image001.png>

Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

**MKO**

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<image002.png> <image003.png>

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**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 17:41  
**To:** [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.

<image001.png>

Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

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Ireland, H91 VW84  
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[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** IWT Info <info@iwt.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 26 May 2021 11:31  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Re: FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Hi Karen,

Thank you for contacting the Irish Wildlife Trust.

We do not have the capacity to consider or respond to all scoping request at the moment. We will endeavour to respond if possible.

Regards,  
The Irish Wildlife Trust

On Mon, 24 May 2021 at 12:58, Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I previously sent a scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo.

Please see attached again for your records. If you have any comments or queries on the proposed development, we would be grateful for a response and/or acknowledgement of receiving this document.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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---

**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 17:54  
**To:** 'info IWT' <[info@iwt.ie](mailto:info@iwt.ie)>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

**MKO**

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Irish Wildlife Trust, 8 Cabra Road, Dublin 7, D07T1W2

Registered Charity (CRA) Number: 20010966

Facebook: IrishWildlifeTrust

Twitter: @irishwildlife



## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Met Eireann <met.eireann@met.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 14:12  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Thank you for your email, due to the large volume of emails received into this account, it can take up to 2 weeks to respond. I endeavour to answer your email as quickly as possible. I thank you for your patience.

If your query is in relation to a legal report, please email: [legal@met.ie](mailto:legal@met.ie)

Regards,  
Annmarie Woods  
Customer Liaison Officer  
[www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie).

Go raibh maith agat as do r-phost. Mar gheall ar líon mór ríomhphoist a fhaightear isteach sa chuntas seo, d'fhéadfadh sé suas le 2 sheachtain a thógáil freagra a thabhairt. Déanaim iarracht do r-phoist a fhreagairt chomh tapa agus is féidir. Gabhaim buíochas leat as do chuid foighne. Má bhaineann do cheist le tuarascáil dlí, seol ríomhphost chuig: [legal@met.ie](mailto:legal@met.ie) go díreach.

Is mise le meas.  
AineMaire Conchoille  
Oifigeach Idirchaidrimh le Custaméirí  
[www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie)

\*\*\*\*\*

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Ta an ríomhphost seo, agus aon chomhad ata nasctha leis, faoi run agus is don te a seoladh chuige amhain e. Ma tharla go bhfuair tu an ríomhphost seo tri dhearmad cuir in iul don te a sheol e led' thoil.

Ta an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvireas.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** sxl@iol.ie  
**Sent:** 16 December 2021 17:24  
**To:** Shaun Doolin  
**Cc:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Many thanks for the information,

Joe

---

**From:** Shaun Doolin <sdoolin@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 16 December 2021 16:56  
**To:** sxl@iol.ie  
**Cc:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

The final turbine locations for the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm have been confirmed.

For your records, please find attached a KML file and spreadsheet containing the coordinates (in ITM, Irish Grid and WGS84) for the turbines at the proposed wind farm.

We have also provided the IAA with these coordinates.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Shaun Doolin  
Graduate Environmental Scientist

**MKO**  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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---

**From:** [sxl@iol.ie](mailto:sxl@iol.ie) <[sxl@iol.ie](mailto:sxl@iol.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 13:30  
**To:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Thanks Karen, we spoke in late March and I advised that the development falls outside of the area that would be of concern to Sligo Airport. However this information should be advised to Safety Regulatory division of the Irish Aviation Authority as there is no doubt the precise information of the development will need to be tracked for mapping and possible lighting purposes. As you that particular area is frequented a lot by the Coastguard Helicopter so the information is vital for their safe operations.

Best regards  
Joe Corcoran

---

**From:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 13:16  
**To:** [sxl@iol.ie](mailto:sxl@iol.ie)  
**Subject:** FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

I previously sent a scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo. Please see attached again for your records. If you have any comments or queries on the proposed development, we would be grateful for a response and/or acknowledgement of receiving this document.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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---

**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Thursday 25 March 2021 17:46  
**To:** 'sxl@iol.ie' <[sxl@iol.ie](mailto:sxl@iol.ie)>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon Joe,

Thanks for taking my call.

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We have also made contact with the IAA, Department of Defence, Knock Airport. We will be contacting other small airstrips in the area also.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

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## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** Údarás na Gaeltachta <eolas@udaras.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 13:43  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Karen, a chara,

Go raibh maith agat as ucht do theachtaireacht.

Thank you for your correspondence which is acknowledged herein.  
I have forwarded your correspondence to our Regional Development Office in Mayo for their information and direct reply.

