

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024



APPENDIX 2-1

SCOPING RESPONSES



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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23rd March 2023

Emily Lynch
MKO
Tuam Road,
Galway,
H91 VW84

Your ref: 220246

**RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Proposed Wind Farm Development -
Seskin Wind Farm.**

Ms Lynch,

I refer to your correspondence dated 21st December 2022 on the above matter.

Following a review of the content of the scoping document, a planning appraisal of the site, and having regard to the observations received from the Council's Internal Departments, Planning Authority wish to make the following comments and observations:

Grid Connection and Cumulative Impacts

You are advised to have regard to relevant case law stemming from the decision of the High Court in the judgement delivered for O'Grianna v. An Bord Pleanála (2014), namely the requirement for EIA to consider the cumulative impacts of the proposed turbines with the proposed grid connection. This follows that the proposed grid connection is an integral part of an entire wind farm project and therefore must be included in the EIAR when examining cumulative impacts. The aforesaid may have implications for the scope of the planning application and the extent of the proposed development for which permission will be sought. The 'Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines December 2019', recently issued by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government are further noted in this regard, which address the matter of grid connections in Section 2.7.4:

Under EU EIA guidance¹⁰, challenges in the EIA process are recognised for projects comprised of different elements which may be permitted at different stages, implemented by different parties and developed over a period of time.

Case law on this issue acknowledges that the requirements of the EIA Directive may be satisfied by multiple consents necessitated by the different stages in delivering a project. It should be noted that the EU courts have also stressed that the purpose of the Directive cannot be circumvented by the splitting of projects.

The Irish Courts have determined the need to assess such projects comprising both the wind energy development element and the subsequent grid connection element, as a single project for EIA purposes¹¹, and in particular their cumulative effects. This approach is reflected in Recital (22) and Annex II.A, Annex III and Annex IV to the 2011 EIA Directive as revised by the 2014 Directive¹². In addition, Recital (2), of the 2011 EIA Directive¹³ also emphasises that the importance of the effects on the environment should be taken into account at the earliest possible stage in all the technical planning and decision-making process.

In the context of EIA, best practice is that an integrated planning application is made for the whole project (i.e. the wind energy development and the grid connection and any other works which are ancillary to the development of the wind energy development) and that the EIAR submitted with the planning application addresses the cumulative impacts of the whole project.

It is acknowledged that an integrated application is not always possible, because of the distinction between power generation and transmission infrastructure from an energy regulatory framework perspective.

However, in order to ensure that the environmental issues arising in the overall project have been considered in an EIAR, and that neither project splitting nor its perception arises, wind energy development proposals must demonstrate that the effects on the environment of the whole project have been taken into account at the earliest possible stage in the technical planning and decision-making process and that issues arising from cumulative effects have been properly assessed.

The EIAR and planning application(s) for the wind energy development and the grid connection must address the direct effects and any short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative, indirect, secondary cumulative and transboundary effects of the whole project, i.e. the wind energy development and the grid connection.

EIAR : General Structure

The EIAR Report should address;

- Compliance with Schedule 6 requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and updated.
- Compliance with “Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports” (EPA, 2022).
- Consideration is required for the main alternatives, taking into account at least environmental effects, as set out in the relevant case law.

The details of the extent of scope of the assessment to be undertaken are noted as detailed in Section 6.2.4 and welcome. The following additional commentary should be considered and addressed and considered as appropriate.

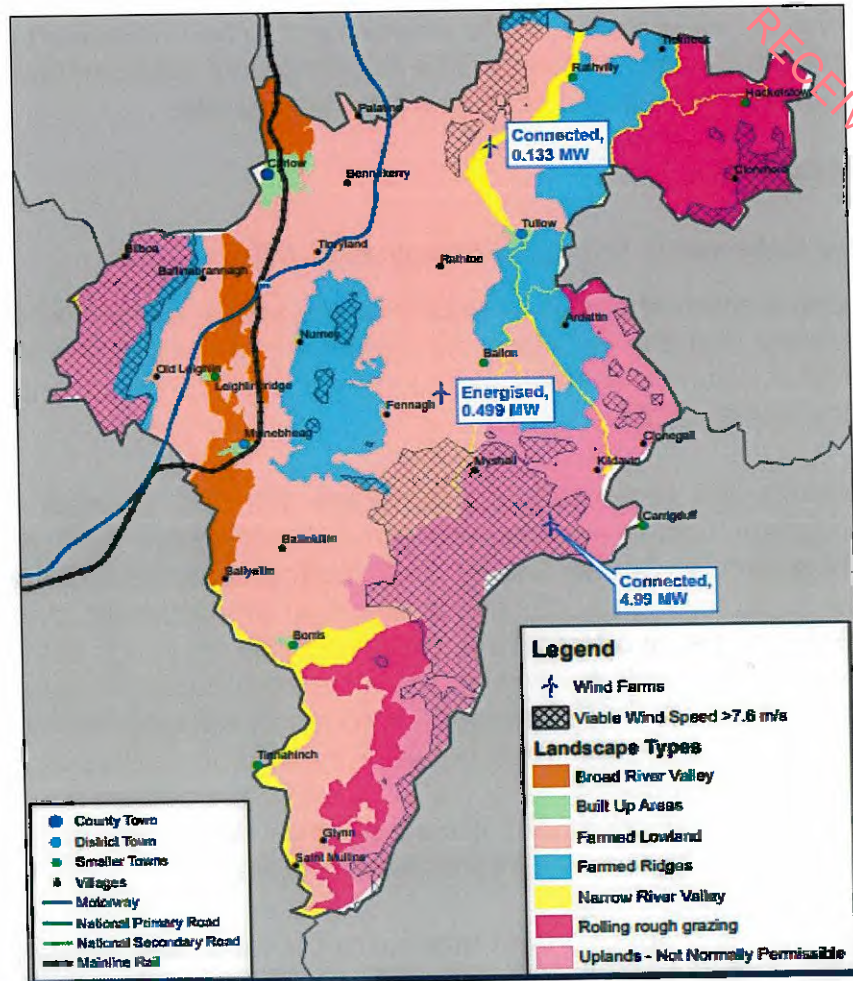
County Planning Policy

Carlow County Renewable Energy Strategy 2021 (RES)

The RES includes a comprehensive assessment and spatial evaluation of the County to identify the most suitable locations for renewable energy technologies, taking account of available natural resources, environmental considerations, impacts on local communities and quality of life.

Chapter 6 presents the renewable energy types with the greatest potential for realisation throughout County Carlow. Section 6.1 addresses wind energy which considers onshore wind in County Carlow, defining the resource and the associated energy conversion technologies, identifying potential development, and setting out policy and objectives to support wind energy developments, which can contribute to renewable energy targets while minimising any adverse impact on the environment. A technical and mapping exercise was carried out to identify the potential for wind energy (Fig 6.2). This mapping exercise does not take into account landscape and visual capacity constraints. The technical mapping exercise in and of itself does not support nor preclude wind energy development. It is a tool which flags areas of higher or lower concentrations / distance from various sensitive receptors.

Section 6.1.5.2 outlines a specific land use policy for wind farm developments with reference to the Landscape Types as defined in the Landscape Character Assessment. This section states *"The Landscape Character Areas were subject to a more detailed analysis to give recognition to specific landscape features through the further identification of Landscape Types. It is these specific features that often contain more significant and sensitive landscapes that are highly valued for scenery and amenity and include a number of protected views, prospects and scenic routes. This includes the 'Upland Landscape Type' of the LCA, where the elevated terrain is more visually sensitive and has the highest landscape sensitivity rating of 5, out of a rating of 1 to 5. Therefore windfarm development in more elevated 'Uplands' Landscape Types are designated 'not normally permissible'".* This is reflected in Map 6.4 of the Renewable Energy Strategy (hereunder).



Extract from RES- Figure 6.4 Wind Opportunity & Constraints (Local Land Use Policy)

Section 6.1.5.5 Potential Wind Resource Summary addresses utility scale wind resource in County Carlow. This identifies the opportunity for new wind farm development in County Carlow.

At a County level the RES includes a target of up to 130MW renewable electricity by 2030. Of this figure 100MW is anticipated from solar farm development with the remaining 30MW from wind energy development (existing installed capacity of 6MW, potential from permitted sites and extensions and repowering at 18MW with new wind farm development in lowland areas to accommodate 6MW – see Table 6.4 of the RES).

The objective and supporting policies in relation to wind energy are set out in Table 6.5. over the short (1 – 2 years), medium (2 – 6 years), and long term (6 – 10 years).

Name	Description	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term
Objective W1	Increase the penetration of wind energy generation in County Carlow at appropriate location and scale.	✓	✓	✓
Policy W1.1	Proposals for wind farm developments will be determined in accordance with National Wind Energy Development Guidelines and County Development Plan policy framework.	✓	✓	✓
Policy W1.2	Support the re-powering of existing wind farms when they come to the end of their operational life, and extensions to existing wind farms, subject to assessment on a case-by-case basis.		✓	✓
Policy W1.3	Support community led wind energy developments or developments with innovative models for community ownership.	✓	✓	✓

Extract from Renewable Energy Strategy- Table

The proposed development appears to be located in an area subject to a specific land use policy associated with upland areas as identified above.

The Carlow County Development Plan 2022- 2028

The Carlow County Development Plan 2022- 2028 (CPD) is the principle guiding document with respect to land use in the County and outlines the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Carlow.

The relevant Sections, Policies and Objectives of the CDP, which have significance to the proposed development are outlined below and have been informed as appropriate by the Renewable Energy Strategy as outlined above.

Chapter 7: Climate Action and Energy

Renewable Energy Policy

RE P1: *'Encourage and facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources, such as from wind, solar, bioenergy, hydroelectricity, and geothermal, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.'*

Renewable Energy Objective

RE O1: *'Seek to achieve a minimum of 130MW of renewable electricity in the County by 2030, by enabling renewable energy developments, and through micro-generation including rooftop solar, wind, hydro-electric and bioenergy combined heat and power (CHP).'*

Section 7.10.3.1: Wind Energy

Site suitability is an important factor in determining the suitability of wind farms, having regard to possible adverse impacts associated with, for example, residential amenities, landscape, including views and scenic routes, wildlife, habitats, designated sites, protected structures or bird migration paths, and compatibility with adjoining land uses. The Council is required to achieve a reasonable balance between responding to overall positive Government policy on renewable energy and enabling the wind energy resources of the County area to be harnessed in a manner that is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.

Wind Energy – Policies

It is the policy of the Council to:

WE P1: 'Have regard to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Energy Development (or any update to this document).'

WE P2: 'Support the re-powering of existing wind farms when they come to the end of their operational life, and extensions to existing wind farms, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.'

WE P3: 'Support community led wind energy developments or developments with innovative models for community ownership.'

WE P4: 'Wind farm development will not normally be permissible in the Uplands Landscape Type as shown in Figure 6 of the Carlow County Landscape Character Assessment included as Appendix VII to this Plan. This provision shall not apply to micro energy generation and community energy projects as provided for in Section 7.10.3.5, where deemed appropriate and subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.'

Wind Energy – Objective

It is an objective of the Council to:

WE O1: 'Increase the penetration of wind energy generation in County Carlow at appropriate locations and scale and subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.'

Chapter 9: Landscape and Green Infrastructure

The sensitivity of a landscape is the measure of its ability to accommodate change or intervention without suffering unacceptable effects to its character and values. The sensitivity of the landscapes of County Carlow varies and is thereby classified within the following sensitivity classes: Low, Moderate and High Sensitivity.

The LCA's were subject to a more detailed analysis to give recognition to specific landscape features. It is these specific features or Landscape Types that often contain more significant and sensitive landscapes that are highly valued for scenery and amenity. The application site is within an Uplands Landscape Character Type and has the highest sensitivity rating (5 on the matrix scale of 1-5) as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Appendix VI).

The pertinent landscape and green infrastructure policies with respect to the proposed development are outlined below;

LA P1: Protect and maintain the overall integrity of the County's landscape, by recognising its capacity to sustainably integrate and absorb appropriate development, and by ensuring that development protects, retains and, where necessary, enhances the appearance and character of the landscape, and does not unduly damage or detract from those features which contribute to its value, character, distinctiveness and sensitivity e.g. landform, habitats, scenic quality, settlement pattern, historic heritage, amenity, land use and tranquillity.

LAP 2: Ensure that development will not have a disproportionate landscape or visual impact in sensitive upland areas of the County (due to siting, layout, design or excessive scale, height and bulk) and will not significantly interfere with or detract from scenic upland vistas when viewed from the surrounding environment, including nearby areas, scenic views and routes and from settlements.

LA P3: Adopt a presumption against developments which are located on elevated or visually exposed sites or areas with open exposed vistas, and where the landscape cannot accommodate such development with appropriate mitigation.

LA P4: Ensure that developments on steep slopes or ridges will not be conspicuous or have disproportionate landscape or visual impacts when viewed from the surrounding environment, including from nearby areas, scenic views and routes, and from settlements.

LA P7: Facilitate, where appropriate, developments that have a functional and locational requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoir, telecommunication masts or wind energy structures) where residual adverse visual impacts are minimised or mitigated.

LA P8: Require, where appropriate, Landscape/Visual Impact Assessments to be prepared by suitably qualified professionals, for development proposals which may have significant landscape or visual impacts, and/or which are located within or adjacent to sensitive landscapes.

The relevant objectives are as follows;

LA. 02: Ensure landscape/visual impact assessment will be a key consideration in the assessment of development proposals within the County.

Gl. P6: Require proposals for large scale developments such as road or drainage schemes, wind farms, solar farms, residential schemes, industrial parks or retail schemes, to submit a green infrastructure plan as an integral part of a planning application.

In terms of protected views and prospects, these are indicated on Map 9.4 and listed in Table 9.3 of the CPD. LA P2 and LAP 4 as outlined above are of relevance together with additional objectives and policies as follows:

LA P11: Protect and preserve the established appearance and aesthetic attributes of views and prospects that contribute to the inherent quality of the County's landscape, including views, prospects and scenic routes listed in Tables 9.3 and 9.4 , and particularly views to and from mountains, hills, river valleys and river corridors, and views of historical or cultural value (including buildings and townscapes) and views of natural beauty.

LA. O1: Ensure that the management and assessment of development throughout the County takes account of the recommendations and assigned Landscape Character Areas, Landscape Types, and Landscape Sensitivity, and the Schedule of Views,

Prospects and Scenic Routes, as contained in this Plan, and in accordance with Government Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and the National Landscape Strategy.

