

Appendix 1-4 – Consultee Responses



John Staunton

From: Minister McConalogue <→>
Sent: Monday 30 January 2023 14:59
To: John Staunton
Subject: Acknowledgement

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Mr. John Staunton

Tobin Consulting Entineers

30th January 2023

Reference No: DAFM-MMO-00459-2023

Dear Mr. Staunton,

I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 26/01/2023 to Charlie McConalogue T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding proposed development of Scartmountain Wind Farm , Co Waterford.

I will bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention as soon as possible. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

Hilda Verling
Minister's Office

John Staunton

From: CorporateSupport.Unit <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday 27 January 2023 09:46
To: Louise Lynch
Cc: CorporateSupport.Unit; Planning Notifications; John Staunton
Subject: Notice of change of contact email address for DECC

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Good morning Louise,

Please be advised that the contact email address for the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications where this Department is a statutory consultee for Planning/EIA/EIS/SEA and NIS notifications has **changed**.

The new contact email address from Tuesday 2 August 2022 is PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

Hard copies can be sent to :

Planning Advisory
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications,
Third Floor,
29 – 31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2
D02 X285

Please remove CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie for correspondence on this subject and replace it with PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Enda Brady,
Corporate Support Unit,

Enda Brady,
Corporate Support Unit,

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

Teach Leamháin, Bóthar Ghleann an Iarla, An Cabhán, H12 A8H7
Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan, H12 A8H7

M [REDACTED] T [REDACTED]
CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie www.gov.ie/decc

John Staunton

From: Housing Manager DAU < >
Sent: Friday 27 January 2023 10:06
To: Louise Lynch
Cc: John Staunton
Subject: RE: Scartmountain Windfarm

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Our Ref: **G Pre00020/2023** (Please quote in all related correspondence)

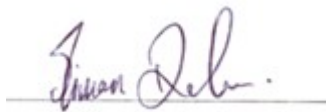
I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation.

In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU).

The normal target turnaround for pre-planning and other general consultations is six weeks from date of receipt. In relation to general consultations from public bodies under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, the Department endeavours to meet deadline dates, where requested.

If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please email manager.dau@npws.gov.ie.

Regards,



Simon Dolan

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

From: Louise Lynch < >
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 16:40
To: Housing Manager DAU < >

Tobin Consultant Engineers
Galway office
Fairgreen House
Fairgreen Road
Galway
H91AXK8

15TH February 2023

Re: Scoping Request for the proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm Wind Farm near Cappoquin, Co Waterford.

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 Licence from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. 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://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://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

John Staunton

From: Transport GCU <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday 16 February 2023 15:38
To: Louise Lynch; John Staunton
Cc: Transport RegionalAndLocalRoadsDivision
Subject: RE: Scartmountain Windfarm
Attachments: 20230216 DoT response Scartmountain.docx

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached for your attention submission on behalf of the Department of Transport in relation to the proposed Scartmountain Windfarm.

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 [REDACTED]
gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

From: Louise Lynch <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday 26 January 2023 16:45
To: Transport GCU <[REDACTED]>
Cc: John Staunton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Scartmountain Windfarm

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached scoping report and letter for the proposed development of Scartmountain Windfarm. Please direct any queries or comments to John Staunton (Project Manager) who included in this email.

Kind regards,
Louise



Mr. John Staunton
TOBIN Consulting Engineers

Block 10-4
Blanchardstown Corporate Park
Dublin
D15 X98N

16th February 2023

RE: Proposed Development of Scartmountain Wind Farm, Co. Waterford

Dear John,

The Department of Transport makes the following comments on the Scartmountain development located near Cappoquin in County Waterford.

It should be noted that the department considers the construction involved in providing this 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.

The department consider 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,

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60, Éire

Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland

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www.gov.ie/transport



- 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.

Yours sincerely,

Central Policy, Coordination and Reform

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

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gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

13 March 2023

Via email: _____

A chara

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

The following scoping comments are made in the context of this Department's role in relation to nature conservation. The observations are intended to assist you in relation to identifying potential impacts on European sites, other nature conservation sites, and biodiversity and environmental protection in general, in the context of the current proposal. Data collected and surveys carried out in connection with this proposed development may raise other issues that have not been considered here. The observations are not exhaustive and are made without prejudice to any recommendation that may be made by this Department in the future.

