

East Meath - North Dublin Grid Upgrade Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR): Volume 3

Appendix A1.1 – Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses

EirGrid

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Appendix A1.1 – Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses

1. Introduction

Relevant stakeholders were contacted as part of the Scoping Process for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development). The stakeholders were contacted in November 2023 and were provided with an electronic copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Memo for the Proposed Development (refer to Table 1.1 for a list of the stakeholders). The stakeholders were invited to review the EIA Scoping Memo and make a submission related to its content or additional information or topics which they considered relevant to the development of the EIAR. A non-statutory consultation period of four weeks was provided for comment. However, responses were accepted post this consultation period.

Table 1.1: List of Prescribed Bodies

Prescribed Bodies	
Dublin Bus	The Heritage Council
Bus Éireann	daa
Iarnród Éireann	Health Service Executive (HSE)
Uisce Éireann	An Taisce
Gas Networks Ireland	Dublin City Council (DCC)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Fingal County Council (FCC)
Waterways Ireland	Meath County Council (MCC)
Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Commission for Railway Regulation	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
Health and Safety Authority (HSA)	An Chomhairle Ealaíon
Irish Aviation Authority / Air Navigation Ireland	Failte Ireland
Teagasc	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	Department of Transport
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	The Commissioners of Public Work
National Transport Authority (NTA)	Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA)
Office of Public Works (OPW)	Commission for Regulation of Utilities

1.1 Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses

A total of seven responses were received during the non-statutory scoping consultation process. A summary of the content of those responses and how the issues raised have been addressed in the EIAR, where applicable, is provided in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses from Prescribed Bodies

Stakeholder	Date Received	Summary of Submission	Response / How this is Addressed in the EIAR
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	05.12.23	Section 3 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 is the primary piece of legislation for the protection of underwater cultural heritage, including archaeological objects underwater, irrespective of age, and wrecks over 100 years old.	The Act is included in Section 13.2.1 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		In light of the potential effects on underwater cultural heritage, as outlined above, we recommend that a programme of pre-development underwater archaeological assessment should be undertaken.	Underwater assessment is identified as pre-construction mitigation in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		Works should be carried out at the earliest possible stage to facilitate the embedding of any recommended further mitigation within the detailed design for the Proposed Development, in order to ensure the preservation in-situ of any identified underwater cultural heritage and to develop an informed archaeological strategy to be implemented in agreement with the National Monuments Service.	As identified in Section 13.5 of (Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR, mitigation will be undertaken post-consent but in advance of construction.
		Desktop assessment that addresses the underwater cultural heritage; include inventory, mapping and survey of underwater cultural heritage features and structures identified by fieldwork, cartographic analysis, historical research and prior archaeological investigations.	Underwater assessment is identified as pre-construction mitigation in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		Include a licensed dive/wade assessment accompanied by a hand-held metal detection survey. A Dive/Survey licence (Section 3 1987 National Monuments Act) and Detection Device consent (Section 2 1987 National Monuments Act) will be required for the dive / wade survey and metal detection.	Underwater assessment, comprising wade and metal detecting survey, is identified as pre-construction mitigation in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR. All mitigation will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under Licence (where required).
		The archaeologist may, following consultation with the National Monuments Service, undertake targeted in-river pre-development archaeologist test-excavations within specific areas of the proposed development area. Licensed metal detection shall be undertaken in tandem with the test excavations.	Underwater assessment to inform the design of archaeological excavation and further underwater surveys is identified as pre-construction mitigation in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		The archaeologist shall submit a final written report to the NMS describing the results of the UAIA, the report shall include a comprehensive Archaeological Impact Statement (AIS). The AIS shall describe the potential impact(s) and assess any proposed additional site Investigation/Geotechnical impacts and potential secondary/indirect impacts.	As identified in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR, reports on the results of all surveys and assessments undertaken will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Licence(s) granted by the National Monuments Service.
		Mitigation may include recommendations for redesign to allow for full or partial preservation in situ, the institution of archaeological exclusion zones, further wade/dive surveys, test-excavations, excavations ('preservation by record') and / or monitoring, as deemed appropriate.	Underwater assessment to inform the design of archaeological excavation and further underwater surveys is identified as pre-construction mitigation in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.