Of the protected views listed in Table 9.3, two are of particular importance with respect to the proposed development. These are listed below:

- View Point 31- Vista east, panorama across central plain to Blackstairs-Ridge Cross
- View Point 32 Vista east, panorama from Killeshin Hills across central plain to Blackstairs- Tuolscreen Cross

Map 9.5 of the CDP illustrates the designated scenic routes throughout County Carlow. Designated scenic routes proximate to the development of note comprise:

Scenic Route 6: L7123-0 at Ridge Cross Roads running northeast towards Seskinrea - views of the Central Plain.

Scenic Route 7: L3037-11 from Ridge Cross Roads running north to the Butts Cross Roads- views of the Central Plain.

Scenic Route 8: L7130-26 at Tomard Wood – panorama to southeast.

Scenic Route 9: L3041-19 at Tomard Lower – panorama across central plain.

The potential for impact on this sensitive landscape including scenic views and prospects requires careful consideration in the context of stated policies which acknowledge the importance of protecting such assets.

- The assessment of landscape and visual impacts should take account of Carlow County Landscape Character Assessment and Schedule of Protected Views and prospects and scenic routes. On the basis of the landscape character assessment and associated mapping, the site is located in the Killeshin Hills landscape character area. The landscape type in which the site is located is identified as Uplands, where a high level of visibility can occur, and for which a landscape sensitivity of 5 (from 1 to 5) is listed.
- The Killeshin Hills is listed as an area as almost entirely a rural agricultural landscape with a moderate level of sensitivity and moderate potential capacity to absorb different types of development. The Killeshin Hills on its east facing slopes enjoy sweeping panoramic views over most of the County which should be protected from inappropriate development. The potential for the proposed development to impact negatively on these panoramic vistas needs to be assessed in detail. Combined visual impacts with existing, permitted and proposed wind farm developments in the area will also need to form part of this assessment.
- There are a number public roads proximate to the site, meaning that the proposed development will be able to be seen at closer distances, which can lead to the amplification of visual impacts.

- Views from individual residential properties in the area should be taken into account.
- Note the use of wide angle views in proposed photomontages tend to make images of proposed wind turbines in the landscape appear smaller as they occupy less of the area of the image. The use of photomontages should therefore be cognisant of what a member of the public would likely see and perceive in terms of what a photograph from a normal camera would show.
- Photomontages should detail existing and permitted wind farm developments in the study area.
- Consideration should be given to landscaping and replanting proposals to mitigate potential visual impacts.
- The proposed siting and design must be able to demonstrate that the integrity of the landscape character area will be maintained.

Natural Heritage

The assessment of the existing and proposed development, in respect of the content of both EIA and Appropriate Assessment, needs to consider the following:

- The proximity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC boundary to the proposed site to the north/northeast of the site.
- Existing watercourses that traverse the proposed site, which are hydrologically connected to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.
- Field studies should be carried out at optimal survey times and be supported by an Ecological Report.
- Fields studies should examine the potential for biodiversity within the proposed site, including habitats for protected species.
- The extent of clearfelling to facilitate the proposed development should be clearly detailed.
- Information should be provided regarding the protection of retained ecological features, in particular the protection of trees and hedgerows during on-site construction activities.
- Consideration should be given to a tree replanting proposal to compensate for the loss of trees and to mitigate ecological impacts.

In relation to the Appropriate Assessment, you are advised to have regard to the following:

- Must clearly identify all European Sites potentially impacted by the proposed development and explain the basis on which these have been identified in a way that makes it clear that there is no scientific doubt that there could be adverse

effects on the integrity of any other European sites (ecological or hydrological corridors).

- Must clearly explain why each of the identified European sites have been designated.
- Must clearly identify the conservation objectives for each European site (by reference to NPWS published data).
- Must clearly set out all relevant and available data in relation to each qualifying interest including all documentary sources available.
- Must set out all investigations and examinations that have been carried out.
- Must be apparent that regard has been had to the best scientific knowledge.
- Must contain a detailed analysis and evaluation of all available data with no lacunae or gaps.
- Must identify and analyse, in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field, all aspects of the proposed development which can, by itself or in combination with other projects or plans, affect the European Sites in the light of its conservation objectives. That analysis should distinguish between temporary and permanent impacts and address the impacts on the flora, fauna and habitats for which the site was designated and the impacts on the conservation objectives for the site.
- Must identify mitigation measures which will reduce impacts on the European Site and specify precisely how they will be implemented and why they will be effective. There cannot be any scientific doubt about the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and it will not be acceptable to say that these will be developed post-consent.
- Must contain clear, precise and definitive findings as to what the residual impacts will be on the European Site.
- Complete project details including a construction environmental management plans (CEMP) needs to be provided in order to allow an adequate appropriate assessment to be undertaken. It should be demonstrated that the CEMP and other such plans are adequate and effective mitigation, supported by scientific information and analysis, and that they are feasible within the physical constraints of the proposed site. The CEMP should also include methods to ensure invasive alien species are not introduced or spread.
- The positions, locations and sizes of construction infrastructure and mitigation, such as settlement ponds, disposal sites and construction compounds, borrow pits, may significantly affect European sites, 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..

Archaeological Heritage

- There are a number of recorded monuments in the general area it is advisable to consult with the Development Applications Unit, Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage to determine whether an Archaeological Impact Assessment is required given the proximity to same and the overall large-scale nature of this proposed development site.

Impacts on Residential Amenity and Adjoining Land Uses

- Potential impacts on residential properties and on existing adjoining land uses should be examined and assessed. Proximity to (inter alia) proposed turbines, site entrance(s), access roads, grid connection route, and other site infrastructure should be considered in detail.
- The assessment of impacts on residential amenity and other sensitive land uses in the area should be accompanied by accurate mapping of all such properties clearly identifying the distance to same.
- Consideration should be given to the mapping of shadow flicker results and overlapping this with mapping for dwellings. This would be beneficial to clarify potential impacts as identified and assessed in text.

Land & Soil

A Geological Report should be done (include slope stability assessment).

Noise, Vibration and Dust

- Suitably scaled mapping should be provided which accurately identifies existing and proposed noise and dust monitoring stations relative to sensitive receptors.
- The assessment of noise impacts needs to consider noise generated from construction activities and operational noise e.g. rotating turbine noise and blade swish noise.
- Noise associated with the construction of access roads and cable routes should be assessed, and should include restrictions on the hours of operation to prevent noise nuisance at dwellings and other adjoining land uses/sensitive locations.

Flora and Fauna

The existing site and proposed site should be surveyed for invasive species and recommendations for control measures made as part of EIAR, and in an invasive species management plan.

Water Quality

Geological Survey and EPA mapping should be referred to regarding potential surface water and groundwater vulnerability in the area.

Water: Consideration of impacts on water supplies should be included.

Surface Water Drainage

- A detailed survey of all existing and proposed on site drainage should be provided, clearly identifying where all on site water drains will discharge to and how drainage will be maintained.

- Detailed drainage design must be shown on the submitted plans.

Traffic and Transportation

The assessment of traffic and transportation issues should take account of the following:

- The provision of a traffic impact assessment for the construction phase.
- Details of the anticipated traffic types and volumes for the development should be provided and assessed, and broken down in daily, weekly and monthly figures. Details should also include expected peak site traffic, day to day hours and duration.
- Proposed access route(s) for turbine delivery should be clearly identified on suitably scaled maps. Access routes should seek to predominantly utilise main roads, and therefore minimise the use of and impacts on county and local roads.
- Potential traffic impacts from HGVs negotiating built up areas should be considered, as well as the feasibility of avoiding routing HGV traffic through such locations.
- Full design details for the entrance(s) to the site should be provided to demonstrate adequate turning movements for HGVs and sightlines. Accommodation works on third party lands must have written agreement of third party landowners.
- A swept path analysis should be carried for the proposed turbine delivery route(s).
- Estimated load of turbine components should be provided.
- All structures on the proposed access route(s) to the site should be evaluated for ability to carry respective weights of transportation vehicles and turbines i.e. including width and structural capacity of proposed access routes. The three roads , L-30372, L-7123 and L-7127 are small rural roads that are not suitable for the volumes of heavy trucks and lorries that will be required for the proposed works
- A preconstruction and post construction condition survey of the public roads from which the site is proposed to be accessed should be carried out.
- Proposals to upgrade a road or structure where it is shown to be structurally unsuitable should be provided.
- Funding to be made available to carry out remedial works to these roads post construction.
- Construction Management Plan / Traffic Management Plans.
- Alternative route and options where Road Closures will come into play.
- Proposals for maintaining adjoining roads free of muck and debris during construction are required.

Environment Department Comments

The Environment Department has outlined a number of specific requirements regarding the content of Ecological Surveys, Ground and Habitat Surveys, design response, in-combination effects together with the requirement for consultation as follows:

Ecological Surveys:

1. Volant Species mortality risk and impact risk assessment:
 - a. Surveys to existing residents (birds & bats) to assess:
 - i. Collision risk
 - ii. Habitat risk (loss, fragmentation etc.)
 - iii. Migratory impact
 - b. Multi-seasonal surveys to:
 - i. identify local, breeding and migrant populations.
 - ii. assess breeding and foraging impact risk to birds & bats
 - iii. to inform mitigation studies regarding the minimisation of development impact on birds & bats.
2. Mammal and species:
 - a. Multi-seasonal surveys to:
 - i. identify resident and breeding mammal species
 - ii. identify any habitat risks (loss, fragmentation etc.)
 - iii. inform mitigation studies regarding the minimisation of development impact on mammals.
3. Aquatic species:
 - a. Multi-seasonal surveys to:
 - i. identify local, breeding species of fish and amphibians.
 - ii. inform mitigation studies regarding the minimisation of development impact on aquatic species.
4. Insects and reptile species:
 - a. Multi-seasonal surveys to:
 - i. identify local foraging and breeding insect species and the respective flora on which they are dependent. (nesting, nourishment and larva support)
 - ii. inform mitigation studies regarding the minimisation of development impact on aquatic species.
5. Flora:
 - a. Multi-seasonal surveys to:
 - i. identify any protected species.
 - ii. to inform mitigation studies regarding the minimisation of development impact on flora.
 - iii. Identify any invasive species
6. Proposals to mitigate the above ecological impacts and disparate risks.

Ground & Habitat Surveys:

1. Surveys to

- a. identify development site and local adjoining habitats including any degraded habitats.
- b. identify development site habitats suitable for restoration (peat land rewetting etc.).
- c. establish ground stability.
- d. identify land slippage risk due to the development works.
- e. Inform any proposals to works intended to provide positive impacts to the local ecology.
- f. Identify risks and Inform mitigation measures to prevent any negative impact to local watercourses and protected sites.
2. Tree felling operations: and maintenance plan aimed at ensuring minimum relevant bird/bat mortality by providing appropriate corridors and avoiding foraging within the strike distance of the wind turbine impeller. Landscaping plans should be sympathetic to providing a positive impact on the local diversity while minimising bird/bat mortality.
3. Replant lands assessment
4. Tourism impact statement

Embedded Design:

- Study to select most optimal design to minimise all risks to mammal, bird and aquatic species.
- Design response to Shadow Flicker report
- Design response to Noise & Vibration impact analysis report
- Design response to Electro-magnetic Interference report
- Design response to Television and Communication Signals report including consultation with the various radio, television, internet etc. signal generator bodies. (Broadcasting Authority Ireland, BT Communications Ireland, Enet, EirGrid, Imagine Networks Services Ltd., Department of Environment, Climate and Communications etc. etc.)
- Design response to Hydrology and Hydrogeology reports.,
- Design response to Appropriate Assessment process reports.
- Design response to Biodiversity and Ecological survey findings.
- Design response to ground conditions.
- Design response to the various mitigation measures to risk studies
- Design response to mitigate water, soil and air emissions including the Electromagnetic Frequency and Electromagnetic Compatibility report.

In-combination Effects:

- Investigate any in-combination effects (focusing on existing wind turbine developments and those granted permission, and currently in the planning process) with developments in the zone of influence.
- Investigate any negative impacts on migrating birds due to the above.

Consultation:

Besides consultation with the local community, the following bodies send observations regarding Wind Turbine energy schemes:

- Irish Aviation Authority
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Uisce Eireann – Irish Water
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Other potential consultees include:

- An Taisce
- Department for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Transport
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media
- The Heritage Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- National Parks and Wildlife Service

If you have any further queries in relation to this matter, please contact us at (059) 9136229 or planningdevman@carlowcoco.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Scanlon
Planning Department

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Catherine Johnson

From: Sarah Kelly <Sarah.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 31 January 2023 16:34
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Attachments: MKO reponse pdf.pdf

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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

Dear Emily,

Please see attached response from Kilkenny County Council.

Kind Regards,
Sarah Kelly.

From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 21 December 2022 11:26
To: Housing <housing@kilkennycoco.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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**Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council
Planning Report**



**Planning & Development Acts, 2000 - 2022
Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 - 2022**

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Our Ref: IR 630

Applicant: MKO Ireland,

**Subject: EIA Scoping Report for wind farm at Seskin, near Old Loughlin,
Co. Carlow and underground grid connection to Kilkenny
substation.**

The applicant is advised of the opinion of Kilkenny County Council in response to Scoping Document received on 21st December 2022 as part of EIAR Scoping process for a proposed windfarm at Seskin, near Old Loughlin, Co. Carlow and grid connection through County Kilkenny, as follows:

The applicant shall formally consult inter-alia the following bodies:

External Bodies

- Irish Water
- TII
- Inland Fisheries
- Bord Gais
- HSE
- An Taisce
- Dept of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- National Monuments Service
- National Parks and Wildlife Service

Kilkenny County Council has contacted the above listed agencies; where responses have been received by the Council the recommendation of these agencies are set out below and shall be taken into consideration by the applicant in the preparation of the EIAR.

Responses Received

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in 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 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 an EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer, in preparing an EIAR, should have regard to TII’s Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006).
- 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., National Roads Authority, 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 the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed as TII will not be responsible for such costs.
- 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.

- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route. All structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.

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 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.

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 that grid connection routing is identified as being potentially to Kilkenny 110kV. Any grid connection and cable routing proposals should be developed to safeguard proposed road schemes as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.

In the context of the existing national road network, in accordance with the National Planning Framework National Strategic Outcome no. 2 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility', there is a requirement to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the network. This requirement is further reflected in the National Development Plan, the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

There is around 99,000km of roads in Ireland, the national road network which caters for strategic inter-urban travel consists of only approx. 5.4% of this. There is a critical requirement to ensure the strategic capacity and safety of this national road network is maintained and significant Government investment already made in the national road network is safeguarded. The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy and therefore, avoid grid connection routing proposals along 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.

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.

