



APPENDIX 2-2

**COPIES OF EIA SCOPING
RESPONSES**

From: [Matthew Craig](#)
Sent: Wednesday 20 December 2023 10:11
To: [Malena Sara Thren](#)
Cc: [windfarms](#); [Johnny Evans](#)
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from matthew.craig@2rn.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Malena,

Please note that I am also replying on behalf of TG4, their content is carried on 2rn's DTT network.

2rn have no fixed linking that could be impacted by the proposed site.

There is however a risk of interference to broadcast services in the area, we would therefore ask that a protocol be signed between 2rn and the developer should the site go ahead.

Regards

Matthew Craig

Project Engineer
Projects and Coverage Planning
2RN
Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland
D24 WK28
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261
Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:19 PM
To: Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@rte.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from msthren@mkofireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mr. Evans,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren

Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:20
To: khayes@aibridges.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: AI Bridges email.pdf

Dear Mr. Hayes,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

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Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: An Taisce Planning <planning@antaisce.org>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:23
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: Automatic reply: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Thank you for your email. I am out of the office with limited access to email. If your message is urgent, please contact elaine.mcgooff@antaisce.org.

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:21
To: planning@antaisce.org
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: An Taisce.pdf

Dear Ms. Duvall,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

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Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:23
To: planning@airnav.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Aviation Navigation Ireland.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Tuesday 9 January 2024 16:45
To: 'reception@artscouncil.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Arts Council.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Sent: Monday 18 December 2023 10:08
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from rwoods@cnam.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Malena

Coimisiún na Meán does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed windfarms are not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer

My email address has now changed to rwoods@cnam.ie, please update your address book accordingly.

Tá mo sheoladh ríomhphoist athraithe anois go rwoods@cnam.ie, dá réir sin déan do leabhar seoltaí a uasdátú, le do thoil.

Coimisiún na Meán | 2-5 Plás Warrington, Baile Átha Cliath D02 XP29, Éire
Coimisiún na Meán | 2-5 Warrington Place, Dublin D02 XP29, Ireland
T: + 353 (0)1 644 1200 | rwoods@cnam.ie



Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus is leis an duine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chuige/chuici a bhaineann siad. Muna duitse an ríomhphost seo, ní ceart é a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí. Iarrtar ort teachtaireacht a sheoladh chuig an seoltóir nó chuig info@cnam.ie, agus an ríomhphost seo a scrios.

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From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Mr. Woods,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Tina Aughney <tinaa@batconservationireland.org>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:54
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from tinaa@batconservationireland.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Malena,

BCIreland does not have the administrative capacity to comment on planning applications. Please ensure that all bat surveys are undertaken according to best practice.

Regards,

Dr Tina Aughney

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Tina Aughney <tinaa@batconservationireland.org>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Ms Aughney,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,

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From: [Oonagh Duggan](#)
Sent: Wednesday 24 January 2024 18:33
To: [Malena Sara Thren](#)
Subject: FW: Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Lusby et al. 2011. Effectiveness of Merlin Survey Techniques. The Pilot Merlin Survey. Irish Birds. 2011.pdf; NatureScot Research Report 1283 - DisturbanceDistances Review An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species.pdf

You don't often get email from oduggan@birdwatchireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Malena:

Thank you for your email. We provide the following comments on the document sent and the proposed location of the Clonberne wind farm.

Glenamaddy turlough is a White-fronted Goose site so we recommend contacting NPWS (Birds unit) for those specific records.

It will be essential that relevant I-Webs data is requested and reviewed and we suggest that you ask for swan census records specifically in your data request to get Whooper Swan records, on top of any other subsite data.

In addition, a few years ago there was a Crane at Kiltullagh (4km away) during the breeding season for a few weeks, so given their recent breeding success it is something for you to be aware of too.

On top of that there could be Curlew breeding on some of the raised bogs in the area and we suggest contacting NPWS as regards that species for data.

In addition, while there is sparse information on the distribution of breeding Merlin in north-east Galway, the raised bogs surrounding Glenamaddy are known to be important and suitable for breeding Merlin. In 2010, BirdWatch Ireland conducted the Pilot Merlin Survey alongside NPWS which included a survey square (IM 65 69) close to Glenamaddy in which a breeding pair was confirmed. Details of this survey are included in the attached publication, although the specific site details are not included, evidence of breeding Merlin was recorded at IM 66616 59904. There has not been survey effort for Merlin in this area or focusing on the raised bogs surrounding Glenamaddy or within the 15km buffer as shown on the maps provided but it is very likely that breeding Merlin occur within and specialised surveys to be undertaken to confirm their presence and nesting distribution to inform potential impacts of the proposed development. Regarding sources of information on disturbance impacts to Merlin, Nature Scot's new guidance on disturbance distances for birds which is attached uses a minimum distance of between 300 – 500m for Merlin within which there is significant risk of disturbance to breeding Merlin from certain activities.

Finally, it would be worth checking with NPWS about any Hen Harrier winter roosts in the area and any breeding activity.

Kind regards
Oonagh Duggan
Head of Advocacy

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:27
To: info@birdwatchireland.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

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Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:28
To: nicole.chesser@bt.com
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: BT comms.pdf

Dear Ms. Chesser,

In 2020, we provided your company with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:20
To: 'asmith@murraygroup.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Cellnex.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:30
To: planning@CRU.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: commission for regulation of utilities.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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Kind regards,
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Malena Sara Thren

From: Dense Air <info@denseair.net>
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:23
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: Thank you for your enquiry to Dense Air

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Malena,

Thank you for your email, one of our team will be in touch with you shortly.

Kind regards,

Dense Air

Malena Sara Thren

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 23 January 2024 10:15
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.pdf; Clonberne Wind Farm, Co Galway.pdf

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Good morning,

Please see observations attached from our Felling Division.

Regards,

Environmental Co-ordination Unit

To: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>

Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo go hearráideach, cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas láithreach agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó chóra(i)s do ríomhaire, le do thoil.

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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
 2. 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.
 3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Boyce
Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford

Malena Sara Thren

From: Defence Property Management Planning
<PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:02
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: Gillian Holden (Defence); Eoin McDonnell (Defence)
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Ms. Thren,

The Department of Defence wishes to acknowledge receipt of your below e-mail and attached documentation. We will consult with our Air Corps colleagues in relation to the Clonberne Windfarm Development and we will revert in due course.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Best regards
Don

Don Watchorn

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.

T +353 (0)45 452199
E-mail don.watchorn@defence.ie

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:32
To: Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
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Malena Sara Thren

From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 9 February 2024 10:08
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: Our Ref: G Pre00340/2023 Your Ref: 180740
Attachments: G Pre00340 2023 180740.pdf

You don't often get email from manager.dau@npws.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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A chara

Please find attached Nature Conservation observations/recommendations for the above mentioned Pre-planning application.

Please acknowledge receipt of the attached letter (as required under Article 29(2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001).

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at: manager.dau@npws.gov.ie

Kind regards,

Edel Griffin

Executive Officer

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

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



Your Ref: 180740

Our Ref: G Pre00340/2023

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

9 January 2024

Malena Sara Thren

MKO

Tuam Road

Galway

H91 VW84

Via email: msthren@mkoireland.ie

Re: Wind energy development in the townlands of Killavoher, Gortagarraun, Cloonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Clonbern, Ballagh West, Carrownryla, Laughill and Liccybroder Co. Galway

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Nature Conservation

These 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 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.

All aspects of wind farm project, including both the overall turbine and grid connection proposals, need to be assessed together in terms of both Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Environmental Impact Scoping (EIAR/EIS) and Natura Impact Statement/Appropriate Assessment (NIS/AA) process to avoid project splitting aspects of the project within the assessment process.



The European Commission has indicated its concerns in relation to compliance of Irish practice in the area of wind farm developments and grid connections with the EIA Directive, as well as the Habitats Directives, which resulted in the Commission opening an EU Pilot Infringement case (8398/16/ENVI) on this matter.

This is also important within the in combination effects and cumulative impacts sections of the assessments regarding the potential effects of the wind farm project. 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.

The Department notes that the location map provided is for an area of peatland. Assessment should include an assessment of the loss of underlying peat within the development site as a cumulative loss of peat overall and should be assessed in terms of a carbon benefit analysis versus restoration to peatland habitats (see also in project components section below).

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.

In addition to guidance listed in Appendix 1, the following should be taken into account in planning and designing a windfarm 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)¹.

Ecological survey general comments

With regard to scoping for an EIAR for a proposed development, in order to assess impacts on biodiversity, fauna, flora and habitats an ecological survey should be carried out of the proposed development site including the route of any access roads, pipelines or cables, connections to the grid etc. to survey the habitats and species present. Any improvement or reinforcement works required for access and transport anywhere along any proposed haul route(s) should be included in the EIAR and subjected to Ecological Impact Assessment with the inclusion of mitigation measures, as appropriate. Where bridges require strengthening this may involve grouting of crevices which may function as bat roosts. 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. 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. Alternatives examined should also be included in the EIAR.

Specific reference should be made to the National Biodiversity Action Plan. Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development (including access roads and cabling etc.) such as wetland, woodland, scrub, hedgerows and other habitats should be mitigated for. In addition, Annex I habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are also important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats 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 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) should be avoided wherever possible.

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



In order to assess impacts it may be necessary to obtain hydrological and/or geological data. 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.

Project planning and design

It should be remembered that a key element of Environmental Impact Assessment (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 windfarm so that sensitive ecological or hydrological areas are avoided, and negative impacts are minimised insofar as is possible. The size, layout and design of 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.

Account should be taken of the new National Biodiversity Action Plan and the EIAR should outline how this project would avoid a net loss of biodiversity and include relevant mitigation and or compensatory measures where necessary.

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. Full assessment should also take place within the EIAR and NIS of the grid connection.

The EIAR should give specific consideration to the mobilisation of silt and changes to the stability of soil. The proposed windfarm has the potential for significant changes in patterns



of surface water flow and may desiccate underlying soils allowing pathways to open up resulting in subsurface water losses.

The Department notes that the proposed development site contains a number of peatland habitats that could correspond to Annex I habitats, notably Active Raised Bog (Code 7110), Degraded Raised Bog still capable of natural regeneration (7120) and Depressions on Peat Substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150). Potential loss of these habitats should be considered in light of their ecological significance and importance as wetland habitats and the associated environmental services that they provide with regard to waterflow/flood regulation.

There are concerns regarding any potential loss and/or degradation of these habitats for which the Department has reporting obligations under Article 17 of the Directive to the European Commission on details of losses and degradation. It is noted that areas of cutover/degraded Raised Bog in particular seem to have been identified as viable for turbine placement. In addition other annexed habitats such as molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) (6410) etc. could also be potentially affected by the proposed project. Therefore the habitats on site should be assessed regarding classification and correspondence with the above habitat types. Effects on peatland habitats from the wind farm project on these habitats could arise from the following project works and details:

- Location of Wind Turbines, Foundations and Hardstand areas.
- Location of On-site access roads.
- On-site interconnecting electrical cabling location.
- Substation location on the wind farm site.
- Construction compound location.
- Meteorological mast location.
- Location of Borrow Pits and spoil management areas.



- Turbine component haulage route
- Replacement land location for felled forestry
- Grid connection and underground cable route

Potential negative effects on peatland habitats could arise through direct excavation of peatland habitat, drainage effects on adjacent/nearby peatland habitat, habitat fragmentation, exposure of underlying peat, increased risk of erosion, opening up of areas of the habitats to new or increased exploitation or disturbance through the provision of new and upgraded roads, peat slippage, landscaping, side casting, drain installation, excavate storage, sediment disposal etc.

Detailed consideration should be given to the potential amount of peat/soil excavated, stored, and disposed/recovered. A detailed plan for the safe storage, disposal and rehabilitation of excavated or disturbed peat/soil would have to form part of the EIAR. The spreading or recovery of excavated peat/soil 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 / soil should not pose any threat to surface waters and water quality.

A detailed site drainage map would 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 would have to demonstrate that the proposed development will not pose any threat to surface waters and associated species. 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.

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 would 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 would have to be included within the application area for the proposed development.

It appears areas of forest would have to be felled as part of the proposed project. 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 impacts on these other lands fully assessed as part of the EIAR. 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 and in terms of being adequate as mitigation/compensation there should be no reasonable scientific doubt as to the adequacy and effectiveness of any such proposal.

The likely impacts of grid connection, particularly for birds, sensitive habitats and surface waters, should be given full 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. It is noted that, for example, hedgerows, wet grassland, scrub, streams etc. all occur in the area mapped as viable (as well as the cutover bog etc. habitat identified above). In addition, Annex I 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 I habitats outside SACs should be avoided.

You are advised that no disturbing or damaging site or ground investigations or testing, should take place in an ecological site 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.

Impacts of lighting on-site should also be assessed noting that lighting of turbines and masts can increase collision risk².

Ecological Data and Surveys

The Department also highlights that along with the standard National Parks and Wildlife Service 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), Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fisheriesireland.ie), Birdwatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie), Irish Raptor Study Group, Golden Eagle Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org). Some guidance and reference documents are provided in the Appendix to this letter.

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, grid connection and, if applicable, restoration or decommissioning phases. Alternatives examined should also be included in the EIAR. Inland Fisheries Ireland should be consulted with regard to fish species. 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

² 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



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.

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 be up to date, cover year-round site use and should cover a minimum of two years to allow for an accurate determination of site usage.

When survey results are being presented in an EIAR it is important that best practice is followed and that the full survey methodologies used, are detailed, including dates and times. Furthermore, it is expected that bird survey data should be presented in context and records should be supported by basic environmental data such as hourly estimates of visibility, glare arcs, cloud cover and precipitation during vantage point and walk over survey periods. 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.

It is important that bird migration routes (day and night) are assessed as well as the flight lines (day and night) of bird species travelling between roosting and feeding areas. Limitations in guidance documentation, used in the analysis and discussion of results from any bird surveys, should be acknowledged, e.g. species that are covered by the guidance, data gaps and application to the Irish environment.

Surveys should be designed to also include an assessment of improved agricultural lands. These types of intensified landscape features have the potential to provide feeding habitat and attract wintering wildfowl species (e.g. whooper swan and GWF Goose).

Specific Target species for this site include Annex I (Birds Directive) species such as Merlin, Hen Harrier and Peregrine Falcon, and red listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) such as Curlew, Kestrel, Snipe, Woodcock, Meadow Pipit and Red Grouse. In addition given the location of the site flight paths during the migratory period for wintering bird species need to be taken into account. Given the presence especially of the Levally Lough SAC to the



south of the proposed project area survey regarding wildfowl and wetland species is also required (including winter data). Hinterland surveys should include breeding raptor surveys, including roost watches (as, for example, potentially suitable harrier winter roost habitat occurs in the area), surveys for nocturnal species and other species-specific surveys as appropriate. For example dedicated surveys such as Red Grouse surveys are recommended to fully identify any site constraints in this regard.

Potential significant effects on the aforementioned target species requiring assessment include collision effects, displacement effects, barrier effects, direct and indirect habitat loss and degradation, in combination effects, cumulative impact effects etc. In combination effects and cumulative impacts assessments must include those arising from the other wind farms in the population areas, with data required in terms of best scientific evidence of, for example, the area of displacement/foraging loss through these developments (or others). It should be noted that this point is also applicable in terms of semi-natural habitat loss.