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		No construction works shall commence until after the UAIA has been submitted and reviewed.	As identified in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR mitigation will be undertaken post-consent but in advance of construction.
Failte Ireland	22.11.23	The submission from Failte Ireland outlined the publication of the Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects (July 2023) includes guidance for those conducting EIA and compiling and EIAR. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines.	The Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects (July 2023) have been considered as part of Chapter 5 (Population) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
IFI	15.12.23	<p>The IFI submission noted that the Tolka River supports Lamprey (Habitats Directive Annex II species) and Brown Trout populations in addition to other fish species, the Ward River is an important salmonid system with Brown trout throughout and Salmon in the lower reaches, the Sluice River system supports a resident population of Brown trout, and the Mayne River is a non-salmonid system. However, IFI are currently assessing the viability of a salmonid reintroduction programme. The Mayne River system does however contain populations of European Eel again which are classified as critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.</p> <p>While the eDNA sampling technique only found records of Trout in one waterbody, IFI can confirm that all the above systems contain Salmonids, are all on the WFD monitoring programme and therefore the precautionary principal should be applied in the protection of the site itself and downstream habitat. IFI strongly recommend directional drilling in crossing the Dunboyne, Tolka, Pinkeen and Ward rivers. Timing constraints do not apply to directional drilling which may take place at any time of year subject to agreement with IFI. All open cut crossing can only take place from July to September in line with the fisheries open season.</p> <p>IFI requested a meeting to facilitate a discussion.</p>	A meeting with IFI and the Project Team took place on 9 January 2024. Following this meeting and the recommendations from IFI, appropriate methodologies and measures for the crossing of watercourses were agreed. These methodologies and measures are outlined in Chapter 4 (Proposed Development Description) and Chapter 12 (Hydrology) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
MCC	11.12.23	<p>The applicant is referred to the policies and objectives contained in Volume 1 of the Meath County Development Plan (MCDP) 2021-2027 and the Written Statements and Land Use Zoning Map contained in Volume 2 of the MCDP. Please refer to the associated maps and appendices for pertinent information, including land-use zoning maps.</p> <p>The applicant's EIAR must ensure that aspects of 'entire project' (even if there are several components) are examined, i.e. there should be no 'project splitting' for the purposes of EIAR.</p> <p>Public Participation - Demonstration of the effect of public participation on the development of the project is advised and how opinions and concerns of the public have been considered.</p>	<p>The Planning Report, which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack has considered the relevant policies and objectives contained in the latest Meath County Development Plan.</p> <p>The Proposed Development in its entirety is described in Chapter 4 (Proposed Development Description) and all elements are fully assessed throughout the EIAR and Planing Report in the planning application pack.</p> <p>Public consultation is summarised in Chapter 1 (Introduction and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.</p>