Health and Safety Authority:

The Health and Safety Authority (the Authority), acting as the Central Competent Authority under the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 209 of 2015) gives technical advice to the Planning Authority when requested, under regulation 24(2) in relation to:

(a) the siting and development of new establishments;

(b) modifications to establishments of the type described in Regulation 12(1);

(c) new developments including transport routes, locations of public use and residential areas in the vicinity of establishments, where the siting, modifications or developments may be the source of, or increase the risk or consequences of, a major accident.

Since the above-referenced application appears to be outside the scope of the Regulations, the Authority has no observations to forward.

Gas Networks Ireland

While there is no gas network in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Seskin Wind Farm, please be aware of high-pressure transmission mains to the east of the site and to the south of Kilkenny. See attached drawings for further information. The proposed electrical cable to the substation in Kilkenny may impact on these. If so, Gas Networks Ireland would need to be consulted and all works would need to follow the attached Code of Operations.

Please also note the following in relation to working near gas pipelines:

- The Gas Transmission Pipeline in the general area of interest to you is shown, in **RED**, on the drawing attached. Please treat all Gas Networks Ireland Drawings as 'indicative' only.

The Gas Distribution Network in the vicinity is shown, in **GREEN** and/or in **BLUE** on the drawing attached. Please refer to the attached Safety Advice Booklet for guidance on working in the vicinity of this infrastructure.

To verify the in-situ position of the Gas Transmission Pipeline please contact Chris Dillon, chris.dillon@gasnetworks.ie. All work in the vicinity of a Gas Transmission Pipeline must be completed in compliance with the attached 'Code of Practice 2021'.

The Gas Transmission Pipelines exist within Gas Networks Ireland Wayleaves. No excavation may take place within any such Wayleave unless consent, in the form of a valid Excavation Permit, has been granted by Gas Networks Ireland. Chris Dillon will issue this permit once all conditions for excavations have been met.

The Strategic Gas Distribution Main in this vicinity is highlighted in **BLUE** on the relevant GNI Drawing as attached. This must be treated as a Gas Transmission Pipeline and contact must be made with GNI prior to any excavation in the vicinity of same. All work in the vicinity of such must be completed in compliance with the attached 'Code of Practice 2021'.

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory authority tasked under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) with responsibility for the protection, management, and

conservation of the inland fisheries resource. In respect of the statutory ecological surveys proposed by MKO, IFI wish to make the following observations:

The proposed development is located on the boundary of the Nore and Barrow catchments, in particular in the catchment areas of the following surface water bodies.

Surface Water Body	WFD Status	Risk Status
Rathnornan_010	Moderate	Under Review
Old Leighlin Stream_020	Moderate	At Risk
Dinan (South)_010	Good	At Risk

All the above surface water bodies connect directly to the Barrow –NoreSAC. Among the significant pressures on these surface water bodies are agriculture, municipal wastewater and unspecified anthropogenic pressures. A number of additional water bodies in the Barrow and Nore catchments are potentially impacted by the grid connection route.

Article 5 of the Surface Water Regulations (SI 272 of 2009) states that there should be no deterioration in Ecological Status. Article 28(2) of the Regulations states that a surface water body whose status is determined to be less than Good shall be restored to at least Good status. The proposed surveys / reports must demonstrate how this project would cause no deterioration to the above surface water bodies and is consistent with their restoration to good ecological status.

The peat soils on the proposed site are extremely sensitive to erosion. The potential impacts of the proposed development on fisheries relate largely to the excavation and construction of the turbine stands, access roads, water crossings and the laying of cables. Excavations associated with the construction of turbine bases have the potential to mobilise significant quantities of suspended solids and associated nutrients to downstream surface waters. Therefore IFI recommends buffer zones of 50m be provided from turbine bases to any wetted channels.

IFI requests that the following assessments be provided:

- Baseline ecological assessments of water courses potentially affected by the proposed development, including fish species as well as other biological and physico-chemical surveys
- Maps of all aquatic habitats potentially affected by the project: all drainage channels (temporary and permanent) should be mapped and where these channels transect the proposed road network.
- An assessment of the potential adverse effects of the proposed works on all relevant aquatic receptors, including fish. Assessments should cover the site of the proposed wind development and the proposed grid connection route.
- An assessment of the cumulative effects of the proposed development along with other existing or approved projects
- An assessment of the impact on the conservation objectives of species listed as qualifying interests in the Barrow –Nore SAC, which includes Lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon
- The proposed mitigation measures to prevent erosion from soil disturbance in excavation areas and areas where there is significant movement of plant and machinery

During the construction and operational phases, the applicant should adhere to the recommendations and guidelines outlined in IFI's *Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters* 2016. A copy of this document is available here. Among the sources which may be used for fish ecological status and data are <http://wfdfish.ie/> and <https://opendata-ifi.gis.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/IFIgis::water-framework-directive-fish-ecological-status-2008-2021>.

The number of water crossings, whether on-site or for the proposed grid connection route, should be minimised, and existing crossings utilised where possible. Where existing crossings must undergo alteration, IFI request that these crossings are upgraded in the interests of habitat improvement and biodiversity net gain. Crossings should be designed to meet IFI's Fisheries Construction Guidelines referred to above. IFI should be consulted at the design phase to maximise favourable outcomes for fisheries habitats.

Instream works may only take place during the period 1 July to 30 September. There should be no interference with the bed, gradient, profile or alignment of watercourses without prior notification and the agreement of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Natural flow-paths should not be interrupted or diverted in a manner that would increase the risk of erosion.

Proposed instream works must be accompanied by a site-specific method statement provided to IFI. The applicant should provide a commitment to provide these at least ten working days before works commence. Written approval from IFI should be obtained before works proceed. SuDS principles should be incorporated into surface water management plans to attenuate any run-off of suspended solids or other deleterious matter. Routes of roads and tracks and the location of turning areas should be planned to minimise environmental disturbance.

Drainage associated with road construction should be designed to divert water away from buffer zones. Drainage infrastructure should be installed during dry ground conditions. The use of heavy plant and machinery on site should not result in soil erosion or nutrient losses. Mitigation measures for suspended solids must comply with an upper limit of 25mg per litre for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) as specified in the Salmonid Waters Regulations, SI 293 of 1988.

The use of borrow pits as a source of aggregate/hardstanding material should have regard for the sensitivity of the soils/subsoils to erosion and the potential for the generation of suspended solids pollution from excavations linked to a borrow pit. IFI request that the applicant investigates the importation of material to site rather than the commencement of a on-site quarrying.

At all times the precautionary principle should be applied throughout the development. Particular attention should be paid to the various environmental directives including the Water Framework Directive, the Habitat and Birds Directives, the Fisheries Acts and the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts. Other environmental legislation should be considered as appropriate.

In addition to environmental assessments (EIAR, NIS etc.), the application for planning should include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), and an Emergency Response Plan (EMP) in case of an emergency incident. Provision should be made for the appointment of a suitably qualified Project Environmental Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works.

Records should be kept of biological and chemical monitoring of undertaken before and during the construction phase and after the works, and during the operational phase for the wind development. Records should also be kept of inspections of proposed surface water mitigation measures. These records should be made available upon request to any authorised person as defined under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.

Future correspondence or any requests for clarification can be sent via email to cormac.goulding@fisheriesireland.ie or by post to the address below.

Fáilte Ireland

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.

See attached digital copy of Failte Ireland's Guidelines

Kilkenny County Council

Planning Department:

Having regard to the prominent location of the proposed development site close to an upland scenic area and Protected Views V13 and its location in close proximity of Natura 2000 sites, the Dinin River and built heritage and national monuments/archaeology along the grid connection route, the proposed wind farm development and its grid connection will require a thorough assessment of potential impacts on these sensitive receptors to include the cumulative impacts with other wind farm proposals in the surrounding area, in particular current Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application lodged with An Bord Pleanala, reference 315365-22, for 7 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure and grid connection in County Kilkenny and County Carlow, close to your proposed site at Seskin.

The applicant is advised to fully comply with the requirements of Directive 2014/52/EU on the effects of certain public and private projects on the Environment (EIA Directive) and any resulting amendments to the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. The applicants should also comply with the requirements of the '*Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanala on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*' and any updates subsequent to the above Directive.

In relation to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan, on 15th October 2021, the Minister of State at the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage, consequent to a recommendation made to him by the Office of the Planning Regulator under section 31AM(8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), notified Kilkenny County Council of his intention to issue a Direction to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In accordance with Section 31(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, those parts of the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 Plan referred to in the notice shall be taken to have not come into effect, been made or amended; namely;

Chapter 11 Renewable Energy:

- Section 11.4 Kilkenny Targets
- Section 11.5.1 Current status and targets
- Figure 11.4 Wind Strategy areas.

The Planning Authority is awaiting a further direction from the Minister in this regard. Consequently, the Renewable Energy policies and Wind Strategy areas as previously set out in the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, cannot be considered at this time.

Road Design Section:

The main issues arising for any proposed wind farm development from a road perspective will occur during the construction phase of the project for both the wind farm construction itself and the ducting route to the preferred grid connection point.

However, noting this the investigations in respect of both would need to be developed to such a point to ensure and assure the planning authority that the proposals are technically feasible and have the necessary permissions if beyond the public road extents as part of the documentation submitting for planning approval. Such matters cannot be left entirely to any subsequent road opening permission process.

Wind Farm Site:

The applicant will be required to provide a detailed surveyed drawing of the proposed temporary and permanent site access arrangements showing the required sightlines in

accordance with the TII Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. In general, where the access off the local road network is proposed a minimum visibility splay/sightline of 90m to the nearside road edge both directions from a point 2.4m back from the proposed entrance will be required as a minimum. In the case of regional roads this should be 145m. It is preferable to minimise the number of permanent accesses onto the road network.

The construction make-up of the entrance area shall be detailed. At a minimum the first 5m off the roadway edge should be a tarmac surface falling away from the public road to avoid ponding on the public road. The drainage arrangements shall also be detailed for both the entrance area and the access roads within the development site. The existing roadside drainage shall remain unaffected and where necessary accommodated for.

The applicant will be requested to provide a photographic & FWD survey of Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) in particular in the case of local roads and possibly regional routes. This would be carried out prior to construction and included by way of condition on a successful planning application and a stipulation on any road opening permission. Any damage arising to be addressed at the contractors own expense.

Where temporary works are required to the TDR on third party properties to facilitate the delivery of wind turbine elements, demonstration of landowner consent will be required. Where such works are required proposals shall be designed using a detailed survey for each temporary works area. Depending on the nature, complexity and duration of proposed temporary works a Road Safety Audit may be required. This can be advised upon as proposals are developed.

Identify and structurally assess structures on the route of the TDR, in particular when crossing the regional and local road network. Where structures on National Routes will be impacted consultation and approval from the TII structures will be required. Where structural works are required on the road network these will need to be detailed. To note for example in order to increase depths of cover to increase the structural strength an overlay may be suggested. However, the structural strength of in particular masonry structure may not be adequate for same and alternative proposals may be required. Parapets will also need to be considered if raising of road levels in being considered.

The applicant shall be conditioned to prepare and agree a construction and traffic management plan with the Municipal District Engineer prior to commencement of the development works. (Likely will be included as a condition but the principle of assessing the route would need to be included. This will also form part of the road opening licence.)

Identify as necessary all temporary works as necessary for delivery of materials to the site. Where temporary works are required on third party properties to facilitate the delivery of components, written consent of the relevant landowner consent will be required. Where such works are required proposals shall be designed using a detailed survey for each temporary works area. Depending on the nature, complexity and duration of proposed temporary works a Road Safety Audit may be required. This can be advised upon as proposals are developed.

Depending on the access route proposed and its suitability it may be necessary for the applicant to submit proposals for the provision of passing bays along the local road for example and provide a drawing indicating the locations and construction detail.

The applicant shall provide details of the proposed development traffic generation for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases in order to assess the potential impact on the road network.

The applicant shall submit a glint and glare assessment of the proposed development on users on the public road network particularly from a road safety perspective. A road safety audit may be required in this regard.

The internal layout of access roads within the wind farm should be detailed. Also, it shall be confirmed how the large ground surface areas under/between the windfarm is to be maintained. i.e. grassed areas etc. It is noted that sheep are sometimes allowed to roam to keep such grasses maintained etc.

Where it is necessary to remove existing road signage to facilitate abnormal loads to the development careful consideration to the provision and location of temporary signage or retrofitting of existing signage with socketed bases to aid removal/replacement. The precise details of these will be addressed in the context of the road opening permission but reference to what is intended or proposed should be contained in the planning documentation.

Identify and structurally assess structures on the access route to the site if abnormal loads are proposed, in particular when crossing the regional and local road network. Where structures on National Routes will be impacted consultation and approval from the TII structures will be required. Where structural works are required on the road network these will need to be detailed. To note, for example, in order to increase depths of cover to increase the structural strength an overlay may be suggested. The structural strength of in particular masonry structure may not be adequate for same and alternative proposals may be required. Parapets will also need to be considered if raising of road levels is being considered.

However, noting this the investigations as to the suitability of the construction access route proposed will need to be developed to such a point to ensure and assure the planning authority that the proposals are technically feasible and have the necessary permissions if located outside the public road extents as part of the documentation submitted for planning approval. Such matters cannot be left entirely to any subsequent road opening permission process.

Where service diversions are required (ESB, Eircom, etc) the applicant shall liaise with the relevant service providers and reference any changes proposed in the planning documentation.

The expected time period for any TDR phase should be referenced within the context of the overall expected construction period.

Grid connection matters:

The applicant will need to confirm and be clear if it is intended to apply for planning permission for the cable route as part of the wind farm planning application itself, separate to it or solely in the context of a road opening permission.

The means of connection to the grid shall need to be confirmed. Overhead or underground? Whichever is the case in the context of the wind farm itself, a reasonable degree of consideration of construction and traffic management required for the cable route installation should form part of the planning application. It is noted that EIA and AA Screening normally forms part of wind solar farm applications and should include consideration of the cable routes. The principles of the suitability of the cable route should be detailed in the planning documentation to show it is technically feasible, albeit recognising that the detailed consideration may be for a different procedure.

Where the installation of underground cables as part of the grid connection is proposed, the applicant shall be requested to provide trench reinstatement details for the proposed underground cabling for the various locations where it is to be installed, i.e., roadside verge, carriageway, agricultural and domestic entrances, within or below structures etc.

All trenching and duct installation works in the public roads shall comply with the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (DTTAS) and the line and layout shall be agreed with the Municipal District Engineer as a condition of the road opening licence. Existing road drainage needs careful consideration in any proposals so that it is unaffected.

In addition, the applicant shall take into consideration the requirements of the specification for the reinstatement of openings in National Roads as published by National Roads Authority as

required. It will be a requirement that roadways be fully reinstated progressively as the ducting work proceeds.