Of the Target species Kestrel, Red Grouse etc. (for example) are known to have a high collision risk at windfarm projects whilst displacement effects on Curlew, Hen Harrier, Snipe etc. (for example) are known to be an issue also. As well as direct habitat loss there is a far larger potential habitat loss to species through displacement. For the Annex I bird species under the EU Birds Directive Article 4(4) of that Directive requires Member States to strive to avoid deterioration of habitats outside Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

For example studies have highlighted turbine avoidance by Hen Harriers and potential affects through reduction of habitat suitability by the construction and/or operation of a wind energy development. Habitat connectivity, fragmentation, barrier effects, collision risk and foraging efficiency would be important considerations also. In terms of displacement effects from upland wind farms in Hen Harriers Pearce-Higgins *et al.* (2009b) provide evidence of significant Hen Harrier avoidance of apparently suitable habitat within 250m of turbines, with a predicted 53% reduction of Hen Harrier flight activity within 500m of turbines, assuming that modelled habitat usage is proportional to breeding density (see Pearce et al 2009). Pearce Higgins et al. (2009), also found a 50% reduction in breeding density of common snipe within 500m of turbines.

Vantage point (VP) 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 any nearby windfarm developments must be considered. Cumulative impact on birds from all windfarms in the area needs to be assessed and the data from surrounding sites needs to be considered in the assessment. Data would be required in terms of best scientific evidence of the area of displacement/foraging habitat loss through these developments (or others) in terms of overall habitat availability for the relevant species.

It should be noted that the above points regarding cumulative and in combination assessments and data requirements are relevant for many of the other aforementioned specific target species.

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. Any proposed bat friendly lighting should be proven to be effective and follow up-to-date guidance.



Windfarms can have significant effects on bats with regard to 1) Collision mortality, barotrauma and other injuries (Operational Phase Impact), 2) Loss or damage to commuting and foraging habitat, 3) lighting issues and all of these potential issues should be addressed in the EIAR.

Marsh Fritillary

It is noted that the site has potential for a number of protected species notably Marsh Fritillary due to the presence of its food plant Devil's-bit Scabious, *Succisa pratensis* along much of the road network and within the peatland areas. The proposed development lies in an area of potentially suitable habitat. There is potential for the occurrence of Marsh Fritillary within the zone of impact of the proposed development. In this regard surveys for Marsh Fritillary in accordance with best practice (adult and larval webs surveys) at the appropriate times of the year are recommended. Any records for Marsh Fritillary are to be mapped and the potential impacts of the proposed development described, mitigation by avoidance of Marsh Fritillary populations is considered the favoured approach in line with the Mitigation Hierarchy and to ensure no net loss of biodiversity is incurred as a result of the proposed development.

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*) 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 (*Trituris 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). 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.

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.

Hedgerows, Scrub, grasslands and related habitats.

Hedgerows and scrub should be maintained, 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 would 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 semi-natural 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.

It should be noted that a large area of good quality semi-natural habitats occurs within the supplied project area and this will be relevant in terms of potential semi-natural habitat loss and consequently net biodiversity loss issues. As well as the aforementioned annexed habitats wet grassland also occurs in the mapped viable area.

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/>



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;
- 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.

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. Should the exact height and rotor diameter of the turbines not be known at EIAR stage then the assessment of impacts must be applicable to a variety of turbine heights and rotor diameters which could be used. This should be made clear in the EIAR.

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The Department recommends a detailed hydrological assessment is carried out in terms of the potential impacts arising from the proposed development on Natura 2000, notably Lough Corrib SAC (Site Code: 000297) which has direct hydrological links as well as other Natura sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the zone of influence; noting that designated sites at some distance can be intrinsically linked and supported by the surrounding habitats (e.g. agricultural fields) and hydrological processes. The Department advise that pre-consent ground investigations, data gathering infrastructure or testing that take place in a location that may affect an ecological feature (e.g. NHAs/pNHAs and European sites SACs and SPAs), may require consent (i.e. are not exempted development) from the planning authority and or the Ministers consent from this Department.

The development site is hydrologically connected to and within the zone of influence of the Corrib SAC and tributary streams draining directly from the projects peatland area occur on site. Water quality effects and issues must be assessed and addressed in terms of the Conservation Objectives of the site. In addition to potential effects on surface water quality during and post construction the Peatland habitat works would be a potential significant effect for example through sedimentation.

Potential adverse impacts on the SAC through water quality effects (such as through sedimentation) should be assessed and it should also be assessed whether or not the project is compatible with the Conservation Objectives (CO's) for each of the SAC Qualifying Interest



(QI) habitats and species. In addition any potential barrier, disturbance, flight path and collision risks for SPA bird species must be assessed and addressed also.

The 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 boundaries³ 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 National Parks and Wildlife Service's website at <https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations> and in EU Commission guidance entitled:

- "*Wind energy developments and Natura 2000*"⁴
- "*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*"⁵;

³ <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind_farms.pdf

⁵

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_asses_en.pdf



- 2018 Commission notice "*Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*"⁶ (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. General advice on the preparation, content and scope of an NIS is included in Appendix A.

Cumulative and ex situ impacts

Cumulative impact from any windfarms in the area needs to be fully and comprehensively assessed and the data from surrounding sites needs to be considered in the assessment of impacts. Post construction monitoring results and data from nearby windfarms should be considered and their associated EIARs.

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 Letter PD 2/07 and National Parks and Wildlife Service 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 would have to be carried out. The post construction monitoring would include bird and bat strikes/fatalities

6

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/EN_art_6_guide_jun_2019.pdf

.....

18



including the impact on any such results of the removal of carcasses by scavengers. The EIAR process should consider that in at least one Irish windfarm project site scavengers were found to have removed carcasses after only approximately 45 minutes. Monitoring results should be made available to the competent authority and copied to this Department. An appropriate plan of action would have 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 the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this Department is specifically stated as a condition of planning, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has no post consent role.

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. 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 regarding impacts on other protected species or their resting or breeding places, such as on protected plants, frogs, 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 1st to August 31st). Standard badger and other mammal surveys should take place.



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.

Appendix 1

Notes on the preparation and content of an NIS

The term 'NIS' is defined in legislation⁷. In general, an NIS, if required, should present the data, information and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge and objective information, as required in the case of screening for appropriate assessment, and by the precautionary principle.

Based on the Department's experience of reviewing such reports, the following advice is offered in relation to the preparation and content of an NIS:

1. An NIS is a scientific assessment that presents relevant evidence, data and analysis, and focuses on the implications of the plan or project, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for the conservation objectives of the relevant European site(s), taking the full scope of these objectives, whether generic or site specific, into account;
2. Examination of the potential effects of the plan or project must be undertaken to identify what European sites, and which of their qualifying interests (SAC), special

⁷ The term, 'NIS', is defined in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, and Part XAB, Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended



conservation interests (SPA) or conservation objectives, are potentially at risk. In combination effects must also be taken into account. This is required to determine a 'zone of influence' or 'zone of impact' for the project, if such a concept is used. The 15km distance in existing guidance is an indicative figure only and its application and validity should be examined and justified in each specific case on an ecological or other basis;

3. The scientific basis on which sites and their conservation objectives are included or excluded from assessment and analysis should be presented and justified;
4. The full area or extent of the likely effects of the plan or project should be determined and quantified. Where temporary damage and disturbance will occur, predicted timelines for recovery should be presented;
5. The relevant environmental baseline and trends in European sites should be taken into account, bearing in mind changes and in combination effects which have occurred since site designation;
6. An NIS should be informed by any necessary surveys of habitats and species at the appropriate time(s) of year to identify, describe, evaluate and map their presence within the receiving environment. In all relevant cases, the scientific basis and justifications for categorising or not categorising habitats as Annex I habitats, or priority types, should be presented;
7. An NIS should be informed by any necessary hydrological, hydrogeological or geotechnical investigations to assess impacts on habitat structure and function;
8. Where mitigation measures are required, full details should be included in the project description and drawings, with method statements provided, where necessary. It must be demonstrated that mitigation measures will be delivered in full, and at the appropriate time, at all post-consent stages, and that they will be effective in any specific location or set of conditions. The necessary analysis should be presented to demonstrate how the mitigation measures will avoid or remove the risks of adverse effects on the integrity of European sites that have been identified in an NIS so that the final analysis is undertaken in the context of the predicted residual effects;



An NIS should contain, or clearly cross-reference, all the scientific data and analysis on which the assessment is based, and should contain clear and precise findings and conclusions as to the implications of the project, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for the conservation objectives and integrity of the relevant European site(s).

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie.

Is mise, le meas

Edel Griffin
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:39
To: planningnotifications@decc.gov.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:41
To: airestait@tcagsm.gov.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Departments of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 February 2024 14:31
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from generalco-ordinationunit@transport.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon Malena,

Please ignore the attachment it may have been sent in error.

Please note observations from Department of Transport should read as follows:

“Thank you for contacting Department of Transport in relation to the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development.

At this point in time the Department have no further observations to make on this project.

It would be appreciated if you could keep the Department informed of any updates in relation to Clonberne Wind Farm Development”.

Many thanks for taking the time to contact us.

Kind regards
Jacqui

Jacqui Traynor
Central Policy, Coordination and Reform
An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport
Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60
T +353 (0)1 604 1177
gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 February 2024 14:13
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi,
Thank you for your swift response. Please see attached as word document your previous reply and as pdf the scoping document we provided you with.

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 1:28 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Good afternoon Malena,

Could you please forward a copy of the attachment.

Kind regards
Jacqui

Jacqui Traynor
Central Policy, Coordination and Reform
An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport
Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60
T +353 (0)1 604 1177
gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 15 February 2024 13:20
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Good afternoon,

I reviewed your attachment and it seems to refer to **Cooloo** Windfarm and not **Clonberne** Windfarm. We scoped for Cooloo with you previously, but this scoping request is for a second round of scoping for a windfarm Development at Clonberne. If you don't mind, would you please correct the attachment to say Clonberne Windfarm and take out any reference to Cooloo, to prevent any confusion for our own compilation of Scoping responses. Many thanks.

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:24 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting Department of Transport in relation to the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development.

At this point in time the Department has nothing further to add to our previous response which I have attached for ease of reference.

Kind regards
Jacqui

Jacqui Traynor
Central Policy, Coordination and Reform
An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport
Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60
T +353 (0)1 604 1177
gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:40

To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Malena Sara Thren

From: Info - EirGrid <Info@Eirgrid.com>
Sent: Wednesday 10 January 2024 16:30
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: Info - EirGrid
Subject: RE: Webform submission from: General Enquiry

You don't often get email from info@eirgrid.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Malena,

We have received a similar request from Jack Smith.

Currently our position is that in order to reduce delays and to expedite generator applications it is EirGrid's position not comment.

If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Martin Cracknell | Customers & Connections (C&C)

M +353 (0) 87 293 3320

EirGrid.com



We're working flexibly at EirGrid Group.

I'm sending this message at a time that suits me.

Please feel comfortable knowing that I don't expect you to read, respond to or action it outside of regular working hours.

From: Eirgrid <donotreply@web.eirgrid.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:41 PM
To: Info - EirGrid <Info@Eirgrid.com>
Subject: Webform submission from: General Enquiry

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

Submitted on Mon, 01/08/2024 - 12:41

Submitted by: nextjs

Submitted values are:

First Name

Malena

Last Name

Thren

Email address

msthren@mkoireland.ie

Phone number

[004915785748046](tel:004915785748046)

Subject

Other

What would you like to discuss?

Dear Sir or Madam,

MKO is undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to the Proposed Development for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X554464, Y756549 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

To receive further information on this Proposed Development please feel free to contact me.

EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibritheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.
160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

Registered Office
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.
Registered in Ireland No. 338522 V.A.T. No. IE 6358522H
TELEPHONE + 353 (0)1 677 1700
EMAIL info@eirgrid.com
FAX + 353 (0)1 661 5375
WEB www.eirgrid.com

Directors:
Brendan Tuohy CHAIR, Mark Foley CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Dr Theresa Donaldson, Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Michael Hand, James Nyhan, Rosa M. Sanz García (Spain)

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accepts no liability for any damage sustained as a consequence of viruses.

Séanadh:

Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dliteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.

Malena Sara Thren

From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Friday 12 January 2024 09:07
To: Jonny Fearon
Cc: Malena Sara Thren; Owen Cahill
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Some people who received this message don't often get email from peter.obrien@enet.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thanks Jonny

Peter O'Brien | Licensed Link planner

A: Enet House, National Technology Park, Castletroy, Co Limerick, V946P52

M: +353867744313 | **W:** www.enet.ie



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From: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:25 PM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Peter

Thanks re the below info. We can all appreciate that it is difficult to foresee whether they will co-exist or not.

That being said, we are adopting these links as constraints within our assessment and will set out a commitment for any necessary mitigation to be implemented in the event that both the wind farm and the links exist simultaneously.

Should you have any further comments or any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,
Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Jonny,

They may be gone by early 2027 based on current forecasts but this is open to change,

Regards,
Peter

Peter O'Brien | Licensed Link planner

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From: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:56 PM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Peter,

Would you have an expected year in which these links would be decommissioned, or fibre optic links may replace them?

Whilst construction may start in 2026, it could be 18-24 months before turbine commissioning works would begin.

Kind Regards,
 Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
 Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Jonny,

I would expect both of these links to be still in use in 2026,

Regards,
Peter

Peter O'Brien | Licensed Link planner

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From: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:45 PM

To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>

Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Peter,

Thanks for the swift reply.

We aim to lodge the planning application with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in February/March of this year & based on current timelines in ABP, it would be 1.5 years with ABP before a decision is arrived at. In addition to this, the developer would apply for a grid connection pending a successful planning decision.

With these timelines in mind, we would expect construction to start in the first half of 2026.

Kind Regards,
Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Michael O'Donovan <michael.odonovan@enet.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Jonny,

Yes, they were only built in the last two years,
When do you expect the wind farm to go into construction?

Regards,
Peter

Peter O'Brien | Licensed Link planner

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From: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:15 PM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Michael O'Donovan <michael.odonovan@enet.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Peter,

Thanks for the below info.

This project has been running for a number of years and the first round of scoping occurred in 2019. We scoped telecom providers in 2019 and we received the response (see attached email) from Enet that the proposed wind farm would not affect any existing Enet links.

Are the two links in the below email new Enet links that have come into existence since the first round of scoping? If they are not new links, are there any plans for the decommissioning of these links?

Kind Regards,
Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 4:57 PM
To: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>; Michael O'Donovan <michael.odonovan@enet.ie>
Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi,

We will have two links possibly affected:

Link Name	A-End Coordinates	A-End Antenna Height	B-End Coordinates	B-End Antenna Height	Frequency	Set Back Distance
Three Levally -> SCP0711 - Saint	53.538569 -8.722475	15m	53.562758 -8.647517	7m	18GHz	50m

Mary's National School						
Three Levally Clonbern -> SCP1226 - Clonberne Community Enterprise Centre	53.538569 -8.722475	15m	53.558417 -8.648228	7m	23GHz	50m

Can you check what can be done to ensure no impact to the above links?

Best Regards,

Peter O'Brien | Licensed Link planner

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From: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:26 AM

To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>; Michael O'Donovan <michael.odonovan@enet.ie>

Cc: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Peter, Michael,

My colleague Malena is off today so I'm coming back to you on the below request. Please see attached the KML of turbine locations.

If you have any other requests, you can email me directly.

Kind Regards,
Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
Environmental Scientist

MKO

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:46:47 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Michael O'Donovan <michael.odonovan@enet.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Malena,

Can you send the proposed wind turbine locations in a Google Earth kml file please?