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			Consultation reports from the various development stages of the Proposed Development are included in Volume 5 (Supporting Documents) of the EIAR.
		The applicant must ensure that the authors of the relevant components of the EIAR are competent experts, and a synopsis of relevant qualification, experience and knowledge should be provided to demonstrate this to An Bord Pleanála.	The details of the competent experts responsible for the environmental assessments and chapters completed for the EIAR are outlined in Table 1.4 in Chapter 1 (Introduction and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		The applicant must prepare a Non-Technical Summary as part of the EIAR which should present a succinct and sufficient summary of the EIAR.	A Non-Technical Summary is included as Volume 1 of the EIAR.
		The applicant is advised to clarify the titles used in the EIAR so that the required environmental topics are addressed. For example, 'land and property' are identified under 'material assets' and 'agronomy and equine' topics, however the latter is not an environmental receptor listed under the EIA Directive/ Regulations. Similarly, 'traffic and transport' is not an EIAR heading – but could be included under 'material assets', etc. This must be clarified to meet legal requirements, to ensure all the relevant topics are covered, thus providing clarity to ABP and members of the public. The NTS should also address this issue if it is intended to use alternative headings/distinctions.	Table 1.1 in Chapter 1 (Introduction and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process) in Volume 2 of the EIAR details the information to be included in an EIAR, as outlined in Directive 2014/52/EU of the Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) and includes references out to where this information is contained in the EIAR.
		Population & Human Health – Population (land use) should include the effect of construction on 'biodiversity'.	Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) in Volume 2 of the EIAR includes a full assessment of the potential impacts of construction on biodiversity and proposes mitigation and monitoring measures to avoid or reduce these potential impacts.
		Biodiversity – As per the EIA Directive, this section requires particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives.	Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) in Volume 2 of the EIAR includes a full assessment of the relevant species and habitats protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives.
		Appropriate Assessment - Although the EIAR and Appropriate Assessment reports and processes are legally separate, it is important that baseline data from each report is integrated into the other as relevant.	The baseline data contained within the Appropriate Assessment and Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) in Volume 2 of the EIAR contain the same information.
		The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and other surveys should be integrated into the EIA to inform the overall design of the proposed development and to determine the likely significant effects of same, and if relevant any proposed mitigation. A specific Flood Risk Assessment should inform the 'Hydrology' section.	Each Chapter in Volume 2 of the EIAR details the desk-based assessments and field surveys that were carried out to inform the development of the EIAR and the design of the Proposed Development. A FRA was completed and is included as an appendix to Chapter 12 (Hydrology) (Appendix A12.1 in Volume 3 of the EIAR).
		It is acknowledged that the applicant is seeking to minimise the number of HDD trenches, however, the impact of vibration on fish/ other aquatic species due to HDD beneath surface water features should be considered. Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) should be included as a consultee for the protection of the fisheries resource.	IFI have been consulted as part of the development of the EIAR (see above scoping response from IFI). A meeting with IFI and the Project Team took place on 9 January 2024. Following this meeting and the recommendations from IFI, appropriate methodologies and measures for the crossing of watercourses were agreed. These methodologies and measures are outlined in Chapter 4 (Proposed

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			Development Description) and Chapter 12 (Hydrology) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		Secure fencing will be required along the route to prevent wildlife access to the trenches while construction work is ongoing. It is advised that a strategy for dealing with Invasive Species on-site or imported due to works associated with this project is provided as part of the application.	As outlined in Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) in Volume 2 of the EIAR, a 2m to 3 m high non-transparent screening barrier will be erected along the perimeter of the construction sites to block the construction works from wildlife. The screening barrier will have a mass per unit area exceeding 7 kg/m ² (kilograms per metre squared) in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5228 Part 1:2009+A1:2014 Part B.4 and the installation and continued monitoring of the screening will be carried out by a qualified Ecological Clerk of Works. Appendix E of the CEMP, which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack, contains the Invasive Species Management Plan for the Proposed Development. This Plan will be adapted and implemented by the appointed contractor for the Construction Phase.
		Landscape and Visual – Long term impacts from the loss of hedgerows and trees during construction and operation should be referenced in this section, considered and addressed.	Chapter 18 (Landscape and Visual) in Volume 2 of the EIAR considers and assesses the long-term impact of the removal of hedgerows and trees and proposes mitigation measures to reduce the level of impacts. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment was also completed and is included as Appendix A18.1.
		Soil - Should the removal of soil and stone be required; the applicant will have obligations under the Waste Management Directive.	Chapter 16 (Waste) in Volume 2 of the EIAR details the mitigation measures which will be applied for any removal of materials off site, which will be in line with all relevant waste management policy and guidance, including the Waste Framework Directive. A Construction Resource and Waste Management Plan has also been included as Appendix C of the CEMP, which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack.
		Major Accidents - Where relevant the applicant may need to examine any risk of major accidents and/ or disasters associated with Seveso sites along/ adjoining the route.	Chapter 19 (Risk of Major Accidents and / or Disasters) in Volume 2 of the EIAR considered the potential for Seveso Sites in the study area. The assessment determined that the Proposed Development would not be in the consultation zone for any Seveso site.
		Climate - Where relevant, the 'Climate' section of the EIAR should be informed by the European Commission's "Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027". The applicant is invited to discuss proposals to calculate the impact of the development on the climate and potential offset due to the connections of renewable energy; capacity of the proposed infrastructure to facilitate other types of new connections/ development.	The EIAR is informed by the Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021 to 2027 where practical, including a carbon calculation in Chapter 8 (Climate) in Volume 2 of the EIAR for the Proposed Development using an industry standard tool. There are too many difficulties, variables and unknowns to calculate the potential offset, including having regard to the meshed nature of the electricity grid. However, the role of the Proposed Development in facilitating the connection of renewable energy projects has been discussed.