Consultation with TII where the duct route crosses the national road network either via under bridge or over bridge will be required, particularly where this crossing is proposed to coincide with such structures. (It is noted that TII do not generally favour ducting longitudinally between roadside boundaries along the extent of national roads even if located in verges beyond the roadway edges. If such are proposed they need to be re-considered.)

Careful consideration shall be given to ESB requirements and cover levels when ducting through structures. Raising of road levels to facilitate cover levels will only be considered on a case by case basis but may not be an acceptable solution. Where structural works are required these will need to be detailed. To note for example in order to increase depths of cover on ducting an overlay may be suggested. However, the structural strength of a particular masonry structure may not be adequate for same and alternative proposals may be required. Parapets will also need to be considered.

Chamber construction details and locations shall be submitted for assessment.

Where ducting works impact third party properties either directly or indirectly landowner's consent is required in the case of the former and possibly a higher standard of re-instatement works for the latter (i.e. where ducting runs across an existing access re-instatement may include the full extents of the access.)

The applicant shall advise of any wayleaves and the extents of same if required.

General Observation on cable grid connection routes.

Multiple wind and solar farms can propose connection to the same ESB substations and proposed routes may coincide. There was a recent windfarm proposal in the vicinity of Bilboa which may propose a similar cable route connection to this application. Consideration to co-ordination and amalgamation may need to be considered as existing roads may and are unlikely to be insufficient to accommodate multiple cable runs.

Other Considerations which are likely to form some of the conditions if granted:

A bond may be required in respect of any potential road damage arising from the construction of the proposed development and the Municipal District Engineer shall determine this requirement as a condition of the road opening licence.

Should this application be the subject of a grant of permission, the applicant is likely to be conditioned to carry out a Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) and photographic visual record surveys of the route between the proposed development and the regional/national road network prior to commencement of the proposed development. The surveys shall be repeated on completion of the development and the extent of any repairs to the road network if any arising from this development shall be determined and agreed with the Municipal District Engineer and the applicant shall cover the costs of these repairs. These requirements will be repeated as required as part of any road opening permission.

Road Closures and Diversions shall be applied for through the relevant local Municipal District Office of Kilkenny County Council. This would form part of the conditions of any planning plus any subsequent road opening permission. Costs arising are a matter for the developer.

Permits are required for the transportation of abnormal loads to the site. This will likely be referenced as a requirement in respect of any road opening permission to be granted for works.

The applicant is advised that all works to the public road are subject a road opening and the conditions attached therein.

Environment Section

The applicant shall have regard to the following issues raised by the Environment Section:

1. Clean storm/surface water should be managed during the construction, operation & decommissioning stages, within the curtilage of the site. There shall be no discharge from the site to any surface waters or onto the public road or 3rd party land. This application does not include for the discharge of dewatered groundwater associated with any potential dewatering operations on this site. Where such a discharge is required the applicant should apply for and be in possession of a valid discharge licence for trade effluent as required under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 – 2007 (as amended), prior to any such operation taking place. In addition, and prior to the commencement of the development the applicant should submit.
 - a. Clearly labelled and dimensioned layout drawings showing the location of all drainage channels, boxed culverts, pipe drain crossings, inceptor ditches, spreaders and pipework with their gradients, which will clearly identify how surface water is dealt with for the overall site. The ultimate outfall point of the waters should also be indicated and the separation distances to all waterbodies and public / private water supplies as maybe relevant to each outfall location.
 - b. The applicant should provide a Surface Water Management Plan for the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of the site works the applicant should confirm details of the sediment control techniques to be used on the surface water drainage system in advance of all outfall locations. The maintenance requirements for same should include all oil separators and the management regime to be employed to oversee such maintenance.
 - c. The applicant should provide for regular water sampling, testing and reporting of all relevant surface watercourses and wells (Public and Private Supplies) surrounding the site. The developer should provide a layout drawing identifying the locations where these samples will be obtained, a programme of monitoring by a competent indemnified third party. Full details of all sampling shall be submitted including locations, depths of sampling and a copy of all test results. The surface water and drinking water parameters to be used should be agreed with the Planning Authority prior to commencement of work on site.
 - d. All staff on-site should be inducted as to the requirements of the Surface Water Management Plan.
 - e. The applicant should provide for the monitoring of these works / measures by a suitably qualified and indemnified Environmental Engineer / Ecologist, who will be on-site for the duration of the works.
 - f. The applicant shall also show the route of the interconnect between the wind farm and the substation and the following information shall be submitted including public or private ownership, type of crossing, surface type, watercourse crossings, and the protection of surface water flows on public roads. Site layout and cross-sectional drawings of all watercourses and carriageway crossings shall be submitted as part of the application. Inland fisheries shall also be notified of any watercourse crossings.
2. The proposed development should be undertaken so as to facilitate the minimization of waste production. The developer should prepare a Waste Management Plan in accordance with Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects. During the construction, operation & decommissioning stages, the applicant should provide sufficient space for the segregation of all wastes into recyclable, biodegradable and residual waste streams. The plan should outline measures for the management of any waste including oils or fuels. In addition, and prior to the commencement of the development the applicant should confirm that:
 - a. Any wastes sent off site for recovery or disposal shall only be conveyed by an authorised waste contractor and transported from the location to an authorised site of recovery/disposal in a manner which will not adversely affect the environment.
 - b. All employees shall be made aware of their obligations under the plan.

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- c. The plan shall be available for inspection on-site at all reasonable times for examination by any officer of the local authority / planning authority.
 - d. Any changes to work practices for this site/development shall be reflected in a revised Waste Management Plan.
 - e. Measures or provisions are in place within the CEMP (See no. 9 below) and Waste Management Plan for dealing with contaminated land and invasive species if encountered. Methodologies to be employed for remediation or removal should ideally be agreed with the Planning Authority in advance.
 - f. The applicant should provide for the monitoring of these works / measures by a suitably qualified and indemnified Environmental Engineer / Ecologist, who will be on-site for the duration of the works.
 - g. The applicant must submit proposals for the washing of concrete delivery trucks on site as to ensure the protection of groundwater and surface water for the proposed development.
 - h. The location of temporary storage piles and silt fencing shall be identified on site layout drawings.
3. During the construction, operation & decommissioning stages, all tank and drum areas should be rendered impervious to the materials stored therein. In addition, tank and drum storage areas shall be bunded either locally or remotely to a volume not less than 110% of the capacity of the largest tank or 25% of the total capacity requirement, whichever is the greatest. Drainage from the bunded area shall be diverted for collection and safe disposal.
 4. During the construction, operation & decommissioning stages, the applicant should ensure that all operations on site are carried out in a manner such that noise, dust, reflectance, shadow flicker, air emissions and/or odours do not result in significant impairment of, or significant interference with, amenities or the environment beyond the site. The following are recommendations for consideration by the planning authority:
 - a. The hours of work for the site should be:
 - i. 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday.
 - ii. 07:00 to 13:00 Saturdays.
 - b. The applicant shall confirm the exact model of Wind Turbine being proposed for this site. The proposed model of Wind Turbine shall be considered in the Killoshulan Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
 - c. The applicant should submit an Operations Manual for the written agreement of the Planning Authority:
 - i. **To include measures for the removal of the nuisance caused by Shadow Flicker.**
 - ii. To include measures to mitigate dust and air pollution. The applicant shall confirm the suitability of the water being proposed for the item of work involving dust suppression.
 - iii. The applicant should insure that all activities at the site shall not give rise to noise levels off site at the nearest occupied dwellings, which exceed the following sound pressure limits;
 - DAY: 45dB(A) L_{A90} (10 minutes).
 - NIGHT: 43dB(A) L_{A90} (10 minutes).
 - d. Within six months of commissioning the Wind Turbines referred to in this application, the applicant should undertake noise monitoring in order to determine the extent and characteristics of noise levels arising from the Wind Farm in the vicinity of the nearest occupied dwellings. The results should be forwarded to the Planning Authority.
 - e. The applicant should be required, if requested by the Planning Authority, to carry out at the applicant's expense noise or shadow flicker monitoring and any other such investigations and emission monitoring as may be deemed necessary to demonstrate that onsite activity is not resulting in significant impairment of, or significant interference with amenities or the environment beyond the site.
 - f. The applicant should provide for the monitoring of these works / emissions (Air, Noise & Water) by a suitably qualified and indemnified Environmental Engineer.

5. The applicant shall submit proposals for an on-site Wastewater Storage System during the construction of the project with the recommendations of the design engineer and manufacturer. Wastewater shall only be discharged to the proposed wastewater treatment system, there shall be no discharge of trade effluent which is chemically or biologically dissimilar to that of normal domestic effluent. In addition, and prior to the commencement of the development the applicant should submit for the written agreement of the Planning Authority.
- a. Certification that the complete wastewater storage system has been satisfactorily designed, installed and meets with the maximum required operational capacity for the proposed development. The certification shall include written confirmation with capacity calculations.
 - b. The applicant shall arrange and provide for the continuous and indefinite maintenance and monitoring of the wastewater storage system for its complete working life. The tank storage volume shall be banded either locally or remotely to a volume not less than 110% of the capacity confirmed by the capacity monitoring alarm system. In addition, and prior to works commencing on-site, the applicant should furnish the Planning / Authority with a copy of the contract in relation to the maintenance and disposal associated with the provision of the Wastewater Storage System. The applicant will also be required to retain all receipts for the maintenance and disposal of wastewater from the tank for the lifespan of the development.
 - c. The applicant should be advised that this condition where considered appropriate by the Planning Authority has been inserted having regard to the relatively short construction period and the low maintenance requirements during the operation phase of the wind farm. Where the intensity of use is expected to increase the applicant should comply with condition 5.e. below.
 - d. The wastewater from this storage system should be sent off site for disposal and shall only be conveyed by an authorised waste contractor and transported from the location to an authorised site of disposal in a manner which will not adversely affect the environment.
 - e. Where it is found during any stage of the above development that the above cannot be achieved or where the intensity of use increases significantly the applicant shall design for an on-site Wastewater Treatment System in accordance with the recommendations in the EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals, Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels 1999 and / or the Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Serving Single Houses (PE \leq 10) 2021. A separate planning application should be submitted in this instance.
6. The applicant should design a Site Works Plan at appropriate stages for both the construction & the decommissioning phases to include a programme, which shall confirm the site practices to deal with the excavation of soil / peat, excavation of rock (hydraulic hammering / blasting), crushing of rock, stock piling of materials, sediment control, soil erosion / stability, reinstatement, borrow pits, emergencies and the phasing of the works. The applicant shall confirm if any blasting or crushing will take place on site during the construction of the project.
- a. Crushing operations has the potential to give rise to significant fines which pose a significant risk to surface waters. Surface water if contaminated by such activities should be considered as trade effluent and treated accordingly. If applicable the applicant shall undertake an Environmental Risk Assessment to determine the risk associated with the crushing operations, the generation of trade effluent mixing with surface waters and shall provide detailed mitigation measures to eliminate the risk as required.
 - b. Where the Planning Authority deem that blasting is appropriate it should only take place when a detailed blasting procedure is agreed in writing with the Planning Authority. The blasting procedure shall address at a minimum, Health & Safety, Vibration, Air Overpressure, Monitoring and Notification to Local Residents. The procedure shall include specific measures to demonstrate compliance with limits as set out below and to

include details of the number and location of monitoring stations, instruments and methods, which will be subject to review.

- i. Grounbourne vibration levels as a result of blasting should not exceed a peak particle velocity of 8mm/sec measured off site at the nearest inhabited dwellings and overpressure values shall not exceed 125dB(Lin) max.
 - ii. Results of monitoring for each blast shall be submitted to the Planning Authority with 2 weeks of the blast.
 - c. Provide location maps of all excavation and reinstatement locations.
 - d. The applicant should provide for the monitoring of these works / measures by a suitably qualified and indemnified Geotechnical Engineer or Engineering Geologist.
 - e. A peat stability assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified engineer for both the construction and operational phases of the development.
7. The applicant should design a Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance Plan for the construction, operation & decommissioning stages, which shall confirm the site practices to deal with the parking compound, storage of fuels, refuelling of vehicles, fuel spillages, inspection and maintenance of vehicles, emergencies and the training of personnel. Prior to the commencement of the development the applicant shall submit for the written agreement of the Planning Authority.
8. The applicant should appoint a Complaint Liaison Officer who shall be responsible for dealing directly with members of the public and officials from the Planning and local Authority in relation to any potential complaints arising during the construction, operation or decommissioning stages of the development. Details (Contact Details) of the Complaint Liaison Officer shall be submitted to the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the development
9. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and all other Plans developed for this application should be considered to be live documents, and shall be updated as required to reflect any changes in work practices or procedures, which should be inducted to all personnel working on the site. In the event of a change of ownership and or the processes at this development, the conditions associated with the Grant of this Application should be deemed applicable to the new occupant and processes.

END

Irish Aviation Authority
The Times Building
11-12 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2, D02 T449,
Ireland

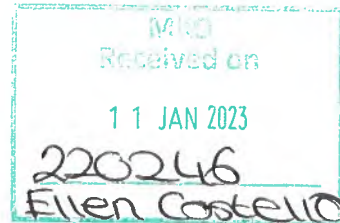
Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann
Foirgneamh na hAmanna
11-12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449,
Éire

T: +353 1 671 8655
F: +353 1 679 2934
www.iaa.ie



10th January 2023

Ms. Emily Lynch
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84



Reference: 220246

Applicant: EDF Ireland Ltd

Description: The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

Dear Ms. Lynch,

I refer to your letter/scoping report details of which were received by the Irish Aviation Authority.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) Air Navigation Services Division (ANSD) does not get involved in the planning process. The IAA ANSD is to be notified as detailed hereafter:

According to [S.I. 215 of 2005, Irish Aviation Authority \(Obstacles to Aircraft in Flight\)](#), the IAA ANSD requires any person who seeks to erect a manmade object to notify the aerodrome operator of the intended operation **at least thirty days** in advance if the structure is to be erected in the vicinity of the aerodrome or the areas around the aerodrome and other protected surfaces associated with the aerodrome. Aerodrome Operators can be contacted via [IAA AIP AD 1.3 INDEX TO AERODROMES AND HELIPORTS](#), to evaluate the impact of the intended operation on the protected airspace established for the aerodrome.

Additionally, any person who seeks to erect a manmade object in excess of 45 metres anywhere within the state above ground or water surface level must also notify the IAA ANSD of the intended crane erection **at least thirty days** in advance, as a crane operating at or above this height may constitute an obstacle to air navigation. The IAA ANSD can be contacted via airspace@iaa.ie.

