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Bord na Móna

Derryadd, Derryaroge and Lough Bannow Bogs –
Application for Substitute Consent

Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Chapter 1 – Introduction

March 2025



TOBIN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) has been prepared by TOBIN Consulting Engineers (TOBIN) on behalf of Bord na Móna Energy Ltd (hereafter ‘the Applicant’), as part of an application for substitute consent for peat extraction and all peat extraction related activities from July 1988 to the present day that have been carried out at Derryadd, Derryaroge and Lough Bannow bogs (which are hereafter referred to as the ‘Application Site’, as shown in Figure 1-1), located in County Longford. Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, permits an application to be made for substitute consent in respect of development which has been carried out where an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), screening for EIA and/or Appropriate Assessment (AA) was or is required.

Neither the European Union Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27th June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (hereafter referred to as the ‘EIA Directive’) nor the European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (hereafter referred to as the ‘Habitats Directive’) has retrospective effect; neither Directive imposes legal requirements to have carried out prior assessments of projects which had already commenced or been completed. There was, therefore, no legal requirement for EIA, screening for EIA or Appropriate Assessment in respect of any project prior to the latest dates for transposition of the Directives. In the case of the EIA Directive, the latest date for transposition was 3rd July 1988. In the case of the Habitats Directive, the latest date for transposition was 10th June 1994. As such, substitute consent is being sought to regularise the planning status of the Application Site for the period 1988 to the present day. This application is being made strictly without prejudice to the fact that the development benefitted from exempted development status for part of the period covered by this application.

The application for substitute consent is seeking consent for development which took place from July 1988,¹ the timeframe for when the EIA Directive was required to be transposed into Irish Law, to present day.

This rEIAR provides a description of:

- The activities employed at the Application Site from 1949 at the onset of preparation works up to July 1988 (described in Section 4.5 in Chapter 4 of this rEIAR);
- The baseline environment as of July 1988 (described in Section 4.6 in Chapter 4 of this rEIAR);
- Peat extraction and related activities from July 1988 to the cessation of peat extraction in July of 2019 (described in Section 4.7 in Chapter 4 of this rEIAR);
- The management of the Application Site since July 2019 (described in Section 4.8 in Chapter 4 of this rEIAR); and,
- The activities intended to be carried out at the Application Site into the future (described in Section 4.9 in Chapter 4 of this rEIAR).

¹ Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment

Under Article 1(2) of the EIA Directive, ‘project’ means:

- “- the execution of construction works or of other installations or schemes,*
- other interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape including those involving the extraction of mineral resources.”*

For the purposes of this rEIAR, the ‘Project’ consists of peat extraction and related activities from July 1988 to the cessation of peat extraction in July of 2019, and the management of the Application Site since July 2019, the effects on the environment of which, if any, will be examined in this rEIAR (a more detailed description is provided in Section 1.3 below and in Sections 4.7 to 4.9 in Chapter 4 Description of the Development). The project formed part of an overall development at the Application Site which commenced many years prior to July 1988. As such, to facilitate as complete an assessment as is possible of the project since July 1988, a description of the development pre-1988 is included in this rEIAR (see Chapter 4 Section 4.5 in Chapter 4 Description of the Development). This rEIAR and substitute consent application is made to An Bord Pleanála (hereafter referred to as ‘the Board’ or ‘ABP’ as appropriate throughout this rEIAR) as prescribed under Part XA 177F of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It is accompanied by a remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS).

Industrial scale peat extraction was permanently ceased by the Applicant at the Application Site in July 2019. From July 2019 until November 2022, all remaining stockpiled peat was systematically removed from the Application Site. The Applicant’s statutory duties to discharge the conditions of its Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Ref. P0504-01; “IPC Licence” hereafter), from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Mountdillon Bog Group, which encompasses the Application Site, also remain on-going. These ongoing duties, such as environmental monitoring, do not facilitate the continuation of peat extraction, but rather ensure compliance with the Applicant’s extant EPA Licence.

1.2 THE APPLICANT

Bord na Móna Energy Ltd is an Irish, semi-state climate solutions company helping lead Ireland towards a climate neutral future. Bord na Móna has been serving communities for over 90 years, always rising to meet the needs of the day. It was founded in 1934 as The Turf Development Board to enhance national energy security through peat harvesting and became Bord na Móna in 1946.