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		<p>Air Quality - Much of the mitigation required for the reduction of impacts on air quality will need to be included in a Construction Environment Management Plan including dust suppression during construction or maintenance works, etc.</p>	<p>Chapter 7 (Air Quality) in Volume 2 of the EIAR includes mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential impacts on air quality as a result of the Proposed Development. These mitigation measures are also contained within the CEMP, which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack.</p>
		<p>Cultural Heritage – e.g. bridges, etc. should be considered, in the event of a change to the proposed route. MCC’s Archaeologist may have details of recent excavations along the route/ provide other recommendations.</p>	<p>Chapter 13 (Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage) in Volume 2 of the EIAR considers designated and non-designated cultural heritage identified from a range of sources (see Section 13.2.3) as well as previous excavations undertaken within the study area.</p>
		<p>Material Assets – The long-term impact of the 400kV lines in urban areas should be discussed, (e.g. at locations adjoining land identified for future or further residential/commercial development etc. in Dunboyne). The likelihood of works preventing the development of such lands must be addressed.</p>	<p>Routing the cables primarily along roads, and careful routing in the off-road sections has sought to minimise impacts to existing and potential future land uses (as set out in the relevant development plans). However, a side discussion on the longer-term impact of 400kV lines in urban areas is considered outside of the scope of this EIAR.</p>
TII	06.12.23	<p>The TII submission noted that TII have been actively engaged in providing observations on the Proposed Development since the Step 4 consultation process, and that TII has consistently identified a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network resulting from the laying of high voltage electricity cabling in the national road reservation.</p>	<p>EirGrid notes TII concerns but highlights that the Proposed Development is not utilising national roads but rather regional or local roads. Chapter 4 (Traffic and Transport) in Volume 2 of this EIAR includes mitigation measures regarding the Construction and Operational Phases of the Proposed Development. This Chapter is also supported by the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which is included as Appendix B of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack.</p>
		<p>TII with EirGrid contribute to the national HV Interface Forum and nothing in this submission should be construed to contradict any accepted principles that guide or agreements that may result from that Forum.</p>	<p>EirGrid acknowledges the participation of TII and other key stakeholders on the HV Interface Forum and will continue to work with all parties for successful outcomes for all parties.</p>
		<p>TII outline that all motorway crossings should be undertaken using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).</p>	<p>All motorway crossings will be undertaken using HDD, as outlined in Chapter 4 (Proposed Development Description) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.</p>
		<p>A third party seeking to cross a motorway will require Works Specific Deeds of Indemnities, arrangements for third party access or consent from TII in accordance with Section 53 of the Roads Act, 1993. Arrangements for third party access are also likely to be required. Contact should be made to ‘thirdpartyworks@tii.ie’ to progress this element when proposals for the crossings have been developed.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed</p>
		<p>Consultation with the relevant maintaining organisations (e.g. MMaRC Contractor and PPP Concession Company) should also be undertaken and any access requirements agreed with them through their 3rd party protocols.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed</p>

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		Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes in the area.	EirGrid has engaged with the relevant Local Authorities with respect to the Proposed Development and this engagement includes considering future schemes where known.
		TII recommends consultation with the NTA and the Metrolink Design Team in relation to the Metrolink Scheme.	EirGrid has had extensive engagement with both ESBN Metrolink and TII MetroLink to ensure all parties are aware of the Proposed Development and the interaction with other developments
		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.	A cumulative impact assessment of the Proposed Development with other developments (including road-related developments) was undertaken and is documented in Chapter 20 (Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions) in Volume 2 of the EIAR and its associated appendix (Appendix A20.1) in Volume 3 of the EIAR.
		The developer, in preparing the 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, 2006), and TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).	The air quality assessment has taken into account the most recent guidance TII Publications, specifically TII Guidance Air Quality Assessment of Specified Infrastructure Projects – Overarching Technical Document (PE-ENV-01106), which supersedes the National Roads Authority guidance. As recommended by TII guidance (PE-ENV-01106), the assessment also follows the IAQM construction dust guidance.
		The EIAR 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; see Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1st Rev., National Roads Authority 2004).	In terms of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2018, future noise action plans by the relevant competent authorities are not likely to be affected as they deal with managing the operational impacts from road, rail, air and industry noise sources. The Proposed Development is not likely to result in any significant increase in operational noise which would require noise management by the relevant authorities in the future.
		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 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, the Authority'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 the NRA/TII 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.	A detailed assessment of traffic is included in Chapter 14 (Traffic and Transport) in Volume 2 of the EIAR. No traffic increases as a result of construction traffic are deemed significant enough to warrant further investigation / assessment even during a maximum / worst-case scenario. All assessed locations show a negligible impact of significance for total traffic and only minor adverse or negligible significance of effect for all criteria at all assessed locations. Construction traffic will also look to avoid network peak times. Heavy Goods Vehicle traffic will be spread throughout the day. The operational traffic impact of the Proposed Development is negligible and there will be no permanent changes to the existing road network as a result.