The State requires electronic terrain and obstacle data (eTOD) in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) [Annex 15](#) requirements which shall be

Bord Stiúrthóirí/Board of Directors
Peter Kearney (Príomhfhéidhmeannach/Chief Executive)
Cian Blackwell, Marie Bradley, Ernie Donnelly,
Gerry Lumsden, Joan McGrath, Diarmuid Ó Conghaile,
Eimer O'Rourke

Offig Chláraithe:
Foirgneamh na hAmanna, 11-12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449, Éire
Uimhir Chláraithe: 211082. Áit Chláraithe: Éire
Cuideachta Dlíteanais Theoranta

Registered Office:
The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2, D02 T449, Ireland
Registered No. 211082. Registered in Ireland
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surveyed by [Ordnance Survey Ireland \(OSi\)](#). The cost of this OSi surveyed data is to be borne by the developer. Additionally, the following data is to be supplied once construction is planned or commenced or available to the airspace team via airspace@iaa.ie:

- The WGS84 coordinates (In degrees, minutes and seconds) for each turbine?
- Height above ground level (to blade tip) and elevation above mean sea level (to blade tip)?
- Verification if it's a standalone wind farm or is merged with others. Does the wind farm have any alternative names?
- Horizontal extent (rotor diameter) of turbines and blade length where applicable?
- Lighting of the wind farm, which turbine(s) is/are lit, and what type of lighting?

ICAO Light Type	Colour
Low-intensity Type A (fixed obstacle)	Red
Low-intensity Type B (fixed obstacle)	Red
Low-intensity Type C (mobile obstacle)	Yellow/Blue
Low-intensity Type D (follow-me vehicle)	Yellow
Low-intensity Type E	Red
Medium-intensity Type A	White
Medium-intensity Type B	Red
Medium-intensity Type C	Red
High-intensity Type A	White
High-intensity Type B	White

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the airspace team at airspace@iaa.ie.

Your sincerely



Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs



12th January 2023

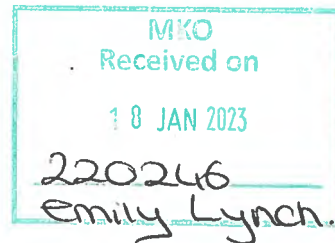
Attn: Ms Emily Lynch

MKO

Tuam Road

Galway

H91 VW84H91



Your Ref: 220246

Applicant Name: EDF Ireland Ltd

Re: The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

Dear Ms. Lynch,

Thank you for your letter/scoping report and request for comments in relation to the proposed Seskin Wind Farm to be located in the townlands of Rathornan, Ridge, Mothell, Tiscoffin, Rathcoole, Clara and Dunbell.

Based on the information provided, the proposed wind farm is 20 km NE to the licenced Aerodrome – Kilkenny Aerodrome, Holdensrath, Co Kilkenny.

Please engage directly with the aerodrome licensee, Irish Skydiving Club Ltd to make them aware of the Seskin Wind Farm proposal.

Mr Eoin Nevin

Email: info@skydiveclub.ie

Ph: +35383 304 00 24

Based on the licensee's observations, it may be necessary to undertake an aeronautical safety assessment to consider the potential impact of the wind farm on the safety of aircraft operations at Kilkenny Airfield.

In any case, it is likely that the following general observations would be proffered by the Authority during a formal planning process:

Bord Stiúirthe/Board of Directors

Rose Hynes (Cathaoirleach/Chairman),
Peter Kearney (Príomhfheidhmeannach/Chief Executive)
Cian Blackwell, Marie Bradley, Ernie Donnelly,
Gerry Lumsden, Joan McGrath, Diarmuid Ó Conghaile,
Eimer O'Rourke

Oifig Chláraithe:

Foirgneamh na hAmanna, 11-12 Sráid D'Olier
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In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to:

- (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development,
- (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and blade tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and
- (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection.

It should be noted that the above does not preclude other domains within the Authority, i.e. Engineering, Airspace, etc., from making additional observations in relation to this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs

RECEIVED 19/05/2024

Brandon Taylor

From: Emily Lynch
Sent: Friday 3 February 2023 08:28
To: info@skydiveclub.ie
Subject: RE: 220246-Old Leighlin WF- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Mr. Nevin,

Just wanted to follow up and see if you have any comments/ suggestions on the following proposed wind farm development. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



From: Emily Lynch
Sent: 19 January 2023 09:03
To: info@skydiveclub.ie
Subject: 220246-Old Leighlin WF- Scoping

Hi Mr. Nevin,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

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



RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Catherine Johnson

From: Behan, Ronan <Ronan.Behan@hse.ie>
Sent: Friday 27 January 2023 14:12
To: Emily Lynch
Cc: Robbie Doyle
Subject: EIA Scoping Application 220246 at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.
Attachments: ETHANE Aide Memoire 2.pdf; HSE South Emergency Management Consultation Report EMENV 152.docx; 2952 hse scoping submission seskin wind farm.pdf; 2952coverseskin.pdf

RECEIVED: 30/5/2024

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

Hi Emily,
See attached HSE submission for above scoping request. Submissions were made by Emergency Planning and the Environmental Health Service.
Regards
Ronan Behan

Ronan Behan | Environmental Health Officer | Environmental Health Service | HSE | St. Dymphna's Hospital | Athy Road | Carlow | Co. Carlow.

An Roinn Sláinte Comhshaoil | Ospidéal Naomh Dymphna | Bóthar Bhaile Átha Í | Ceatharlach

Office (059) 9136574 Mobile (086) 8050635 email ronan.behan@hse.ie



From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: 21 December 2022 11:21
To: Andrew Sulley <Andrew.Sulley@hse.ie>; Environmental Health <environmental.health@hse.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

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 Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,

Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)

Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

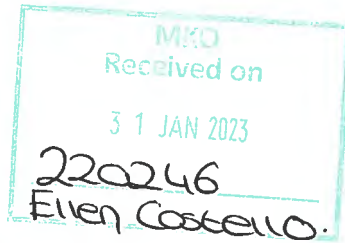
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



Offices in Galway and Dublin

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



Environmental Health Service,
1st Floor St Dymphna's Hospital,
Athy Road,
Carlow
Phone: 059 9136574
E-Mail: ronan.behan@hse.ie

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Date: 27/01/2023

Our reference: EHIS 2952

Report to: MKO Consultants, email: info@mkofireland.ie Website: www.mkofireland.ie
Planning and Environmental Consultants MKO

Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping Application for proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow

Proposed development: Request for Scoping Opinion on for proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow

Details of the application were circulated to the following HSE stakeholders on the 5/01/2023

- HSE South Emergency Management – David O’Sullivan
- Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O’Moore
- CHO – Kate Killeen White

Please find enclosed the HSE submission re the above scoping request.

If you have any queries regarding this report the initial point of contact is Mr Robbie Doyle, Principal Environmental Health Officer who will refer your query to the appropriate person.

Yours sincerely

Robbie Doyle
Principal Environmental Health Officer
robbie.doyle@hse.ie



Environmental Health Service,
1st Floor St Dymphna's Hospital,
Athy Road,
Carlow
Phone: 059 913 6574
Email: CarlowKilkenny.PEHO@hse.ie

HSE EIA Scoping

Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Date: 27/01/2023

Our reference: EHIS 2952

Report to: MKO Consultants, email: info@mkofireland.ie Website: www.mkofireland.ie
Planning and Environmental Consultants MKO

Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping Application for proposed wind farm site at Seskin near
Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow

Proposed development: Request for Scoping Opinion on for proposed wind farm site
at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow

**Details of the application were circulated to the following HSE stakeholders on the
5/01/2023**

- HSE South Emergency Management – David O’Sullivan
- Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O’Moore
- CHO – Kate Killeen White

General Introduction



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

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in EIS (2002), 187kb
- Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of EIS (2003), 435kb
- 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 above guidelines. The draft new guidelines can be seen at:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/consultation/reviewofdrafteisguidelinesadvicenotes>

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 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).

The HSE will consider **the final EIAR accompanying the planning application** and will make comments to the planning authority on the methodology used for assessing the likely significant impacts and the evaluation criteria used in assessing the significance of the impact. This report only comments on Environmental Health Impacts of the proposed development. It is



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based on an assessment of the correspondence submitted to this office dated 5th of December 2022.

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

- Public Consultation
- Population and Human Health
- Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology)
- Land and Soils
- Air, Dust and Odour
- Climate Change and Opportunity for Health Gain
- Noise and Vibration
- Waste Management
- Ancillary Facilities
- Cumulative Impacts

Public Consultation

The applicant should consider the appointment of a community liaison officer. Early and meaningful public consultation with the local community should be carried out to ensure all potentially significant impacts 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 stake-holders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any complaints about the proposed wind farm development in the future. With the lifting of restrictions around public gatherings as a result of Covid 19 prevention measures there should be no barrier to holding public consultation events albeit within current government guidance at the time. Meaningful public consultation, where the local community is fully informed of the proposed development must be undertaken. Members of the public should be given sufficient opportunities to express their views on the proposed development.

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. To assist with the consultation and planning process it is recommended that the applicant develops a dedicated website for the proposed development. All correspondence, maps, project updates and documentation including the EIAR should be uploaded to the website. 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 renewable energy 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 wind turbines, substation, and energy storage batteries and associated material, i.e. will the material be recycled or how will it be disposed of.



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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/Energy Storage Batteries

The EIAR should include a map and a description of the proposed location of each of the proposed wind turbines, substation, energy storage locations and associated developments.

For example- The details (height and model) of the turbines to be installed should be available at the time planning permission is sought and 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 EHS recommends that alternative renewable energy options to on- shore wind farms should be assessed 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 renewable energy 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/publicconsultation/files/draft_revised_wind_ener_gy_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**



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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 operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during the 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.

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 the location of 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 renewable energy 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. The Environmental Health Service recommends that a detailed Peat Stability/Geotechnical Assessment of the proposed site 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



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('Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Developments 2017)

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-andguidance/2017/04/peat-landslide-hazard-risk-assessments-best-practice-guide-proposedelectricity/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 renewable energy development.

Eve Smith

Eve Smith

Ofígeach Sláinte Comhshaoli | Environmental Health Officer
Environment/Climate Change, Network Support Unit (NSU)

Ronan Behan

Ronan Behan
Environmental Health Officer
Carlow/Kilkenny Environmental Health

*** All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report including acknowledgement of this report should be forwarded to: Mr. Robbie Doyle, Principal Environmental Health Officer Carlow-Kilkenny Environmental Health Service, HSE , St. Canice's Hospital, Dublin Road, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny.**



HSE South Emergency Management Consultation Report			
Report to	Robbie Doyle, PEHO, Carlow/Kilkenny	Date	6th Jan., 2023
Type of consultation: EIS <input type="checkbox"/> Scoping X Screening <input type="checkbox"/> EIAR <input type="checkbox"/> EPA <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please specify):			
Authorities	HSE Environmental Health		
Consultant's Reference No.	220426 EHS Ref No. 2952		
EM Reference Number	EMENV 152		
Applicant	MKO Ireland Ltd. on behalf of EDF Renewables Ireland Ltd.		
Proposal	Proposed Wind Farm Site at Seskin, Co. Carlow comprising of 7 no. wind turbines and associated works. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares.		

HSE South Emergency Management Observations:

Please be advised that the HSE South Emergency Management function does not have any specific observations to make with respect to this application. However, please note the following recommendations within the context of site operations:

1. Should an incident occur at the site and the site operator requires the assistance of the emergency services, the incident information should be provided in the 'ETHANE' format (please see attached).
2. Emergency Services access to the site should be clearly identified. This should be undertaken via appropriate high visibility signage, i.e.; a green sign with a yellow border and white lettering citing the abbreviation RVP
3. The site should have a mechanism in place to account for personnel during an evacuation in order to provide the responding emergency services with an estimate of the number of people accounted and unaccounted for.
4. The site should identify any critical / vulnerable facilities within the geographical catchment area, such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc, that could be directly or indirectly affected by an incident at the site.
5. Where the 'off-site' impacts of an incident at the site affects a vulnerable cohort / population such as children within crèches, schools; patients / clients / residents within nursing homes, etc; the emergency services will require assistance from the site operator in determining the impact on the local community.
6. The site operator is encouraged to develop a business continuity plan that includes a plan for severe weather. For more advice on this, please see the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, *Business Continuity Planning in Severe Weather*.
<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Business-Continuity-Planning-in-Severe-Weather-Check-List-for-Businesses.pdf>

All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report should be forwarded to Ms. Maryanne Horgan, Emergency Management Office, HSE South, Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Western Road, Cork, T12 WP62 or maryanne.horgan@hse.ie



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service



Dial 999 / 112 – Request the service you require: An Garda Síochána, Ambulance Service and / or Fire and Rescue Service

WHEN YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE REQUISITE SERVICE(S)

GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

This is: _____ Eircode _____
(Name, Telephone Number and Eircode Address of site)

An incident has occurred at this site - standby for ETHANE message

E	
	Exact location of the incident
T	
	Type of incident, e.g.; fire, explosion, gas leak, etc
H	
	Hazards – current and potential
A	
	Access and Egress – what is the safest approach route for responding emergency services and where is your emergency services meeting point (RVP)
N	
	Number of casualties and their condition – specify adult / children if known
E	
	The emergency services present and required

R.V.P.
No.1

N.B. If you require another emergency service stay on the line and repeat the steps again

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Catherine Johnson

From: Sarah Kelly <Sarah.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 8 February 2023 14:19
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: FW: IR 630 Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Attachments: 20230131_GSI Submission.pdf

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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

Dear Emily,

The following response was received by Kilkenny County Council on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland after our final report was sent.

Please see report attached.

Kind Regards,
Sarah Kelly.

From: Luke Thompson <Luke.Thompson@decc.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 February 2023 17:05
To: Sarah Kelly <Sarah.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie>
Subject: RE: IR 630 Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sarah,

Please see attached a submission on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications) for the subject entity.

Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks,
Luke Thompson

Luke Thompson, Administrative Officer
Planning Advisory Division

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

29-31 Bóthar Adelaide, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 X285
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, D02 X285

PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

From: Sarah Kelly <Sarah.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie>
Sent: Monday 9 January 2023 14:52
To: Planning Notifications <PlanningNotifications@DECC.gov.ie>
Subject: IR 630 Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

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.

FAO The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications,

A report and EIA Scoping request has been received via email on 21st December 2022 from MKO Ireland on behalf of EDF Renewables Ireland Limited for the development of a Wind Farm at Seskin, near Old Loughlin, Co. Carlow and underground grid connection to Kilkenny substation. The proposal is envisaged to include 7no. turbines, hardstands, access roads and entrances/s, borrow pit/s, a temporary construction compound, and a permanent anemometry mast and a grid connection to Kilkenny 110Kv substation, via a 19.8Km underground electrical cable route.