The functions of Bord na Móna as set out under Section 17(1) of the 1946 Act were:

- “(a) to produce and market turf and turf products, and*
- (b) to foster the production and use of turf and turf products, and*
- (c) to acquire bogs and other lands, and*
- (d) to manage, develop and work bogs and other lands vested in the Board, and*
- (e) generally to do all such other things as arise out of, or are consequential upon, the duties mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this section.”*

Today, the company has radically changed its approach to face an even greater challenge: climate change. Bord na Móna have ended peat harvesting and now focus on developing climate solutions in renewable energy, sustainable waste management, carbon storage, and biodiversity conservation. Ireland has committed to ambitious climate goals and Bord na Móna’s climate solutions are helping to achieve them. Bord na Móna’s vision is to help Ireland reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

To power a net zero future, Bord na Móna are expanding its renewable energy infrastructure. Although they have been constructing and maintaining large-scale infrastructure for decades, the company is now using that experience to build renewable energy developments across the country. These developments are transforming the way the nation generates and consumes energy. Ireland has committed to generating 80% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and Bord na Móna is working across wind, solar, biomass and biogas to help achieve this target and to provide energy security for future generations.

Bord na Móna currently provides employment for approximately 1,500 people and manages a land holding of over 80,000 hectares located mainly in the Irish midlands. At their peak, employment numbers exceeded 7,400 in the early 1960s, with the workforce dropping to approximately 2,000 by the late 1990s.

In July 2023, Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd., a subsidiary of Bord na Móna Plc., requested to close preapplication consultation and issue SID determination from An Bord Pleanála (Ref. 314965-22) for a development consisting of between 22 no. wind turbines and associated works at Derryaroge, Derryadd and Lough Bannow Bogs, known as Derryadd Wind Farm (<https://www.derryaddwindfarm.ie/>). This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála in correspondence to the Applicant dated 16th August 2023. The proposed Derryadd Wind Farm will be cumulatively assessed with the Cutaway Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation plans for the Application Site bogs in this rEIAR.

1.3 BACKGROUND TO THE APPLICATION

Drainage works commenced in 1949 at the Application Site at Derryaroge bog. The first peat extraction began at the Application Site in 1952 at Derryaroge bog. In 1960, the installation of drainage commenced at both Derryadd and Lough Bannow bogs, with peat extraction commenced in those bogs in 1964. Initially, the sod peat which was extracted was used domestically and to supply the Dublin market. The Electricity Supply Board (hereafter 'the ESB') commissioned Lanesboro Power Station in 1958, and it was fuelled by extracted peat from the Application Site. The capacity of Lanesboro Power Station was increased following the construction and commissioning of Unit 2 and Unit 3 within the plant in 1966 and 1983 respectively. Lanesboro Power Station was decommissioned in 2004, and replaced by Lough Ree Power Station, which was commissioned in 2004 by the ESB. Lough Ree Power Station was also fuelled by peat supplied by Bord na Móna, including from the Application Site. Lough Ree Power Station closed at the end of 2020.

Industrial-scale peat extraction ceased at the Application Site in July 2019, and the Applicant formally announced in January 2021 that peat extraction across all its land holdings would permanently cease. As part of the decommissioning process, the process of transporting remaining peat stockpiles off the bogs commenced following the cessation of peat extraction in July 2019. The stockpiles were transported to Lough Ree power station until its closure in 2020 and then to Edenderry Power Station and Derrinlough Briquette Factory. The final stockpiles were transported off the bogs in November 2022. With the cessation of peat extraction, former peat extraction areas will be able to naturally revegetate. However, full revegetation will likely take some time and measures to aid the site rehabilitation are outlined in the bog specific Bord na Móna Cutaway Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plans (refer to Appendix 4.3).