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		<p>The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.</p>	<p>There are no permanent changes to the layout of the national road network and therefore a Road Safety Audit (RSA) would not be required in line with TII Publication: TII GE-STY - 01024. Temporary accesses and construction associated infrastructure will be constructed on the roads maintained by Meath and Dublin County Councils. Although temporary, the requirement for RSA on these schemes will be determined with the respective authority through the design process.</p> <p>In addition, the requirement for accesses to serve permanent access tracks and any required RSA will be carried out at a later design stage once sufficient design information is available.</p>
		<p>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 national road structures, early engagement with TII Structures Section should be undertaken to ascertain requirements.</p>	<p>Chapter 4 (Proposed Development Description) in Volume 2 of the EIAR describes the construction methods and techniques, including the approach to temporary traffic management. This includes a description of the approach to motorway crossings, which will be undertaken using HDD.</p>
		<p>TII recommends that that 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 through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.</p>	<p>An abnormal load assessment has been undertaken to provide an initial appraisal of the deliverability and logistics required to construct the Proposed Development. This is summarised in Chapter 4 (Proposed Development Description) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.</p>
Uisce Éireann	14.12.23	<p>The Uisce Éireann submission noted that Uisce Éireann do not have the capacity to advise on an individual project basis but provided general feedback, as follows.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
		<p>The applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development. Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any Uisce Éireann drinking water sources.</p>	<p>No abstraction sources identified. Construction mitigation, as outlined in the CEMP which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack, will be in place to mitigate any risk.</p>
		<p>Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert.</p>	<p>Backfill materials (i.e. engineering fill, thermal sand, cement bound granular material), are likely to be imported to site and the Proposed Development is not expected to reuse excavated materials won in-situ.</p> <p>Where excavated materials are to be reused for backfill this will be subject to the results of testing, whereby representative samples will be retrieved from each material type (allow 1 per 100m³) submitted for laboratory analysis and the results of analysis assessed to assess whether it is inert. If material is not inert, it will be disposed of at a suitable facility in line with waste management legislation and guidance.</p>

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		Mitigations should be proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water source(s) which may be in proximity and included in the environmental management plan and incident response.	Construction mitigation, as outlined in the CEMP which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack, will be in place to mitigate any risk. The CEMP also includes an Environmental Incident Response Plan (Appendix A).
		Any and all potential impacts on the nearby reservoir as public water supply water source(s) are assessed, including any impact on hydrogeology and any groundwater/ surface water interactions.	No reservoirs were identified in the study area. A full ground water and surface water assessment has been completed as part of Chapter 11 (Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology) and Chapter 12 (Hydrology) in Volume 2 of the EIAR and these chapters include any mitigation and monitoring measures required to protect the groundwater and surface water receptors identified in the study area.
		Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (i.e. do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development). This is confirmed by Uisce Éireann in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF).	The Proposed Development will not impact on the capacity of water services.
		If a development requires a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system, the developer is advised to submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to Uisce Éireann to determine the feasibility of connection to the Uisce Éireann network.	Noted and agreed
		The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.	Noted and agreed
		Any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.	Noted and agreed
		Potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers.	Noted and agreed
		Determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from the applicant's site / lands to the public network and any drinking water abstraction catchments to ensure these are included and fully assessed in any pre-planning proposals.	Noted and agreed
		Potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls.	Noted and agreed
		Potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source) or the potential of the development to influence / present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply.	There are no known surface water abstractions within the study area of the Proposed Development and the Proposed Development will not require water abstraction. The assessment completed for Chapter 12 (Hydrology) in Volume 2 of the EIAR determined that no impacts to surface water supply are anticipated and