Mise, le meas  
An Rannóg Cumarsáide

---

**From:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 13:12  
**To:** Maigheo Suiomh Idirlion <MaigheoSuiomhIdirlion@udaras.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

I previously sent a scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo.  
Please see attached again for your records. If you have any comments or queries on the proposed development, we would be grateful for a response and/or acknowledgement of receiving this document.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 18:08  
**To:** 'maigheo@udaras.ie' <[maigheo@udaras.ie](mailto:maigheo@udaras.ie)>  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist

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Fógra faoi Rúndacht agus Síniú Leictreonach: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus tharlódh go mbeadh ábhar íogarach tráchtála san áireamh ann. Is leis an duine / nó daoine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chucu a bhaineann siad agus ní ceart iad a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí gan cead roimh ré ó

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Simon Dolan <Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 20 August 2021 14:28  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: Gpre00162/2021 Windfarm development by SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA at Sheskin, Co. Mayo

You don't often get email from simon.dolan@housing.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Karen,

I will forward your email to the relevant archaeologist and if I get anything back I will get straight over.

Have a good weekend,

Simon

---

**From:** Karen Mulryan [mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie]  
**Sent:** Friday 20 August 2021 14:22  
**To:** Simon Dolan <Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Gpre00162/2021 Windfarm development by SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA at Sheskin, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon Simon,

Thank you for providing Nature Conservation recommendations on the proposed development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo.

Would it be possible to get recommendations from the National Monuments Service also? I have reattached the scoping document for your convenience.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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Ireland, H91 VW84  
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---

**From:** Simon Dolan <[Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 13 July 2021 12:40  
**To:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Gpre00162/2021 Windfarm development by SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA at Sheskin, Co. Mayo

A Chara,

Attached please find the Nature Conservation Recommendations.

Regards,

**Simon Dolan**

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**  
**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**  
*Executive Officer*  
**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*  
**Oifigi an Rialtais**  
*Government Offices*  
**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**  
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

\*\*\*\*\*

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvórais chun vórais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvórais chun vórais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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## Karen Mulryan

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**From:** Simon Dolan <Simon.Dolan@housing.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 13 July 2021 12:40  
**To:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** Gpre00162/2021 Windfarm development by SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA at Sheskin, Co. Mayo  
**Attachments:** GPre00162-2021 Windfarm, Sheskin.pdf

A Chara,

Attached please find the Nature Conservation Recommendations.

Regards,

**Simon Dolan**

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**  
**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

*Executive Officer*

**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**

*Development Applications Unit*

**Oifigi an Rialtais**

*Government Offices*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**

Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

\*\*\*\*\*

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvórais chun vórais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Our Ref: **G Pre00162/2021**

*(Please quote in all related correspondence)*

13 July 2021

Karen Mulryan  
MKO  
Tuam Road  
Galway  
H91 VW84

Via email: [kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)

Re: Notification under Article 28 (Part 4) or Article 82 (Part 8) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

**Proposed Development:** Pre planning enquiry regarding a a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo.

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

### **Nature Conservation**

The Department refers to your correspondence on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and your request for observations on the preparation of the EIAR with respect to the above proposal. The Department notes the detailed scoping document provided which sets out the key issues to be considered in the EIAR. Based on the information currently available about the location of the proposed development, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will also be required.

As an initial response to your consultation, you are advised to consult the 'Planning' section of the NPWS website - <https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations> - as this contains text/advice on consulting NPWS in relation to 'development applications', data and information sources, and the basic elements of environmental assessments that may be required.

The following scoping comments are made in the context of this Department's role in relation to nature conservation. The observations are intended to assist you in relation to identifying potential impacts on European sites, other nature conservation sites, and biodiversity and environmental protection in general, in the context of the current

#### **Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**

*Development Applications Unit*

#### **Oifigí an Rialtais**

*Government Offices*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**

Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90



proposal. Data collected and surveys carried out in connection with this proposed development may raise other issues that have not been considered here. The observations are not exhaustive and are made without prejudice to any recommendation that may be made by this Department in the future.

## **1. Guidance on EIAR**

You are advised to consult the European Commission's (2017) 'Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)'. Any surveys and assessments should be based on a full details of the overall project, noting all lands that will be required. For a detailed list of potential considerations, see the 'Review checklist', and specifically 'Section 1 – Description of the project', in this guidance. Note also that if compensatory afforestation is required on other lands, the likely significant effects of that integral element of the development should be assessed in the main project EIAR.

The following should also be taken into account in planning and designing a wind farm and in completing the assessments. Please note the 2020 updates of the Guidance documents:

- *Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation* (European Commission, 2020)
- *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines* (DoHLGH, 2020), particularly the requirements in relation to assessing ground conditions/geology (section 5.3)
- *Landslides in Ireland* (GSI, 2006)<sup>1</sup>.

### **1.1. Project planning and design**

It should be remembered that a key element of EIA is the avoidance or reduction of negative effects on the environment. EIA is an iterative process and the information gathered through assessments or surveys should be used to guide the planning and design of the wind farm so that sensitive ecological or hydrological areas are avoided, and negative impacts are minimised insofar as is possible. The size, layout and design of the proposed development should be informed by a constraints-type study and the compilation of an environmental constraints map that identifies and avoids, insofar as is possible and using appropriate separation distances, all nature conservation sites, other sensitive ecological and hydrological features, deep or intact peat deposits, and areas of wet and/or active bog, pool systems and flushes.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017- 2021 aims to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity. A key objectives of the plan is to achieve; no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development projects occurring within the lifetime of the plan. Accordingly, the EIAR should outline how this project will avoid a net loss of biodiversity and include relevant mitigation and or compensatory measures where necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> Creighton, R. (ed.). 2006. *Landslides in Ireland: A Report of the Irish Landslide Working Group*. Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin.