You are hereby notified in accordance with Part 10 'Environmental Impact Assessment', Chapter 1, article 95 of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001, (as amended)* that such scoping request has been received. A submission or observation in relation to the information to be contained in the EIAR may be made to Kilkenny County Council within 4 weeks beginning on the date of this notice.

Please see the attached Report received for further details.

Kind Regards,
Sarah Kelly.

Disclaimer:

This electronic message contains information (and may contain files), which may be privileged or confidential. The information is intended to be for the sole use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information and or files is prohibited. If you have received this electronic message in error, please notify the sender immediately. This is also to certify that this mail has been scanned for viruses.

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.



RECEIVED: 15/05/2024

31 January 2023

MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

Re: Proposed Seskin Wind Farm, Co. Carlow – EIAR Scoping

Your Ref: 220246

Our Ref: 23/14

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

With reference to your email received on the 16 January 2023, concerning the proposed Seskin Wind Farm, Co. Carlow – EIAR Scoping document, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets in this and any future assessments. 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

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (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](#).

An audit of geological heritage sites for Co. Carlow was carried out in 2004. The audit for Co. Kilkenny was published in 2007. The full report details can be found [here](#) and [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm and grid connection route.**

Groundwater

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

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

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates several aquifers classed as a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive', a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive', a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones', a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (diffuse)' and a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones' underlie the proposed wind farm and grid connection route.



RECEIVED 13/05/2022

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 source protection areas in the vicinity of the proposed grid connection route: Castlewarren ZOC Group Water Scheme (GWS), [Paulstown Public Water Scheme \(PWS\)](#) and [Clifden Cara PWS](#). Key to groundwater protection in general, and protection of specific drinking water supplies, is preventing ingress of road runoff to the aquifer. Design of grid connection drainage will need to be cognizant of this supply schemes 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. Given the nearby drinking water sources, the effects of any potential contamination as a result of the grid connection construction should be assessed.

Our Karst Viewer indicates there are karst landforms close to the proposed grid connection route.

[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](#).



RECEIVED: 19/05/2024

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 wind farm and grid connection route 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>.

Geophysical data

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

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 contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

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

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=b68cf1e4a904a5981f950e9b9c5625c
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/
Geohazards	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=a30af518e87a4c0b2fde2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&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=afa76a20fc54877843aca107c5c2b
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=9768f4818b79416093beb221a850ce6&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; turlough 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=9eae46bee08de41278b90a9916dc0b9e
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	Inventories and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&nothing=7&lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/
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	A national mapping programme	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.

Catherine Johnson

From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 27 January 2023 11:55
To: Emily Lynch
Cc: Housing Qcsofficer
Subject: FW: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

G Pre00344/2022

A Chara,

The Department is not in a position to make specific comment on this particular referral at this time. No inference should be drawn from this that the Department is satisfied or otherwise with the proposed activity. The Department may submit observations/recommendations at a later stage in the process.

Please note that if you have any queries in relation to preplanning consultations with the Department they should be sent directly to DAU by emailing Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie to ensure prompt receipt of same. If you send them to other sections such as Customer Service or Nature Conservation they are forwarded to DAU so there is no need to email these sections if you have emailed DAU directly.

I hope that this is of assistance to you.

Kind Regards
Sinéad

Sinéad O' Brien
Executive Officer

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Oifigi an Rialtais
Government Offices
Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford Y35 AP90

From: Housing Qcsofficer <qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 27 January 2023 10:27
To: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Hi,

Please see below, a query received in the Quality Customer Service (QCS) mailbox. It would be appreciated if you could examine the matter and respond directly to the sender of the query within 15 days in accordance with the Department's Quality Customer Service Charter.

In addition, can you please copy this mailbox in your reply so we can mark the query complete as we are obliged to report the Department's compliance with our official response times in its Annual Report.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Ger Mooney

Executive Officer
Communications Unit

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

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

www.gov.ie/tithiocht
www.gov.ie/housing

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 16:57
To: Housing Qcsofficer <qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Just wanted to follow up and see if you have any suggestions and/ or comments regarding the proposed development detailed below. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



From: Emily Lynch
Sent: 21 December 2022 11:12
To: Housing Qcsofficer <QCSOfficer@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

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Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Offices in Galway and Dublin

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



RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Catherine Johnson

From: Defence Property Management Planning
<PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 February 2023 09:59
To: Emily Lynch
Cc: Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence); Sarah Zacharia (Defence)
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Attachments: 2023-02-02 Response to MKO Ireland Ltd - Seskin Windfarm.pdf

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Dear Ms. Lynch,

Please see the attached Department of Defence response to your e-mail below re: proposed windfarm development at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

Please contact me in 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.

E-mail don.watchorn@defence.ie

From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 16:56
To: Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>; Don Watchorn (Defence) <Don.Watchorn@defence.ie>; Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence) <Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

Just wanted to follow up and see if you have any suggestions and/ or comments regarding the proposed development detailed below. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

From: Emily Lynch

Sent: 21 December 2022 11:03

To: Defence Property Management Planning <Propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie>;
don.watchorn@defence.ie; Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence)
<Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie>

Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Fógra faoi Rúndacht: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda. Is leis an duine / nó daoine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chucu a bhaineann siad agus ní ceart iad a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí gan cead roimh ré ón Roinn Cosanta.

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RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Emily Lynch
Graduate Environment Scientist
MKO Ireland Ltd.
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

By email 02 February 2023

Without Prejudice

Dear Ms. Lynch,

I refer to your e-mail in relation to the proposed Seskin Windfarm development located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

I wish to advise at the outset that any determination in relation to a planning consent is solely a matter for the planning authorities and/or ABP, as appropriate. Therefore, the following observations are made on a non-prejudicial basis, and are not intended to be used to rely on for a prospective planning application, nor are these observations to be relied on in the event of any commercial transaction pertaining to such lands and they are not to be relied on in the event of any contract exchange pertaining to same.

As a matter of practice, the Department of Defence does not provide observations or advice in the scoping process, except where the relevant parties have been directed by a planning authority to seek the Department's views. The following observations are based solely on the material provided by you and should be read in that context only. It should be noted that additional or supplemental observations may be made at the formal planning process.

Having consulted with the subject matter experts in the Irish Air Corps, the Department of Defence wishes to make the following observations:

- The Minister for Defence is responsible for the regulation of military aviation, whereas the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) is responsible for the safety regulation of civil aviation including aerodromes. The IAA does not have remit for military aviation or installations. Safeguarding of military flight operations and installations is intended to protect both current and future aircraft operations and also to take account of the security requirements associated with some of those operations.



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- The Department of Defence cannot support, based on military advises, the erection of wind farms or other tall structures within 3 NM of roads identified as critical low level routes in support of operational requirements. The erection of obstacles within low-level helicopter routes could affect the Irish Air Corps ability to access regional areas and to fulfil its role.
- If this proposed development was to go to the planning stage, the Department of Defence would be obligated to raise the following concerns and advise the planning authorities that:
 - a) The proposed windfarm lies within 3 nautical miles of the M9 which is identified as a critical low level route used by state aircraft on operational tasking's.
 - b) A wind farm or any other tall structure within a low-level route will be an obstacle to state aircraft not operating within the civil rules of the air.
- It is noted on page 22, paragraph 5.1, "*An initial turbine layout is currently being developed to take account of constraints*" as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. When such data is available which depicts the specific locations of the turbines, additional observations may be made by the Department of Defence if applicable.
- Any Irish Air Corps (IAC) requirements for are separate to Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) requirements.

Nothing in the above observations shall be taken as a binding response by the Minister for Defence in the event that a planning application is made. The Minister reserves the right to comment on an actual planning application as and when it is submitted in accordance with the provisions of the planning regulatory code.

We would appreciate if you could keep us informed on any progress relating to this proposed development, in particular if this development was to progress to the pre-planning stage.

Yours sincerely

Don Watchorn
Property Management Branch
Department of Defence
Station Road
Newbridge
Co. Kildare W12 AD93

Brandon Taylor

From: Brandon Taylor
Sent: Wednesday 13 March 2024 14:52
To: Defence Property Management Planning
Cc: Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence); Sarah Zacharia (Defence); Ellen Costello; Catherine Johnson
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Don,

In response to your scoping reply from February 2nd 2023, please see below for the Seskin Wind Farm finalised turbine coordinates for planning submission.

Turbine	ITM Coordinates		Top of Foundation Elevation (m OD)
	X (ITM)	Y (ITM)	
T1	663467	669637	252
T2	663996	669653	269
T3	664205	669229	260
T4	663569	669075	252
T5	664134	668661	254
T6	663450	668611	242
T7	663626	668143	252

Kind regards,
Brandon.

Brandon Taylor MSc. BSc.
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: Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence)

Catherine Johnson

From: Cormac Goulding <Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 12 January 2023 13:09
To: Emily Lynch
Cc: Sarah.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie; Donnachadh Byrne
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Attachments: IFI_Response_Seskin.pdf

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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

Hi Emily,

Please see attached IFI's response to MKO's request regarding the environmental assessments for this proposed development.

Regards,

Cormac

Cormac Goulding
Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ Cormac.Goulding@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)52 6180 055 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 E91 RD25



Help us protect Ireland's rivers, lakes and coastlines by reporting illegal fishing, water pollution or invasive species.
Our confidential phone number is 0818 43 74 24, which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

To read our Privacy Policy and Email Disclaimer Notice, Please visit www.fisheriesireland.ie

From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 21 December 2022 11:22
To: Clonmel Info <Clonmel@fisheriesireland.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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





**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Ms. Emily Lynch,
MKO,
Tuam Road,
Galway,
H91 VW84

12 January 2023

Re: EIA Scoping Document for proposed Seskin Wind Farm, Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow

Via Email to: elynych@mko.ie

Dear Ms. Lynch,

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory authority tasked under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) with responsibility for the protection, management, and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. In respect of the statutory ecological surveys proposed by MKO, IFI wish to make the following observations:

The proposed development is located on the boundary of the Nore and Barrow catchments, in particular in the catchment areas of the following surface water bodies.

Surface Water Body	WFD Status	Risk Status
Rathnornan_010	Moderate	Under Review
Old Leighlin Stream_020	Moderate	At Risk
Dinan (South)_010	Good	At Risk

All the above surface water bodies connect directly to the Barrow – Nore SAC. Among the significant pressures on these surface water bodies are agriculture, municipal wastewater and unspecified anthropogenic pressures. A number of additional water bodies in the Barrow and Nore catchments are potentially impacted by the grid connection route.

Article 5 of the Surface Water Regulations (SI 272 of 2009) states that there should be no deterioration in Ecological Status. Article 28(2) of the Regulations states that a surface water body whose status is determined to be less than Good shall be restored to at least Good status. The proposed surveys / reports must demonstrate how this project would cause no deterioration to the above surface water bodies and is consistent with their restoration to good ecological status.

The peat soils on the proposed site are extremely sensitive to erosion. The potential impacts of the proposed development on fisheries relate largely to the excavation and construction of the turbine stands, access roads, water crossings and the laying of cables. Excavations associated with the construction of turbine bases have the potential to mobilise significant quantities of suspended solids and associated nutrients to downstream surface waters. Therefore IFI recommends buffer zones of 50m be provided from turbine bases to any wetted channels.



Iascaigh Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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IFI requests that the following assessments be provided:

- Baseline ecological assessments of water courses potentially affected by the proposed development, including fish species as well as other biological and physico-chemical surveys
- Maps of all aquatic habitats potentially affected by the project: all drainage channels (temporary and permanent) should be mapped and where these channels transect the proposed road network.
- An assessment of the potential adverse effects of the proposed works on all relevant aquatic receptors, including fish. Assessments should cover the site of the proposed wind development and the proposed grid connection route.
- An assessment of the cumulative effects of the proposed development along with other existing or approved projects
- An assessment of the impact on the conservation objectives of species listed as qualifying interests in the Barrow – Nore SAC, which includes Lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon
- The proposed mitigation measures to prevent erosion from soil disturbance in excavation areas and areas where there is significant movement of plant and machinery

During the construction and operational phases, the applicant should adhere to the recommendations and guidelines outlined in IFI's *Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters* 2016. A copy of this document is available [here](#).

Among the sources which may be used for fish ecological status and data are <http://wfdfish.ie/> and <https://opendata-ificis.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/IFIgis::water-framework-directive-fish-ecological-status-2008-2021>.

The number of water crossings, whether on-site or for the proposed grid connection route, should be minimised, and existing crossings utilised where possible. Where existing crossings must undergo alteration, IFI request that these crossings are upgraded in the interests of habitat improvement and biodiversity net gain. Crossings should be designed to meet IFI's Fisheries Construction Guidelines referred to above. IFI should be consulted at the design phase to maximise favourable outcomes for fisheries habitats.

Instream works may only take place during the period 1 July to 30 September. There should be no interference with the bed, gradient, profile or alignment of watercourses without prior notification and the agreement of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Natural flow paths should not be interrupted or diverted in a manner that would increase the risk of erosion.

Proposed instream works must be accompanied by a site-specific method statement provided to IFI. The applicant should provide a commitment to provide these at least ten working days before works commence. Written approval from IFI should be obtained before works proceed.

SuDS principles should be incorporated into surface water management plans to attenuate any run-off of suspended solids or other deleterious matter. Routes of roads and tracks and the location of turning areas should be planned to minimise environmental disturbance.



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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Drainage associated with road construction should be designed to divert water away from buffer zones. Drainage infrastructure should be installed during dry ground conditions. The use of heavy plant and machinery on site should not result in soil erosion or nutrient losses. Mitigation measures for suspended solids must comply with an upper limit of 25mg per litre for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) as specified in the Salmonid Waters Regulations, SI 293 of 1988.

The use of borrow pits as a source of aggregate/hardstanding material should have regard for the sensitivity of the soils/subsoils to erosion and the potential for the generation of suspended solids pollution from excavations linked to a borrow pit. IFI request that the applicant investigates the importation of material to site rather than the commencement of a on-site quarrying.

At all times the precautionary principle should be applied throughout the development. Particular attention should be paid to the various environmental directives including the Water Framework Directive, the Habitat and Birds Directives, the Fisheries Acts and the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts. Other environmental legislation should be considered as appropriate.

In addition to environmental assessments (EIAR, NIS etc.), the application for planning should include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), and an Emergency Response Plan (EMP) in case of an emergency incident. Provision should be made for the appointment of a suitably qualified Project Environmental Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works.

Records should be kept of biological and chemical monitoring of undertaken before and during the construction phase and after the works, and during the operational phase for the wind development. Records should also be kept of inspections of proposed surface water mitigation measures. These records should be made available upon request to any authorised person as defined under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.

