

Appendix 1D

LETTERS SENT TO SCOPING CONSULTEES

Planning Department
Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary E45 A099
Email: planning@tipperarycoco.ie

6 Dec 2022

Re: Proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project – Pre-Application Consultation Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) have been commissioned by Ørsted to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Planning Application for a proposed wind farm at Brittas, Co. Tipperary, approx. 3km north of Thurles town.

Details of the proposed project are provided in the attached project description document (see figures 1 and 2 in the project document for site location maps). We consider this project to be Strategic Infrastructure Development under the Seventh Schedule of the Principal Act of the Strategic Infrastructure Act, 2006, as amended, and are engaging with representatives of An Bord Pleanála in this regard. Tipperary County Council must also be consulted as part of this process. Consequently, we respectfully request a pre-planning meeting with the Planning Authority to present and discuss the project. We await your advice on a suitable date for such a meeting.

We would greatly appreciate your response at your earliest convenience. If you have any queries relating to the project, please do not hesitate to email me at mwp.environmental@mwp.ie or call on 021 453 6267 or post to me at MWP, Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251, Ireland.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Maura Talbot
Senior Environmental Consultant
For and on behalf of Malachy Walsh and Partners

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t +353 (0)21 453 6267 w www.mwp.ie
MWP, Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251, Ireland

The Secretary, An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.
19 Jan 2023

Re: Proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project – Pre-Application Consultation Request Under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) have been commissioned by Ørsted to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Planning Application for a proposed wind farm at Brittas, Co. Tipperary, approx. 3km north of Thurles town (see figures 1 and 2 for site location maps).

The applicant for the proposed development is Brittas Wind Farm Limited. Details of the proposed project are provided in the attached project description document. We consider this project to be Strategic Infrastructure Development under the Seventh Schedule of the Principle Act of the Strategic Infrastructure Act, 2006, as amended (see discussion of relevant class of development in Schedule 7 provided in Section 10 of the attached report), and respectfully request a Pre-application Consultation Meeting with representatives of An Bord Pleanála.

Ørsted has made a payment of €4,500 to An Bord Pleanála, in respect of the SID Pre-Application Consultation process for this project. They were not given a payment reference number but their internal purchase order number for this payment is 4500433763.

We would greatly appreciate your response at your earliest convenience. If you have any queries relating to the project please do not hesitate to email me at maura.talbot@mwp.ie or call on 021 453 6267 or post to me at MWP, Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251, Ireland.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Maura Talbot
Senior Environmental Consultant
For and on behalf of Malachy Walsh and Partners

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{Insert name and address of relevant Stakeholder}

6 Dec 2022

Re: Proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project – Pre-Application Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) have been commissioned by Ørsted to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Planning Application for a proposed wind farm at Brittas, Co. Tipperary, approx. 3km north of Thurles town.

Details of the proposed project are provided in the attached project description document (see figures 1 and 2 in the project document for site location maps). We consider this project to be Strategic Infrastructure Development under the Seventh Schedule of the Principal Act of the Strategic Infrastructure Act, 2006, as amended, and are engaging with representatives of An Bord Pleanála in this regard. All other statutory authorities and key stakeholders are also being consulted about this project during the pre-application phase.

We would greatly appreciate your feedback. If you have any queries or issues relating to the project, please do not hesitate to email me at mwp.environmental@mwp.ie or call on 021 453 6267 or post to MWP, Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251, Ireland. When contacting us please use the heading 'Brittas Wind Farm – 23318'.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Maura Talbot
Senior Environmental Consultant
For and on behalf of Malachy Walsh and Partners

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Address: MWP, Park House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251, Ireland

MWP

PRELIMINARY PROJECT DETAILS

Proposed Brittas Wind Farm

Ørsted

December 2022

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Project No.	Doc. No.	Rev.	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Approved By	Status
23318	6004	A	06/12/2022	M Talbot	AR		DRAFT

MWP, Engineering and Environmental Consultants

Address: Reen Point, Blennerville, Tralee, Kerry, V92 X2TK

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1. Introduction

Brittas Wind Farm Limited, a subsidiary of *Ørsted Onshore Ireland Midco Limited* (hereafter referred to as *Ørsted*) intend to submit a planning application for developing and operating a wind farm project on lands at Brittas, Co. Tipperary, approx. 3km north of Thurles town (see figures 2 and 3 in the appendix for site location maps). MWP has been commissioned by *Ørsted* to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and prepare a planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed development.