1.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Substitute consent is being sought by the Applicant of their own volition to regularise, without prejudice, the planning status of the Application Site to facilitate appropriate future uses of these lands in compliance with the requirements of the planning system. Substitute consent is

being sought for the relevant peat extraction and related activities that were undertaken at the Application Site from 1988 onwards, which consist of the following:

- Industrial scale peat extraction (milled peat);
- Use and maintenance of pre-existing ancillary supporting infrastructure and services to facilitate peat extraction (e.g., railway infrastructure, fixed fuel tanks, drainage (drains, silt ponds, pumps), machine passes etc.), from 1988 to July 2019;
- Control Measures associated with the above, inclusive of the IPC Licence measures (Ref. P0504-01) which commenced from 2000 onwards to the present day; and,
- All associated site development and ancillary works.

These peat extraction activities are referred to as the 'Project' as appropriate. A full description of the Project is included in Section 4.5 Chapter 4 Description of the Development.

For the purposes of this rEIAR, the development is defined under three different timeframes termed 'phases':

- 'Peat Extraction Phase': peat extraction activities and all ancillary works at the Application Site from July 1988 to the cessation of peat extraction in July of 2019 (July 1988 – July 2019). The Peat Extraction Phase is described in detail in Chapter 4.
- 'Current Phase': the management of the Application Site since July 2019 (July 2019 to present day). The Current Phase is described in detail in Chapter 4.
- 'Remedial Phase': the activities intended to be carried out at the Application Site into the future. The Remedial Phase is described in detail in Chapter 4.

1.5 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

1.5.1 Remedial EIA Legislative Context

Prior to the 20th of September 2012, all industrial scale peat extraction activities were classified as exempted development. The Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 came into effect on the 20th of September 2012 which inserted Section 4(4) to the Act. Section 4(4) legislates that development which is typically exempt (e.g. industrial peat extraction pre-2012) is no longer exempt if an EIA or an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the development is required. Notwithstanding this provision, the legal planning status of commercial peat extraction remained uncertain and unclear in practice up until September 2019, as described below.

The Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010 introduced Part XA – Substitute Consent to the legislation. Procedural details on substitute consent applications were inserted by Article 26 of S.I. No. 476/2011 – Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2011.

Substitute consent is the statutory planning application process to allow for regularisation of historical development of land that would require EIA if that development were to be the subject of a planning application under current legislation. The substitute consent process also provides for circumstances where an EIA, a determination as to whether an EIA is required, or an appropriate assessment, was or is required and has not been carried out. The local authority can serve a notice on the developer requiring an application for substitute consent to be made to the Board.

Alternatively, in circumstances where a notice has not been served by the local authority the developer may opt to make an application for substitute consent to the Board. It is this alternative circumstance that is applicable to this application.

Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Planning and Development, and Residential Tenancies, Act 2020 and the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 introduced changes to the substitute consent procedure in response to the Supreme Court judgment issued on 1st July 2020 in the “Ballysax/ McQuaid” cases - three joined appeal cases relating to two quarries (*An Taisce v An Bord Pleanála*, *An Taisce v An Bord Pleanála*, and *Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála* [2020] IESC 39). This judgment, delivered by Mr. Justice McKechnie, found that certain provisions of the substitute consent system in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) were inconsistent with the provisions of Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU in terms of requiring exceptional circumstances and public participation.

Section 8 of the Planning and Development, and Residential Tenancies, Act 2020 amends section 177K of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) under a new subsection (1A) whereby the Board is precluded from granting substitute consent unless it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist that would justify the grant of such consent. Section 177(D)(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) outlines the matters to be considered by the Board in determining whether “exceptional circumstances” exist.

In June 2022, the Applicant submitted an application to the Board (ABP Ref. LS14.313897) for leave to apply for substitute consent under Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for peat extraction and related activities at the Application Site. In accordance with the specific amendments proposed to the substitute consent process in the Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022, (which were commenced on the 16th of December 2023 by Ministerial Order S.I. 645,) any such application for leave to apply for substitute consent which had not been determined by the Board before that commencement date shall be deemed to have been withdrawn by the applicant. As such, the application for leave (ABP Ref. LS14.313897) which was submitted to the Board was withdrawn in January 2024.