Based on the information currently available about the location of the proposed development, the Department does have some concerns which should be addressed. The Department is aware that this area makes up a part of a larger area which is important for breeding Annex I (Birds Directive) Hen Harriers and holds a significant number of breeding pairs. Any potential impact on this species will need to be fully addressed. Other species for which this site may be important include Annex I species and Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) such as Merlin, and Red Grouse. Survey results for species need to be referenced back to overall populations and their dynamics as, in some cases even a small risk to a population of a species could be considered significant. When



completing Impact Assessments for birds, assessment and monitoring results from nearby wind farms must be considered. Cumulative impact on birds from all wind farms in the area needs to be assessed and the data from surrounding sites needs to be considered in the assessment. The assessment should also consider any currently proposed wind farm application adjoining the site and how that may interact with the proposed development. It appears from the map of indicative turbine locations that the five northernmost turbines are proposed on heath habitat which may be Habitats Directive Annex I habitat and therefore of conservation value. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should consider the conservation value of this habitat, particularly any habitat listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and the national conservation status of the habitat and the trend in that status. The Department has concerns in relation to potential damage to and loss of this and related habitat. Concerns relate both to the intrinsic conservation value of the habitat and also its value as a nesting and foraging habitats for other species such as the aforementioned Hen Harrier.

The Department notes also that this habitat is on peat and the proximity of the Glenshelane River section of the River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Potential impacts through the release of sediment or other substances into adjoining waterways should be fully addressed.

The EIAR should take account of Objective 1 of the 2017-2021 National Biodiversity Action Plan which is to mainstream biodiversity into decision-making across all sectors and Action 1.1.3 is that *“all public authorities and private sector bodies move towards no net loss of biodiversity through strategies, planning, mitigation measures, appropriate offsetting and/or investment in Blue-Green infrastructure”*. In this context this Department would suggest that any loss of habitat if it is to proceed should be mitigated for by the provision or enhancement of habitat elsewhere. The EIAR should also consider Article 10 of the EU Habitats Directive insofar as it relates to features which function as stepping stones for wild species in the landscape.

Please find below some general scoping comments for EIAR, Appropriate Assessment screening and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), and for licensing requirements which may assist.

Project components

The Department notes that the location map indicates the site may include areas of peatland and areas under coniferous forest cover. The EIAR should give specific consideration to the mobilisation of sediment and changes to the stability of peat. The



proposed windfarm and associated infrastructure has the potential for significant changes in patterns of surface water flow and may desiccate the peat allowing pathways to open up resulting in subsurface water losses. It should be noted that in 2020 a number of major upland peatland (blanket bog) landslides occurred across Ireland, most notably on Shass Mountain near Drumkeeran in County Leitrim¹ and Meenbog, near Ballybofey in County Donegal. The Peat Stability Risk Assessment must be considered in light of these occurrences with consideration of climate change predictions (e.g. rainfall level) in the hazard rating and should thoroughly assess risk with regard to change in weather patterns due to climate change such as more frequent and intense storms and rainfall events, increased likelihood and magnitude of river flooding, prolonged periods of dry conditions which may increase the likelihood of unstable peat.

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

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

The associated impacts of quarrying or extraction should be included among the considerations at the earliest stages of project planning and design, and should be assessed fully in the EIAR. As with any other part of the development, all borrow pits

¹ <https://www.npws.ie/news/shass-mountain-peat-landslide-report-published>



(existing or proposed) to be used in construction should be included within the application area for the proposed development.

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

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

Any improvement or reinforcement works required for access and transport anywhere along the proposed haul route(s) should be included in the EIAR and subjected to ecological impact assessment with the inclusion of mitigation measures, as appropriate. Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development (including access roads and cabling etc.) such as woodland, scrub, hedgerows and other habitats should be mitigated for. In addition, Annex 1 habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats outside the network should be given due consideration as part of the consideration of biodiversity matters generally for the proposed development. The loss of Annex 1 habitats outside SACs should be avoided wherever possible.



Edel Griffin
Development Applications Unit
Administration



John Staunton
Tobin Consulting Engineers
Block 10-4
Blanchardstown Corporate park
Dublin D15 X98N

07 March 2023

Re: Proposed Wind Farm at Scartmountain, Co Waterford

Your Ref: 11303ns2

Our Ref: 23/26

Dear John,

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 letter received on the 30 January 2023, concerning the Proposed Wind Farm at Scartmountain, Co Waterford Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

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](#).