It is envisaged that the project will exceed a 50MW capacity scale threshold for Strategic Infrastructure Developments (SID). Consequently, an application for planning permission must be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. A pre-application stage consultation process with An Bord Pleanála will commence in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that further consultation will be undertaken with Tipperary County Council in conjunction with the SID pre-application phase process.

An environmental constraints study is underway and baseline assessments have commenced to provide information on the environmental constraints, the receiving environment (baseline) and the potential sensitivities contained within the study area, so as to ensure the wind farm layout will be designed with the least environmental impact.

This document provides preliminary details on the proposed wind farm project and has been prepared for stakeholder consultation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

A project website (www.brittaswindfarm.ie) has been set up which will be updated regularly as the project progresses. www.brittaswindfarm.ie

2. Developer/ Applicant Details

The applicant for the proposed development is Brittas Wind Farm Limited, a subsidiary of *Ørsted Onshore Ireland Midco Limited*. *Ørsted* is a renewable energy company taking action to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. *Ørsted* develop, construct, own and operate onshore and offshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants. *Ørsted* own and operate 19 wind farms across Ireland providing 327MW of electricity to the national grid, with additional wind farms in the construction and planning phases.

3. Location Details

The study area for the proposed project is located in the following townlands: Brittas, Rossestown, Clobanna, Brownstown, Clonamuckoge Beg, Clonamuckoge More and Tooreen, County Tipperary, located north of Thurles as identified in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** below. The lands are made up of agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows and treelines. An area of broadleaf forestry is located at the southwest of the site. The River Suir transects the site from north to south. The N62 is located west of the site, running north to south, connecting Templemore to Thurles. The N62 provides a link to the M6, M7 and M8 motorways. The L8017 local road traverses the centre of site from east to west, crossing the River Suir at a bridge point. There are a small number of recorded monuments within the site boundary, including Brittas Castle, located in the southeast of the study area and is included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The site is located in an area designated as 'Open to Consideration

for New Wind Energy Development’ in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 Renewable Energy Strategy.

4. Project Components

The proposed Wind Farm will consist of 10 to 12 wind turbines with a maximum turbine tip height of 185m and expected export capacity of circa 60MW to 72MW. The proposed project will have an operating life of 35 years. The development will include associated infrastructure including an underground cable connection to the national electricity grid, and a turbine delivery route (TDR).

It is anticipated that the project will include the following.

Main project components:

- Wind Turbines, Foundations and Hardstand areas.
- On-site access roads.
- On-site interconnecting underground electrical cabling.
- Substation on the wind farm site.
- Temporary construction compound.
- Meteorological mast.
- Borrow Pits and spoil management areas.
- On-site tree felling.

Off-site project components:

- Turbine component delivery route (TDR)
- Grid connection, underground cable, any requirements to upgrade substation offsite

Project engagement:

- Consultation with planning/consent authorities and other statutory bodies (including survey licence applications)
- Community and stakeholder engagement