Regards,
Peter

Peter O'Brien | [Licensed Link planner](#)

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From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:43 PM

To: Michael O'Donovan <michael.odonovan@enet.ie>
Cc: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Mr O'Donovan,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:25
To: 'gneote@bbnet.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: EOBO Ltd.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Monday 8 January 2024 15:40
To: wfanalysis@esb.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: ESB telecoms reduced.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 2 January 2024 10:03
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines 2023.pdf

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Hello Malena,

Thank you for your email, cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway

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 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

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86
M +353 (0)86 0357590



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From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:47 PM

To: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Ms Jackson,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



July 2023

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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 Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative and guidance 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 **€9.5 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.8 billion** in 2019, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2019 Ireland welcomed **9.7 million overseas visitors**.

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority established by the Irish Government in May 2003. 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 Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in May 2022. The Guidelines are a statutory document to be regarded by those preparing EIARs and the decision makers considering the EIARs.

Some of the key changes to the EIA Directive introduced by Directive 2014/52/EU are as follows:

- Additional information to be provided in the project description to describe the location of the project, the technologies and substances used, the construction of the project and required demolition;
- The requirement for consideration of alternatives has changed from a requirement to provide 'An outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for this choice, taking into account the environmental effects' to 'a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment';
- A refinement of the environmental factors to be considered in the assessment with an increased focus on resource efficiency, climate change, biodiversity and disaster prevention;
- Changes to Prescribed Environmental Factors with 'Land' being added, 'Human Beings' replaced by 'Population & Human Health' and 'Flora & Fauna' replaced by 'Biodiversity';

- The developer is required to have competent experts to prepare the EIAR and the Board is required to have access to sufficient expertise to assess the EIAR;
- Requirement for the incorporation of mitigation and monitoring measures in consents and ensuring that developers deliver these measures;
- The requirements for the assessment of cumulative effects with existing and/or approved projects, taking into account existing environmental issues to be considered; and
- Reasoned decisions made with regard to the EIA outcomes must be provided.

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.

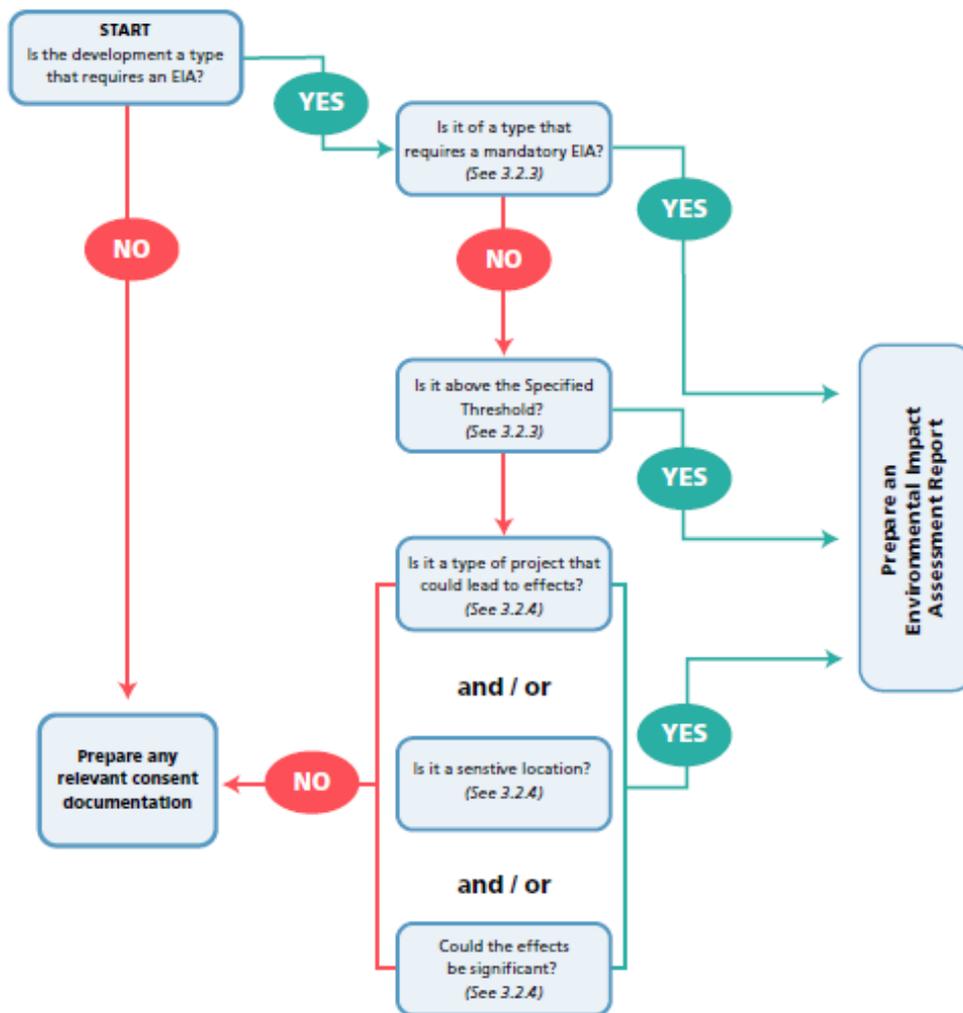
The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to the EPA EIAR Guidelines. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as ‘screening’ and the process to determine the breadth and scope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

Screening

Through EIA 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 does 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 above 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 may still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development (subject to EIA Screening assessment).

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 – walking/cycling/forest trails, greenways, blueways, 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 can have potential for 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 2019 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 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 (e.g. 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;
- assessment of effects;
- cumulative impact;
- interaction of impacts;
- mitigation & monitoring; and
- residual impacts

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 the various reasonable alternatives is an important requirement of the EIA process.

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of reasonable alternatives should consider alternative methods, layouts, technologies and mitigations, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the option/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 EPA EIAR Guidelines indicate that it is generally sufficient to provide a broad description of each main alternatives and the key issues associated with each, showing how environmental considerations were taken into account in deciding on the selected option.

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 dependent on its **Context, Character, Significance, and Sensitivity**, as outlined in the EPA EIAR 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 included. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should also 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 EPA EIAR 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 under the 'Population and Human Health' and / or 'Landscape' topics as suggested 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. The EPA guidelines makes reference to amenity “..which may be relevant under 'Population and Human Health' and 'Landscape'”.

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 impacts.

Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

The assessment should also consider current Government policy on nature conservation as outlined in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP) (and subsequent iterations (Including draft NBAP recently open for public consultation, to cover 2023 to 2027) which also includes Ireland's vision for biodiversity below.

'That biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally.'

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.

The impact upon Geotourism related to geoheritage within the natural environment, e.g., any impacts on UNESCO Global Geoparks, of which we currently have three on the island of Ireland; Copper Coast in Co. Waterford, Burren and Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, and Cuilcagh Lakelands in Cavan and Fermanagh should be considered (where applicable) in this section.

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 the activity proposed and sensitivity of the location. If the tourism project includes a large increase in transportation services, collection of baseline air emission data is advised. Transportation emissions affect not only air quality, but also greenhouse gases. Changing climatic patterns due to climate change should be factored into this analysis.

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 and given that national policy emphasis on the non-renewable nature of the archaeology and archaeological heritage, focus should be a presumption in favour of its preservation in-situ or where preservation in-situ is not the option chosen, there must be preservation by record (i.e. archaeological excavation and recording must take place) in line with statutory requirements.

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 outside of the material assets already referenced that should be considered are built services (utilities) and infrastructure. Tourism development should include impact assessment on built services (utilities) and infrastructure while non tourism related development should consider the effect on tourism, which should be considered.

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 Impacts

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 EIA Screening Report.

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.

Mitigation & Monitoring

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.

With regard to Monitoring, Article 8a of the EIA Directive requires that:

1. 'The decision to grant development consent shall incorporate at least the following information ...

(b) any environmental conditions attached to the decision, a description of any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment as well as, where appropriate, monitoring measures. ... 4 Member States shall ensure that the features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment are implemented by the developer, and shall determine the procedures regarding the monitoring of significant adverse effects on the environment. The type of parameters to be monitored and the duration of the monitoring shall be proportionate to the nature, location and size of the project and the significance of its effects on the environment. Existing monitoring arrangements resulting from Union legislation other than this Directive and from national legislation may be used if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.'

Residual Impacts

The residual impacts are the final predicted or intended impacts which occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented.

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, Environmental Surveying and Monitoring, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed [here](#)

Fáilte Ireland also manages an environmental surveying and monitoring database as part of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme which can be accessed [here](#). The purpose of this is to work with and demonstrate to our stakeholders and partners that we are committed to the sustainable development of the Wild Atlantic Way, and to be able to pre-empt and avoid environmental effects in the future should they occur.

Discover Ireland:

Operated by Fáilte Ireland, the Discover Ireland website includes comprehensive information on tourist attractions in destinations all around Ireland, including listings for activities, accommodation, events and experiences for every county, major town and region in Ireland. The website features elements from the four destination brands – Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Visit Dublin and 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 Assemblies

Regional Assemblies can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) 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.

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:26
To: 'ross@fastcom.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Fastcom Limited.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:55
To: forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Forest Service.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Monday 8 January 2024 10:56
To: Secretary@galwayflyingclub.org
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Galway Airport.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:58
To: Environment@galwaycoco.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: GCC Environment.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Monday 8 January 2024 10:15
To: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: GCC Heritage.pdf

Dear Ms Mannion,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 13:01
To: planning@galwaycoco.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: GCC Planning.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:59
To: roads@galwaycoco.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: GCC Roads.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
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Malena Sara Thren

From: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 24 January 2024 10:05
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: DECC GSI Planning; DECC Planning Advisory
Subject: RE: EIS 23/367 - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: 23_367 Clonberene Windfarm Development.pdf; GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA_20210421.pdf

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Dear Malena,

With reference to your email received on the 15 December 2023, concerning the EIA Scoping Document for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development, please find attached response and dataset sheet from Geological Survey Ireland.

Yours sincerely,
Trish Smullen



Trish Smullen Geoheritage & Planning.

Geological Survey Ireland, Booterstown Hall, Booterstown Ave., Co. Dublin A94 N2R6.

Email: trish.smullen@gsi.ie www.gsi.ie

A division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

From: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:41
To: Patricia Smullen (DECC) <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>
Cc: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; DECC Planning Advisory <PlanningAdvisory@decc.gov.ie>
Subject: EIS 23/367 - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

EIS 23/367

Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Co Galway. Request for observations by MKO. Letter with Scoping Document is enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 13:03
To: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Cc: Patricia Smullen (DECC) <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
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Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes
following European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018
(S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/
Geoheritage	County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Plans	Land & Soils/Landscape	Regional	All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420f54877843aca1bc075c62b
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	Includes 3D models	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b794c6093bb2212a850ce6&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	Land & Soils/Water	National	available online	https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater recharge.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Group scheme and public supply source protection areas.	Water	National	Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater Protection Schemes	Water	National	Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protection areas	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	karst specific data layers	water	National	For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turf/rough water levels (gwlevel.ie)	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9e46be08de41278b90a991160c0b9e
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?easting=7&northing=7&lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754

- Notes:
- The maps and data listed above are available on the Geological Survey Ireland map viewer <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data
 - Geological Survey Ireland and Irish Concrete Federation published guidelines for the treatment of geological heritage in the extractive industry in 2008.



Malena Sara Thren
MKO
Tuam Road
Galway H91 VW84

24 January 2024

Re: EIA Scoping Document for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Your Ref: 180740
Our Ref: 23/367

Dear Malena,

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 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'.

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

With reference to your email received on the 15 December 2023, concerning the EIA Scoping Document for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

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 for Co. Galway was completed in 2019. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are CGSs close to the proposed wind farm development area.**

Gortgarrow Spring, Co. Galway (GR 157170, 259548), under IGH themes: IGH1 Karst, IGH16 Hydrogeology. This site comprises the water supply compound around a large karstic spring. A large spring was known historically at this locality at Gortgarrow, which has then been used as a water supply source for the last forty years. Four other relatively large springs also occur in the vicinity of the site. Site Code: [GY065](#).

Park Esker, Co. Galway (GR 159740, 259198), under IGH theme: IGH7 Quaternary. The Park Esker includes a number of high, sinuous ridge segments, which all form part of the same, small esker system. Site Code: [GY111](#).

Levally Lough, Co. Galway (GR 152941, 253453), under IGH themes: IGH1 Karst, IGH7 Quaternary. This site comprises a lake which is actually a turlough feature, but which empties only every few years, and not on an annual basis. Site Code: [GY089](#).



Derrynagran Bog and Esker, Co. Galway (GR 157903, 252148), under IGH theme: IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology. An impressive, high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge, and transition zone to bog. Site Code: [GY052](#).

With the current plan, there are no envisaged impacts on the integrity of the current CGSs by the proposed development. We ask that any proposed activities such as construction and modification of access roads and additional traffic due to access road construction and turbine installation in the area associated with the wind farm development do not impact on the CGSs. If the proposed development plan is altered, please contact GSI Planning (GSIPlanning@gsi.ie) for further information and possible mitigation measures if applicable.

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 Karst Viewer indicates a karst spring on the margins of the site boundary in the townland of Gortagarraun: Gurteen Cloonmore Spring Source.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (conduit)' underlies the wind farm development. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within 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 assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.

There are groundwater drinking water abstractions for which there are zones of contribution/source protection areas: Gurteen Cloonmore Group Water Scheme, is located within the area of the proposed wind farm development. Additionally, Gallagh Group Water Scheme and [Dunmore Glenamaddy Water Supply Scheme](#) are adjacent to the wind farm development boundary.

Key to groundwater protection in general, and protection of specific drinking water supplies, is preventing ingress of runoff to the aquifer. Design of wind farm drainage will need to be cognisant of the group water scheme and the interactions between surface water and groundwater as well as run-off.

Appropriate design should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons to include mitigation measures as necessary, such as SUDs or other drainage mitigation measures.

Also, any excavation/cuttings required should ensure that groundwater flow within the zones of contribution to the groundwater abstraction points is not disrupted, resulting in diminished yields. Note that there could be other groundwater abstractions in the locality for which Geological Survey Ireland has not undertaken studies, and a robust assessment should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons.

Given the nearby drinking water sources (Group Water Schemes and numerous boreholes and domestic wells), the effects of any potential contamination / dewatering as a result of the wind farm development would need to be assessed.

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping.



A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here:** <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>

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.

Please note we have recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos. This makes our data more accessible to general public and external stakeholders. QGIS compatible data can be found in our downloadable bedrock 100k .zip file on the [Data & Maps](#) section of our website.

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.

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.

Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.

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](#).

We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. 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 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>.

Guidelines

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

- Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.
- [EPA, 2022](#). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)



Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. 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 the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@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 the Geological Survey Ireland Planning Team at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Geoheritage and Planning Programme

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

Malena Sara Thren

From: Owen Cahill
Sent: Thursday 15 February 2024 09:30
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: FW: Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm_Gurteen Cloonmore Group Water Scheme
Attachments: Houses Letter F 2024.01.16 - 180740.pdf; 180740 Scoping Clonberne WF..pdf

Regards,

Owen Cahill

Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
Environmental Engineer

MKO

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From: CLO Owen Cahill <owen@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:28 AM
To: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: FW: Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm

From: CLO Owen Cahill
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:20 AM
To: Martin Silke <martin@dunmorece.ie>
Subject: RE: Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm

Hi Martin,

I hope you are well. You will not have heard from me for a while but I was eager to get in touch with you with an update on the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm.

I have attached here a letter we are delivering to all houses within 2km of the proposed site which also includes slight updates to the project design.