The audit for Co. Waterford was completed in 2012. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm.**

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 an aquifer classed as a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones' underlies the proposed wind farm development. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.



[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.

Landslides are common in areas of peat, rock near surface and in fine to coarse range materials (such as glacial tills), areas which are found within the proposed wind farm area. **The Landslide Susceptibility map indicates variable landslide susceptibility within the study area, including areas of ‘Moderately High’ to ‘High’ susceptibility.** Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

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

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

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

We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. In keeping with a sustainable approach we would recommend use of our data and mapping viewers to identify and ensure that natural resources used in the wind farm development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

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



Guidelines

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

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

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to 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.

John Staunton

From: GSI Planning <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday 7 March 2023 07:51
To: John Staunton
Cc: Clare Glanville; GSI Planning
Subject: RE: EIS 23/26 - Proposed Wind Farm at Scartmountain, Co Waterford
Attachments: 23_26 Scartmountain Wind Farm Co Waterford.pdf; GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA_20210421.pdf

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Dear John,

With reference to your letter received on the 30 January 2023, concerning the Proposed Wind Farm at Scartmountain, Co Waterford, please find attached response and dataset sheet from Geological Survey Ireland. If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me Trish Smullen, or my colleague Clare Glanville at . [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen
Geological Survey Ireland

-----Original Message-----

From: GSI Planning <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday 30 January 2023 15:51
To: Clare Glanville <[REDACTED]>; Sophie O'Connor <[REDACTED]>; Monica Lee<[REDACTED]>; Taly Hunter Williams <[REDACTED]>; Sean Cullen <[REDACTED]>; ChariseMcKeon <[REDACTED]>; Jim Hodgson <[REDACTED]>; Eoin McGrath <[REDACTED]>; TrishSmullen <[REDACTED]>
Cc: GSI Planning <[REDACTED]>
Subject: EIS 23/26 - Proposed Wind Farm at Scartmountain, Co Waterford

EIS 23/26

Proposed Wind Farm at Scartmountain, Co Waterford. Request for observations by Tobin by 9 March 2023. Letter with scoping report is enclosed.

Regards,

John

Disclaimer:

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

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/
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=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=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=afa76a20fc54877843aca1bc075c62b
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=9768f4818b794c16093beb2212a850ce6&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; turflog 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=9ee46bee08de41278b90a9916dc0b9e
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?teasting=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://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754

Notes:

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

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

Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann
Foirgneamh na hAmanna
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www.iaa.ie



2nd February 2023

Mr. John Staunton
Tobin Consulting Engineers
Fairgreen House
Fairgreen Road
Galway
H91 AXK8

TOBIN CONSULTING ENGINEERS		
PROJECT NO.		
FILE REF:		
Date Received	09 FEB 2023	
PASS TO	ACTION BY	DATE
ST		
JS		

Reference: 11303s13, Scartmountain Wind Farm Scoping Report
Applicant: FuturEnergy Ireland

Description: FuturEnergy Ireland intends to develop Scartmountain Wind Farm, north of Cappoquin, County Waterford and have commenced the process of Environmental Impact Assessment. It is proposed that the Scartmountain Wind Farm will be built within a site that extends to approximately 970 hectares (ha), most of which is commercial forest owned by Coillte and the remaining area is third party property. It is currently proposed that up to 17 no. wind turbines will be located across the proposed wind farm site. Scartmountain Wind Farm, north of Cappoquin, County Waterford.

Dear Mr. Staunton,

Thank you for your letter/scoping report and request for comments in relation to the proposed Scartmountain Windfarm, Co Waterford. The development appears to be approximately 60km NE of Cork Airport as such, it is recommended that the developer engage directly with daa Cork Airport (including IAA-ANSP) to make them aware of the proposal and ensure appropriate screening from an aviation safety perspective.

