

2021 SCOPING RESPONSES

Sarah Gallagher

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie> on behalf of Roger Woods
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 09:09
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah

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

Regards

Roger

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

Tel: 01 6441200
Fax: 01 6441299

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From: Reception BAI <reception@bai.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 14:03
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>
Subject: Fw: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 11:54
To: Reception BAI <reception@bai.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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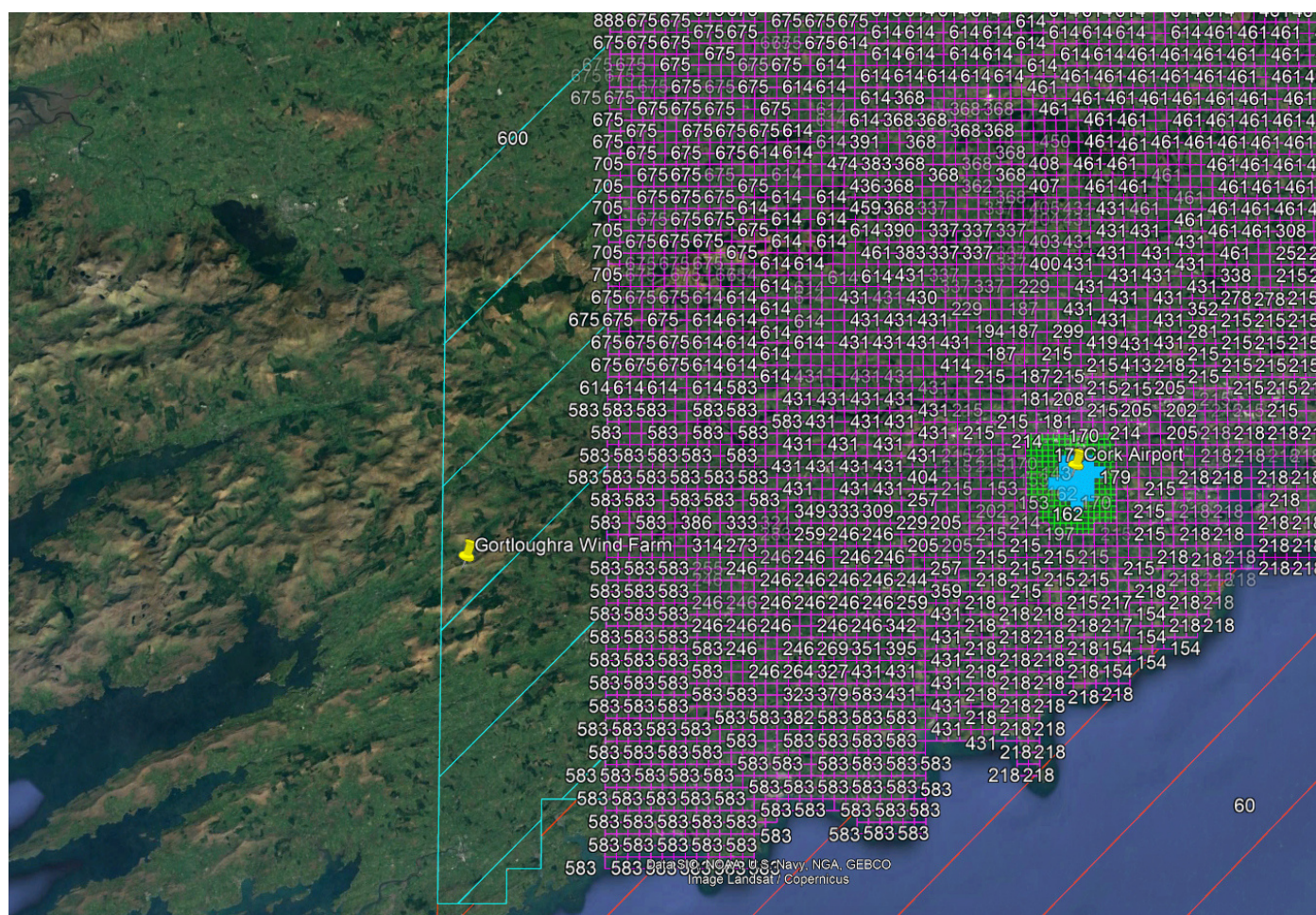
Sarah Gallagher

From: Gary Mackin (CW) <gary.mackin.cw@dublinairport.com> on behalf of Gary Mackin (CW)
Sent: Tuesday 20 June 2023 15:48
To: Andrew O'Grady; Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Terry Symmans; MACCRIOSTAIL Cathal; Paul Cumiskey; Daniel Casey; Brian Culloty; Jennifer Boyle
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Good Afternoon Andrew,

Many thanks for clarifying the tip height at 175m.