This rEIAR is accompanied by an application to the Board for substitute consent, as prescribed under Part XA 177F of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):

“Section 177F.— (1) A F858 [remedial environmental impact assessment report] shall contain the following: (a) a statement of the significant effects, if any, on the environment, which have occurred or which are occurring or which can reasonably be expected to occur because the development the subject of the application for substitute consent was carried out; (b) details of— (i) any appropriate remedial measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the applicant for substitute consent to remedy any significant adverse effects on the environment; (ii) the period of time within which any proposed remedial measures shall be carried out by or on behalf of the applicant; (c) such information as may be prescribed under section 177N.”

1.5.2 EIA Legislative Context

The consolidated European Union Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the ‘EIA Directive’), has been transposed into Irish planning legislation through the amendment of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. Directive 2011/92/EU was amended by Directive 2014/52/EU which has been transposed into Irish law under European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018), amending the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

This rEIAR complies with the EIA Directive as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended).

When an EIAR is required, Article 5 of the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) lists the information to be provided by the development which should include the following (this is not an exhausted list):

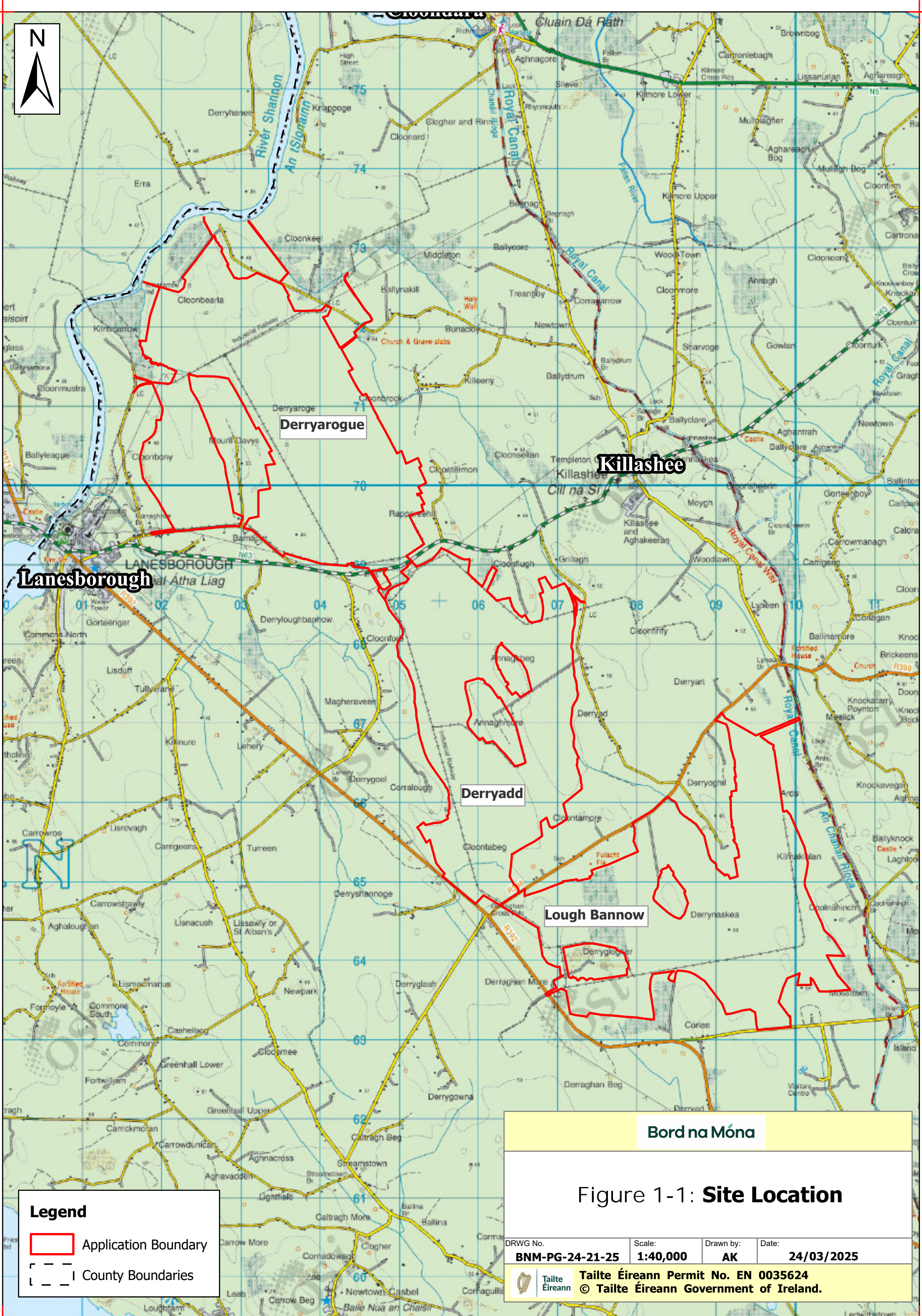
- a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;
- a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;
- a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and,
- any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.