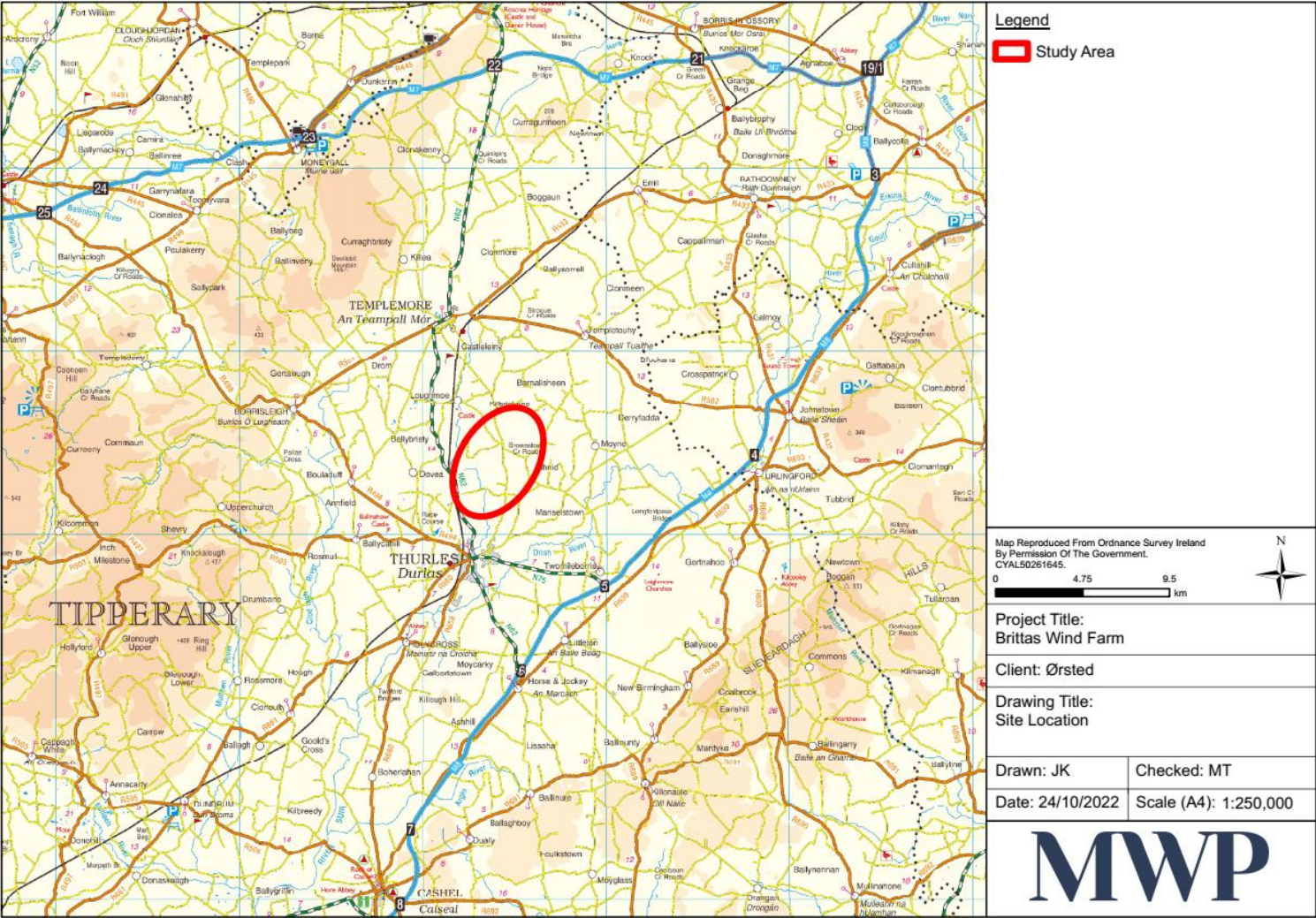


Figure 1 Location of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm project.