Future correspondence or any requests for clarification can be sent via email to cormac.goulding@fisheriesireland.ie or by post to the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Cormac Goulding
Fisheries Environmental Officer
South-Eastern River Basin District

Catherine Johnson

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 24 February 2023 10:06
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: FW: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Attachments: Seskin Windfarm, Co Carlow.pdf

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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

Good morning,

Please see observations attached from our Felling Division

Kind regards

Environmental Co-ordination Unit

From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 16:55
To: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please refer to the thread below re: scoping request for Proposed Seskin Wind Farm. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



From: Emily Lynch
Sent: 21 December 2022 11:02

To: environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.ie

Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Disclaimer:

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.

MKO

Tuam Road

Galway

Ireland

H91VW84

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

22nd February 2023

Re: Scoping Request for the proposed Seskin Wind Farm near Old Leighlin, Co Carlow.

Dear Sir/Madam,

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**. Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie or Web gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

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; gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie) 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 are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Felling Licence Applications (www.gov.ie))

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 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Felling Licence Decisions (www.gov.ie))

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

Catherine Johnson

From: info@birdwatchireland.ie
Sent: Friday 27 January 2023 10:54
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Emily

“Mr O Sullivan” no longer works for BirdWatch Ireland.
I have sent all your mails onto our Policy office Oonagh Duggan.
She is the person to deal with these queries.
She should respond to you in the coming days.

Kind Regards

Valerie Lowth

FYI - I work 8am to 2pm Monday- Friday

Membership Dept/Administration

BirdWatch Ireland

Unit 20 Block D | Bullford Business Campus | Kilcoole | Greystones | A63 RW83 | Co. Wicklow | Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)1 281 9878 email: vlowth@birdwatchireland.ie

Website: www.birdwatchireland.ie

To join as a member, make a donation, volunteer or shop online visit www.birdwatchireland.ie or call us on +353 (0)1 281 9878

From: Emily Lynch <elynych@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 16:51
To: info@birdwatchireland.ie
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Hi Mr O’Sullivan,

Just wanted to follow up and see if you have any suggestions and/ or comments regarding the proposed development detailed below. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



From: Emily Lynch
Sent: 21 December 2022 10:51
To: info@birdwatchireland.ie
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/01/2024

Dear Mr. O'Sullivan,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



Catherine Johnson

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 5 January 2023 16:09
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Attachments: 20230105 DoT response.docx

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Good afternoon Emily,

Please find attached for your attention a submission on behalf of the Department of Transport in relation to a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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: Emily Lynch <elynych@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 21 December 2022 11:16
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

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Emily

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Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Offices in Galway and Dublin

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



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RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Emily Lynch
Graduate Environmental Scientist
MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84
5th January 2023

Your Ref: 220246

**Re: EIA Scoping Document for the Proposed Seskin Wind Farm, Old Leighlin,
Co. Carlow.**

Dear Emily,

It should be noted that the Department of Transport considers that the construction involved in providing this proposed development and especially, the connection cables to the national grid may have effects on both the environment and the Regional and Local Road network.

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

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



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The department considers it important that the examination of the proposal should include consideration of the following:

- Examination of options other than the routing of cables along the public road,
- Examination of options for connection to the national grid network at a point closer to the wind farm in order to reduce the adverse impact on public roads.
- Details of where within the road cross section cables are to be placed so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance,
- Examination of details of any chambers proposed within the public road cross section so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance and,
- Rationalisation of the number of cables involved (including existing electric or possible future cables) and their diversion into one trench, in order to minimise the impacts on the road network and the environment along the road boundary (hedgerows).

The department considers the following should be considered when applying conditions to any approval.

1. A condition requiring the specific approval of the local authority to the detail of the final route of cables through the public road space. If during construction there is a need to deviate from the detailed design then the approval of the local authority would again be sought. This would assist in minimising the impact on the public road.
2. A condition requiring the developer to comply with all appropriate standards and, inter alia the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads, 2017 in order to ensure orderly development.
3. A condition requiring that the location of the cables would be recorded as exactly as possible (maybe using BIM type technology) so as to facilitate the further use of road space for utilities and the maintenance/construction of the public road by the Roads authority. This record should be lodged with the local authority and with the ESB Networks for retention on their records.
4. A condition requiring the developer to route cables away from bridge structures and specifically preventing the developer from attaching cables to road bridges. This would allow for the future maintenance of bridges without interruption of the electricity supply along the cables.
5. A condition requiring the developer to notify the Roads Authority of the owner of the cables (Owner) and the controller (Power Controller) of the power transmitted along the cables. In addition, the condition should require Owner and Power Controller to notify the Roads Authority of any change in ownership of the cables or change of Power Controller transmitting power along the cables. In all instances the Owner and Power Controller should be required to maintain an agreed contacts list with the Roads Authority.



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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

Catherine Johnson

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: Friday 23 December 2022 11:24
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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Dear Ms. Lynch,

Thank you for your email of 21 December 2022 regarding the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in 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 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 an EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).

- The developer, in preparing an EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006).
- 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., National Roads Authority, 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 the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed as TII will not be responsible for such costs.
- 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.
- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route. All structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.

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 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.

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 that grid connection routing is identified as being potentially to Kilkenny 110kV. Any grid connection and cable routing proposals should be developed to safeguard proposed road schemes as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.

In the context of the existing national road network, in accordance with the National Planning Framework National Strategic Outcome no. 2 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility', there is a requirement to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the network. This requirement is further reflected in the National Development Plan, the National

Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

There is around 99,000km of roads in Ireland, the national road network which caters for strategic inter-urban travel consists of only approx. 5.4% of this. There is a critical requirement to ensure the strategic capacity and safety of this national road network is maintained and significant Government investment already made in the national road network is safeguarded.

The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy and therefore, avoid grid connection routing proposals along 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.

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 trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

Alban Mills
Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive
Ref No. TII22-121376



From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 21 December 2022 11:30
To: Landuse Planning <LandUsePlanning@tii.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping
Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
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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RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Edward Ryan

From: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Sent: 10 May 2022 12:53
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello; Johnny Evans; windfarms@rte.ie
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

There is no risk of interference to our fixed linking services.

Due to the risk of interference to broadcast services in the area we would 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

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From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 11:07
To: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>; Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie>; windfarms@rte.ie
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Matthew, Johnny,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

MKO
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Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkoireland.ie



RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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Edward Ryan

From: padraig.condon@bt.com
Sent: 24 May 2022 20:23
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,
I can confirm the proposed development will have no impact on planned development.

Regards

Padraig Condon
Core Network Operations

Tel: +353014326819
Mobile number: +353 86 604 0636
BT Meetme: + 353 1 6569053
E-mail padraig.condon@bt.com
<https://www.webjoin.com/>
Participant: 40342233#
Web: www.btireland.com



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From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: 24 May 2022 18:48
To: Condon,PG,Padraig,NQE32E R <padraig.condon@bt.com>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: FW: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Padraig,

Following up from the previous email. MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

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If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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From: Edward Ryan
Sent: 10 May 2022 10:49
To: padraig.condon@bt.com
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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RECEIVED: 16/05/2024

Edward Ryan

From: Cecilia Kirwan <Cecilia.Kirwan@comreg.ie>
Sent: 17 May 2022 16:05
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Licensing
Subject: RE: [Confidential] 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise-Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow.
Attachments: MKO-Leighlinbridge-Co Carlow.xlsx

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

Thank you for your query. Please find attached a list telecoms operators within a 15km radius of the center point given. I have also included broadcasting services contacts.

Kind Regards
Cecilia Kirwan.

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 10:13
To: Cecilia Kirwan <Cecilia.Kirwan@comreg.ie>; Martin O Donoghue <Martin.ODonoghue@comreg.ie>; Sinead French <sinead.french@comreg.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Cecilia, Martin, Sinead,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

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Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkoireland.ie



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<https://www.comreg.ie/privacy/>

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Tá an ríomhphost seo, chomh maith le haon iatáin a bhaineann leis faoi rún agus d'fhéadfadh leis a bheith faoi phribhléid nó cosanta ó aon nochtadh. Is don seolaí(aithe) ainmnithe thuas amháin é. Níl sé ceadaithe go mbeidh rochtain ag éinne eile ar an ríomhphost seo. Más rud é nach tusa an faighteoir ainmnithe, ná cló amach, léigh, cóipeáil, nocht d'éinne nó bain úsáid as an eolas sa ríomhphost seo in aon tslí eile, le do thoil. Más rud é go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, dean teagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus scríos an t-ábhar ina iomlán, bíodh sé i gcóip leictreonach nó chrua.

Edward Ryan

From: Barry O'Donovan <barry@lightnet.ie>
Sent: 10 May 2022 14:44
To: Edward Ryan; Ellen Costello
Cc: Enda Broderick
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

Lightnet do not have any transmitters in the study area.

Regards,
Barry



BARRY O'DONOVAN

NETWORK MANAGER

 [+353 91 395804](tel:+35391395804)  barry@lightnet.ie  www.lightnet.ie

 East Point Business Park, Loughrea, Co. Galway



From: Enda Broderick <enda@lightnet.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 14:31
To: Barry O'Donovan <barry@lightnet.ie>
Subject: FW: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Barry
Would you look after this for me please.
Enda

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 11:18
To: Enda Broderick <enda.broderick@lightnet.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Enda,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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Edward Ryan

From: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Sent: 01 June 2022 16:01
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello; DL Estates ROI; Sean Kelly
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

I have reviewed the location for the proposed wind farm development near Leighlinbridge and 3Ireland have no microwave links that traverse the area or that could potentially be affected.

For any future correspondence could you please Cc 'DL Estates ROI' and Sean Kelly (Cc'd on this response).

Best Regards,

Alister



Alister Cole
Transmission Engineer

Mobile: 086 6024556
Email: Alister.Cole1@three.ie

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: 24 May 2022 18:23
To: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

CAUTION! External Email.

Hi Alister,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
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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Edward Ryan

From: Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>
Sent: 11 May 2022 17:48
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

From review of the proposed location of the wind farm detailed below, it would not appear have an impact on Towercom's sites.

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: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 11:10
To: Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Rachel,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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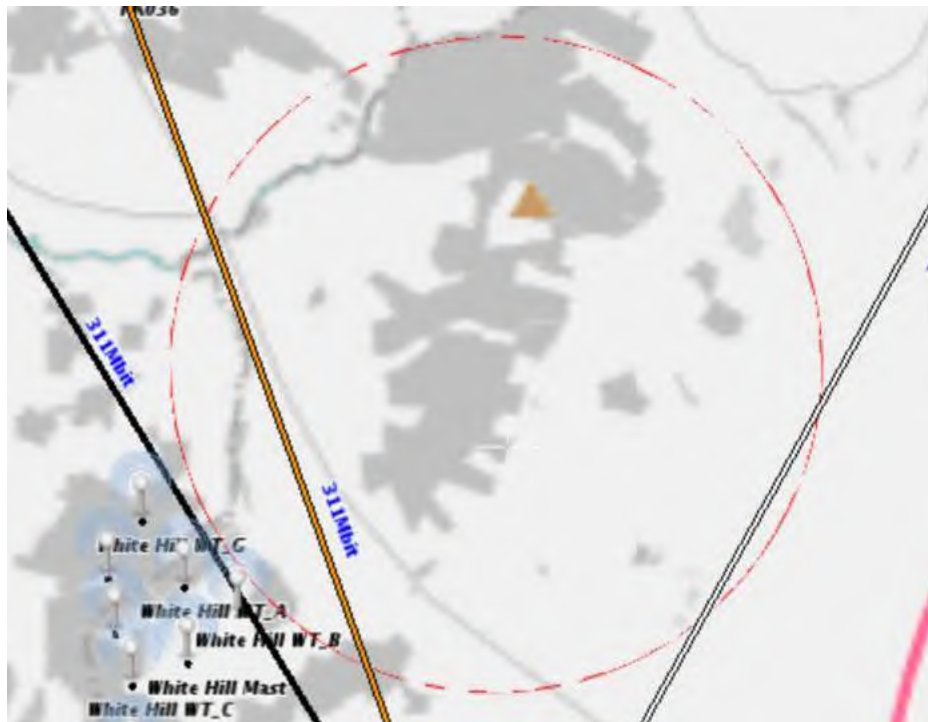
Edward Ryan

From: Lyons, Sean, Vodafone (External) <sean.lyons@vodafone.com>
Sent: 11 May 2022 09:36
To: Edward Ryan; Ellen Costello
Cc: Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone; Neill o', Shane, Vodafone
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Edward, Ellen,

According to the plot you sent over, there looks to be 3 live links that could be affected by the proposed turbines. Links to take into account are below, and we would need 30m minimum from blade tip to Fresnel zone. We would need to review again once turbine locations are confirmed.