In addition, Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 19, Article 222A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) sets out the information to be contained in an EIAR and rEIAR respectively.

1.6 SITE LOCATION

The Application Site is located approximately 1 km east of Lanesborough in County Longford as shown in Figure 1-1 and comprises an area of approximately 2,244 ha. The Application Site is made up of three distinct bog units, Derryadd Bog, Derryaroge Bog and Lough Bannow Bog, which are described in more detail in Section 1.7 and Chapter 4 – Description of Development. Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD; Directive 2000/60/EC), the Application Site is located primarily within the Upper Shannon Catchment (26C), with a small segment to the south of the south located within the Upper Shannon Catchment (26E). More locally, three sub catchments are present within the application site including the Shannon [Upper]_SC_080 [16C_1], Shannon[Upper]_SC_060 [26C_7], and Bilberry_SC_010 [26E_1] subcatchments. The current main access points to the Application Site are located off the N63, which provides access to Derryaroge and Derryadd bogs, and via the R398 which provides access to Derryadd and Lough Bannow bogs.

The landcover and uses surrounding the Application Site comprises a mixture of forestry, agricultural land, cutover and cutaway peatland, one-off rural housing and small rural settlements. Cutaway peatlands are those areas where all commercially viable volumes of peat have been extracted. Cutover peatlands are those areas where peat extraction has occurred, and commercially viable peat volumes remain. Lough Ree SAC and pNHA [IE0000440], Lough Ree SPA [IE0004064], Lough Bawn pNHA [0001819], Royal Canal pNHA [0002103], and Lough Bannow pNHA [0000449] are all located within 2km from the Application Site.



Legend

Application Boundary

County Boundaries

Bord na Móna

Figure 1-1: **Site Location**

DRWG No.	Scale:	Drawn by:	Date:
BNM-PG-24-21-25	1:40,000	AK	24/03/2025

Tailte Éireann

Tailte Éireann Permit No. EN 0035624
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1.7 SITE CONTEXT

The lands within the Application Site represent approximately 20% of the Mountdillon Bog Group which is comprised of 31 no. bog units and has a total area of approximately 11,778 ha. The Application Site occupies an area of approximately 2,244 ha, comprising primarily of cutaway bog.

The activities carried out by Bord na Móna at the Application Site are licensed by the EPA under IPC Licence P0504-01. The IPC Licence boundary for the Mountdillon Bog Group is outlined in blue in Figure 1-2 below.



Derrymoylin

Cloonshannagh

Kilbarry 2

Kilbarry

Cloonshannagh
Rail Link

Derrycashel

Knappoge

Begnagh

Granaghan

Mountdillon

Erenagh

Clooneeny

Mostrim

Clonwhelan

Coolcraff

Milkernagh

Moher

Kilashee

Derryarogue

Derryadd2

Derryadd

Lough Bannow

Derryshannoge

Derraghan

Corlea

Derrycolumb

Edera

Clynan

Coolnagun

Legend

 County Boundaries

 Application Site Boundary

 Mountdillon Bog Group IPC Boundary (Reg. Ref. P0504-01)

Bord na Móna

Figure 1-2: Bogs within the Mountdillon Group IPC Licence (P0504-01)

DRWG No.

BNM-PG-24-21-32

Scale:

1:135,000

Drawn by:

AK

Date:

25/03/2025



Tailte
Éireann

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There are a number of ancillary structures and features associated with the peat extraction activities and ancillary works that occurred at the Application Site, as described in detail in Chapter 4 and presented in Figure 1-3. These include:

- Workshops (Section 4.4.5.1);
- Works offices (Section 4.4.5.2);
- Welfare Facilities (Section 4.4.5.3);
- Mobile and fixed fuel tanks (Section 4.4.5.4);
- Local holding areas (Section 4.4.5.5);
- Peat loading facility (Section 4.4.5.6);
- Tiphead (Section 4.4.5.7); and
- Railway infrastructure (Section 4.4.5.8).