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		<p>Consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks.</p>	<p>this was therefore scoped out of further assessment for both Construction and Operational Phases.</p> <p>Chapter 10 (Biodiversity) in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and the Natura Impact Statement which is included as a standalone document in the planning application pack, includes a full assessment of designated sites and their conservation objectives.</p> <p>Based on the best available scientific information and professional judgement, it is considered that with the mitigation measures detailed in the Natura Impact Statement, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of those European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects in light of those site's conservation objectives.</p> <p>Noted and the Proposed Development will not result in new discharges.</p>
HSE	22.12.23	<p>The HSE submission noted that the 2022 EPA Guidelines, 2003 EPA Advice Notes, the Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála (2018), EIA of projects Guidance on the preparation of the EIAR EU 2017 should be considered in the EIAR.</p> <p>The HSE submission recommended that public consultation, population and human health, land, soil and geology, water and hydrology, air quality, climate change (mitigation and adaptation and opportunities for health gain, noise and vibration, material assets, traffic and transportation and cumulative impacts be included and assessed in the EIAR.</p>	<p>These guidelines have been considered and factored into the assessments completed as part of the EIAR, and are referenced, where relevant throughout Volume 2 of the EIAR.</p> <p>The EIAR addresses these topics, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation is summarised in Chapter 1 (Introduction and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process) in Volume 2 of the EIAR. Consultation reports from the various development stages of the Proposed Development are include in Volume 5 (Supporting Documents) of the EIAR; • Population and Human Health are assessed in Chapter 5 (Population) and Chapter 6 (Human Health) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; • Air quality is assessed in Chapter 7 (Air Quality) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; • Climate is assessed in Chapter 8 (Climate) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; • Noise and vibration are assessed in Chapter 9 (Noise and Vibration) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; • Land, soils and geology are assessed in Chapter 11 (Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; • Water and hydrology are assessed in Chapter 11 (Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology) (for groundwater) and Chapter 12 (Hydrology) (for surface water) in Volume 2 of the EIAR;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic and transport are assessed in Chapter 14 (Traffic and Transport) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; Material assets are assessed in Chapter 17 (Material Assets) in Volume 2 of the EIAR; and Cumulative impacts are assessed in Chapter 20 (Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.
		<p>The EIAR should demonstrate that a process of public consultation has taken place and that consent has been received from all interested parties. Sensitive receptors and other stakeholders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any complaints about the development, primarily during the construction phase. Similarly, the public should be consulted specifically on the public health aspects of the scheme by consulting on questions like 'what are the potential health benefits/challenges from the development' and 'what opportunities can the development deliver for health gain'.</p> <p>A feedback/complaint mechanism should be put in place to enable stakeholders engage with the developer, through online and offline means. A dedicated Community Liaison Officer should be appointed by the developer to act as formal point of contact for open communication between the developer/contractor and residents/community groups on matters of environmental performance and for the receipt of complaints regarding the construction of the proposed development.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should clearly demonstrate the link between public consultations and how those consultations have influenced the decision-making process in the EIA.</p>	<p>How public consultation informed the project development process and the scoping of the EIAR is set out in Chapter 1 (Introduction and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process) and Chapter 3 (Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives) including public and stakeholder consultation undertaken during Steps 1 – 5 of EirGrid's Framework for Grid Development.</p> <p>A Summary of Engagement (Step 1-5) Report, which details consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Proposed Development is included in Volume 5 (Supporting Documents) of this EIAR. Issues such as the public health aspects of the scheme have been addressed when raised by members of the public throughout the project development process.</p> <p>EirGrid as a team of dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) who act as a formal point of contact for open communication between EirGrid and local residents / community groups on all matters relating to the project. CLOs will continue to undertake this role during the construction of the proposed development.</p>
		<p>The Environmental Health Service (EHS) recommends that the Construction Phase of the proposed development contains a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) that details a comprehensive list of measures to be undertaken to mitigate potential harmful effects on sensitive receptors and engage in monitoring to ensure health protection standards are not exceeded.</p>	<p>A CEMP has been completed and is included as a standalone document in this planning application pack. The CEMP also details all construction-related mitigation measures included in Volume 2 of the EIAR. The CEMP and the mitigation measures within will be adopted and updated as necessary by the appoint contractor and measures will be implemented in full, along with any conditions attached to a grant of planning.</p>
		<p>The EHS recommends that the EIAR split the issue of climate into Mitigation and Adaptation headings. In the context of Mitigation the proposed development should aim to be a carbon neutral development and put forward climate actions that will deliver a climate neutral development. Typical actions may include green procurement of materials and the use of low emission vehicles during construction. The EIAR should clearly illustrate how the development contributes to obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon</p>	<p>The climate assessment contained in Chapter 8 (Climate) in Volume 2 of the EIAR is split into two parts: vulnerability to changes in climate and a greenhouse gas assessment. In this regard, mitigation and adaptation are presented separately.</p> <p>The vulnerability risk assessment presents design mitigations(i.e. adaptations that will increase the resilience of the Proposed Development to climate change). Carbon reduction opportunities (i.e. mitigation measures) have been proposed in Chapter 8 (Climate).</p>