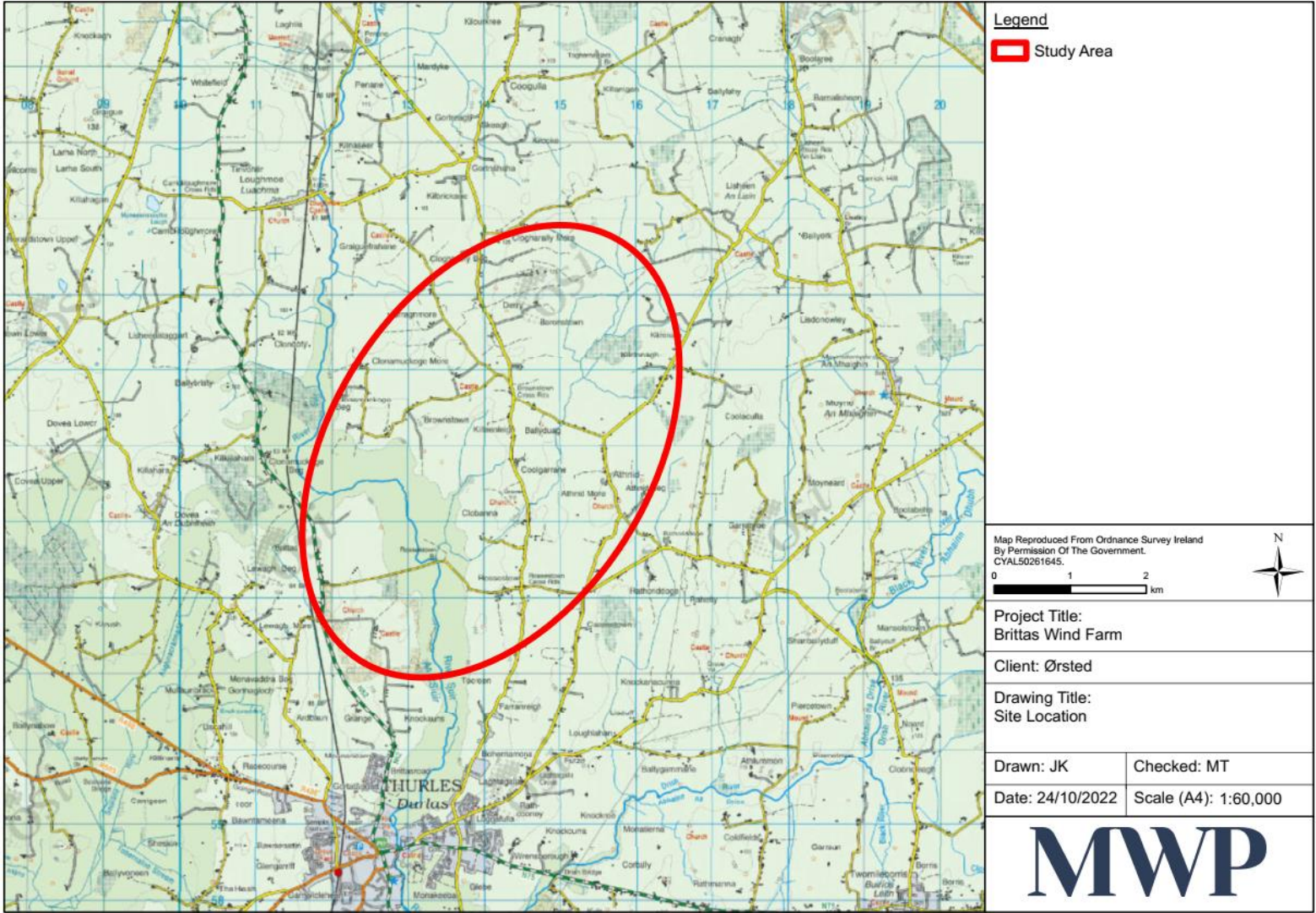


Figure 2 Brittas Wind Farm Proposed Project Area under Assessment

5. Preliminary Layout

Baseline survey's and design work is currently underway to inform the layout for a wind farm of up to 12 wind turbines. The process of refining the layout is expected to be an iterative one that will form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process with the objective of avoiding or minimising the potential environmental impacts. Adjustments to turbine locations may occur due to social, environmental, or engineering issues.

6. Site Access

A number of options are being considered for the TDR. The exact routes will be assessed and refined after the baseline environmental and engineering studies have been completed and consultations with the Local Authority are complete. It is likely that the turbine components will be delivered to the port of Foynes, County Limerick, and transported to the site via the N69 and M7, R498 from Nenagh to Thurles and the and N62 from Thurles to the project site.