It is likely that the following general observations would be proffered by the Authority during a formal planning process: In the event of planning consent being granted, the developer 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

Bord Stiúrthóirí/Board of Directors
Rose Hynes (Cathaoirleach/Chairman),
Peter Kearney (Príomhfhéidhmeannach/Chief Executive)
Cian Blackwell Ernie Donnelly,
Gerry Lumsden, Joan McGrath, Declan Fitzpatrick,
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 Ghníomhaíochta Ainmnithe

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

Your sincerely

P.P. O'Leary

Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs

John Staunton

From: Andrew Gillespie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday 21 February 2023 12:15
To: John Staunton
Subject: re: letter and scoping document for proposed windfarm at Scartmountain, Co. Waterford

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Mr John Staunton,
Senior Project Manager,
Tobin Consulting Engineers,
Fairgreen House,
Galway,
H91 AXKB

February 21st, 2023,

Re: Scartmountain Wind Farm proposal

Dear Mr Staunton,

IFI welcomes your letter and scoping report seeking observations on same. Developments such as the proposed wind farm have the potential to significantly impact on the aquatic environment if they are not carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner. IFI requests that your client considers the following during the preparation of their application and accompanying environmental reports:

Ground Stability. Having particular regard to the foregoing, overall priority should be given to monitoring ground stability during the active construction phase, and that site development works are carried out in such manner as not to result in creation of unstable ground conditions, or subsequently lead to ground instability in the long term operational life time of the project.

Physical interference with stream channels. There should be no interference or alterations (drainage or otherwise) without prior consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland. In-stream works, if required, should only take place during the period July to September inclusive.

Prevention of discharges of polluting matter such as cement. Uncured concrete can kill fish by altering the pH of the water. Pre-cast concrete should be used whenever possible, to eliminate the risk to fish. When cast-in-place concrete is required, all work must be done in the dry and effectively isolated from any water that may enter watercourses for a period sufficient to cure the concrete.

Prevention of silt deposition in streams. One of the potential impacts from the development is the discharge of silt-laden waters to streams. The silt can clog salmonid spawning beds and can also precipitate further riverbank erosion downstream. Inevitably this can lead to loss or degradation of valuable habitat. It is important to incorporate best practices into construction methods and strategies to minimise discharges of silt/suspended solids to waters.

Silt traps should be planned and constructed proactively at locations that will intercept run-off to streams. Silt traps should not be constructed immediately adjacent to natural watercourses. A buffer zone should remain between the silt trap and the watercourse with natural vegetation left intact to assist silt interception.

Storage of fuels/oils etc. All storage areas should be adequately bunded and hydrocarbon interceptors placed in locations to contain potential spillages on loading/working areas.

Stream crossings. Migration of fish must be unimpeded. Bridging should be of a nature that will not interfere with the natural streambed, stream width or its gradient. Clear span designs maintain the stream channel profile, do not alter stream gradients, readily pass sediment and debris, and retain the natural stream bed and gradient. Water velocity is not significantly changed, and they can be designed to maintain the normal stream width. As stated above the crossing of watercourses at fords is unacceptable ***Culvert pipes are not recommended.***

All natural watercourses which require be to traversed during site development work should be effectively bridged prior to commencement of significant vehicular site traffic. The crossing of watercourses at fords is unacceptable because of the amount of uncontrolled sedimentation that can be generated by their use. Measures must be put in place to prevent silt run-off during road construction.


Hardcore areas. The increased volumes of surface water runoff from hardcore areas must not impact on the river habitat by giving rise to erosion.

I am available to further discuss any queries you may have in relation to the proposed project at your own convenience, and now anticipate referral of any future application from the relevant planning authority.


Yours faithfully,

Andrew Gillespie,

Andrew Gillespie
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland



beolíne / hotline
0818 34 74 24
Oscailte 24 uair an lae / 7 lá in aghaidh na seachtaine
Open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Help us protect Ireland's rivers, lakes and coastlines by reporting illegal fishing, water pollution or invasive species.
Our confidential phone number is 0818 34 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

John Staunton

From: Louise Lynch
Sent: Tuesday 14 February 2023 10:26
To: John Staunton
Subject: FW: TII23-121774 - Proposed development of Scartmountain Windfarm

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 14 February 2023 10:14
To: Louise Lynch <[REDACTED]>
Subject: TII23-121774 - Proposed development of Scartmountain Windfarm

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Dear Ms. Lynch,

I acknowledge receipt of your email of 26 January 2023 relating to the above Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Scoping exercise.

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 roads 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 the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route. 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 proposals are not mapped in the EIAR Scoping Report received. However, please note 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 approximately 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. TII23-121774



John Staunton

From: Cillian Claffey (C) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday 30 January 2023 10:10
To: John Staunton
Cc: Planning; Ali Robinson
Subject: Uisce Éireann's response to EIA Scoping Request for proposed wind farm in Waterford.
Attachments: UisceÉireann_EIAScopingOpinion_Scartmountain.pdf

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Good morning John,

Hope you are keeping well today.