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		<p>Development Act 2015 and amendment of 2021 and the most recent Climate Action Plans of 2023 and 2024 (only published on 20 December 2023).</p> <p>In the context of Adaptation and Resilience the development should be designed to limit exposure to potential hazards and reduce vulnerability. Floods, windstorms, heatwaves/higher temperatures and drought are the key hazards to protect the development from.</p> <p>The EHS recommends the proposed development look for ways to deliver health gain, perhaps in line with the Climate Action Plans of the local authorities covered by the proposed development. An example might be to seek ways in which active travel can be supported/integrated while construction alongside roads is being undertaken.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is considered to be resilient to changes in climate in the near term (Construction Phase). Future climate projections and a vulnerability risk assessment for the Operational Phase are included in Chapter 8 (Climate). As it is primarily located underground, the development is considered to be resilient to key hazards that are present at the surface.</p> <p>The assessment included in Chapter 8 (Climate) has been completed in the context of the National carbon budgets for Ireland and the sectoral emissions ceiling for the electricity sector. By facilitating the decarbonisation of the energy network, the Proposed Development will have benefits for other sectors in terms of emission reductions. The latest Climate Action Plans are referenced in Chapter 8 (Climate).</p> <p>Health is addressed in Chapter 6 (Human Health) in Volume 2 of the EIAR.</p>
		<p>The EHS recommends that this report contain reference to the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 and that waste is addressed across all phases of the proposed development from construction to operations and decommissioning.</p>	<p>Chapter 16 (Waste) considers the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 and includes a full assessment of waste arising from the Proposed Development and details how the requirements of the Circular Economy will be factored into the lifecycle of the Proposed Development.</p>
		<p>The EHS recommends a wider Disaster Risk Reduction approach is undertaken applying the principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. This will ensure all potential hazards are analysed and measures are put in place to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to other hazards apart from floods.</p>	<p>Chapter 19 (Risk of Major Accidents and / or Disasters) in Volume 2 of the EIAR considers the potential significant impacts of the Proposed Development on the environment, deriving from its vulnerability to risks of major accidents and / or disasters during the Construction Phase and Operational Phase. This assessment has been carried out in line with relevant national and local level guidelines in relation to major accidents and / or disasters and EIA.</p>
		<p>The EIAR should include details of the on-site infrastructure covering items such as site office, fuel storage depot, sanitary accommodation and canteen, First Aid facilities, disposal of wastewater and the provision of a potable water supply.</p>	<p>A CEMP has been completed and is included as a standalone document in this planning application and includes details of the on-site infrastructure.</p>
		<p>The EIAR should include details of potential cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>A cumulative impact assessment of the Proposed Development with other developments was undertaken and is documented in Chapter 20 (Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions) in Volume 2 of the EIAR and its associated appendix (Appendix A20.1) in Volume 3 of the EIAR.</p>