Daa along with AirNav Ireland (formerly the Air Navigation Service Provider division of the IAA) are responsible for ensuring the flight surfaces around Cork Airport are safeguarded. This is carried out using (amongst other things) the safeguarding grid as depicted below which extends 30 nautical miles from the airport:



I have indicated the approximate location of the proposed wind farm at Gortloughra on the screenshot above just inside the 30nm limit. At this location the grid indicates that an obstacle greater than 600m elevation AMSL will need a formal assessment.

The obstacle elevation AMSL is the existing ground/site elevation and the proposed obstacle height combined. With an approximate land elevation of 270m at the site location, the height of the proposed turbines in this instance will be approximately 445m (175m + 270m), which is well below the 600m safeguarding value and so an Instrument Flight Procedures Assessment will not be required.

Separately, there are regulatory requirements that any obstacles greater than 100m above the existing ground elevation:

- Must be notified to airspace@iaa.ie, and
- A navigation warning light will be required

I have copied interested colleagues in AirNav Ireland as well as daa for information, they may provide additional feedback.

I hope this satisfies your query, please don't hesitate to get in touch should you need anything further from me.

Kind Regards,
Gary



.....
Gary Mackin, Statutory Planner, Infrastructure Division
Planning Department, Level 2, Cloghran House
Dublin Airport
E: gary.mackin.cw@daa.ie
.....

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Document Classification: Class 1 - General

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 20 June 2023 10:29
To: Gary Mackin (CW) <gary.mackin.cw@dublinairport.com>; Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Hi Gary,

We are proposing turbines with an overall tip height of 175m. Rotor diameter of 150m and hub height of 100m.

Regards,

Andrew.

From: Gary Mackin (CW) <gary.mackin.cw@dublinairport.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:51 PM
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: aogrady@jodireland.com
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Good Afternoon Sarah,

I received the below and attached regarding the proposed Wind Farm at Gortloughra, Co. Cork.

A quick review suggests it shouldn't be an issue for Cork Airport from an obstacle/aviation perspective, however I will review with our colleagues at AirNav Ireland during our weekly meeting usually held on Tuesday mornings.

Before I confirm we have no concerns, could you clarify the proposed tip height of the turbines?

Many Thanks,
Gary



.....
Gary Mackin, Statutory Planner, Infrastructure Division
Planning Department, Level 2, Cloghran House
Dublin Airport
E: gary.mackin.cw@daa.ie
.....

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On Thu, 8 Jun at 2:07 PM , Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com> wrote:
Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Tracy OCallaghan <Tracy.OCallaghan@CorkCoCo.ie> on behalf of Tracy OCallaghan
Sent: Monday 11 April 2022 14:34
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: Gortloughra Windfarm
Attachments: Scoping Opinion for Gortloughra Windfarm.pdf

Good Afternoon Sarah,
Please see response to your request regarding the above.
Kind Regards,

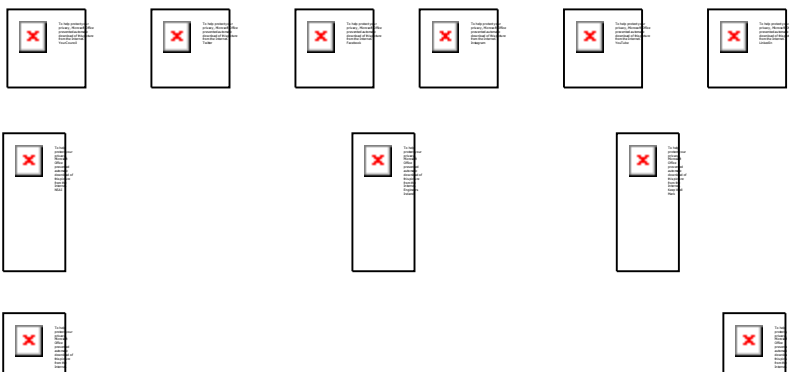
Tracy Ní Cheallacháin | Oifigeach Fóirne | Pleanáil agus Fobairt
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí | Halla an Chontae | Corcaigh | T12 R2NC | Éire
T +353-(0)21 – 428 5633
tracy.ocallaghan@corkcoco.ie | www.corkcoco.ie
Tairseach na gcustaiméirí: www.yourcouncil.ie