Please find attached Uisce Éireann's response to your EIA scoping request relating to the forthcoming planning application for a wind farm in Waterford.

Also, just to note going forward that I am the planning lead for the North / West / Southern region and will act as interface for Irish Water on this application.

Could you please notify myself **OR** planning@water.ie when the applicant is submitting this application so that we can get a heads up and ensure we receive the referral in adequate time.

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

Kind regards,

Cillian Claffey
Development Management Planning

Uisce Éireann
Blackwater House, Mallow P51 K3CX

T [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Thank you for your attention.

Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimiscthe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Uisce Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmiscthe na faisnéise seo. Níl Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Uisce Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig nó ó Uisce Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Fochuideachta gníomhaíochta de chuid Ervia is ea Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, de bhun fhorálacha an tAcht um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2013, a bhfuil a bpríomh ionad gnó ag 24-26 Teach Colvill, Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

Uisce Éireann's Response to EIA Scoping Requests

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

- a) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an Uisce Éireann Drinking Water Source(s), the applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified as part of the report.
- b) Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert.
- c) Mitigations should be proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water source(s) which may be in proximity and included in the environmental management plan and incident response.
- d) Any and all potential impacts on the nearby reservoir as public water supply water source(s) are assessed, including any impact on hydrogeology and any groundwater/ surface water interactions.
- e) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (*i.e. do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development*). This is confirmed by Uisce Éireann in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development requires a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system, the developer is advised to submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to Uisce Éireann to determine the feasibility of connection to the Uisce Éireann network.

All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from
<https://www.water.ie/connections/connection-steps/>.

- f) The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.
- g) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.
- h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers.
- i) Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.

- j) When considering a development proposal, the applicant is advised to determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from the applicant's site / lands to the public network and any drinking water abstraction catchments to ensure these are included and fully assessed in any pre-planning proposals. Details, where known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordnance Survey map identifying the proposed location of the applicant's intended development to datarequests@water.ie
- k) Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within the applicant's lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.
- l) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion / circulation characterises. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified within the report.
- m) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (*and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source*) or the potential of the development to influence / present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply should be identified within the report.
- n) Where a development proposes to connect to an Uisce Éireann network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges wastewater to a "protected"/ sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.
- o) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any Uisce Éireann drinking water sources (Surface and Ground water).

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note;

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

Tobin Consulting Engineers.
Block 10-4,
Blanchardstown Corporate Park,
Dublin,
D15 X98N.

By Email:

13th March 2023

Re: Submission by Fáilte Ireland to the EIAR Scoping Stage- Proposed Development of Scartmountain Wind Farm, Waterford.

Dear Mr Staunton,

This submission has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority, in response to the invitation to make a submission in relation to EIAR Scoping Report for Scartmountain Wind Farm.

As a prescribed body in the planning process, one of the main objectives of Fáilte Ireland is to advocate for the protection of key tourism assets and amenities. The Irish landscape is one of the primary assets for tourism in the country and has been the cornerstone of international tourism marketing campaigns for decades. International visitors to Ireland consistently rate scenery as an important reason for their trip. Therefore, as the Irish landscape is one of the primary reasons for visiting the country, it is essential that the quality, character and distinctiveness of this valuable resource is protected.

We have reviewed the EIAR Scoping Report and from a tourism perspective it is considered that the following areas are of most relevance and importance.

- Population and Human Health (including Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation)
- Landscape and Visual
- Cultural Heritage

The site of the proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm development is located just over 4km northeast of Cappoquin in County Waterford. The site is also located adjacent to the County Tipperary border. The area is recognised as a destination for outdoor recreation and there are a number of walking and

hiking trails in the area with some that interlink cross border with County Tipperary. The impact of the development needs to be fully considered because of the important tourism amenities in the area. We note that the following key tourism amenities do not appear to have been considered in the scoping document and should be included in the EIAR having regard to the proximity of these to the proposed development.

St Declan's Way Pilgrim Path - Saint Declan's Way is a 115km pilgrim walking route linking Cashel in County Tipperary with Ardmore in County Waterford. It follows the route that Declan took when going to Cashel to meet Saint Patrick in the fifth century. In turn, it is the way that Pilgrims have taken to visit Saint Declan's monastery, holy-well and grave in Ardmore for the past one and a half thousand years. A walk along Saint Declan's Way brings you through the heart of Ireland's Ancient East. <https://stdeclansway.ie>

Vee Pass-The Vee is located close to the border between the counties of Tipperary and Waterford and is the main route over the Knockmealdown Mountains. There are spectacular views of the Galtees, Comeraghs, and Slievenamon from this famous viewing point.