Link Name / ID	Band MHz\GHz	Link Length	Site A			
			Lat	Long	Easting	N
CWLKN – CW049	56MHz/15GHz	15.7km	52.7189	-7.0504	264216	1634
CWLKN – KK036	56MHz/23GHz	9.36km	52.7189	-7.0504	264216	1634
CWLKN – KK006	56MHz/13GHz	13.7km	52.7189	-7.0504	264216	1634



Thanks,

Seán Lyons

Transmission Program Manager
Converged Transmission
Technology- NET
+353877758117
sean.lyons@vodafone.com



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C2 General

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 10:45
To: Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkofireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Gavin,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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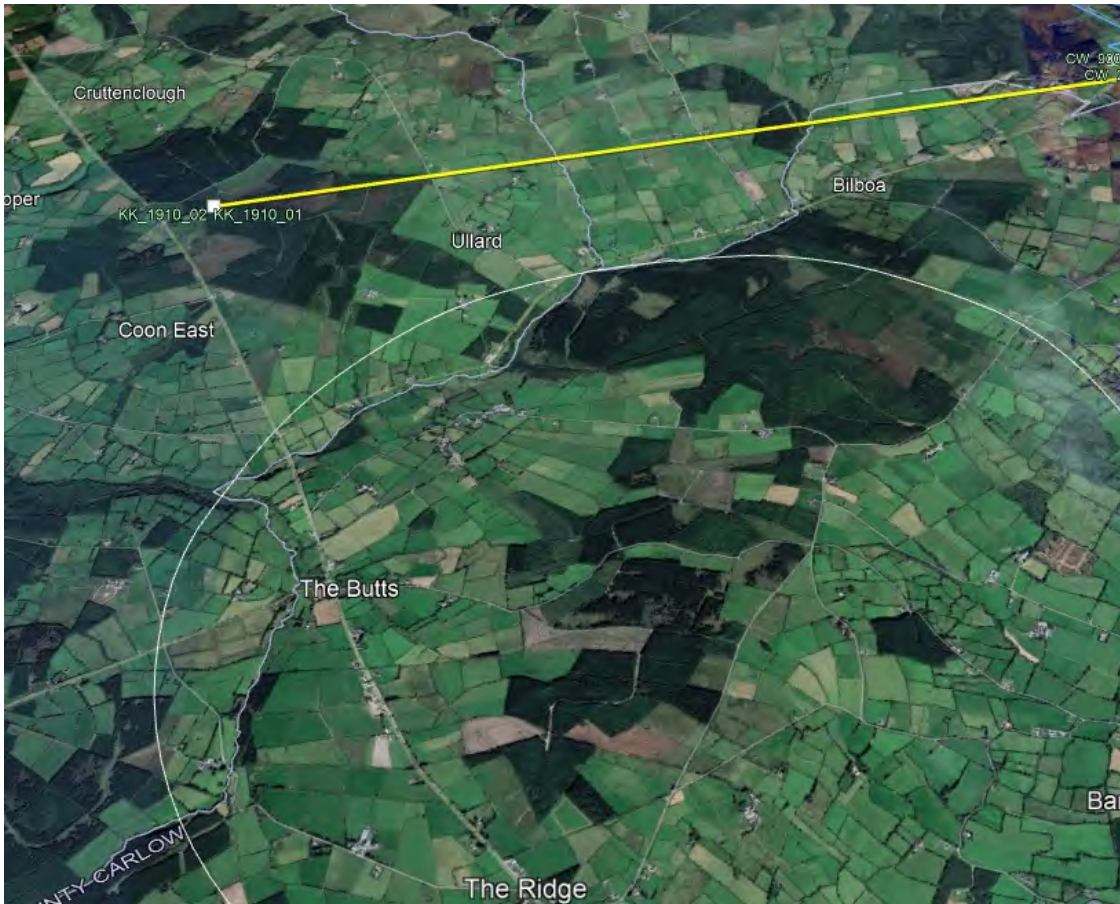
Edward Ryan

From: John Bagnall <john.bagnall@eir.ie>
Sent: 13 May 2022 09:55
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie; Ellen Costello
Subject: Re: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

We have no transmission links within the proposed area and it has no risk to the network.
Best of luck with the development.



Regards,



John Bagnall

Transmission Design & Engineering

M: +353 85 1053746

E: john.bagnall@eir.ie

Address: EirCode - D24 HX03

On Tue, 10 May 2022 at 10:29, Edward Ryan <eryan@mkofireland.ie> wrote:

Hi John,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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Ellen Costello

From: Edward Ryan
Sent: 31 May 2022 17:20
To: Peter O'Brien
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Hi Peter,

Thank you for your reply, if you hear any information regarding the possible link re-route that you mentioned please let us know. When you have the time would it be possible for you to send the details of the tower height for both telecoms masts please?

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: 27 May 2022 12:08
To: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkofireland.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkofireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Edward,

On a re-check of e-mails it may have been a different wind farm but the same link is affected, They said they would pay for a link re-route before the turbine was installed,

Regards,
Peter

Peter O'Brien | Licensed Link planner

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



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BRONZE



From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Peter,

Would you be able to send me the details please.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: 27 May 2022 10:56
To: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>

Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Edward,

Gaeltech Energy already contacted me about this turbine issue, and we discussed a migration plan, Would this have been done on behalf of your company?

Regards,
Peter

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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BRONZE



From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 10:16 AM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Peter,

Proposed T1 is looking like an issue at the moment as it is probably hitting the link. Do you have any mitigation strategies for situations like this? Could this link be bounced off another tower? These turbine locations are nearly final so if there are no strategies we could implement here, we may have to involve a telecoms consultant so just wanted to check with you first.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: 27 May 2022 08:55
To: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Edward,

How much do you propose on reducing the buffer by?

Best Regards,
Peter

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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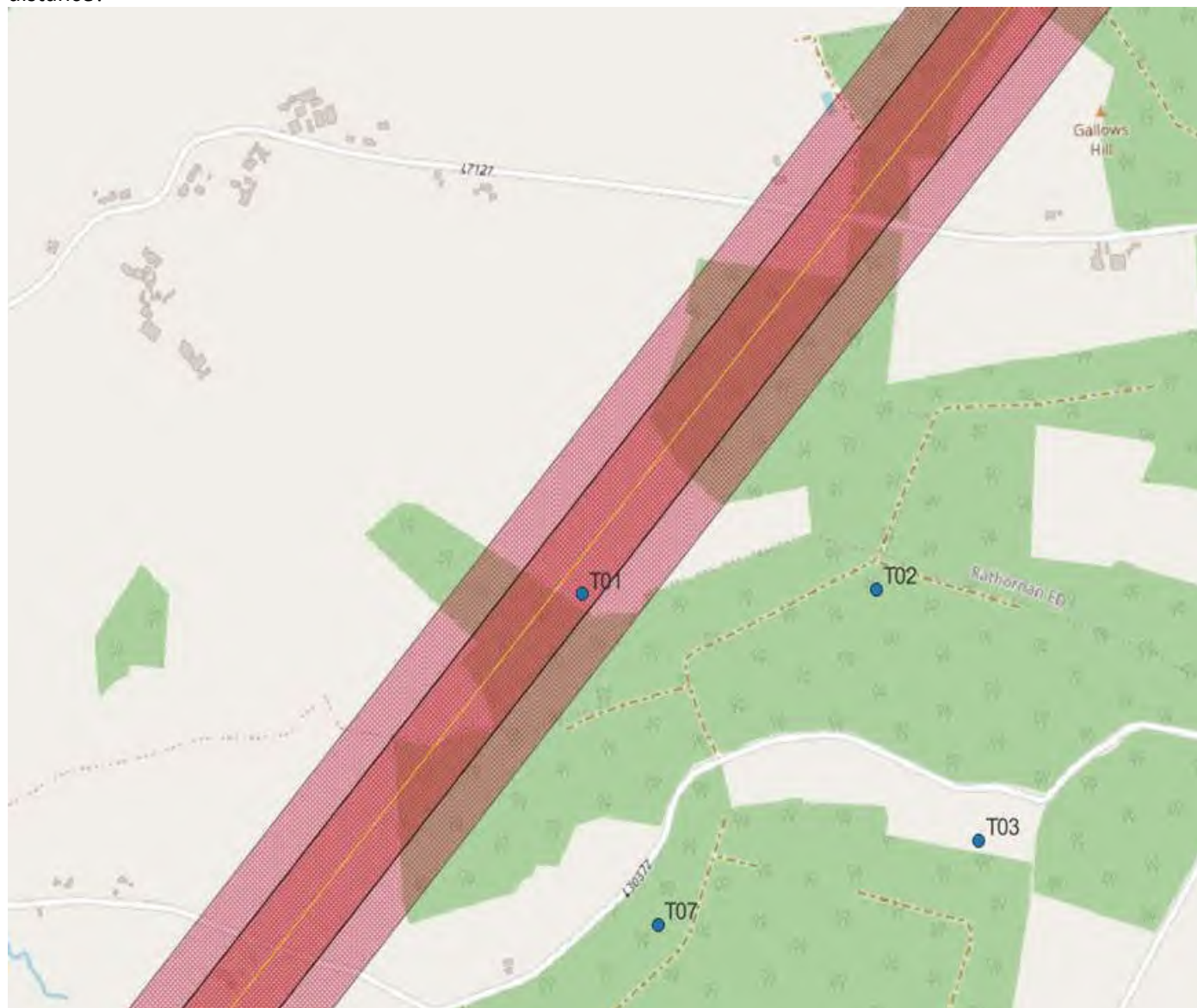
From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:57 PM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Peter,

In relation to the mast and link locations you sent me as part of the telecom scoping study, the IRP Johnswell mast connected to the HCN Rossmore mast passes over the proposed turbine location T1 (X 663438.219600 Y 669655.786900 ITM).

A-End	A-End Coordinates	B-End	B-End Coordinates	Frequency	Buffer
IRP Johnswell	52°43'1.51"N 7° 8'37.19"W	HCN Rossmore	52°48'40.26"N 7° 0'24.38"W	18GHz	70m

You have stated that a setback distance of 70m was needed. Could there be a possibility of reducing this setback distance?



ENET Links (yellow)

Enet 70m Buffer (dark red)

Enet 70m Buffer + 77.5m blade (light red)

The blue dots represent proposed turbine locations.

The proposed Turbine location T1 impinges on the buffers that you have supplied. Would you be able to tell me if it would be possible to reduce these buffers?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: 10 May 2022 15:23
To: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Edward,

Links in the scoping area below:

A-End	A-End Coordinates	B-End	B-End Coordinates	Frequency	Buffer
IRP Johnswell	52°43'1.51"N 7° 8'37.19"W	HCN Rossmore	52°48'40.26"N 7° 0'24.38"W	18GHz	70m
VDF Leighlinbridge	52°43'7.88"N 7° 3'1.16"W	Delmec Engineering	52°50'30.85"N 6°56'12.48"W	15GHz	70m

Regards,
Peter

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Hi Peter,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

Could you let me know if you have any links or masts in this area, so we can incorporate them into our constraints mapping process. If any such link are present, could you also please send me on appropriate Fresnel zones/buffers for them.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkofireland.ie



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Edward Ryan

From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: 10 May 2022 15:23
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

Links in the scoping area below:

A-End	A-End Coordinates	B-End	B-End Coordinates	Frequency	Buffer
IRP Johnswell	52°43'1.51"N 7° 8'37.19"W	HCN Rossmore	52°48'40.26"N 7° 0'24.38"W	18GHz	70m
VDF Leighlinbridge	52°43'7.88"N 7° 3'1.16"W	Delmec Engineering	52°50'30.85"N 6°56'12.48"W	15GHz	70m

Regards,
Peter

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

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Edward Ryan

From: Paul Brunel <Paul.Brunel@imaginegroup.ie>
Sent: 10 May 2022 12:13
To: Edward Ryan; Ronnie O'Neill
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,
Imagine have no MW links affected by this development.

Kind Regards,

Paul Brunel.
Transmission Planner.
Imagine Group.
Ph: 086 388 1962
imagine

t. +353 1 437 5000

m. +353 863832470

w. imagine.ie

Imagine

Sandyford Business Centre

Blackthorn Road, Sandyford, D18



AW89



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From: Edward Ryan
Sent: 10 May 2022 10:25
To: Paul Brunel <Paul.Brunel@imaginegroup.ie>; Ronnie O'Neill <Ronnie.ONeill@imaginegroup.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

This email originated outside of the organisation - please exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links.

Hi Paul, Ronnie,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

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Edward.



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Environmental Scientist

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Edward Ryan

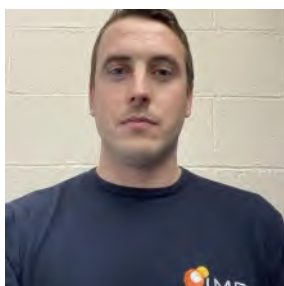
From: Denis (Denny) Ahern <denis.ahern@imedia.ie>
Sent: 10 May 2022 11:49
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: RE: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Edward,

Nothing of concern here for IMS.

Thanks,
Denis



Denis (Denny) Ahern
Chief Operating Officer

Mobile. +353 (0) 87 8122298

Phone. +353 (0) 61 310752

Email. denis.ahern@imedia.ie

Address. 1st Floor Ashbourne Hall, Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick, Co Limerick, V94 NPE0, Ireland

Website. www.imedia.ie / www.imedia.co.uk



From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 May 2022 11:14
To: Denis (Denny) Ahern <denis.ahern@imedia.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Denis,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

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Kind Regards,
Edward.



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Edward Ryan

From: licenses <licenses@stcanicescu.ie>
Sent: 26 May 2022 17:11
To: Edward Ryan
Cc: Ellen Costello
Subject: Re: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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

Hello Edward

Our vendor has reviewed the proposal, and we can confirm that any development in the marked area should have no impact on the current radio data infrastructure used by the St Canices's business

Ciaran

From: licenses <licenses@stcanicescu.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 May 2022 08:56
To: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Re: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hello Edward

Thank you for this notification, I will pass the details to our wireless provider for review

Ciaran

From: Edward Ryan <eryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 24 May 2022 17:25
To: licenses <licenses@stcanicescu.ie>
Cc: Ellen Costello <ecostello@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 220246 - Telecoms Scoping Exercise

Hi Barry,

MKO are currently carrying out a telecoms scoping exercise as part of a constraints study for a proposed development, located near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. The grid reference for the approximate centre of the site are X 663850 Y 668975 (ITM).

The site location can be seen in the Figure attached, and I have also included the relevant shapefiles and .kml files for your convenience.

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If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Edward.

Catherine Johnson

From: IWT Info <info@iwt.ie>
Sent: Thursday 22 December 2022 14:55
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: Re: 220246-Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Dear Emily,

Thank you for contacting us. We do not have the staff capacity to respond to this consultation at the moment but we will endeavour to respond if possible.

Kind regards,
Fabiola Vieira

On Wed, 21 Dec 2022 at 11:24, Emily Lynch <elynch@mkofireland.ie> wrote:

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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

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

Kind regards,

Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)

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

Registered Charity (CRA) Number: 20010966

Facebook: IrishWildlifeTrust

Twitter: @irishwildlife

Phone: 01 445 7259 (landline available Wednesday-Thursday 9:30 to 5pm)

Catherine Johnson

From: Alan Walsh <awalsh@lawaters.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 17:17
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

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

Dear Emily,

Thank you for your email and consideration of LAWPRO in this matter. As LAWPRO is not a statutory body we do not make comment on proposed development. This is a matter for the relevant Local Authority, State agency, or other statutory body.

Regards,

Alan

Alan Walsh | Communications and Engagement Lead

Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)

T 052 616 6233 **M** 087 257 9713

From: Emily Lynch <elynch@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 17:01
To: Info <info@lawco.ie>
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Just wanted to follow up and see if you have any suggestions and/ or comments regarding the proposed development detailed below. Thanks.

Kind regards,
Emily

Emily Lynch (BSc)
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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



From: Emily Lynch
Sent: 21 December 2022 11:30
To: info@lawaters.ie
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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Emily

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Graduate Environmental Scientist

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



Catherine Johnson

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>
Sent: Friday 6 January 2023 12:18
To: Emily Lynch
Subject: RE: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

RECEIVED: 13/05/2024

Hi Emily

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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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Emily Lynch <elynych@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 21 December 2022 10:52
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>
Subject: 220246- Seskin Wind Farm- Scoping

Dear Mr. Woods,

On behalf of EDF Ireland Ltd, MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a proposed wind farm site at Seskin near Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow. The total site area covers approximately 320 hectares, and the site is located approximately 3.3km northwest of Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.

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RECEIVED: 13/05/2024



Edward Ryan
Environmental Scientist

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