## 1.2. Project components

In general, the EIAR should include sufficient project details so that the full nature and extent of the likely significant effects are clear and assessed fully in relation to, among other things, road design and construction methodology; site drainage details, including settlement ponds; temporary and permanent storage or disposal areas for peat and other materials or wastes arising; extraction sites/borrow pits; and any modifications to roads, bridges or culverts along the entire length of haul routes. Volumes of surplus material arising and of fill required should be calculated. Due consideration should also be given to the grid connection.

The Department notes that the location map provided is for an area of peatland with substantial areas that are under coniferous forest cover. The EIAR should give specific consideration to the mobilisation of silt and changes to the stability of peat. The proposed windfarm has the potential for significant changes in patterns of surface water flow and may desiccate the peat allowing pathways to open up resulting in subsurface water losses. It should be noted that in 2020 a number of major upland peatland (blanket bog) landslides occurred across Ireland, most notably on Shass Mountain near Drumkeeran in County Leitrim<sup>2</sup> and Meenbog, near Ballybofey in County Donegal. The Peat Stability Risk Assessment must be considered in light of these occurrences with consideration of climate change predictions (e.g. rainfall level) in the hazard rating and should thoroughly assess risk with regard to change in weather patterns due to climate change such as more frequent and intense storms and rainfall events, increased likelihood and magnitude of river flooding, prolonged periods of dry conditions which may increase the likelihood of unstable peat.

Detailed consideration should be given to the amount of peat to be excavated, stored, and disposed/recovered. A detailed plan for the safe storage, disposal and rehabilitation of excavated or disturbed peat should form part of the EIAR. The spreading or recovery of excavated peat on areas of intact bog, wet and revegetated areas of cutover bog or other habitats or vegetation of ecological value is unlikely to be acceptable. Excavated or exposed peat should not pose any threat to surface waters and water quality. Any proposals to combine peat disposal with habitat restoration or rehabilitation measures will require a detailed plan to show the location, nature and area of lands in question, and provide details of how such areas will be reinstated, managed and improved for habitats and/or species, together with proposals for monitoring and reporting. This plan should be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist in consultation with hydrologists and other experts as appropriate.

A detailed site drainage map will be required and should show all existing watercourses, drainage ditches, flushes, lakes or ponds; new drainage ditches; all outfall points to watercourses or lakes; and all settlement ponds. The EIAR must demonstrate that the proposed wind farm development will not pose any threat to surface waters and associated species (e.g. Salmon). Any impact on water table levels or groundwater flows may impact on wetland sites some distance away. The EIAR should assess cumulative impacts with other plans or projects, if applicable. Where negative impacts are identified suitable mitigation measures should be detailed as appropriate.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/news/shass-mountain-peat-landslide-report-published>



The associated impacts of quarrying or extraction should be included among the considerations at the earliest stages of project planning and design, and should be assessed fully in the EIAR. Reinstatement or restoration plans will be required for any quarries or borrow pits on-site and should be included in the EIAR. As with any other part of the development, all borrow pits (existing or proposed) to be used in construction should be included within the application area for the proposed development.

Any tree felling of forested sites should be included as an intrinsic element of the overall development, the impacts and implications of which should be assessed fully in the EIAR. The extent of tree felling should be mapped, and the future use and management of all cleared areas should be specified. The impacts of tree felling on wildlife, habitats and surface waters (e.g. water quality) should be assessed fully, including the risk of Phosphate mobilisation from peat soils as a result of tree clearance and ground disturbance.

Tree felling is licensed and regulated by the Forest Service; any additional requirements in respect of this element of the proposed development, including any obligations to replant on other lands, should be made known at the planning application stage, and assessed as part of the EIAR as appropriate. If restoration of planted areas is proposed as mitigation or compensation for negative ecological effects, the EIAR should include a detailed plan to show the location, nature and area of habitat to be reinstated, and provide details of how such areas will be reinstated, managed and improved for habitats and/or species, together with proposals for monitoring and reporting. This plan should be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist in consultation with other experts as appropriate. Consideration should be given within this context of no net loss to biodiversity and with that opportunities for establishment of native woodland as replacement planting rather than coniferous planting.

The likely impacts of grid connection, particularly for birds, sensitive habitats and surface waters, should be given due consideration at the EIA stage.

Any improvement or reinforcement works required for access and transport anywhere along the proposed haul route(s) should be included in the EIAR and subjected to ecological impact assessment with the inclusion of mitigation measures, as appropriate.

Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development (including access roads and cabling etc.) such as woodland, scrub, hedgerows and other habitats should be mitigated for. In addition, Annex 1 habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats outside the network should be given due consideration as part of the consideration of biodiversity matters generally for the proposed development. The loss of Annex 1 habitats outside SACs should be avoided wherever possible.