I would also like to mention that the project website www.clonbernewindfarm.com has been updated with new information on the project in the last few days most of which relates to the slight layout and design revisions as mentioned above.

Also, we have recently sent out a Project Scoping Document in which we invite statutory and non-statutory consultees to make comment on the project. Please find a copy attached. We have included Gurteen Cloonmore Group Water Scheme (GWS) as a consultee.

The purpose of scoping is to provide consultees with initial information on the project and to invite any comment, observations or questions. Most of this you will have seen from us previously. As we had various discussions and meetings we have of course received the views, comments and concerns of the GWS but please take the issue of this document as an opportunity to raise any new enquires and I would be happy to advise.

Regards
Owen Cahill

Malena Sara Thren

From: Niamh Kelly <Niamh.Kelly@hse.ie>
Sent: Friday 9 February 2024 11:32
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: Andrew Sulley; Maria Horkan
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: NEHS Scoping Clonberne WF ID1356.pdf

You don't often get email from niamh.kelly@hse.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

A Chara

Please find attached the Health Service Executives report on the Clonberne Wind Farm Development Scoping document.

Best regards
Niamh

Niamh Kelly
Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil Sinsearach/Senior Environmental Health Officer
An tSeirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil Náisiúnta, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An Daingean, Gaillimh.
National Environmental Health Service, Health Service Executive, Galway Business Park, Dangan, Galway.
091-737350
087 7373330



Need information and advice on COVID-19? Go to www.hse.ie/coronavirus

"Tá an fhaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon fhaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaoileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seains gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúil don Deasc Seirbhíse ECT ar an nguthán ag [+353 818 300300](tel:+353818300300) nó ar an ríomhphost chuig service.desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An Daingean, Gaillimh.
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National Environmental Health Service
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HSE EIA Scoping

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Date: 7th February 2024
Our reference: EHIS 1356
Report to: Malena Sara Thren (Bsc) MKO Consulting
Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping ref: **180740**

Proposed development: EIA Scoping for the Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development, in the townlands of Killavoher, Gortagarraun, Cloonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Clonbern, Ballagh West, Carrownryla, Laughill and Lissybroder Co. Galway.

Applicant: Clonberne Windfarm Ltd

Proposed Development: The Proposed Project will likely comprise approximately 11 No. wind turbines, access roads and entrance(s), electricity substation and associated control buildings & plant, battery storage facility, borrow pit(s), electrical cabling for grid connection, temporary construction compound(s) and associated works

Clarification on the content of this submission should be made, in the first instance, to Maria Horkan, Principal Environmental Health Officer maria.horkan@hse.ie

Pp Maria Horkan

Principal Environmental Health Officer

The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) notes the decision to make an application to ABP for a determination on whether the project will be classified as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). It is the experience of the NEHS that the public consultation and awareness of projects within the SID process is sometimes not as effective as for non-SID projects. It is noted in

the scoping document dated 15th December that a dedicated website is to be developed for the project that contains all the planning and environmental assessment documents and updates of the project process and timelines for consultation and submissions. It is important that this is kept up to date with progress of the project through the planning process and clearly identifies opportunities for public participation in the process.

Visit to the Proposed Development Site

A visit to the proposed development site was carried out by Ms Niamh Kelly, Senior Environmental Health Officer on Monday 22nd January 2024. The following was recorded from the visit:

Sensitive Receptors

Clonberne is the nearest village, located just over 1 km from the boundary of the site. There is a Nursing Home, Central Park Nursing Home in the village.

Clonberne National School is also located in Clonbern village. It is noted that there is a 720m buffer zone for dwellings.

Location of Private Wells or Watercourses nearby to the Proposed Development

The water supply zone for Clonbern, Co. Galway is Dunmore Glenamaddy Public Water Supply.

The nature of the housing in the area means there is potential for one off housing to be served by private wells. This is likely to be older houses that historically were served by private wells.

Other Industries and Quarries in the locality

The area is predominantly low intensity agriculture with some peat extraction.

Condition of Access Roads to the Proposed Development

The proposed site covers a large area accessed via a number of single lane local roads – they appear to be in reasonable condition.

Consideration was given to any known planning permission recently granted or refused in the vicinity and reason for decision. It is noted that a planning application for this development was made in 2020 – the decision of An Bord Pleanála (ABP- 307058-20) was that the development required an EIAR. The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) is not aware of any other notable planning applications in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

General Introduction

The following documents should be taken into consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report:

- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/guidelines_for_planning_authorities_and_an_bord_pleanála_on_carrying_out_eia_-_august_2018.pdf

EU publication: Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, EU, 2017

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/EIA_guidance_EIA_report_final.pdf

Adoption of the Directive (2014/52/EU) in April 2014 initiated a review of the National Guidance for EIA and the EIAR accompanying a planning application. New guidelines can be seen at:

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/guidelines-on-the-information-to-be-contained-in-environmental-impact-assessment.php>

The introduction of the new Guidance is supported by a Webinar produced by the EPA and can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ejKVFUztxBY>

The applicant should also consider the findings of the High Court judgement issued in the judicial review of the Derryadd Wind Farm. (2021 IEHC 390 [20202 No. 557 JR] P. Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála)

Generally the Environmental Impact Assessment should examine all likely significant impacts and provide the following information for each:

- a) Description of the receiving environment;
- b) The nature and scale of the impact;
- c) An assessment of the significance of the impact;
- d) Proposed mitigation measures;
- e) Residual impacts.

Directive 2014/52/EU has an enhanced requirement to assess likely significant impacts on Population and Human Health. It is the experience of the Environmental Health Service (EHS) that impacts on human health are often inadequately assessed in EIAs in Ireland. It is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered in a proportionate manner when considering the EIA. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at www.publichealth.ie

In addition to any likely significant negative impacts from the proposed development, any positive likely significant impacts should also be assessed.

The HSE will consider the final EIAR accompanying the SID/Planning application and will make comments to An Bord Pleanála/Local Planning Authority on the methodology used for assessing the likely significant impacts and the evaluation criteria used in assessing the significance of the impact.

The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) recommends that the following matters are included and assessed in the EIAR

- Public Consultation
- Decommissioning phase of the proposed wind farm
- Siting and location of turbines
- Noise & Vibration
- Shadow Flicker
- Air Quality
- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Geological Impacts
- Ancillary facilities
- Cumulative impacts

Public Consultation

It is recommend that early and meaningful public consultation with the local community is undertaken to ensure all potentially significant impacts of the proposed windfarm development have been adequately addressed.

All parties affected by the proposed development, **including those who may benefit financially from the project**, must be fully informed of what the proposal entails especially with regard to potential impacts on surrounding areas.

Sensitive receptors and other stakeholders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to reduce the likelihood of any complaints about the proposed wind farm development in the future.

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.

The EIAR should state the period of planning permission sought, the length of time construction is estimated to take and if it is anticipated that the windfarm development will be decommissioned and removed or will continue to operate (following any further planning consent) at the end of this period of planning permission (should permission be granted)

Decommissioning

The EIAR should detail the eventual fate of the wind turbines and associated material i.e. will the material be recycled or how will it be disposed of.

Information should also be provided regarding the proposed methodology to be used for the disposal of the materials forming the foundations of the wind turbines.

The EIAR should indicate the proposed future use of the development site at the end of the planning permission period.

Siting, Location and details of Turbines

The EIAR should include a map and a description of the proposed location of each of the proposed wind turbines.

The Environmental Health Service expects that details (height and model) of the turbines to be installed will be available at the time planning permission is sought and will be included in the EIAR.

Details of the foundations for the wind turbine including depth, quantity and material to be used should be included in the EIAR.

Assessment of Consideration of Alternatives

The EIAR should consider an assessment of alternatives. The NEHS recommends that alternative renewable energy options to on- shore wind farms should be considered as part of the EIAR.

Noise & Vibration

The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. The EIAR must also consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of all proposed mitigation measures to minimise noise and vibration.

A baseline noise monitoring survey should be undertaken to establish the existing background noise levels. Noise from any existing turbines in the area should not be included as part of the back ground levels.

In addition, an assessment of the predicted noise impacts during the construction phase and the operational phase of the proposed windfarm development must be undertaken which details the change in the noise environment resulting from the proposed development.

The Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines were published in December 2019. Whilst these have yet to be adopted, any proposed wind farm development should have consideration of the draft Guidelines.

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/draft_revised_wind_energy_development_guidelines_december_2019.pdf .

Shadow Flicker

It is recommended that a shadow flicker assessment is undertaken to identify any dwellings and sensitive receptors which may be impacted by shadow flicker. The assessment must include all proposed mitigation measures. Dwellings should include all occupied properties and any existing or proposed properties for which planning consent has been granted for construction or refurbishment.

It is recommended that turbine selection will be based on the most advanced available technology that permits shut down during times when residents are exposed to shadow flicker. As a result no dwelling should be exposed to shadow flicker.

Air Quality

Due to the nature of the proposed construction works generation of airborne dust has the potential to have significant impacts on sensitive receptors. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be included in the EIAR which details dust control and mitigation measures. Measures should include:

- Sweeping of hard road surfaces
- Provision of a water bowser on site, regular spraying of haul roads
- Wheel washing facilities at site exit
- Restrict speed on site
- Provide covers to all delivery trucks to minimise dust generation
- Inspect and clean public roads in the vicinity if necessary
- Material stockpiling provided with adequate protection from the wind
- Dust monitoring at the site boundary
- Truck inspection and maintenance plan
- Details of a road maintenance agreement between the wind farm operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during construction phase of the project

Surface and Ground Water Quality

The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the quality of both surface and ground water. All drinking water sources, both surface and ground water, must be identified. Public and Group Water Scheme sources and supplies should be identified in addition to any private wells supplying potable water to houses in the vicinity of the proposed development. Measures to ensure that all sources and supplies are protected should be described.

Based on the information provided by Ms Kelly from a site visit, the Environmental Health Service recommends that a walk over survey of the site is undertaken in addition to a desktop analysis of Geological Survey of Ireland data, in order to identify any potential private wells used for drinking water purposes.

Any potential significant impacts to drinking water sources should be assessed. Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows, aquifers and catchment areas should be considered when assessing potential impacts and any proposed mitigation measures.

Any impacts on surface water as a result of the construction of the underground cables should be identified and addressed in the EIAR.

Geotechnical and Peat Stability Assessment

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

Information should be provided on the make and model of the turbines and on construction details for the turbine foundations, including the depth and volume of concrete required. An accurate assessment of the potential impacts of the foundations on water quality and peat stability cannot be undertaken without this information.

Reference is made to a peat slide which occurred near Ballybofey in Co. Donegal on 13th November 2020 which may have been linked to construction activity at Meenbog Wind Farm. Potential impacts on water supply associated with contamination following a peat slide include sedimentation and alteration of pH levels.

The Environmental Health Service recommends that a detailed Peat Stability/Geotechnical 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') <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2017/04/peat-landslide-hazard-risk-assessments-best-practice-guide-proposed-electricity/documents/00517176-pdf/00517176-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00517176.pdf>

Ancillary Facilities

The EIAR should include details of the location of all site office, construction compound, fuel storage depot, sanitary accommodation and canteen, First Aid facilities, disposal of wastewater and the provision of a potable water supply to the site canteen.

Cumulative Impacts

All existing or proposed wind farm developments in the vicinity should be clearly identified in the EIAR.

The impact on sensitive receptors of the proposed development combined with any other wind farm/renewable energy developments in the vicinity should be considered. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of any likely significant cumulative impacts of the proposed windfarm development.



Andrew Sulley
Senior Environmental Health Officer

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:26
To: 'info@hiberniantowers.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Hibernian.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:34
To: colin.hedderly@irishrail.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Iarnrod Eireann.pdf

Dear Mr. Hedderly,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:36
To: Ronnie.ONeill@imaginegroup.ie
Cc: Paul.Brunel@imaginegroup.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Imagine (Telecomms).pdf

Dear Mr O'Neill,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: David Harrington <David.Harrington@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 29 January 2024 15:45
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Inland Fisheries Ireland.pdf; MKO-CWind-0124.pdf

You don't often get email from david.harrington@fisheriesireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon Malena,

Please find attached IFIs observations on the proposed Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development. I would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt of same.

Kind Regards,

David

David Harrington
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ David.Harrington@fisheriesireland.ie • 📞 +353 (0)91 563118 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 H91 E2A2



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From: Environmental Planning <environmentalplanning@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:58 PM
To: David Harrington <David.Harrington@fisheriesireland.ie>
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

From: info <info@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Environmental Planning <environmentalplanning@fisheriesireland.ie>
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Good afternoon All
Below email received to Citywest Info
Have a great weekend

Kind regards
Yvonne

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 2:41 PM
To: info <info@fisheriesireland.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development. Please also forward this scoping document to the appropriate River Basin District Office for comment.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Ms Malena Sara Thren
MKO
Tuam road
Galway
H91 VW84

29th January 2024

Your Ref: 180740

RE: EIA Scoping Document for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development, in the townlands of Killavoher, Gortagarraun, Cloonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Clonbern, Ballagh West, Carrownryla, Laughill and Lissybroder Co. Galway.

Dear Ms Thren

I refer to your recent correspondence requesting a scoping opinion on Information to be included in the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development (11 no. wind turbines with a total output of 79.2 MW) at Clonberne, Co. Galway.

The site of this proposed development is located within the Lough Corrib catchment. Within this Corrib catchment, the site contains watercourses which form part of the Clare River, Sinking River and Grange River. Lough Corrib is renowned for its wild brown trout and salmon which ascend the tributaries of the catchment annually to spawn and utilise as nursery habitat. Prime water quality and instream habitat is key to salmonids completing this stage of their lifecycle.

Please find below our initial concerns and recommendations in relation to the proposed wind farm. IFI require that the EIAR/NIS prepared for the development will measure and identify its potential impacts on the aquatic environment and mitigate against these to ensure that any impact is minimal or non-existent.

1. All watercourses that will receive drainage from the construction sites of 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. In this regard changes to river morphology should be avoided unless such changes are approved in advance with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.



2. The aquatic habitat and physical nature of any watercourse affected by the development must be fully described in detail. 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. It may be appropriate to survey a tributary stream and the larger more important streams it joins and assess the effect the discharge might further have on biodiversity and fisheries in the larger streams. Surveys of un-impacted (control) streams should also be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment.
3. Electrofishing surveys will be required for all waters. Quantitative data in relation to all fish species should be compiled. The presence of salmonid species, crayfish and lamprey species will be of particular concern. In undertaking the electrofishing survey only experienced personnel should be employed. Appropriate permits for electrofishing must be obtained from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Authorised personnel must ensure that they comply with all the conditions contained in the permit.
4. The soils, their structure and types around all the turbines, associated access roads and site development needs to be established. In particular, the stability of these soils and the impact that works on both the turbines and access roads will have either directly or by vibration on the stability of the soils. IFI have serious concerns where it is proposed to construct wind turbines on peat soils especially if these peat soils are located on upland areas.
5. IFI strongly recommends that specialist personnel are employed to assess soil strength and suitability of the ground at each site and along any proposed access road. This is particularly important in relation to peat soils. From our experiences we will have serious difficulties with developments on peat soils where there is excessive slope and or where the peat depth exceeds one metre. Excessive slopes will be an issue with all wind farm proposals regardless of soil type. The potential for soil movement and landslides should be assessed fully within the EIS.
6. Particular attention should be paid to the hydrology of any site where excavations including excavations for road construction are being undertaken. It is important that natural flow paths are not interrupted or diverted in such a manner as to give rise to erosion or instability of soils caused by an alteration in water movement either above or below ground.