Prior to the closure of Lough Ree Power Station in Lanesborough, approximately 1 km west of the Application Site, all deliveries of peat went directly from stockpiles on the Application site via rail carriages to Lough Ree (see Figure 1-3 and Section 4.4.5.6, Chapter 4 for further detail).

There is onsite infrastructure still present and functional across the Application Site today, which includes the following:

- Surface water drainage system including silt ponds and drainage channels;
- De-mountable rail network including rail lines, at grade rail crossings and ancillary infrastructure;
- Electricity distribution infrastructure; and,
- Machine passes and site access points.

The Mountdillon Works, which comprises the former peat processing plant, storage facilities, canteen and welfare facilities, bulk loading facility and former workshop is located outside of and immediately adjacent to the Application Site boundary (Figure 1-3). The infrastructure and buildings at the Mountdillon Works were constructed between 1962 and 1963, prior to the enactment of the *Planning and Development Act (1963)* in October 1964, and therefore no planning permission was required for the buildings at the time of their construction. Furthermore, as stated in the act, all buildings which were constructed prior to October 1964 do not require planning permission and would not be subject to retrospective planning permission or Substitute Consent. Regular upgrades and renovations have been carried out to the infrastructure and buildings since their original construction, however these works would not have been subject to planning permission as there was no change to the structure of the building. As such, this application for Substitute Consent does not include the infrastructure and buildings at the Mountdillon Works. Mountdillon Works is described in full in Section 4.3.6 of Chapter 4 – Description of Development.



1.7.1 Derryaroge Bog

Derryaroge Bog (c. 863 ha) is situated approximately 1km to the east of Lanesborough in County Longford. A mineral island is located on the bog, which is not under the ownership of Bord na Móna and is outside the Application Site boundary; it predominantly comprises agricultural grassland with some residential properties also located in this area. Derryaroge Bog is located within two main sections, which are divided by the mineral island described above, including a western (smaller) section and an eastern section in which the majority of Derryaroge Bog unit is located. There is approximately 4km of rail line to the west of the site which connects the bog with the former Lough Ree Power Station (LRPS) in Lanesborough.

Derryaroge Bog contains nine surface water pumps, which are currently in use to prevent the bog from flooding.). As shown in Figure 9-2 of Chapter 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology, the SHANNON (Upper)_100 (code: IE_SH_26S021600), flows adjacent to west of Derryaroge bog, in a south westerly direction, while a tributary of the Shannon (Upper)_100 flows across the northwestern section of the bog, in a north westerly direction. The LOUGH BANNOW STREAM_010 (code: IE_SH_26L120100), also flows along the western site boundary of Derryaroge bog, in a northerly direction, but does not flow within the bog. The BALLYNAKILL_010 (IE_SH_26B220790) river flows adjacent to the eastern boundary of the bog in a northerly direction.

1.7.2 Derryadd Bog

Derryadd Bog (c. 649 ha) is located approximately 4 km to the south-east of Lanesborough in County Longford. The bog is located within one main block. Two mineral islands (Annaghmore and Annaghbeg) are surrounded by the Application Site; these areas are not within the ownership of Bord na Móna, were never used for peat extraction or associated activities, and are privately managed for agriculture (livestock grazing). The N63 Longford to Roscommon Road separates Derryadd Bog from Derryaroge Bog located directly to the north.

Existing Bord na Móna rail infrastructure connects Derryadd Bog to both Derryaroge Bog to the north and Lough Bannow Bog to the south. Derryadd Bog contains six surface water drainage pumps, which are currently in use to prevent the bog from flooding. As shown in Figure 9-2 of Chapter 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology, LOUGH BANNOW STREAM_010 (Code: IE_SH_26L120100) flows along the western boundary and through the southern section of Derryadd Bog, while BALLYNAKILL_010 (Code: IE_SH_26B220790) flows along the eastern boundary of the bog. Both watercourses are tributaries of the River Shannon (EPA, 2024). The Mountdillon Works area (offices, workshops and yards) is located to the north of the bog and is accessed from the N63 National Road.