Tourism and the Environment

There are two interactions between tourism and the environment - impacts caused by tourism projects and impacts affecting tourism. Regarding electricity transmission planning and development, it is anticipated that the majority of the interactions would occur as impacts affecting tourism.

Fáilte Ireland carries out annual visitor attitude surveys. Fáilte Ireland's Overseas Holidaymakers' Attitudes to Ireland 2019 identifies the following, as the reasons tourists visit and enjoy Ireland:

- Interesting history and culture (84%)
- Plenty to see and do (89%)
- **Beautiful scenery (91%)**
- **Natural, unspoilt environment (82%)**
- **Natural attractions (84%)**

It is noteworthy that beautiful scenery and natural attractions score highly as reasons for visiting Ireland. These factors are environmental and relate particularly to our landscape, coastal and rural areas.

Beautiful scenery – Particular attention needs to be given to effects on views from existing purpose-built tourism facilities, as well as views from touring routes, walking trails, scenic viewing points,

greenways etc. have the potential to be particularly affected by infrastructure related developments which are located within viewing distance from the coast. Indeed, scale and sighting of individual and cumulative developments must also be taken into consideration.

Natural attractions – It is important to avoid any effects that may negatively impact local attractions and experiences.

EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects (Separately attached)

The purpose of these guidelines 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. A copy of these has been attached to this submission.

Additional Comments

Key tourism and amenity resources

A list of attractions, activities and tourism experiences can be found at

<https://www.discoverireland.ie/waterford>

<https://www.visitwaterford.com/trails/>

Additional Studies & Guidance that may be useful as part of the EIAR Scoping process

- Rural Waterford-Visitor Experience Development Plan 2021-2023

Conclusion

Fáilte Ireland recognises the importance of developing the State's renewable energy sector and transition to a low carbon energy. It is the policy of Fáilte Ireland to support the sustainable development of electricity generation by sustainable and renewable sources and support its contribution towards a sustainable energy supply at appropriate locations and in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.

The impact of the scheme on the tourism sector needs to be robustly assessed, and mitigation identified and creating linkages between the wind farm and the local community and economy. Economic and social mitigation measures should also be identified, and timelines set out, to clarify

how the proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm-will ensure that the local economy and community benefits from the project.

We trust that the above will provide additional insights which will ensure that tourism and the potential impacts on tourism are adequately considered in the future steps/phases of the project. We thank you for your time and consideration of our submission. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries to discuss our submission and/ or provide further information.