7. Attention should be paid to drainage during both the construction phase and the operational phase. This includes waters being pumped from foundations or other excavations. It is particularly important during the construction phase that sufficient retention time in the settlement pond is available to ensure no deleterious matter is discharged to any waters. We strongly recommend that settlement ponds are maintained, where appropriate, during the operational phase to allow for the adequate settlement of suspended solids and sediments and prevent any deleterious matter from discharging into any natural waters. In constructing and designing silt traps particular attention should be paid to rainfall levels and intensity. The silt traps should be designed to minimise the movement of silt especially during intense precipitation events where the trap 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.
8. We have serious concerns about the construction of roads as these will tend to provide preferential flow paths for surface waters. Considerable attention to detail must be provided in relation to the interception of surface water flows. Our concerns in relation to deleterious matter have been referred to above, but we also have concerns in relation to the flow patterns and to ensuring that normal flows are maintained both during and after construction. Situations can arise where water transportation is significantly increased in certain watercourses thereby putting additional pressures on watercourses and interfering with the sustained flow of water particularly during dry weather. This should be avoided.
9. Serious consideration must be given to the disposal of all waste materials such that they will not give rise to any risk. In terms of risk, the placing of soils on adjacent ground should not be permitted unless all the area has been the subject of an in-depth risk assessment. This is of particular concern where peat soils are encountered. Furthermore, drainage from disturbed and stockpiled soils will have to be considered in advance. It may be essential to carry out soil stockpiling operations in confined areas only and to ensure vegetation of the soils with suitable plants which will promote stability. Consideration must be given to runoff/leachate from any stockpiles.
10. Details in relation to site offices and the services necessary for the site offices should form part of the EIA. In addition, details relating to operations during the construction phase to contain pollutants should also be considered. It should be noted that cement leachate, hydrocarbon oils and other toxic poisonous materials will require full containment and should not be permitted to discharge to any waters. Please note that physical pollution of watercourses in terms of dumping of unsuitable gravel



material or other construction debris in or stockpiling such materials near watercourses is not acceptable as this will interfere with the aquatic habitat.

11. The use of sedimentary rocks, such as shale, in road construction should be avoided. This type of material has poor tensile strength and is liable to be crushed by heavy vehicles thereby releasing fine sediment materials into the drainage system which are difficult to precipitate and may give rise to water pollution. We recommend that specialist expertise should advise on the type of material required for road construction bearing in mind the pressures that will arise during the construction phase and the necessity to avoid pollution due to fines washing out into the roadside drainage.
12. In relation to watercourse crossings please be advised that this IFI will require to be consulted well in advance in relation to all crossings of any watercourse or the use of any temporary diversions. We strongly recommend that these crossings should be kept to a minimum. We will also require that any instream structures or bridge crossings are approved by the Fisheries IFI. In particular in designing crossings the length, slope and width of any instream structure will be important. Clear span bridges are the preferred option for all crossings especially in upland areas.
13. Please also note that any 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 each year (so as to avoid impacting on the aquatic habitat during the spawning season). It would be important that appropriate scheduling of works is allowed for.
14. The EIS should indicate proposals to monitor the impact on all watercourses within the "development". In the event that environmental damage to the aquatic habitat and associated riparian zone is caused, the EIS should indicate the steps that may be taken to rectify any damage to the aquatic habitat including liaison with the appropriate authorities. In relation to wind farm structures and infrastructure it is important that a sufficient bank side riparian zone is maintained to absorb and attenuate overland flows. In deciding the extent of this riparian zone the following factors would be important:
 1. Type of soil and its depth and strength especially if the development is on an upland peat bog area.
 2. Stock piling or spreading of spoil on unstable soils especially if the soil is peat with a depth greater than 1 metre thick. (Geotechnical surveys and assessment at every stage of the operation is essential).



3. Degree or extent of the slope.
4. Variations in the topography that will give rise to point flows (keep flow as diffuse as possible).
5. Extent and nature of catchment above the area of operation. In particular meticulous care should be paid to avoid interfering with the catchment and altering the direction of flow, perhaps to another catchment.
6. The importance of the water in fisheries and Biodiversity terms. With reference to the aquatic habitat the impact over a distance downstream must also be kept in mind.
7. Any other factors that will cause a deleterious effect to the watercourse.
8. The extent and proven efficacy of water treatment in relation to the structure.

With the above in mind for small streams in upland areas a distance of at least 15 meters should be considered as a bare minimum for a riparian zone. This should be more if the factors above are involved and will require ground truthing and site-specific survey.

We suggest that this type of development will comprise works at a number of locations, but the entire development should be considered as a whole. We strongly recommend that discussions should take place with the Environmental Section of the relevant County Council with a view to obtaining a licence to discharge trade effluent from the "building site" to waters. In this regard we consider that drainage waters particularly during the construction phase should be regarded as trade effluent. All effluent should comply with appropriate quality standards.

The discharge of polluting or deleterious matter to any watercourse except under and in accordance with a license may be an offence under the Fisheries Acts and/or under the Water Pollution Acts. It should be noted that even if an effluent does generally comply with the quality standards contained in a license it may still cause pollution if the receiving water cannot provide sufficient assimilative capacity. With this in mind the environment impact assessment should also focus on the physical characteristics of watercourses and their ability to assimilate any pollutants discharged from the site including the discharge of water from any foundation works etc.



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

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.

The above comments and observations are generic and the specific requirements will vary with each application. It should not be considered that addressing all of the above issues will influence IFI in any decision it may make in relation to any proposed windfarm development. IFI's primary concern is to protect the aquatic species and habitat, including water quality and the related riparian zone. IFI reserves the right to request additional information in relation to the development should further points arise.

At all times the precautionary principle should be applied throughout for the entire development. Particular attention should be paid to the various environmental directives including the Water Framework Directive, The Fisheries Acts in particular and the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts and all other environmental legislation should be considered as appropriate. As indicated in some of the points above site management and environmental plans will be important issues especially during the construction phase and we recommend that these issues should also receive consideration when preparing and EIA.

We recommend that the above issues should be amongst the issues addressed in a comprehensive manner in the EIA.

This concludes IFI's observations at this time.

Yours sincerely

David Harrington
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer
IFI Galway
MKO-CWind-0124

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:58
To: info@irelandwestairport.com
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Knock Airport.pdf

Dear Mr Gilmore,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:43
To: planning@iaa.ie
Cc: obrienc@iaa.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Irish Aviation Authority.pdf

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:44
To: bogs@ipcc.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Irish Peatlands Conservation Council.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:45
To: chairman@irsg.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Irish Raptor Study Group.pdf

Dear Mr O'Toole,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Thursday 15 February 2024 15:01
To: 'Irish Red Grouse Conservation Trust'
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Clonberne WF Project Fact Sheet reduced- 2023.11.03 - 180740.pdf

Hi,
My apologies for the delayed response. We have now compiled a project fact sheet, which is attached to this email. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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From: Irish Red Grouse Conservation Trust <info@irgct.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 17, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Re: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from info@irgct.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Malena

Thanks for your email.

Please can you provide us with some further details of the development in any documentation you may have relating to an EIA report or something similar.

With best wishes

Merlin Becker
IRGCT Secretary

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:48
To: info@iwt.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Irish Wildlife Trust.pdf

Dear Ms. Vieira,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Merlin Becker BSc
The Wilderness
Lough Dan
Roundwood
Co Wicklow
Republic of Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)83 081 7554
Email: info@irgct.com

On Fri, 15 Dec 2023 at 2:46 pm, Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkofireland.ie> wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,

Malena

Malena Sara Thren

Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Jimmy Sugrue <jsugrue@ivertec.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 16:37
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: Re: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from jsugrue@ivertec.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Malena

We have no services in this area.

Regards,
Jimmy.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 2:26:42 PM
To: Jimmy Sugrue <jsugrue@ivertec.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:27
To: 'kearneyf@jfk.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: JFK Communications.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:28
To: 'sarah@whizzyinternet.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: JS Whizzy Internet.pdf

Dear Sarah,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:29
To: 'john@airwave.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: lackabhea services.pdf

Dear John,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: David Rafter <drafter@lawaters.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 10:13
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: RE: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping Round 2

You don't often get email from drafter@lawaters.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Malena,

Received with thanks.

From what I have seen of the correspondence, our own Bernie White has engaged with yourselves on this matter.

The team will review this over the coming days and we can communicate back to yourself regarding same.

Kind regards,
David Rafter.

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 5:21 PM
To: David Rafter <drafter@lawaters.ie>
Subject: FW: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping Round 2

You don't often get email from msthren@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi David,

Please see below a scoping exercise regarding the proposed Clonberne Windfarm Development.

Conor Ruane has advised me to forward the below and attached to you.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E5C52A8AE9984873A0855ED4E7C949CA-016AF8B9-D3
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:43 PM
To: 'Bernadette White' <bwhite@lawsat.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>; 'Francis Deery' <fdeery@lawsat.ie>; 'Conor Ruane' <cruane@lawwaters.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping Round 2

Hi Bernadette,
regarding your response to the scoping for the Clonberne Windfarm Development received in 2020 and as outlined below, we note your point that LAWPRO does not have a statutory role in consultations of this nature. Please note that Galway County Council were also a consultee as part of this scoping exercise. Your other comments from the previous response have been noted and adopted in the preparation of the EIAR.

However, given the passing of time and the fact that the Project has not yet entered the planning system, we are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development. Slight changes have been made to the Site boundary. As per previous correspondence, I have taken the opportunity to provide updated shapefile which shows the footprint of the development which can be found in the attached folder.

As part of the scoping exercise, we are contacting all scoping consultees from the first round of scoping in 2020 and would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 12:48 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: FW: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping

Regards,

Owen Cahill

Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
Environmental Engineer

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Owen Cahill
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Bernadette White <bwhite@lawsat.ie>
Cc: Conor Ruane <cruane@lawaters.ie>; Francis Deery <fdeery@lawsat.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping

Hi Bernadette,

Thank you for your reply.

I attach a shapefile of the site boundary that we are working off at the moment. It would be premature to provide a development footprint at this point as we have not yet frozen the layout and the concept I have currently is subject to update. I will make this available once we reach that point.

I note all your other feedback and look forward to comments on our scoping document.

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv

Environmental Engineer

MKO

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From: Bernadette White <bwhite@lawsat.ie>
Sent: Friday 20 November 2020 15:24
To: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Conor Ruane <cruane@lawaters.ie>; Francis Deery <fdeery@lawsat.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping

Hi Owen,

Thank you for your email and information in relation to the proposed Clonberne Windfarm. The Local Authority Waters Programme are a shared service working with Local Authorities and State Agencies to implement the EU Water Framework Directive via the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021. We work along side 31 local authorities nationally, however we have no statutory role in consultations of this nature. Nevertheless, we are grateful to receive this information at such an early stage in the process. My colleagues Conor and Francis copied will review the scoping document and consult with Galway County Council, and we will revert in due course with any queries we may have.

At present, we are working within the Castlegar Priority Area for Action which lies just east of your development location, but if you have a shapefile which shows the footprint of the development, this would be helpful for us to compare against existing and future proposed Priority Areas for Action for water quality restoration under the river basin management plan.

In the interim, I would highly recommend that your aquatic ecologists working on the EIA, would consult with www.catchments.ie for the latest water quality status and risk information. This is the public facing repository for data and mapping for the Water Framework Directive and is a wealth of information. Please also note that a Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle of implementation of the WFD in Ireland, covering 2022 to 2027 is due to be published by the end of this year, or potentially in Q1 of 2021.

Kind Regards,
Bernie

**Dr Bernadette White | Catchments Manager Western Region
& Blue Dot Catchments Programme Manager**

Local Authority Waters Programme

Clár Uiscí na nÚdarás Áitiúil

☎ 085 8030094

✉ bwhite@lawaters.ie



From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Friday 20 November 2020 11:46

To: Conor Ruane <cruane@lawaters.ie>; Bernadette White <bwhite@lawsat.ie>

Subject: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping

Dear Conor & Bernadette,

I located your contact details from the LAWPRO website.

I have recently issued a scoping document in relation to a proposed Wind Farm development near Clonberne, Co. Galway. We contacted over 50 consultees requesting any feedback or observations regarding the project. A copy of this scoping document may have already made its way to you through one of the statutory bodies we have consulted with i.e EPA, Dept Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Irish Water, Galway County Council etc. However, in a response received from the Department of Agriculture, it was recommended consultation with the LAWPRO Galway Office regarding watercourse features and catchment-level quality factors as a result of the project.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

If there is any other member of LAWPRO that I should get in touch with I would appreciate if you could provide me with contact details.

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv

Environmental Engineer

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 14:59
To: support@magnetplus.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Magnet Plus.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:00
To: info@opw.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Office of Public Works.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:16
To: windfarms@rte.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: TG4.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:02
To: contactus@sportireland.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Sport Ireland.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:01
To: info@seai.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: SEAI.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:16
To: info@tetraireland.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Tetra communications.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:16
To: mail@heritagecouncil.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Heritage Council.pdf

Dear Ms Alison Harvey,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 20 February 2024 11:57
To: Jonny Fearon
Cc: Owen Cahill; Malena Sara Thren; Sean Kelly; DL Estates ROI
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Some people who received this message don't often get email from monika.biniaszewska@three.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Jonny,

Apologies for the delay but I was on annual leave yesterday.

I've checked our database, and this link was installed in November 2020. This is the end state link and no plan to decom.

Can you use the setback distance- 50m please.

Thanks
Monika

From: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 2:37 PM
To: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>; Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from jfearon@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! External Email.

Hi Monika,

Following up on the below query regarding a Three link in the area of the Clonberne Windfarm. It would be good to get as much info that you currently have on this link.

Kind Regards,
Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
Environmental Scientist

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From: Jonny Fearon
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:33 PM
To: Monika Biniaszewska <monika.biniaszewska@three.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>; Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Sean Kelly <sean.kelly2@three.ie>; estates@three.ie
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hi Monika,

We note that the Three link is in proximity to 3 no. of the proposed turbine locations & this link was not presented to us when we first scoped Three back in 2019 (see attached email). What buffer would Three require on this link?

Has this link come into existence since 2019 and if so, is there a scheduled year/date for decommissioning the link?

Kind Regards,
Jonny.

Jonny Fearon
Environmental Scientist

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From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>
Cc: David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Hi Malena,

We have one link passing through this area. Please see details below.



Link no.	Link Ref	Freq.	Length	Site A	X	Y	Dish Height
1	ML020358	18GHz	14.7km	GA0064 - Clonriddia Forestry	153,147	250,825	30m

Thanks
Monika

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>; Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>
Cc: David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

CAUTION! External Email.

Hi,
 My apologies for the late response.
 Please see attached a kmz. File including coordinates in ITM as requested.

Kind regards,
 Malena

Malena Sara Thren
 Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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From: Monika Binaszewska <Monika.Binaszewska@three.ie>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:43 PM

To: Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>

Cc: David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>

Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Marlena,

Can you send the following things:

- The site boundary as a .kmz which can be opened in Google Earth.
- Preliminary turbine coordinates.

Thanks

Monika

From: Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:38 PM

To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>

Cc: David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>; Monika Binaszewska <Monika.Binaszewska@three.ie>

Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hi Malena,

David and Monika review wind farm analysis on behalf of Three Ireland.

@Dave, Monika - can you advise what the file and format you require to investigate the windfarm proposal.

Thanks,

Sean.