Impacts of lighting on-site should also be assessed noting that lighting of turbines and masts can increase collision risk<sup>3</sup>.

You are advised that no disturbing or damaging site or ground investigations, or testing, should take place in an ecological site, including national (NHA) and European

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<sup>3</sup> Douse, A (2020) "The Effect of Aviation Obstruction Lighting on Birds at Wind Turbines, Communication Towers and Other Structures", NatureScot Information Note. Version 1.1



sites (SAC and SPA), in advance of the main project consent without due consideration of the need for planning permission (for exempted development where there are restrictions on exemptions), or another consent.

Alternatives options for the site should also be included in the EIAR and this should include the opportunities for blanket bog restoration, and to manage the site as a carbon sink through restoration and rehabilitation. This aligns with the National Peatlands Strategy 2015 to 2025 and is notable with respect to carbon accounting. The projected carbon accounts for blanket bog restoration should be considered against the carbon accounting for the proposed wind farm. It should also be noted that habitat restoration would not only contribute to carbon sequestration but is also important in terms of flood management, water quality and for biodiversity in general.

### 1.3. Ecological Data and Surveys

Along with the standard NPWS data requests which is recommended, other sources of habitat and species information beyond those already identified include (but are not be limited to): the National Biodiversity Data Centre ([www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)), Inland Fisheries Ireland ([www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)), BirdWatch Ireland ([www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie)), Irish Raptor Study Group, Golden Eagle Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland ([www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)).

It is expected by this Department that best practice will be adhered to with regard to survey methodology and if necessary non Irish methodology adapted for the Irish situation, noting specific gaps in relation to species and age of the data outlined in some guidance documents. The EIAR should cover the whole project, including construction, operation and, if applicable, restoration or decommissioning phases. Inland Fisheries Ireland should be consulted with regard to fish species, if applicable. For information on Geological and Geomorphological sites, the Geological Survey of Ireland, should be consulted.

Where ex-situ impacts are possible, survey work may be required, outside of the development sites. Such surveys should be carried out by suitably qualified persons at an appropriate time of the year, depending on the species being surveyed for. The EIAR should include the results of the surveys and detail the survey methodology and timing of such surveys including consistency in terms of timed vantage point surveys.

#### 1.3.1. Ornithology

Surveys for all species should cover bird usage and facilitate assessment of potential collision risk, habitat loss, barrier effect and displacement for these species and should be based around the daily and seasonal activity patterns of the species being surveyed. Survey work should cover year-round site use and should cover a minimum of two years to allow for an accurate determination of site usage. Target species for this site include Annex I (Birds Directive) species and Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) such as Hen Harrier, Merlin, Greenland White-fronted Goose (Bog of Erris flock), Golden Plover, Dunlin and Red Grouse. It should be noted that Slieve Fyagh is an important site for breeding waders (notably Dunlin and Redshank). NPWS data is available for this site. Other species of note that have been recorded in the area are





Snowy Owl, Golden Eagle and White-Tailed Eagle. Hinterland surveys therefore should include breeding raptor surveys, including roost watches, surveys for nocturnal species and other species-specific surveys as appropriate.

Vantage point surveys should be done in a manner that ensures sufficient data is collected to allow an assessment of the importance of all the flight paths into, out of and between sites and assess migratory movements. Consequently, the Department recommends that a visibility analysis of topography and vegetation is used in the selection of vantage points for ornithological surveys. Technological solutions should also be considered in conjunction with VPs surveys to ensure sufficient data is compiled for assessment.

Results for species need to be referenced back to the overall populations and their dynamics as, in some cases even a small risk to a population of a species could be considered significant.

When completing impact assessment for birds, assessment and monitoring results from nearby wind farms must be considered. Cumulative impact on birds from all wind farms in the area needs to be assessed and the data from surrounding sites needs to be considered in the assessment. This is of particular note due to the high density of wind farms in the area.

### **1.3.1 Bats**

Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. Bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976 to 2018, and are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). Therefore, damage/disturbance to any such roosts must be avoided in the first instance. While the Minister may grant a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015, a licence can only be granted once a number of strict criteria have been met (see Regulation 54). An assessment of the impact of the proposed wind farm on bat species should be carried out noting recent guidance available, “*Bat and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation, 2019*” published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Bat Conservation Trust and other stakeholders.

### **1.3.2 Watercourses and wetlands**

Wetlands are important areas for biodiversity and ground and surface water quality should be protected during construction and operation of the proposed development. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of the hydrological impacts on wetlands from the proposed development. Any watercourse or wetland which may be impacted on should be surveyed for the presence of protected species and species listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. For example, these species could include Otter (*Lutra lutra*) which are protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive, Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Lamprey (three species in Ireland) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera* species) and White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) which are both protected under the Wildlife Act and listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Frogs (*Rana temporaria*) and Newts (*Triturus vulgaris*) protected under the



Wildlife Acts and Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 EEC).