Yours sincerely,



Environment & Planning, Fáilte Ireland



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



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1. Introduction

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

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

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

2. Background to this Document

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

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

Legislation

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

Statutory Guidance

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

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

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

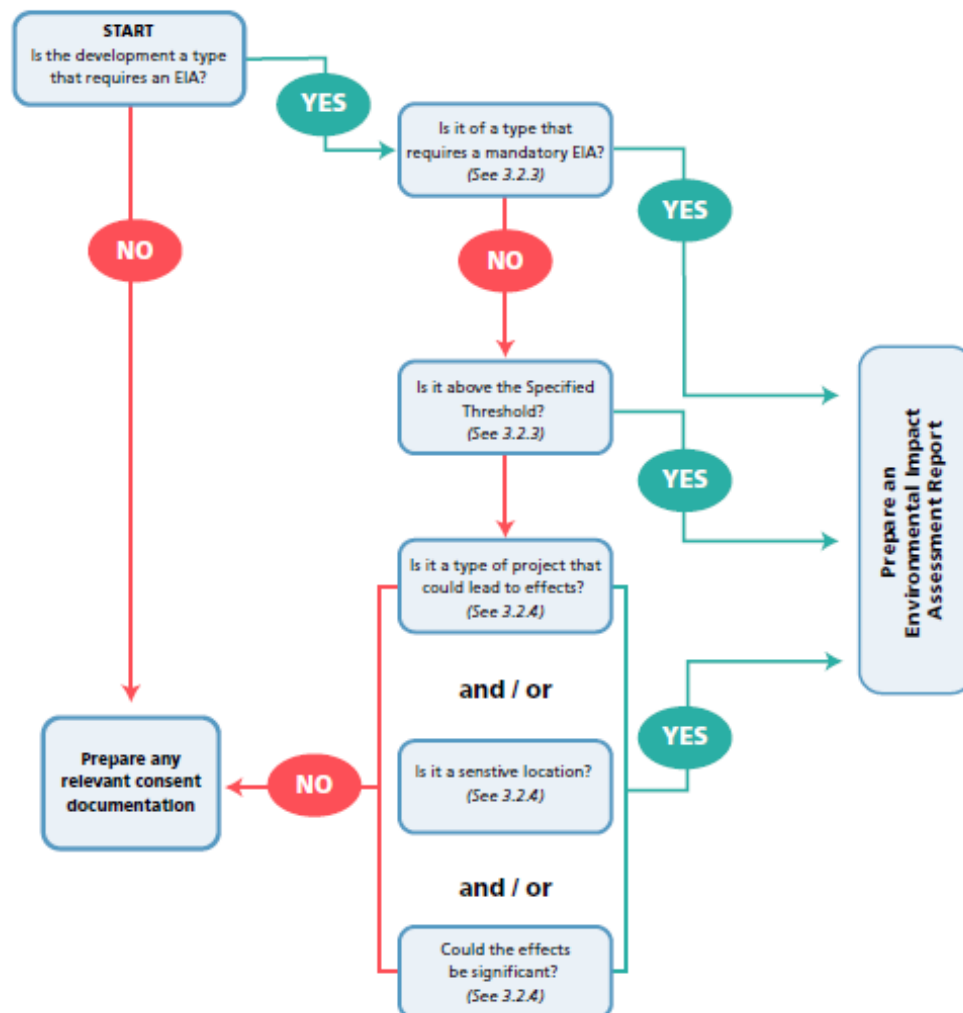
Screening

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

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

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

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

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

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

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

EIAR Scoping

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

4. Assessing Tourism

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

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

Projects which involve a tourism element

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

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

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

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

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

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

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

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

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

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

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

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

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

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

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

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

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

7. EIAR Requirements

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

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;

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

Project Description

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

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

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

Assessment of Alternatives

The assessment of alternatives is a requirement of EIAR

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

Baseline Assessment

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

For example, in a tourism context;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impact Assessment

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

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

Population and Human Health

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

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

Biodiversity

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

Land, Soils and Geology

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

Water

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

Air Quality and Climate

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

Noise and Vibration

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

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

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

Cultural Heritage

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

Archaeology

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

Material Assets; Waste Management

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

Material Assets

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

Landscape

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

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

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

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

Interaction of Effects

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

Mitigation

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

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

Reduce the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact

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

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

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

Cumulative Impact

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

Transboundary Impact

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

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

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

Tourism Ireland

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

Local Authorities

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

Regional Authorities

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

Central Statistics Office

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

Seirbhís Aerloingseoireachta
na hÉireann ag trádáil mar
AirNav na hÉireann

Foirgneamh na hAmanna
11–12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2,
D02 T449, Éire

Oifig Stiúrthóirí

The Irish Air Navigation Service
trading as *AirNav Ireland*

The Times Building
11–12 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2,
D02 T449, Ireland



T: +353 1 603 1500 www.airnav.ie

31st August 2023

Dr. John Staunton B.Sc. PhD.
Senior Project Manager & Environmental Scientist
Fairgreen House, Fairgreen Road, Galway.
H91 AXK8

Reference: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

Dear Mr. Staunton

I refer to your email of 18th August regarding Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co Waterford

I wish to advise that we have no Observations on this Application from Airspace & Navigation Air Nav Ireland

Yours sincerely

PP. Róisín Hayden

Mark Byrne

Property Manager, Corporate Affairs

Bord Stiúrthóirí / Board of Directors

Bryan Bourke (Chairman),
Cian Blackwell,
Peter Kearney (Chief Executive),
Lourda Moloney, James O'Loughlin,
Eimer O'Rourke, Aidan Skelly

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Registered No: 734291

Registered in Ireland

A Designated Activity Company

Oifig Chláraithe:

Foirgneamh na hAmanna,
11–12 Sráid D'Olier

Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449, Éire

Uimhir Chláraithe: 734291. **Áit Chláraithe:** Éire

Cuideachta Ghníomhaíochta Ainmnithe

John Staunton

From: Brian Culloty <____email redacted____> Monday 9
Sent: October 2023 14:13
To: John Staunton; Nathan Wall
Subject: RE: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

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Hi John

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

Can you confirm two items?