Sean Kelly
Access Transmission Manager

Mobile: 086 814 6564
Email: sean.kelly2@three.ie

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:09 AM
To: DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>
Cc: Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

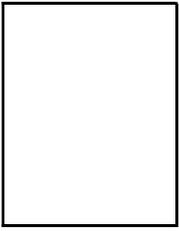
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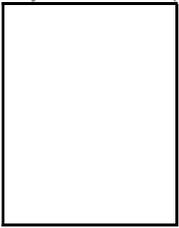


Three Ireland

28/29 Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland.

www.three.ie 

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Raymond Ryan <rryan@towercom.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:49
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: Rachel Hennessy; Laura O'Connell
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from rryan@towercom.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Ms Thren,

Presently Towercom Limited has no comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

Kind Regards,

Ray

Ray Ryan

Property Manager

m: +353 87 9718041

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



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My working day may not be the same as your working day. Please don't feel obliged to reply to this e-mail outside of your normal working hours.

Please consider the environment before printing this email. 🌱

From: Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:22 PM
To: Laura O'Connell <loconnell@towercom.ie>; Raymond Ryan <rryan@towercom.ie>
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hi Both,

Please see attached and below.

Kind regards,
Rachel

Rachel Hennessy
SRF Manager

m: +353 86 843 9587
[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Ms Hennessy,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: Thursday 21 December 2023 15:40
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: TII Ref: TII23-125645 - EIAR Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development Galway

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Dear Ms. Thren,

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 December 2023 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

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 the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines '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.

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.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national road network. In addition, Chapter 7 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility' of the National Development Plan, 2021 – 2030, sets out the key sectoral priority of maintaining Ireland's existing national road network to a robust and safe standard for users. This requirement is further reflected in the publication of the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

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:

- 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, including the potential haul route.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS 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 any proposed haul route, where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required. All national road 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.

In addition, the haul route should be assessed to confirm capacity to accommodate abnormal 'length' loads and any temporary works required.

The national road network is managed by a combination of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) and local road authorities in association with TII. The applicant/developer should also consult with all PPP Companies, MMaRC Contractors and road authorities over which the haul route traverses, to ascertain any operational requirements, including delivery timetabling, etc., to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded.

Where temporary works within any MMaRC Contract Boundary are required to facilitate the transport of turbine components to site, the applicant/developer shall contact thirdpartyworks@tii.ie in advance, as a works specific Deed of Indemnity will be needed by TII before the works can take place.

Additionally, any damage caused to the pavement on the existing national road arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal loads (e.g., tearing of the surface course, etc.), shall be rectified in accordance with TII Pavement Standards and details in this regard shall be agreed with the Road Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.

- It is noted grid connection proposals have not been outlined in your correspondence of 15 December 2023. However, please note, for all renewable energy developments requiring grid connection to the national grid, TII recommends that a full assessment of all route alternatives to grid connection takes place, including alternatives to

public road, where appropriate. It is not considered optimal to utilise the national road as a grid connection route when viable alternatives are available.

In TII's experience, grid connection accommodated on national roads has the potential, inter alia, to result in technical road safety issues such as differential settlement due to backfilling trenches and can impact on ability and cost of general maintenance, upgrades and safety works to existing national roads.

Other consents or licences may be required from the road authority for any trenching or cabling proposals crossing the national road. TII requests referral of all proposals agreed and licensed between the road authority and the applicant, which affect the national road network.

Where grid connection involves proposals to cross a motorway, Works Specific Deeds of Indemnities, arrangements for third party access or consent from TII in accordance with Section 53 of the Roads Act, 1993, is required. 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.

General requirements for directional drilling under a motorway include:

- The launch and reception pits for the crossing are located outside the Motorway boundary.
- The cabling will be installed at such depth so as not to conflict with the drainage for the Motorway.
- Neither the Works nor the cable crossing will damage or interfere with the Motorway.
- Any maintenance and/or future planned upgrades of the cabling at the crossing location can be carried out without access to the motorway boundary.
- There are no bolted joints in that part of the crossing within the motorway fence-line.
- A pre and post construction survey shall be required along the length of the crossing over the extents of the motorway boundary.
- Specific requirements may also arise for these proposed works.

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,

Andrew Moore
Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Landuse Planning <LandUsePlanning@tii.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from msthren@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of TII. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are sure that the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mills,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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De réir pholasáí BIÉ An Ceart gan a bheith Ceangailte, má tá an ríomhphost seo á fháil agat lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, nílim ag súil le freagra ná le gníomh uait lasmuigh de do ghnáthuaireanta oibre féin mura bhfuil sé ráite go soiléir go bhfuil gá gníomhú go práinneach.

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <https://www.tii.ie/about/about-tii/Data-Protection/?set-lang=ga>

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In accordance with TII's Right to Disconnect policy, if you are receiving this email outside of normal working hours, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours unless it is clearly noted as requiring urgent attention.

De réir pholasáí BIÉ An Ceart gan a bheith Ceangailte, má tá an ríomhphost seo á fháil agat lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, nílim ag súil le freagra ná le gníomh uait lasmuigh de do ghnáthuaireanta oibre féin mura bhfuil sé ráite go soiléir go bhfuil gá gníomhú go práinneach.

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <https://www.tii.ie/about/about-tii/Data-Protection/?set-lang=ga>

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Córas r-phoist BIE: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon chomhaid a tharchuirtear leis faoi rún agus beartaithe lena n-úsáid ag an duine aonair nó ag an eintiteas a bhfuil siad dírithe chuige/chuici amháin. Más rud é go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir sin in iúil do postmaster@tii.ie, le do thoil, agus scríos an ríomhphost bunaidh agus aon cheangaltáin.

Malena Sara Thren

From: Cillian Claffey (C) <cillian.claffey@water.ie>
Sent: Monday 18 December 2023 15:58
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: Planning
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Uisce Éireann.pdf; UisceÉireann_EIAScopingOpinion_Clonberne Wind Farm.pdf

You don't often get email from cillian.claffey@water.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon Malena,

Hope you are keeping well today.

Please find attached Uisce Éireann's response to your EIA scoping request relating to Clonberne Wind Farm Development.

Could you please notify myself OR planning@water.ie upon submission on this planning application so that we can get a heads up and ensure we receive the referral in adequate time.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will do my best to assist you with your query.

Kind regards,

Cillian Claffey
Development Management Planning

Mallow
Uisce Éireann
Teach na hAbhann Duibhe, Mala, Co. Chorcaí, P51 K3CX
Uisce Éireann
Blackwater House, Mallow, Co. Cork, P51 K3CX

M +353 89 260 3904
cillian.claffey@water.ie
www.water.ie
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 15:08
To: Planning <Planning@water.ie>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
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Is don duine amháin nó don eintiteas amháin ainmnithe ar an seoladh an fhaisnéis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh na tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid den fhaisnéis. Tá toirmeasc ar aon daoine nó aon eititis; nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis- aon athbhreithniú a dhéanamh, aon atarchur a dhéanamh nó aon athdháileadh a dhéanamh, nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as an bhfaisnéis, nó aon ghníomh a bhraithfeadh ar an bhfaisnéis seo a dhéanamh agus d'fhéadfaí an dlí a shárú dá ndéanfaí sin. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas as aon ghníomh agus as aon iarmhairt bunaithe ar úsáid neamhúdraithe na faisnéise seo. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo agus séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann leis an bhfaisnéis a fháil. Má tá an ríomh-phost seo faighte agat trí dhearmad, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir más é do thoil é agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. D'fhéadfadh ríomhphost a bheith so-ghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasuithe neamhúdraithe. Séanann Uisce Éireann aon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin tar éis a sheolta. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfadh monatóireacht a bheith á dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig Uisce Éireann agus ó Uisce Éireann d'fhonn ár ngnó a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag teacht le beartais agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann. Is cuideachta gníomhaíochta ainmnithe é Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, a bunaíodh de bhun fhorálacha na n-Achtanna um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2007-2022, a bhfuil a bpríomh-ionad gnó ag Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

For the attention of Malena Sara Thren
Environmental Scientist
MKO
Tuam Road,
Galway,
H91 VW84

By Email: msthren@mkoireland.ie

Date: 18th December 2023

Re: EIA Scoping Request – Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

Dear Malena Sara Thren,

Uisce Éireann has received notification of your Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request relating to Clonberne Windfarm Ltd.'s forthcoming planning application proposed wind energy development in the townlands of Killavoher, Gortagarraun, Cloonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Clonbern, Ballagh West, Carrownryla, Laughill and Lissybroder, Co. Galway.

Please see attached, Uisce Éireann's scoping opinion in relation to Water Services. On receipt of the planning referral, Uisce Éireann will review the finalised Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) as part of the planning process.

Queries relating to the terms and the EIA scoping opinions below should be directed to planning@water.ie

PP. *Ali Robinson*

Geoffrey Burke

Connections and Developer Services

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 1 89 25000
F: +353 1 89 25001
www.water.ie

Uisce Éireann's Response to EIA Scoping Requests

At present, Uisce Éireann does not have the capacity to advise on the scoping of individual projects. However, in general the following aspects of Water Services should be considered in the scope of an EIA where relevant;

- a) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an Uisce Éireann Drinking Water Source(s), 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. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified as part of the report.
- b) Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) 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). 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.

All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from <https://www.water.ie/connections/connection-steps/>.
- f) The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.
- g) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.
- h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers.

- i) Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.
- j) When considering a development proposal, the applicant is advised to 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. Details, where known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordnance Survey map identifying the proposed location of the applicant's intended development to datarequests@water.ie
- k) Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within the applicant's lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.
- l) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion / circulation characterises. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified within the report.
- m) Any 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 should be identified within the report.
- n) Where a development proposes to connect to an Uisce Éireann network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges wastewater to a "protected"/ sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.
- o) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any Uisce Éireann drinking water sources (Surface and Ground water).

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note;

- Where connection(s) to the public network is required as part of the development proposal, applicants are advised to complete the Pre-Connection Enquiry process and have received a Confirmation of Feasibility letter from Uisce Éireann ahead of any planning application.
- Uisce Éireann will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks.

Malena Sara Thren

From: Conor Pendlebury <Conor.Pendlebury@viatel.com>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:19
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: Automatic reply: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi all,

I am currently out of office with limited access to emails. For any queries please contact servicedeliveryteam@viatel.com.

Regards,
Conor.

Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:16
To: Conor.Pendlebury@viatel.com
Cc: Marcin.Skupski@viatel.com; Adrian.Carroll@viatel.com
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Viatel (Telecomms).pdf

Dear Mr. Pendlebury,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:17
To: mark.nolan@virginmedia.ie
Cc: Cathal.ODonnell@virginmedia.ie
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Virgin Media (telecoms).pdf

Dear Mr. Nolan,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Chris Stephenson, Vodafone (External) <chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com>
Sent: Wednesday 10 January 2024 07:56
To: Malena Sara Thren
Cc: Sean Lyons, Vodafone; Siobhan Burke, Vodafone; Gavin Byrne, Vodafone; Jonny Fearon
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Malena,
No Vodafone links pass through the Clonberne Wind Farm Development.
See Screenshot below.

Kind regards
Chris

The screenshot displays a network visualization application with several key components:

- Network tree:** A hierarchical view on the left showing 'Network' expanded into 'Sites', 'Links', and 'Fibre'.
- Google Layers:** A panel on the right listing 'Clonberne Turbine KMLs' with a sub-entry 'Clonberne_Turbine_KMLs' containing ten 'KMLPlacemark' items, each with a checked box.
- Extras:** A settings panel at the bottom left featuring:
 - A search bar labeled 'Search Sites'.
 - 'Group sites by' set to 'ZONE'.
 - 'Group links by' set to 'BAND'.
 - 'Visual Indicators' section with several 'Off' toggle switches for:
 - Duplex(H/L) conflict
 - Site height (m) (with a value of 0)
 - Availability < (%) (with a value of 99.999)
 - Link traffic > (%) (with a value of 80)
 - Show AFR pairs
 - 'Set link style' set to 'BAND'.
 - 'Set site style' set to 'TYPE'.
- Network map:** The main central area showing a satellite map with a network overlay. A central site is marked with a red circle and labeled 'GY564'. Other sites are marked with green circles and labeled 'GY151', 'GY044', and 'GY155'. A blue triangle marker is labeled 'GY574'. A location 'Gloonas cragh TI' is also visible. The map includes navigation controls and a status bar at the bottom showing 'Altitude 55 km'.

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 9 January 2024 15:08
To: Chris Stephenson, Vodafone (External) <chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com>
Cc: Sean Lyons, Vodafone <sean.lyons1@vodafone.com>; Siobhan Burke, Vodafone <siobhan.burke1@vodafone.com>; Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>; Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from msthren@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email: Be cautious about the sender email address, attachments and links. If uncertain use **Report Message** button.

Hi Chris,
Please find attached the kmz file.

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Chris Stephenson, Vodafone (External) <chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Sean Lyons, Vodafone <sean.lyons1@vodafone.com>; Siobhan Burke, Vodafone <siobhan.burke1@vodafone.com>; Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

You don't often get email from chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Malena,
Please can you forward on the KMZ file for this development.

Kind regards
Chris

From: Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 13:57
To: Chris Stephenson, Vodafone (External) <chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com>
Cc: Sean Lyons, Vodafone <sean.lyons1@vodafone.com>; Siobhan Burke, Vodafone <siobhan.burke1@vodafone.com>
Subject: FW: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Chris,

Can you take a look at this wind farm development and come back to Malena



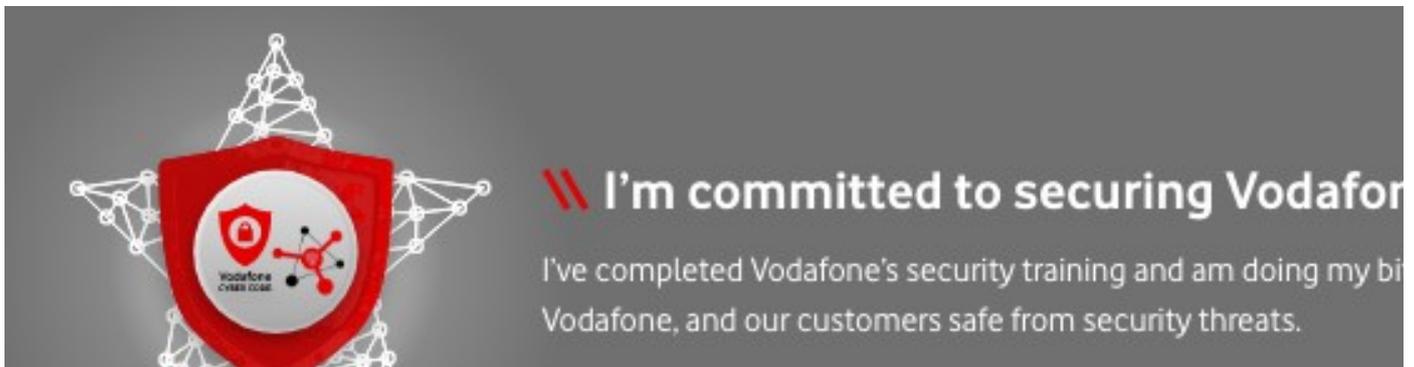
Gavin Byrne

Senior TX Planning & Design Engineer
Converged Transmission
+353 876448159
gavin.byrne@vodafone.com

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From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 15 December 2023 12:17
To: Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Cc: sean.lyons@vodafone.com; Chris Stephenson, Vodafone (External) <chris.stephenson2@vodafone.com>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Some people who received this message don't often get email from msthren@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mr. Byrne,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Malena Sara Thren

From: Sabine Browne <Sabine.Browne@waterwaysireland.org>
Sent: Thursday 21 December 2023 08:57
To: Malena Sara Thren
Subject: RE: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Good morning Malena,

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

Kind regards,

Sabine Browne

From: Malena Sara Thren <msthren@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Sabine Browne <Sabine.Browne@waterwaysireland.org>
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Ms Browne,

In 2020, we provided you with a cover letter and Scoping Document for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Malena Sara Thren

From: Malena Sara Thren
Sent: Wednesday 31 January 2024 14:30
To: 'info@westnet.ie'
Subject: 180740 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Western broadband.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2020, we completed a Scoping Exercise for Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway. We are undertaking a second round of scoping in relation to this Proposed Development.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Kind regards,
Malena

Kind regards,
Malena

Malena Sara Thren
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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From: [Roger Woods](#)
Sent: Monday 7 September 2020 08:52
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Subject: RE: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hi Owen

The BAI does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed windfarms are not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
2-5 Warrington Place
Dublin D02 XP29

Tel: 01 6441200
Fax: 01 6441299

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Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus is leis an duine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chuige/chuici a bhaineann siad. Muna duitse an ríomhphost seo, ní ceart é a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí. Iarrtar ort teachtaireacht a sheoladh chuig an seoltóir nó chuig info@bai.ie, agus an ríomhphost seo a scrios.