1.7.3 Lough Bannow Bog

Lough Bannow Bog (c. 731 ha) is situated approximately 7 km south-east of Lanesborough in County Longford adjacent the R392 Regional Road, which lies to the west of the bog. The R398 Regional Road runs along the northern boundary of the bog while the L1136 Local Access Road (Keenagh road) runs along part of the southern section of the bog. The Royal Canal and Royal Canal Greenway is located approximately 500 m to the east of the bog. Two large mineral islands are located inside the Application Site boundary but are not under Bord na Móna ownership. One of these islands comprises of agricultural grassland, while the other contains of a mix of agricultural lands, woodland and Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) National Animal Centre buildings. A guyed wind monitoring mast is located on Lough Bannow Bog (Longford Co Co Refs. 1586, 20183 and 23108).

A rail line traverses the southern part of Lough Bannow bog in an east-west direction. Lough Bannow Bog contains three existing surface water pumps, which are currently in use to prevent the bog from flooding. As shown in Figure 9-2 of Chapter 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology, the LEDWITHSTOWN_010 (Code: IE_SH_26L840850), is located adjacent the south of Lough Bannow Bog, outside the bog boundary, flowing in a southerly direction. The BALLYNAKILL_010 (IE_SH_26B220790,) flows adjacent to the north of Lough Bannow Bog, and is also located outside the bog boundary.

1.8 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE REIAR

The purpose of this rEIAR is to document the current state of the environment in the vicinity of the Application Site and to assess, in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Directive, the likely significant effects which have occurred, or which are occurring, or which can reasonably be expected to occur on the environment due to peat extraction and peat extraction related activities at the Application Site. The scope of the impact assessment is peat extraction and all peat extraction related activities from July 1988 to the present day.

It is important to distinguish the remedial Environmental Impact Assessment (rEIA) to be carried out by the Board, from this rEIAR which is accompanying the substitute consent application. The rEIA is the assessment carried out by the competent authority, which includes an examination that identifies, describes and assesses in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 11 of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), the direct and indirect effects of the Development on the following:

- (a) Population and human health
- (b) Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC
- (c) Land, soil, water, air, and climate
- (d) Material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape
- (e) The interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d)

This rEIAR submitted by the Applicant provides the relevant environmental information to enable the rEIA to be carried out by the competent authorities. The information to be contained in the rEIAR is prescribed in Article 5 and Annex IV of the revised EIA Directive and Article 94 and Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Further detail on the content, methodology, and scope of the rEIAR is provided in Chapter 2 - Remedial EIA Methodology.

1.9 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Drainage works for peat extraction commenced at its earliest at the Application Site in the late 1940s. The retrospective impact assessments have been carried out based on the reasonable availability of information relating to the peat extraction operations and the environment. In addition to references within this rEIAR, the assessments have been limited by the following:

- While every effort has been made to source historical baseline environmental data within the timeframe of the Substitute Consent process, this rEIAR has been limited by the availability, completeness, accuracy, age and accessibility of data.

The Methodology section of each chapter describes the approach to the impact assessment within that chapter, and where data may be incomplete, this is clearly highlighted.

1.10 VIEWING AND PURCHASING THE REIAR

Copies of this rEIAR and accompanying rNIS will be available online, including the NTS, on the website of An Bord Pleanála, under the relevant Planning Reference Number (to be assigned on lodgement of the application).

- An Bord Pleanála: <http://www.pleanala.ie/>

This rEIAR and all associated documentation will also be available for viewing at the offices of both An Bord Pleanála and Longford County Council. The rEIAR may be inspected free of charge or purchased by any member of the public during normal office hours at the following address:

- An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, St. Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902; and,
- Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56.

The rEIAR and rNIS will also be available to view online via the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government's EIA Portal², which will provide a link to the planning authority's website on which the application details are contained. This EIA Portal was recently set up by the Department as an electronic notification to the public of requests for development consent which are accompanied by an EIAR.

² EIA Portal accessible via:

<https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1>

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