The site can be accessed from the west and east via the existing local road that crosses the study area. An assessment of the delivery route is underway to determine the best route for delivery of the turbine components. Similarly, haul routes for construction materials will be considered and assessed as part of the project EIAR.

7. Grid Connection

A new on-site substation will be located at an appropriate location within the development site. At this stage it is intended to connect to the nearby Thurles 110kV substation located approximately 2.5km south-east of the site. However, other connection options may also be considered depending on engagement and feedback from ESB Networks and/or EirGrid. The EIAR will identify and assess at least two grid route options.

8. Consultations

Pre-planning consultation with the Tipperary County Council will take place and consultation with relevant stakeholders will also be completed to inform the scope of the EIAR studies. Consultation will be conducted through letter and email for information sharing and phone calls and meetings as relevant. This Project Description Report will be provided when liaising with the Planning Authority on the proposed development.

Public consultation has commenced with an initial letter drop in the area of the proposed development. Community events will be held as the project progresses and community participation will be welcomed throughout the process. A community liaison officer has been appointed and a project website has been set up to provide project information and updates (www.brittaswindfarm.com).

9. Environmental Impact Assessment

The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out the contents of an EIAR. In addition, the contents of Directive 2014/52/EU will also be included in the preparation of this EIAR.

The EIAR will be based on the data gathered during the baseline assessment process. It will apply accepted methodologies in determining if effects will be significant and recommends mitigation measures to avoid or reduce effects where possible. The contents and structure of the EIAR are outlined in **Figure 3**.

The intended purpose of the EIAR is to:

- identify the baseline environmental context of the proposed development;
- inform the consenting authority, other regulatory bodies and the public of the possible environmental effects and effects associated with implementation of the proposed development;
- determine whether the identified effects could be significant;
- propose preventative or mitigation measures for potential effects, as required, where feasible.

The methodology recommended in the following Guidelines will be followed:

- EPA publication 'Guidelines on Information to be contained in environmental impact statements', 2022 and
- The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019,
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Scoping (EC, 2018)
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DoHPLG, 2018).

The EIAR Report is a legal document and will have regard to the following legislation:

- The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended);
- The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- EIA Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989);
- EIA (Amendment) Regulations (SI No. 93 of 1999);
- EIA (Planning and Development Act, 2000) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 419 of 2012);
- EU Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (2011 EIA Directive);
- EU EIA Directive 2014/52/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (2014 EIA Directive);

- EU (Planning and Development)(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (SI No. 216 of 2018).

Preliminary environmental appraisal and project feasibility will involve desk-top studies, review of available data for the general area of the site, site visits and field surveys. The EIAR will include the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Project Description
3. Civil Engineering
4. Alternatives
5. Population and Human Health
6. Biodiversity (including aquatic ecology)
7. Ornithology
8. Soils, Geology, Geotechnics and Ground Stability
9. Hydrology, Hydrogeology, and water quality
10. Material Assets, Transport, Aviation and Telecommunications
11. Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
12. Noise and Vibration
13. Shadow Flicker
14. Air Quality and Climate
15. Landscape and Visual
16. Interaction of Effects
17. Schedule of Environmental Mitigation Measures

Each specialist impact assessment chapter will include a methodology, scoping, baseline assessments, impact assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases, mitigation, any design changes to reduce or remove impacts, residual impacts and cumulative effects.

10. Views /Comments/Feedback

It is recognised that consultation early and often is a critical component of the EIA process, and we therefore value your input with regard to any issues or concerns that you may have in relation to wind energy development in this area.