Further to potential impacts on the species listed above, for example, one of the main threats identified in the threat response plan for otter is habitat destruction (see [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/2009\\_Otter\\_TRP.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/2009_Otter_TRP.pdf)). A 10m riparian buffer on both banks of a waterway is considered to comprise part of the otter habitat. Therefore any proposed development should be located at least 10m away from a waterway and should consider movements between waterways and waterbodies by otters.

### **1.3.3. Flood plains**

Flood plains, if present, should be identified in the EIAR and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention (green infrastructure). If applicable, the EIAR should take account of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled "*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management*" published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government In November 2009.

### **1.3.4. Hedgerows, Scrub and related habitats**

Hedgerows and scrub should be maintained where possible, as they form wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in; hedgerows provide a habitat for woodland flora, roosting places for bats and Badger setts may also be present. The EIAR should provide an estimate of the length/area of any hedgerow/scrub that will be removed. Where it is proposed that trees or hedgerows will be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation incorporated into the EIAR. Hedgerows, trees, scrub and uncultivated vegetation (including peatland habitats) should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st), noting the protection afforded under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018.

### **1.3.5. Marsh Fritillary**

Marsh fritillary surveys should be carried out as per standard Marsh Fritillary Larval Web Survey methodology.

### **1.3.6. Alien invasive species**

The EIAR should also address the issue of invasive alien plant and animal species such as *Rhododendron ponticum* and Japanese Knotweed, and detail the methods required to ensure they are not accidentally introduced or spread during survey and or construction. Information on alien Invasive species In Ireland can be found at <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/> and at <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>.

## **1.4. Impact assessment**

The impact of the proposed development on the flora/ fauna and habitats present should be assessed with particular regard to:

Natura 2000 sites, i.e.:





- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
- and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147 EC),

Other designated sites, or sites proposed for designation such as,

- Natural Heritage Areas;
- proposed Natural Heritage Areas;
- Nature Reserves, notably Knockmoyle / Sheskin Nature Reserve
- Refuges for Fauna or Flora designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018;
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts including protected flora;

'Protected species and natural habitats', as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008 including

- Birds Directive - Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur);
- Habitats Directive - Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats;
- Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur);
- Important bird areas such as those identified by Birdlife International, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, such as those with a "stepping stone" and ecological corridors function, as referenced in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive;
- Other habitats of ecological value in a national to local context (such as those identified as locally important biodiversity areas within Local Biodiversity Action Plans and County Development Plans);
- Red data book species;
- And biodiversity in general.

### **1.5. Construction Management Plans and Mitigation**

Complete project details including Construction Management Plans (CMPs) need to be provided in order to allow an adequate EIAR and appropriate assessment to be undertaken. CMPS should contain sufficient detail to avoid any post construction doubt with regard to the implementation of mitigation measures, timings and roles and responsibilities for same. Any mitigation needs to be included in detail and if being relied upon to reach conclusions must be proved to be achievable and likely to be effective in any given scenario it is needed. Proof of effectiveness will be required with examples of where similar techniques have been employed previously.

Applicants need to be able to demonstrate that CMPs and other such plans are adequate, all mitigation is included and effective and supported by scientific information and analysis and that they are feasible within the physical constraints of the site. The positions, locations and sizes of construction infrastructure and mitigation such as settlement ponds, disposal sites and construction compounds may significantly affect European and other designated sites, habitats and species in their own right and could have an effect for example on, drainage, water quality, habitat loss, and disturbance. If



these are undetermined at time of the assessment all potential effects of the development on the site are not being considered.

Construction work should not be allowed to impact on water quality and measures should be detailed in the EIAR to prevent sediment and/or fuel runoff from getting into watercourses which could adversely impact on aquatic species.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) should be consulted with regard to impacts on fish species and the applicant may find it useful to consult their publication entitled "Planning for watercourses in the urban environment" (2020) which can be downloaded from their web site.

If applicants are not in a position to state the exact location and details of cable routes at the time of application, then they need to consider the range of options (overhead and underground) that may be used within their assessment.

The Department draws your attention to the recent High Court decision with respect to the High Court judicial review *Sweetman V An Bord Pleanála* (2021)IEHC 390 and the **appropriate detail of project description required for an EIA.**

## **2. Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA):**

In order to carry out the Appropriate Assessment screening, and/or prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), information about the relevant European sites including their conservation objectives will need to be collected.

Screening for appropriate assessment should focus on the likely significant effects of the proposed development and related activities on European sites noting that impacts to sites via air and water may occur over large distances using the source-pathway-receptor model. Details of designated sites and species and conservation objectives can be found on <http://www.npws.ie/> .