Tracy O' Callaghan | Staff Officer | Planning & Development
Cork County Council | County Hall | Cork | T12 R2NC | Ireland
T +353-(0)21 – 428 5633
tracy.ocallaghan@corkcoco.ie | www.corkcoco.ie
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Pleanáil agus Forbairt,
Halla an Chontae,
Bóthar Charraig Ruacháin,
Corcaigh T12 R2NC.
Fón: (021) 4276891 • Faics: (021) 4276321
R-phost: planninginfo@corkcoco.ie
Suíomh Gréasáin: www.corkcoco.ie
Planning & Development,
County Hall,
Carrigrohane Road, Cork T12 R2NC.
Tel (021) 4276891 • Fax (021) 4276321
Email: planninginfo@corkcoco.ie
Web: www.corkcoco.ie



Sarah Gallagher,
Jennings O' Donovan Consulting Engineers,
Head Office,
Finisklin Business Park,
Sligo.
F91 RHHP.

11th April 2022

RE: Scoping Opinion for Gortloughra Windfarm.

Dear Madam,

I refer to your correspondence regarding the above. Please now find attached comments from our Area Planner, Annie O' Keeffe, regarding same.

Trusting the above is in order.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy O' Callaghan'.

Tracy O' Callaghan.
Staff Officer.



We are Cork.



Scoping Opinion for Gortloughra Windfarm, Kealkill, Bantry, Co. Cork



Background

A request for a Scoping Opinion in respect of a windfarm proposal at Gortloughra, Kealkill, Bantry, Co. Cork was received on 21/12/2021. A Scoping Report prepared by Jennings O'Donovan on behalf of the developer, Gortloughra Windfarm Limited, has been submitted.

The purpose of the Scoping Request is to identify key environmental issues/concerns at an early stage so that the development can be designed to avoid or mitigate any potentially significant environmental effects, and so that any remaining likely significant effects can be assessed appropriately.

Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises

- Site area of 198ha
- The construction of 9no. 6MW turbines with total output of 54MW
- An overall blade tip height of 175m and a rotor diameter of 150m
- Hub height of 100m
- Site access roads, crane hardstand areas and turbine foundations
- Development of site drainage network
- Internal windfarm underground power and communications cabling
- Construction of on-site 38kV substation and grid connection to the 110kV sub-station located in Dunmanway town or to the proposed Sheen Loop sub-station
- Erection of permanent wind speed monitoring mast
- Construction of temporary site compound during construction
- Upgrade works on the turbine delivery route
- Recreational community and biodiversity improvements

The developer intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) under Section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended as the project falls within the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended as a class of infrastructure which, if considered by ABP to be strategic infrastructure development, requires direct application to the Board i.e. “An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts”.

Pre-Planning

The developer submitted a formal pre-planning enquiry under S.247 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. An MS Teams meeting took place on 26/08/2021 with Senior Planning Department officials, the developer and his representatives - PPW 21/793.

Planning Policy Context

The following observations apply:

- The site is located in an area where windfarms are ‘Open for Consideration’
- Landscape Character is defined as ‘Ridged and Peaked Upland (15a)’
- Within a ‘Transitional Rural Area’ housing policy area
- Highly visible from designated Scenic Route (S29 - the R585) to the south and the Pass of Keimaneigh to the west (S28)
- Key considerations are impact on the landscape character and quality and impact on highly scenic views obtainable from designated scenic routes on important tourist routes
- Cumulative impacts and inter-visibility with built and permitted windfarms key concern
- High density of residential development, particularly in the Coolmountain area
- Site is within the Screening Zone for the Bandon River SAC (Site Code 002171)
- Grid connection should be finalised and included in EIAR
- Site is c.10km from county boundary and transboundary effects, if any, should be considered

Relevant Objectives

Particular regard should be had to the following objectives:

ED 3-5 Open to Consideration

Commercial wind energy development is open to considerations in these areas where proposals can avoid adverse impacts upon:

- Residential amenity particularly in respect of noise, shadow flicker and visual impact.
- Urban areas and metropolitan /Town green belts.
- Natura 2000 sites (SPA and SAC), Natural Heritage Area (pHNA's) or adjoin areas affecting their integrity;
- Architectural and archaeological heritage.
- Visual quality of the landscape and the degree to which impacts are highly visible over wider areas.
-

ED 6-1 and ED 6-2 Support grid connection and facilitate practical and feasible infrastructure and feasibility of undergrounding especially in high landscape character areas.