We would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience upon receipt of this correspondence to allow us to consider any feedback. Comments to the proposed wind farm development are invited from all interested parties and can be forwarded to:

Maura Talbot
Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP),
Park House, Bessboro Road,
Blackrock, Cork, T12 X251, Ireland
email: mwp.environmental@mwp.ie

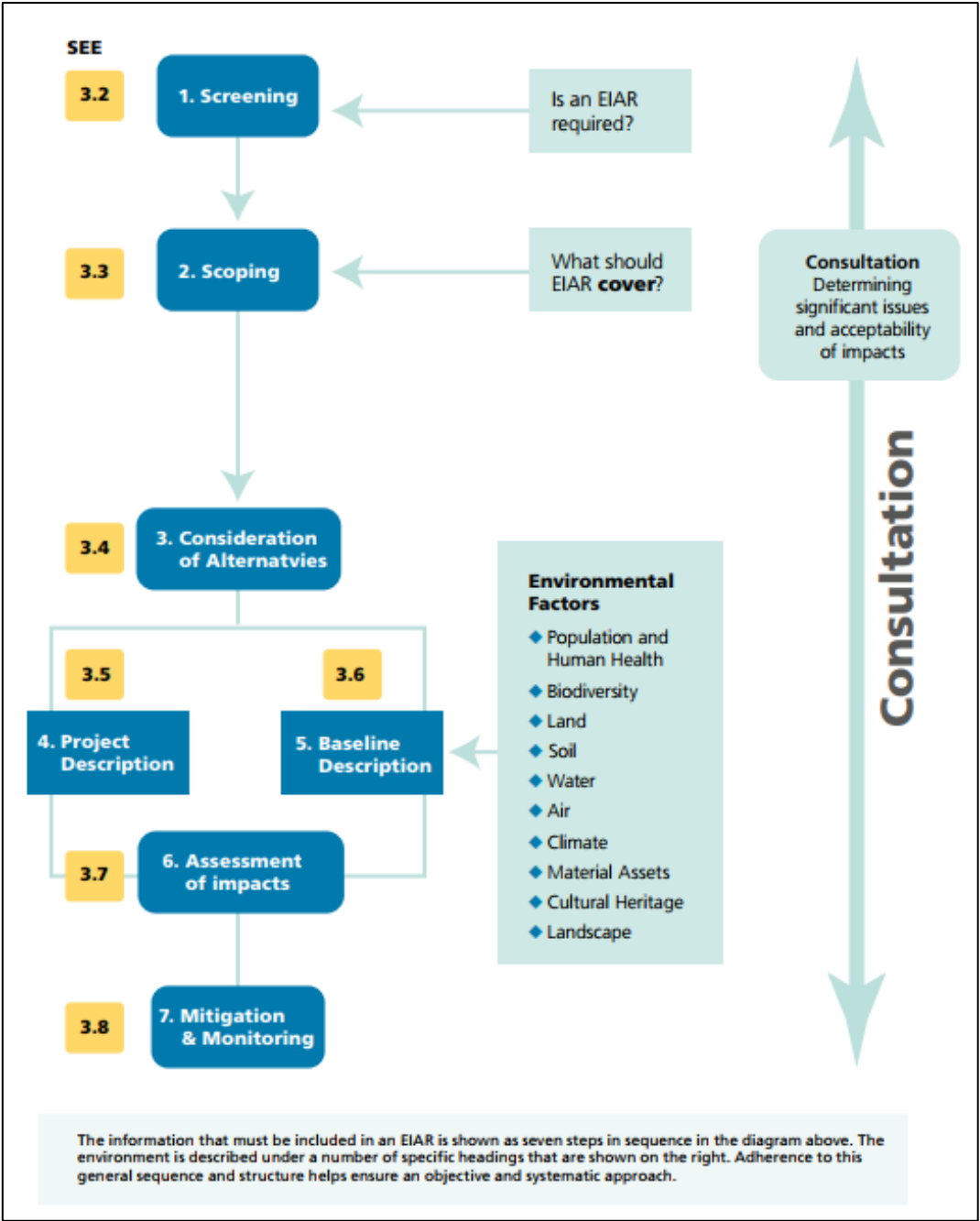


Figure 3. EIA Contents in Sequence