From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 4 September 2020 15:20
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>
Subject: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Mr. Woods,

Please find attached a cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv

Environmental Engineer

MKO

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Ireland, H91 VW84

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From: [Owen Cahill](#)
Sent: Wednesday 21 October 2020 09:57
To: [Environmental Co-ordination \(Inbox\)](#)
Subject: RE: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hi Breeda,

Thank you for your email and apologies for my delayed response.

Regarding your request for a copy of the Constraints Study and EIAR when available, we anticipate the EIAR will be available sometime within Q1 of 2021. I will note to issue your department with an electronic copy on a CD if that is acceptable.

We are in the midst of updating and complete our constraints study which will be available before the end of the year. I will forward a copy of our constraints map for the area once complete.

As regarding a landscaping plan and offsetting the loss of hedgerows, we have yet to make a determination on the scale of hedgerow loss, if any. Again, detailed design and completion of the final stages of our ecological site walkover will inform this. Any mitigation or proposals to offset any losses will be set out in the Biodiversity and Landscape sections of our EIAR.

I note your recommendation to make contact with LAWPRO. Thank you for this also. I will issue our Scoping Document and await their input. We will take account of any feedback received with our Hydrology and Hydrogeology section of the EIAR

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
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From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 16 September 2020 11:28
To: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: FW: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

From: Ryan, Niall
Sent: 15 September 2020 11:43
To: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)
Cc: Leonard, Robert; Sheridan, Alan; Heaslip, Colin
Subject: RE: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hi Owen,

Initial comments below, we can provide additional comments when the more substantive assessments detailed in the scoping document have been completed:

- DAFM requests a copy of the Constraints Study and EIAR when available.
- Has a landscaping plan been included to offset the loss of hedgerow and other semi-natural habitats providing connectivity to the wider environment as part of the operational phase?
- DAFM suggests consultation with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) Galway Office regarding watercourse features and catchment-level quality factors as a result of the project.

Regards,
Breda
Climate Change Division Portlaoise

From: Owen Cahill [<mailto:ocahill@mkoireland.ie>]
Sent: 04 September 2020 15:27
To: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)
Subject: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Regards,

Owen Cahill

Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
Environmental Engineer
MKO



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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-agmaigh 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.

12th November 2020

Owen Cahill,
Environmental Engineer,
MKO,
Tuam Road,
Galway,
H91 VW84.

Your Ref: 180740

Re: E.I.A. Scoping Document for the CLONBERNE Wind Farm Development in the townlands of Clonberne, Clonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Gortagarraun, Kilmurry, & Killavoher, Co. Galway.

Dear Mr Cahill,

The following are the comments from this Division 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 License 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/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-eia-publicconsultation-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-2020-register-of-decisions/>

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

2. 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.

Yours sincerely,

Joe O'Donnell
Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford



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

Your Ref: Clonberne Windfarm
Our Ref: **G Pre00177/2020**
(Please quote in all related correspondence)
12/11/20

MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84
Via email ocahill@mkoireland.ie

Re: Clonberne Windfarm

A chara

I refer to correspondence to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 04/09/2020 received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading(s).

Nature Conservation

The Department refers to your correspondence on the 2nd Sept. 2020 and your request for observations on the preparation of the EIAR and NIS for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm development, Co. Galway, on behalf of Clonberne Windfarm Ltd.

This submission is 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 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. The Department notes that McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) have stated that the finalised layouts may be subject to amendment therefore the Department's comments should be viewed in the context of the information provided in the EIAR scoping report. The Department reserves the right to comment further should there be significant amendments to the proposed layout.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service website has been updated and should be consulted with regard to the impact of planning and development on nature conservation. The following link gives extensive details on the standards and content NPWS expect from applications: <https://www.npws.ie/development%20consultations>.

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



Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

Ecological survey

With regard to scoping for an EIAR for a proposed development, in order to assess impacts on biodiversity, fauna, flora and habitats an ecological survey should be carried out of the proposed development site including the route of any access roads, pipelines or cables, connections to the grid etc. to survey the habitats and species present. Any improvement or reinforcement works required for access and transport anywhere along any proposed haul route(s) should be included in the EIAR and subjected to ecological impact assessment with the inclusion of mitigation measures, as appropriate. Where bridges require strengthening this may involve grouting of crevices which may function as bat roosts. 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. 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. Alternatives examined should also be included in the EIAR.

Specific reference should be made to the National Biodiversity Action Plan. Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development (including access roads and cabling etc.) such as wetland, woodland, scrub, hedgerows and other habitats should be mitigated for. In addition, Annex I habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are also important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats 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.

In order to assess impacts it may be necessary to obtain hydrological and/or geological data. 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.

Hedgerows, Scrub and related habitats

Hedgerows and tree lines should be maintained where possible, as they form wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in; hedgerow trees 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 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 and trees 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.

It should also be noted that areas of uncultivated ground, peatland or wetland can be important sites for nesting birds any proposed clearance of vegetation in these areas should not occur during the bird nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st), noting the protection afforded under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018.

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 otters (*Lutra lutra*) which are protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive, salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Lamprey (three species in Ireland) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Freshwater Pearl Mussels (*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). 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). 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.

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.

Bats

Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. All bat species are strictly protected under EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 and listed on Annex IV of Habitats Directive. Bat roosts can only be disturbed and/or destroyed under licence issued under the Wildlife Act and a derogation under the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011. 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. The Department would like to highlight new survey research on patterns of bat activity in upland wind farms¹ which indicates it is more appropriate to use 30 day survey periods with static automated detectors, in each season, and in different weather conditions to reduce sampling bias and to accurately determine when the curtailment mitigation is required during the operational phase. This survey should include use of detectors at different heights. Any proposed migratory bat friendly lighting should be proven to be effective and follow up to date guidance.

Alien invasive species

The EIAR should also address the issue of invasive alien plant and animal species such as Japanese Knotweed or Crayfish plague, 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/>.

Bird surveys

Survey methodologies should follow best practice and if necessary be modified to reflect the Irish situation. Two full years of bird surveys is normally considered to be necessary. When survey results are being presented in an EIAR it is important that best practice is followed and that the full survey methodologies used, are detailed, including dates and times. Furthermore, it is expected that bird survey data should be presented in context and records should be supported by basic environmental data such as hourly estimates of visibility, glare arcs, cloud cover and precipitation during vantage point and walk over survey periods. 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. It is important that bird migration routes (day and night) are assessed as well as the flight lines (day and night) of bird species travelling between roosting and feeding areas. Limitations in guidance documentation, used in the analysis and discussion of results from any bird surveys, should be acknowledged, e.g. species that are covered by the guidance, data gaps and application to the Irish environment.

Surveys should be designed to also include an assessment of improved agricultural lands. These types of intensified landscape features have the potential to provide feeding habitat and attract wintering wildfowl species (e.g. whooper swan and GWF Goose).

¹ <https://cieem.net/resource/cieem-webinar-patterns-of-bat-activity-at-upland-windfarms-implications-for-sampling-and-mitigation/>



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).
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the EC Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 EC).

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

- Natural Heritage Areas.
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas.
- Nature Reserves.
- Refuges for Fauna or Flora designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018.
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts including protected flora (Flora Protection Order 2018).

'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.
- Biodiversity in general.

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. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate that CMPs and other such plans are adequate, mitigation is 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 Management Plans

Construction Management Plans 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. There can be no doubts or lacunae regarding what is required for mitigation, pre-commencement surveys and or licencing requirements.

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. See EIAR; Flood Plains for details with regard to flooding risk.

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" 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 that may be used within their assessment. Should the exact height and rotor diameter of the turbines not be known at EIAR stage then the assessment of impacts must be applicable to a variety of turbine heights and rotor diameters which could be used. This should be made clear in the EIAR.

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.

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.

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 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. A 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 again 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

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 and otters are **strictly** protected under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. 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.

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 1st to August 31st).

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. 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.

Baseline data

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), Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fisheriesireland.ie), BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie), Irish Raptor Study Group, Golden Eagle Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org). Data may also exist at a County level within the Planning Authority. Some guidance and reference documents are provided in the Appendix to this letter.

To note that the local ESB offices may be able to provide useful information with regard to collision / strikes of birds to power lines in the locality.

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. 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 boundaries² 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>.

² <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data>



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:

- “*Wind energy developments and Natura 2000*”³
- “*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*”⁴;
- 2018 Commission notice “*Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC*”⁵

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

Site Specific observations:

The Department notes that the proposed development site contains a number of peatland habitats that could correspond to Annex I habitats, notably Active Raised Bog (Code 7110), Degraded Raised Bog still capable of natural regeneration (7120) and Depressions on Peat Substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150). Potential loss of these habitats should be considered in light of their ecological significance and importance as wetland habitats and the associated environmental services that they provide with regard to waterflow / flood regulation.

The Department recommends a detailed hydrological assessment is carried out in terms of the potential impacts arising from the proposed development on Natura 2000, notably Lough Corrib SAC 000297 which has direct hydrological links as well as other Natura sites, NHAs and pNHAs within the zone of influence; noting that designated sites at some distance can be intrinsically linked and supported by the surrounding habitats (e.g. agricultural fields) and hydrological processes.

It is also noted that the site has potential for a number of protected species notably Marsh Fritillary due to the presence of its food plant Devil’s-bit Scabious, *Succisa pratensis* along much of the road network and within the peatland areas. The site also has potential for a number of ground nesting birds such as Curlew and Red Grouse, and for raptor species such as Merlin.

The Department advise that pre – consent ground investigations, data gathering infrastructure or testing that take place in a location that may affect an ecological feature (e.g.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind_farms.pdf

⁴

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf

⁵

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/Provisions_Art_6_nov_2018_en.pdf



NHAs/ pNHA's and European sites SACs and SPAs), may require consent (i.e. are not exempted development) from the planning authority and or the Ministers consent from NPWS/ DHPLG.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@chg.gov.ie, or to the following address:

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

Is mise, le meas

Connor Rooney
Development Applications Unit



Appendix – Additional Guidance and References

1. The Departmental Wind Energy Planning Guidelines
2. Windfarms on Peatland (2008-2010) Mires and Peat volume 4.
3. Best Practice guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping by George F Smith, Paul O'Donoghue, Katie O'Hora and Eamon Delaney, 2011. The Heritage Council.
4. Pearce-Higgins, James W., Stephen, Leigh, Langston, Rowena H. W., Bainbridge, Ian P. and Bullman. Rhys (2009). "The distribution of breeding birds around upland wind farms". *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 46, p1323-1331.
5. Johnson, Gregory D. and Arnett Edward 8. "A Bibliography of Bat Fatality Activity and Interactions with Wind Turbines" (June 2004 updated February 2010) Bat Conservation International.
6. Pearce-Higgins, James W., Stephen, Leigh, Douse, Andy, and Langston, Rowena H. W. (2012). "Greater impacts of wind farms on bird populations during construction than subsequent operation: results of a multisite and multi-species analysis". *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 49. p386-394.
7. Rodrigues, Let ai, (2014). "Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects". Eurobats Publication Series NO.6 UNEP and Eurobats.
8. The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment which is available on the NPWS web site at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities>
9. The EU Commission guidance entitled "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" which can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm
10. Bat Conservation Ireland (2012) Wind Turbine/Wind Farm Development Bat Survey Guidelines. Version 2.8, December 2012.
11. Drewitt, Allan Land Longston Rowena H. W. (2006) "Assessing the impacts of wind farms on birds". *Ibis* 148. p29-42.
12. <https://cieem.net/resource/cieem-webinar-patterns-of-bat-activity-at-upland-windfarms-implications-for-sampling-and-mitigation/>
13. May R, Nygård T, Falkdalen U, Åström J, Hamre Ø, Stokke BG. Paint it black: Efficacy of increased wind turbine rotor blade visibility to reduce avian fatalities. *Ecol Evol*. 2020;00:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6592>



NPWS Circular Letters (available from www.npws.ie)

14. Circular Letter NPWS 2/07: *Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Regulations 1997 – Strict Protection of Certain Species/Derogation Licences.*
(It should be noted however that the Regulations of 1997 have since been revoked and that Part 6 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 is now the relevant part dealing with the protection of flora and fauna. In particular reference to Regulation 23 in the circular letter should be taken to mean Regulation 51 in the current Regulations.)
15. Circular Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07: *Compliance Conditions in respect of Developments requiring (1) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); or (2) having potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites*
16. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10: *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: guidance for Planning Authorities*

From: [PropertyManagementPlanning](#)
Sent: Monday 7 September 2020 14:25
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Cc: [Gareth OFlaherty](#); [Don Watchorn](#)
Subject: RE: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Hello Owen

Thank you for this request. I will revert with observations/no observations.

*Kind Regards,
Raymond*

Raymond Myles

Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta

Department of Defence

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

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

T +353 (0)45 492036

raymond.myles@defence.ie

From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: 04 September 2020 15:46
To: PropertyManagementPlanning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Subject: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv

Environmental Engineer

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From: [TRAYNOR Jacqui](#)
Sent: Thursday 17 December 2020 13:25
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Subject: Clonberne Wind Farm
Attachments: 20201217 Clonberne Windfarm Do response.docx

Dear Mr. Cahill,

Please find attached response from Department of Transport in relation to your correspondence
Ref: 180740

Regards
Jacqui

Jacqui Traynor
Reform Communications Emergency Planning

An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

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

T +353 (0)1 604 1177
Jacquitraylor@transport.gov.ie www.transport.gov.ie

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.

Tá ár Ráiteas Príobháideachta le fáil ar www.transport.gov.ie

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Mr. Owen Cahill BSc MSc (ENV) CEnv
MKO

Tuam Road

Galway

H91 VW84

17th December 2020

Your Ref: 180740

Dear Mr. Cahill,

The Department of Transport refers to your letter of 2nd September 2020 regarding the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm, Galway.