Site-specific, as opposed to generic, conservation objectives are now available for many sites. Each conservation objective for a qualifying interest (QI) habitat or species is defined by a list of attributes and targets and is often supported by further documentation. Where these are not available for a site, an examination of the attributes that are used to define site-specific conservation objectives for the same QIs in other sites can be usefully used to ensure the full ecological implications of a proposal for a site's conservation objective and its integrity are assessed. It is advised, as per the notes and guidelines in the site-specific conservation objectives that any reports quoting conservation objectives should give the version number and date, so that it can be ensured and established that the most up-to-date versions including map boundaries<sup>4</sup> are used in the preparation of Natura Impact Statements and in undertaking appropriate assessments.

In addition, the Article 12 and 17 reports under the Birds and Habitats Directives should be referenced <https://www.npws.ie/publications>. The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment is available on the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations> and in EU Commission guidance entitled:

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data>



- “Wind energy developments and Natura 2000”<sup>5</sup>
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC"<sup>6</sup>;
- 2018 Commission notice "Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC"<sup>7</sup> (updated June 2020)

More recent CJEU and Irish case law has clarified some issues and should also be consulted.

The NIS should present a robust and reasoned scientific assessment and analysis of the implications of the proposals for the relevant conservation objectives of relevant European sites. Best scientific knowledge in the field should be applied to the understanding of the likely effects, and to the assessment and analysis of the implications of the proposals for the conservation objectives and integrity of the sites. When carried out by the competent authority, the appropriate assessment cannot have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the project on European sites.

### **2.1 Cumulative and ex situ impacts**

A rule of thumb often used is to include all European sites within a distance of 15km. It should be noted however that this will not always be appropriate. In some instances where there are hydrological connections a whole river catchment or a groundwater aquifer may need to be included. Similarly where bird flight paths are involved the impact may be on an SPA more than 15 kilometres away.

Other relevant Local Authorities should be consulted to determine if there are any projects or plans which, in combination with this proposed development, could impact on any European sites.

As noted already assessment and monitoring results from nearby wind farms should be considered. Cumulative impact from all wind farms in the area needs to be assessed and the data from surrounding sites needs to be considered in the assessment of impacts.

### **3. Post construction monitoring**

This Department recognises the importance of pre and post construction monitoring, such as recommended in Drewitt et al. (2006), and Bat Conservation Ireland (2012). The applicant should not use any proposed post construction monitoring as mitigation to supplement inadequate information in the assessment. Please refer to Circular

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<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind\\_farms.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind_farms.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_asses\\_s\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_asses_s_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/EN\\_art\\_6\\_guide\\_jun\\_2019.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/EN_art_6_guide_jun_2019.pdf)



Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07 on this issue. This can be downloaded from the Department's website <https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations> .

The EIAR process should identify any pre and post construction monitoring which should be carried out. The post construction monitoring should include bird and bat strikes/fatalities including the impact on any such results of the removal of carcasses by scavengers. Monitoring results should be made available to the competent authority and copied to this Department. An appropriate plan of action needs to be agreed at planning stage with the Planning Authority if the results in future show a significant mortality of birds and/or bat species. It is important to note that unless post decision consultation with NPWS is specifically stated as a condition of planning, NPWS has no post consent role. However, regional staff are available for liaison regarding any associated licencing requirements and or new information arising for specific species of concern.

Note: any significant change to mitigation may require amendment and where a licence has expired; there will be a need for new licence applications for protected species.

#### **4. Licenses**

Where there are impacts on protected species and their habitats, resting or breeding places, licenses may be required under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018 or derogations under the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

In particular, bats as outlined earlier and otters, are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). A copy of Circular Letter NPWS 2/07 entitled "*Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Regulations 1997 – strict protection of certain species/applications for derogation licences*" can be found on the Departmental web site at [www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-npws-02-07.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-npws-02-07.pdf). It should be noted that the Regulations of 1997 have since been superseded by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. Part 6 of those Regulations is now the relevant section dealing with the protection of flora and fauna. Reference to Regulation 23 in the circular letter should be taken to mean Regulation 51 in the current Regulations.

In addition, the EIAR should take account of species protected under sections 21, 22 and 23 of the Wildlife Acts if there are any impacts on other protected species or their resting or breeding places, such as on protected plants, badger setts or birds' nests. And will also need to be cognisant of article 5 (d) of the Birds Directive. For that reason uncultivated vegetation, including hedges and trees, should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>).

In order to apply for any such licenses or derogations as mentioned above the results of a survey should be submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this Department. Such surveys are to be carried out by appropriately qualified person/s at an appropriate time of the year. Details of survey methodology should be provided. Should this survey work take place well before construction commences, it is recommended that an additional ecological survey of the development site should take place immediately prior to construction to ensure no significant change in the findings of the baseline ecological survey has occurred. As outlined already, if there has been



any significant change mitigation, this may require amendment and where a licence has expired, there will be a need for new licence applications for the protected species.

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@housing.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@housing.gov.ie), where used, or to the following address:

The Manager  
Development Applications Unit (DAU)  
Government Offices  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

Simon Dolan  
Development Applications Unit



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

A: Áras an Chontae, Caisleán an Bharraigh,  
Contae Mhaigh Eo, F23 WF90

T: 094 9064000 F: 094 9023937

W: www.mayo.ie

Ár dTag./ Our Ref.