1. Can you confirm what lighting is being proposed.
2. Can you confirm the maximum height of turbine above mean sea level.

Thanks

Brian

Document Classification: Class 1 - General

From: John Staunton <____email redacted____>
Sent: Wednesday 4 October 2023 12:43
To: Nathan Wall <____email redacted____>; Brian Culloty <____email redacted____>
Subject: RE: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

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.

Hello again Brian,

I just wanted to send a final reminder on this, and apologies again for the nuisance.

It would be appreciated if you could confirm that you have no comment (or send any comments).

As I mentioned, AirNav have responded to say that they have no observation on the development (see their response attached).

If you have any queries at all, feel free to let me know (email or phone).

Kind regards,

John

Dr. John Staunton B.Sc. PhD.
Senior Project Manager & Environmental Scientist

TOBIN Consulting Engineers
Galway | Dublin | Castlebar | Limerick | Sligo
Telephone: +353 91 565211
Email: john.staunton@tobin.ie

Website: <http://www.tobin.ie>



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2019 Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Awards Winner: Design Excellence (Structures)
2018 Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards Winner: Engineering Project of the Year

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From: John Staunton

Sent: Monday, September 11, 2023 8:17 AM

To: 'Nathan Wall' <[email redacted](#)>; 'Brian Culloty' <[email redacted](#)>

Subject: RE: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

Hi Brian,

Apologies for the nuisance. I am just following up on this to ensure you had no further comment on the proposed wind farm project.

We have received a response from AirNav which stated that they had no observations to make on the project. I understand they are based in Cork Airport.

Kind regards and sincere thanks for your time,

John

Dr. John Staunton B.Sc. PhD.

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From: John Staunton

Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 9:14 PM

To: Nathan Wall <[email redacted](#)>; Brian Culloty <[email redacted](#)>

Subject: RE: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

Thank you Nathan and apologies for the delayed response. The IAA suggested (during our scoping exercise) I contact Cork Airport to notify you of our wind farm project to allow you to raise any issues you may have with the project. I phoned the airport and was told by the duty manager to email you if the query related to airport or flight safety.

@Brian Culloty, I am hopeful that given the distance to the airport (approx 60km NE of your airport) you will not have any issues with the project. In the event that the project is successful in the planning application, it will have the usual lighting requirements and will need to notify the IAA in advance of any construction.

I would really appreciate it if you could confirm the above at your earliest convenience. If you have any queries, please let me know. I am happy to take a call if that is easier. We anticipate that the project will be submitted for planning permission in the coming months, so we are keen to close out all avenues as soon as we can.

Many thanks for your time and assistance.

Kind regards,

John

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From: Nathan Wall <[email redacted](#)>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:37 AM
To: Brian Culloty <[email redacted](#)>
Cc: John Staunton <[email redacted](#)>
Subject: FW: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

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Morning Brian,

See below and attached regarding proposed wing farm in Co Waterford.

Can you revert back to John who is ccd in the emal?

John, thank you for the email. Can you advise who in the IAA passed on my contact details?

Regards,



.....
Safety and Training Manager

Chair of the Local Runway Safety TeamCork Airport



At the moment I am working flexibly. You may receive emails from me at times that suit me.
Please don't feel you need to read or respond outside of your normal working hours.



Document Classification: Class 1 - General

From: John Staunton <[email redacted](#)>
Sent: Friday 18 August 2023 08:45
To: Nathan Wall <[email redacted](#)>
Subject: Proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford

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

Dear Mr. Wall,

As part of a scoping exercise for the proposed Scartmountain Wind Farm in Co. Waterford, we have had a response from the Irish Aviation Authority, requesting that we notify Cork Airport of our proposed project, and to allow for appropriate screening from an aviation perspective.

Our proposed wind farm site is located approximately 60km ENE of Cork Airport (Approximately 4km north of Cappoquin). See attached site location map. The proposed wind farm will have wind turbines with a tip height of up to 185m. See attached map showing the turbine layout.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email and let us know at your earliest convenience if you have any comments for consideration.

Kind regards,

John

Dr. John Staunton B.Sc. PhD.
Senior Project Manager & Environmental Scientist

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