GI 2-1 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Cork. Help to identify, protect, manage and develop green infrastructure resources.

GI 3-1 Require new development to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure of the County.

GI 6-1: Landscape

- a) Protect the visual and scenic amenities of County Cork's built and natural environment.
- b) Landscape issues will be an important factor in all land-use proposals, ensuring that a proactive view of development is undertaken while maintaining respect for the environment and heritage generally in line with the principle of sustainability.
- c) Ensure that new development meets high standards of siting and design.
- d) Protect skylines and ridgelines from development.
- e) Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of extensive amounts of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments.

GI 7-2: Scenic Routes

Protect the character of those views and prospects obtainable from scenic routes and in particular stretches of scenic routes that have very special views and prospects.

GI 7-3: Development on Scenic Routes

Demonstrate that there will be no adverse obstruction or degradation of the views towards and from vulnerable landscape features including mitigation measures to prevent significant alterations to the appearance or character of the area and encourage appropriate landscaping and screen planting.

GI 13-1 Minimise Noise Pollution associated with development having regard to relevant standards published guidance and the receiving environment and support Noise Action plans.

GI 13-2 Minimised Light Pollution

GI 10-3 Preserve and protect groundwater

HE 2-1 Protect all Natural Heritage sites including Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Ramsar.

HE 2-2 Protect plant and animal listed species.

HE 2-7 Control of invasive plant and animal species including Japanese knotweed

HE 3-1: Protection of Archaeological Sites

- a) Safeguard sites and settings, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. b) Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments including the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (see www.archeology.ie) and the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, as amended and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally. In securing such preservation, the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht as outlined in the Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.

HE 3-3: Zones of Archaeological Potential

Protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located within historic towns and other urban areas and around archaeological monuments generally. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the potential for subsurface archaeology and if archaeology is demonstrated to be present appropriate mitigation (such as preservation in situ/buffer zones) will be required.

HE 3-4 Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology

Protect and preserve the archaeological value of industrial and post medieval archaeology such as mills, limekilns, bridges, piers, harbours, penal chapels and dwellings. Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment/conversion of these sites should be subject to careful assessment.

Archaeology

The Council's Archaeologist has made the following observations:

- The study should be extended to include archaeological monuments in the wider landscape with astronomical association intervisible from the proposed development site and assessed the proposed development the impact on same. Certain Viewing points assessment should be guided by the appointed archaeologist.
- Provide a clear definition on what is covered under Cultural heritage. All heritage features should be identified and assessed within the proposed development site i.e. inclusion of built heritage features as part of the tangible cultural heritage (i.e. outside what is identified as archaeological monuments and architectural heritage)
- There is considerable concern regarding visual impact on the archaeological monuments both individually and collectively and their setting given the dense number and nature of the monuments within the development site. A robust assessment is required to demonstrate the visual impact of the development on the setting of the monuments individually and collectively as a historic/prehistoric landscape and the significance of same should be provided.
- Given the nature of the terrain and the density of the monuments there is significant potential to identify previously unrecorded archaeological sites both above and below ground and the results guide design and layout and some level of site testing may be required as part of the assessment.
- The appointed archaeologist should be suitably qualified and experienced and liaise with the County Archaeologist when preparing the EIAR following site inspection.