Do Thag./ Your Ref.

16 June 2021

Ms Karen Mulryan,  
MKO,  
Tuam Rd.,  
Galway  
H91 VW84



**Re: EIA Scoping document Sheskin South Wind Farm**

Dear Ms Mulryan,

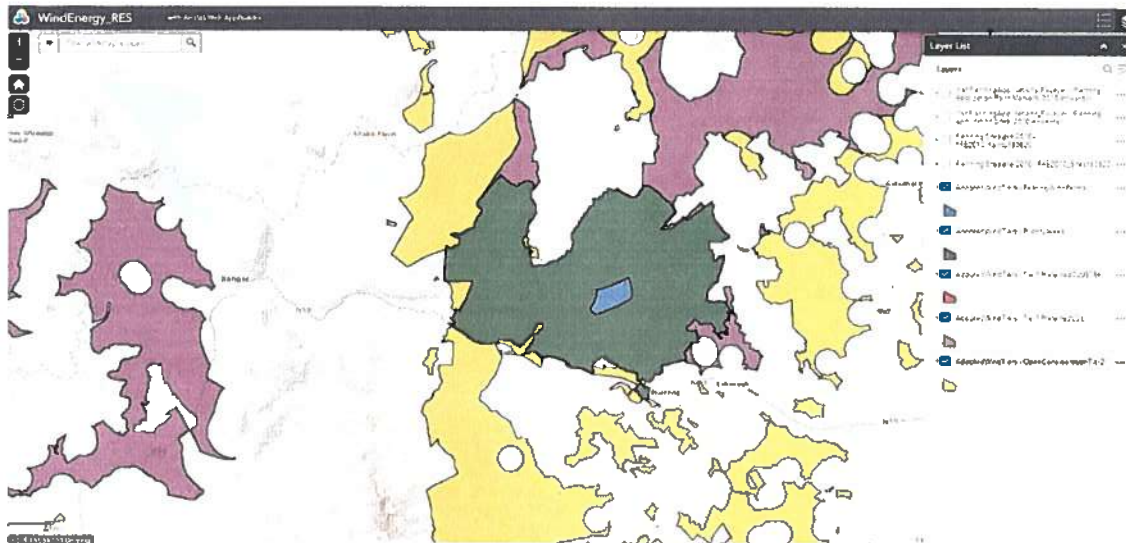
In relation to the proposal for 12 -16 no. wind turbines the following is the consideration of Mayo County Council:

### **Planning**

Mayo County Council adopted a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo on the 9 May 2011. The Strategy sets out a path to allow County Mayo to contribute to meeting the national legally-binding renewable energy targets and sets out opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses to harness renewable energy in a sustainable manner and to assist in combating climate change.

Map 1 Wind Energy details location in the County where wind farms will be considered. See extract from map below.





The area proposed for the Sheskin Wind Farm is within an area open for consideration for the development of Wind Farms. Therefore, in principle the location is considered acceptable.

### **Landscape Appraisal**

Turbines should be located away from steep slopes, and higher ground and should harmonise visually with the existing and any proposed windfarm projects at this location.

### **Environment Section**

#### **1. Terrain and Ground Conditions**

Show and discuss the location of terrain and ground conditions including information on slopes, soil type, bedrock, depth to bedrock, depth to groundwater, depth of peat.

Forestry proposals in the area, with regard to clear felling plans and afforestation plans for the area.

#### **2. Drainage Context**

Show and discuss the existing drainage on site relative to proposed development including roads, access tracks, turbines hard stand areas and grid connections. This shall include drainage associated with forestry and turf cutting.

#### **3. Hydrological Context**

Details of overall site management relative to water courses in the area. This should have regard to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, and any relevant River Basin Management Plan. This should include impact of

downstream water body status. Any references to the Western RBD in the scoping document have been superseded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle RBMP and the EIAR should reflect this. The development should have regard to any Priority Areas for Action and High-Status Objective water bodies in the area.

The hydrological context of the overall site should be set out, together with a delineation of individual sub catchments within the proposed development associated with each turbine, including slope, drainage and proximity to same. This should include the location and flow direction of all drains and streams on site. Pathways to water courses and drains should be clearly identified, mapped. Access track and road any associated water crossings and details of how these will be designed and constructed to reduce impacts on the receiving environment. Grid connection and any associated water crossings and details of how these will be designed and constructed to reduce impacts on the receiving environment. Establish baseline water quality conditions prior to works commencing on site.

**4. Noise impact assessment.**

Establish baseline noise conditions at notice sensitive receptors prior to works commencing on site.

Submit a noise impact assessment for the proposed development.

**5. Cumulative Impacts**

Discuss and show the location of projects and activities considered for cumulative impact assessment. This should include a map showing the location of the following (but not exclusive to):

- Other windfarms in the area,
- Quarries, (if any)
- Flood Relief work (if any),
- Cutover bogs
- Tubary Plots
- Substations
- Grid connections

6. A Construction Environmental Management Plan should form part of the EIAR.

7. Provision should be made for the role of a Community Liaison Officer, to engage with communities before during and after construction of the proposed development.