In view of the need to protect the resilience of the public road network in the context of climate change pressures, it is considered that the EIAR for the scheme should include information on what impact the proposed development may have on the public road network both during construction and in the longer term. The EIAR should indicate whether it is proposed to use public roads to connect the windfarm to the grid and if that is the case specify the extent of the works required including drainage, diversions, relocation of services and road re-instatement. The EIAR should also address the future maintenance requirements related to the installation of the cables in public roads and the cost implications for the relevant local authority. Consideration should also be given to how cabling needs to be organised and, where a number of cables are envisaged from existing, approved and proposed developments, rationalised into one cable or a group of cables in one trench in order to minimise the impacts on the road network and the environment along the road boundary (hedgerows). In addition the EIAR should consider the possibility of over-ground solutions for the transmission of electricity as an alternative.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Traynor

Reform Communications & Emergency Planning

Department of Transport

From: [planning_applications](#)
Sent: Monday 14 September 2020 08:46
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Subject: RE: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

Hi Owen,

Thank you for your e-mail and Scoping Letter.

Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIS, which we recommend should be taken into account in preparing the EIAR. 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.

Kind Regards

Shane Dineen

Environment & Planning Manager - Activities | Fáilte Ireland

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From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Friday 4 September 2020 16:00

To: [planning_applications](#) <planning_applications@failteireland.ie>

Subject: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

[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.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Regards,

Owen Cahill



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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.

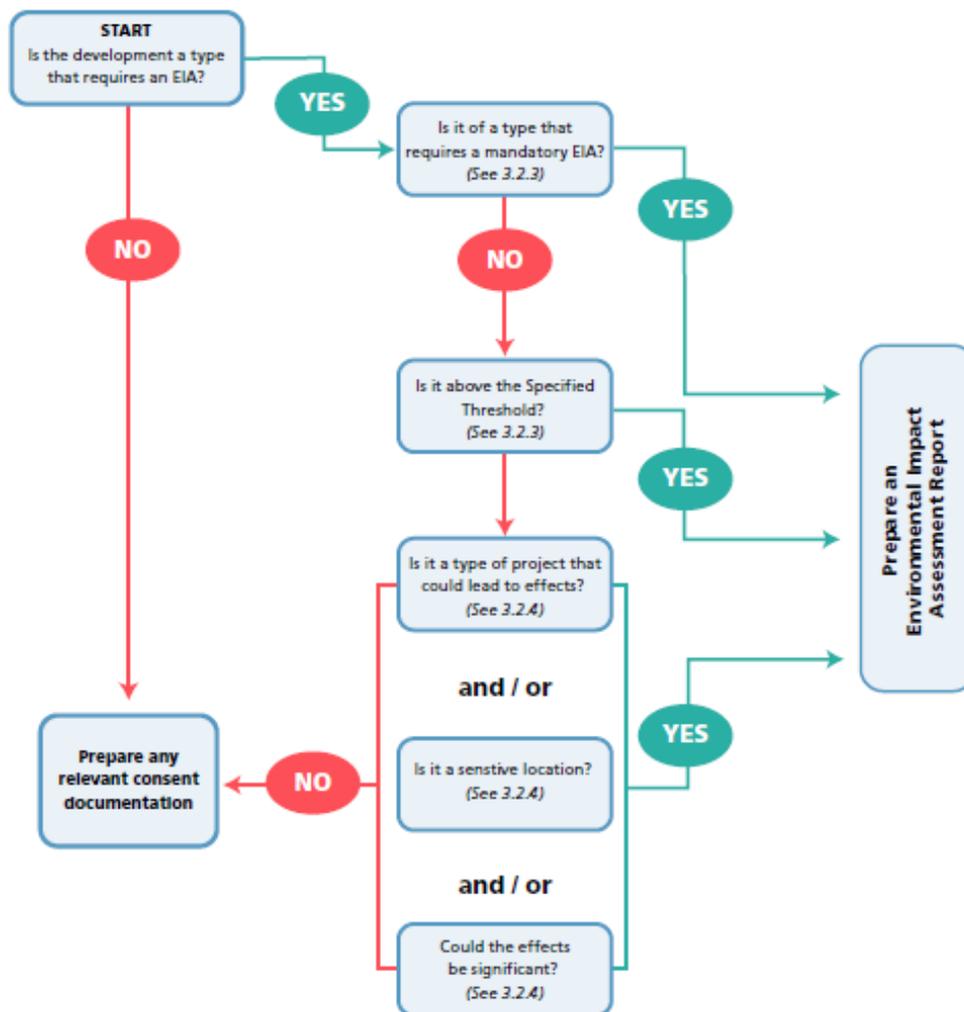
Screening

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.

From: [Trish Smullen](#)
Sent: Friday 2 October 2020 10:35
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Cc: [Clare Glanville](#); [John Butler](#)
Subject: 20/219 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Co Galway
Attachments: 20_219 Clonberne Wind Farm Development Co. Galway.pdf

Re: EIA Scoping Document for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development, in the townlands of Clonberne, Cloonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Gortagarraun, Kilmurry, and Killavoher Co. Galway

Your Ref: 180740
Our Ref: 20/219

Dear Mr. Cahill,

With reference to your letter dated 02 September 2020, concerning the EIA Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development, please find response attached from Geological Survey Ireland.

If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me (Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie), or my colleague Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,
Trish Smullen

From: John Butler
Sent: 04 September 2020 16:05
To: Clare Glanville; Sophie O'Connor; Brian McConnell; Monica Lee; Taly Hunter Williams; Sean Cullen; Charise McKeon; Jim Hodgson; Eoin McGrath; Trish Smullen
Subject: EIS 20/219 - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Co Galway
[EIS 20/219 Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Co Galway. Request for observations by McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. Letter and document are enclosed.](#)
Regards,
John

From: Owen Cahill [mailto:ocahill@mkoireland.ie]
Sent: 04 September 2020 16:01
To: John Butler
Subject: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

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.

Dear Mr. Butler,
Please find attached a cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.
As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Regards,

Owen Cahill



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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.



Owen Cahill
MKO
Tuam Road
Galway H91 VW84

02 October 2020

Re: EIA Scoping Document for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development, in the townlands of Clonberne, Cloonarkan, Lomaunaghroe, Gortagarraun, Kilmurry, and Killavoher Co. Galway

Your Ref: 180740

Our Ref: 20/219

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and has datasets including Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources, Geohazards and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our [website](#) for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.

Dear Owen,

With reference to your letter dated 02 September 2020, concerning the EIA Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Geological Survey Ireland (a division of Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment) would like to make the following comments.

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) 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 (CGS), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan are now 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 for Co. Galway was completed in 2019. The full report details can be found at [The Geological Heritage of Galway](#). **Our records show that there are CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm development.**

Gortgarrow Spring, Co. Galway (GR 157170, 259548), under IGH themes: IGH1 Karst, IGH16 Hydrogeology. Site Code: [GY065](#). This site comprises the water supply compound around a large karstic spring. A large spring was known historically at this locality at Gortgarrow, which has then been used as a water supply source for the last forty years. Four other relatively large springs also occur in the vicinity of the site.

Park Esker, Co. Galway (GR 159740, 259198), under IGH theme: IGH7 Quaternary. Site Code: [GY111](#). The Park Esker includes a number of high, sinuous ridge segments, which all form part of the same, small esker system.



Levally Lough, Co. Galway (GR 152941, 253453), under IGH themes: IGH1 Karst, IGH7 Quaternary. Site Code: [GY089](#). This site comprises a lake which is actually a turlough feature, but which empties only every few years, and not on an annual basis.

Derrynagran Bog and Esker, Co. Galway (GR 157903, 252148), under IGH theme: IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology. Site Code: [GY052](#). An impressive, high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge, and transition zone to bog.

With the current plan, there are no envisaged impacts on the integrity of current CGSs by the proposed development. However, if the proposed development plan is altered, please contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie) for further information and possible mitigation measures if applicable.

Groundwater

Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. It contains natural substances dissolved from the soils and rocks that it flows through, and can also be contaminated by human actions on the land surface. As a clean, but vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected.

Through our [Groundwater Programme](#), Geological Survey Ireland provides advice and maps to members of the public, consultancies and public bodies about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution. Geological Survey Ireland monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies.

With regard to Flood Risk Management, there is a need to identify areas for integrated constructed wetlands. We recommend using the GSI's National Aquifer, Vulnerability and Recharge maps on our [Map viewer](#) to this end. **The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (conduit)' underlies the wind farm 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.**

The GWflood project was a groundwater flood monitoring and mapping programme aimed at addressing the knowledge gaps surrounding groundwater flooding in Ireland and ran from 2016 to 2019. The project provides the data and analysis tools required by local and national authorities to make scientifically-informed decisions regarding groundwater flooding. **This is primarily focused on karst areas such as those located in Co. Galway, which may provide vital information to benefit the proposed wind farm development.** Monitoring of karst groundwater flooding in areas of lowland karst in counties Galway, Clare, Mayo, Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath commenced in October 2016. The report produced describes the implementation of a turlough monitoring network and the methodology used to produce the historic and predictive groundwater flood maps. **The flood maps and their accompanying report and guidance notes are available [here](#) and [here](#). For areas underlain by karst, we would advise the use of our Groundwater Flood map to take precedence over the other Groundwater maps. We recommend using our [GWflood](#) tools found under our programme activities (in conjunction with OPW data) to this end.**

There are groundwater drinking water abstractions for which there are zones of contribution/source protection areas: Gurteen Cloonmore Group Water Scheme, is located within the area of the proposed wind farm development. Additionally, Gallagher Group Water Scheme and Dunmore Glenamaddy water supply scheme are located close by.

Key to groundwater protection in general, and protection of specific drinking water supplies, is preventing ingress of runoff to the aquifer. Design of wind farm drainage will need to be cognisant of the group water scheme and the interactions between surface water and groundwater as well as run-off.



Appropriate design should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons to include mitigation measures as necessary, such as SUDs or other drainage mitigation measures.

Also, any excavation/cuttings required should ensure that groundwater flow within the zones of contribution to the groundwater abstraction points is not disrupted, resulting in diminished yields. Note that there could be other groundwater abstractions in the locality for which Geological Survey Ireland has not undertaken studies, and a robust assessment should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons.

Given the nearby drinking water sources (Group Water Scheme and numerous boreholes and domestic wells), the effects of any potential contamination / dewatering as a result of the wind farm development would need to be assessed.

With regards to Climate Change, there is a need to improve the monitoring capacity of groundwater levels in Ireland so that the potential impacts of climate change can be monitored and assessed. In this context the GSI has established the GWClimate project in January 2020. GWClimate will 1) establish a long-term strategic groundwater level monitoring network and 2) develop modelling and analytical approaches for evaluating the impacts of Climate Change to Irish groundwater systems. **Further information can be found on the Groundwater flooding [page](#) of the Groundwater Programme.**

Geological Mapping

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that is reliable, accessible and meets the requirements of all users including depth to bedrock and physiographic maps. These datasets include depth to bedrock data and subsoil classifications. **We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.**

Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides are the most prevalent of these hazards. **Landslides are common in areas of peat, areas which are found within the proposed development.** Geological Survey Ireland has information available on past landslides for viewing as a layer on our [Map Viewer](#). Geological Survey Ireland also engages in national projects such as Landslide Susceptibility Mapping and GWFlood Groundwater Flooding. 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. **We recommend that geohazards and particularly flooding be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.**

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

Geological Survey Ireland is of the view that the sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. Geological Survey Ireland highlights the consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process. 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](#). **We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. 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 development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities.**



Other Comments

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, Land Mapping Unit, at 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 (Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie), or my colleague Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen
Geoheritage Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

From: [Bernadette White](#)
Sent: Friday 20 November 2020 15:24
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Cc: [Conor Ruane](#); [Francis Deery](#)
Subject: RE: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping

Hi Owen,

Thank you for your email and information in relation to the proposed Clonberne Windfarm. The Local Authority Waters Programme are a shared service working with Local Authorities and State Agencies to implement the EU Water Framework Directive via the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021. We work along side 31 local authorities nationally, however we have no statutory role in consultations of this nature. Nevertheless, we are grateful to receive this information at such an early stage in the process. My colleagues Conor and Francis copied will review the scoping document and consult with Galway County Council, and we will revert in due course with any queries we may have.

At present, we are working within the Castlegar Priority Area for Action which lies just east of your development location, but if you have a shapefile which shows the footprint of the development, this would be helpful for us to compare against existing and future proposed Priority Areas for Action for water quality restoration under the river basin management plan.

In the interim, I would highly recommend that your aquatic ecologists working on the EIA, would consult with www.catchments.ie for the latest water quality status and risk information. This is the public facing repository for data and mapping for the Water Framework Directive and is a wealth of information. Please also note that a Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle of implementation of the WFD in Ireland, covering 2022 to 2027 is due to be published by the end of this year, or potentially in Q1 of 2021.

Kind Regards,
Bernie

**Dr Bernadette White | Catchments Manager Western Region
& Blue Dot Catchments Programme Manager**

**Local Authority Waters Programme
Clár Uiscí na nÚdarás Áitiúil**

 085 8030094

 bwhite@lawaters.ie



From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 20 November 2020 11:46

To: Conor Ruane <cruane@lawaters.ie>; Bernadette White <bwhite@lawsat.ie>
Subject: 180740 - Clonberne WF Scoping

Dear Conor & Bernadette,

I located your contact details from the LAWPRO website.

I have recently issued a scoping document in relation to a proposed Wind Farm development near Clonberne, Co. Galway. We contacted over 50 consultees requesting any feedback or observations regarding the project.

A copy of this scoping document may have already made its way to you through one of the statutory bodies we have consulted with i.e EPA, Dept Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Irish Water, Galway County Council etc.

However, in a response received from the Department of Agriculture, it was recommended consultation with the LAWPRO Galway Office regarding watercourse features and catchment-level quality factors as a result of the project.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

If there is any other member of LAWPRO that I should get in touch with I would appreciate if you could provide me with contact details.

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
Environmental Engineer

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From: [INFO](#)
Sent: Tuesday 29 September 2020 07:47
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Subject: EIA Scoping for the Clonberne Wind Farm Development, Co. Galway.
TII Ref: TII20-110849.

Dear Mr. Cahill,

Thank you for your email of 7 September 2020, regarding your EIAR preparation for the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants with respect to proposed developments. 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 the '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.

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 Roads Network.

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

- 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 conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the 'Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works').
- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, 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 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. 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 the TII's 'TTA Guidelines', which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.

- 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. Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant PPP Companies and MMarC Contractors may also be required. All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed, including abnormal weight load.
- In relation to cabling and potential connection routing, the scheme promoter should note locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals to safeguard proposed road schemes. 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, 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 and motorway 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 practise.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Dineen
Land Use Planner



Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street
Dublin D08 DK10

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From: [INFO](#)
Sent: Tuesday 13 October 2020 15:58
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Subject: EIA Scoping for the Clonberne Wind Farm. TII Ref: TII20-111389. Your Ref: 180740

Dear Mr. Cahill,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 2 September 2020, regarding the above.

The matter is receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Moore
Regulatory and Administration Executive



Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street
Dublin D08 DK10

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From: [Thomas Barry](#)
Sent: Tuesday 15 September 2020 07:02
To: [Owen Cahill](#)
Subject: RE: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Owen,

We anticipate no coverage problems with the development as proposed, can you ensure it also reviewed by eir.

Regards,
Tom

From: Owen Cahill [mailto:ocahill@mkoireland.ie]
Sent: Friday 4 September 2020 16:19
To: Thomas Barry
Subject: 191223-a - Scoping Document - Clonberne Wind Farm Development

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a cover letter and Scoping Document for the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm Development in Co. Galway.

As part of the scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments in relation to the Proposed Development.

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

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
Environmental Engineer

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