## **Roads Department**

1. An assessment of the structural capacity of the local road network adjacent to the proposed windfarm site will need to be undertaken to determine its suitability/capacity to carry the construction traffic associated with the development. This will require Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) and Visual assessments,
2. Structural road pavement improvements identified in the FWD and Visual Surveys will be required in advance of any construction and again following completion, if required.
3. The proposal to construct the grid connection along the local road network and N59 is not acceptable as it has the potential to undermine the structural capacity of the roads concerned. A private wayleave should be secured. The N59 is a strategically important National Secondary Road with a pavement overlain on a poor peat subgrade and requires regular bridge maintenance/structural improvement interventions as well as regular pavement maintenance/structural improvement interventions. The potential for differential settlement raises a concern for road safety and the overall structural integrity of the existing N59 road, as well as having a detrimental impact on future maintenance/structural interventions. The potential for differential settlement raises a concern for road safety and the overall structural integrity of the existing L52926 road, as well as having a detrimental impact on future maintenance/structural interventions.
4. Details of any significant additional strengthening and widening of the public road network along the haul route. The improvements identified must be undertaken in advance of any construction works commencing.
5. Any pavement damage caused by construction traffic/activities must be repaired to the satisfaction of Mayo County Council on and on-going basis.

## **Archaeology**

The first part of an Archaeological Assessment should consist of a site visit and desk top study undertaken by a suitability qualified Archaeologist. On foot of this, any or all of the following may be required:

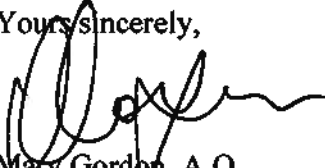
- Geophysical and/or other non-invasive surveys
- Licensed pre-development testing
- Licensed archaeological excavation
- Archaeological monitoring of ground works

**Advice Note:**

It is advised to note the issues that have arisen during the course of securing planning permission on the nearby windfarm development, which may have some of the same issues with the current proposal due to the proximity of both projects.

Planning References P20/834 and P15/825 would be most relevant.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Gordon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Gordon, A.O.,  
Planning & Development

ADiL/BF

## Karen Mulryan

---

**From:** Shaun Doolin  
**Sent:** 17 December 2021 12:40  
**To:** Planning CRU  
**Cc:** Karen Mulryan  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo  
**Attachments:** Sheskin South Turbine Layout V2 - 201119 - 2021.12.17.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a PDF of the Sheskin South Turbine Layout.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Shaun Doolin  
Graduate Environmental Scientist  
**MKO**  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
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---

**From:** Planning CRU <planning@cru.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 December 2021 11:07  
**To:** Shaun Doolin <sdoolin@mkoireland.ie>  
**Cc:** Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>; Planning CRU <planning@cru.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good morning,

The attached document can't be opened - can you please re-send the attached document in either MS Word or PDF format so that we can open and read.

Kind regards,  
CRU



**Planning**

p: +353 (0)1 4000800

a: The Grain House, The Exchange,  
Belgard Square North, Tallaght, D24 PXW0  
w: [www.cru.ie](http://www.cru.ie) e: [planning@cru.ie](mailto:planning@cru.ie)

The CRU Privacy Notice sets out how we protect the privacy rights of individuals and can be found [here](#)

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**From:** Shaun Doolin <[sdoolin@mkoireland.ie](mailto:sdoolin@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 December 2021 10:03  
**To:** Law Department <[lawdepartment@cru.ie](mailto:lawdepartment@cru.ie)>  
**Cc:** Karen Mulryan <[kmulryan@mkoireland.ie](mailto:kmulryan@mkoireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

**CAUTION:** Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

The final turbine locations for the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm have been confirmed.

For your records, please find attached a KML file and spreadsheet containing the coordinates (in ITM and Irish Grid) for the turbines at the proposed wind farm.

Kind regards,

Shaun



Shaun Doolin  
Graduate Environmental Scientist  
**MKO**  
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[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)



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**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Monday 24 May 2021 12:51  
**To:** [lawdepartment@cru.ie](mailto:lawdepartment@cru.ie)  
**Subject:** FW: 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

I previously sent a scoping document for a proposed wind farm development at Sheskin, Co. Mayo. Please see attached again for your records. If you have any comments or queries on the proposed development, we would be grateful for a response and/or acknowledgement of receiving this document.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan  
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**From:** Karen Mulryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 March 2021 17:22  
**To:** [lawdepartment@cru.ie](mailto:lawdepartment@cru.ie)  
**Subject:** 201119 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Sheskin South, Co. Mayo

Good afternoon,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), on behalf of SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA, for a proposed wind farm development located in the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The proposed development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. The proposed development site is referred to as Sheskin South to avoid confusion with the neighbouring, permitted Sheskin Wind Farm.

The proposed project will likely encompass 12-16 turbines and will have an output of at least 50 megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provision of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Mayo County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen.



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