Environment

The following are the requirements of the Council's Environment Officer:

- A map of the site showing all occupied dwellings within the 500m zone and the 1000m zone of the wind turbines.
- Within the 500m zone and the 1000m zone of the wind turbines, the applicant should provide details of the predicted noise levels – noise levels should be 43dB or less.
- A Waste management Plan giving details of the management of waste at the site during the construction phase shall be included

Ecology

The Council's Ecology Officer makes the following observations:

- I have reviewed the submitted scoping document from an ecological perspective and my original preplanning advice issued under reference *PPW 21/793* remains true. I note as per the supplied information 'Outside of the planted areas, much of the lower/mid slopes are characterised by peatland habitats that include intact, active blanket bog, cutover blanket bog, wet heath, dry heath, siliceous rock and a mosaic of the above habitats in places '.
- The Ecology Office would recommend that **no such development take place on intact peatland habitats and be avoided on degraded peatland habitats or any habitats of high natural value. For this reason, this site raises a red flag for me, and I would refer you to policy HE 2-3 of the CDP.**
- Furthermore, species-specific surveys which are deemed to be required must be completed by qualified and experienced practitioners following recognised best practise methods. Survey licences required, where applicable, should be submitted as part of the application. Data, locations, status and extent of the recorded protected sensitive species e.g. Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations & Hen Harrier winter roosts etc., may be submitted as confidential reports if there are relevant issues of concern relating to the locations arising.
- The design and site layout of the proposal should be informed by the information gathered during the survey stage and the ecological assessment, ensuring all high valued habitats e.g. peatland habitats, and areas around known breeding sites, resting sites and key foraging and commuting areas for sensitive species are avoided.

Note: Given the occurrence of peatland habitats at the site, a peat stability assessment to manage all risks associated with peat instability should / will likely be provided. I note that any such peat stability assessment and peat management plan would need to be examined by technically competent persons on behalf of Cork County Council to assess the conclusions of these reports and ensure the site is safe from the risk of peat failure/slips/slides or erosion.

Engineering

The Area Engineer makes the following observations:

- Developer will need examination options, other than the routing of cables along the public road. It is important that applications for significant service connections between the increasing number of remote power generating facilities and interconnectors, be planned in great detail at application stage so that nothing is left to chance at construction stage.
- In summary the significant issues that need to be addressed at this stage are: Their installation of services 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).
- The position of service trenches along a road needs to be agreed in advance and any deviation from the detailed design, at construction stage, should require the approval of the local authority.
- The location of cables is required to be recorded as accurately as possible so as to facilitate the further use of road space for utilities and the maintenance of the public road by the Roads authority. This record should be lodged with the local authority and with the Utility for retention on their records.

- Cables shall be routed away from bridge structures and developers specifically prevented from attaching cables to road bridges. Proposed alternatives such as river bed crossings need to be feasibility proofed at planning stage by trial-holing etc. and included in EIS assessments so as to avoid having to consider alternatives which may be deemed not covered by planning/EIS.
- Any chambers proposed within the public road cross section need to be designed to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance.
- 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) should also be demonstrated as having been considered by the Developer.
- Developer to comply with all appropriate standards and the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads, 2017 in order to ensure orderly development or conditioning even further reinstatement requirements as deemed appropriate allowing for damage to roads from construction traffic etc.,. The conditioning of a bond, equivalent to full road overlay on roads to be used for deliveries etc. or requiring the Developer to strengthen such roads in advance, to ensure that the standard of the road surface is at least restored to its original condition or to an improved condition if such routes are to be used for access for maintenance of the facility thereafter.
- Suitable routes for services, construction traffic and delivery must be set out and agreed at planning stage with no deviation thereafter. Diversion routes for traffic temporarily diverted whilst the works are being undertaken must also be agreed and detailed at planning stage.
- Details of all surface water culverts to drawing on the route map, and any damaged during the laying of the service must be properly repaired and notified to the Area Engineer. Likewise for watermains, to Irish Water Engineers.
- On step sections of rural roads, consideration needs to be given to the use of a backfill material which is resistant to being washed away during severe weather events.
- Trenchless pipelaying will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

The Area Engineer notes little detail is supplied regarding the turbine delivery route and indicates that the submitted map is very difficult to read, despite extensive knowledge of the area. The report notes a large number of residential properties with a dwelling located 600m from T6 but not shown on figure 14.1.

Conclusion

The Information to be contained in EIAR – the Scoping Report submitted covers the various EIAR requirements already – should follow all relevant guidelines including EIA guidelines, relevant Wind Energy Guidelines, EPA advice notes and relevant legislation.

The developer should be advised that the Planning Authority has serious concerns regarding the scale and location of the proposed development and likely adverse visual impact and serious concerns regarding the likely impact on the quality of views obtainable from an important designated Scenic Route – as was indicated during pre-planning engagement. The Planning Authority notes that a Viewpoint Selection report will be prepared for consultation and agreement with relevant stakeholders and particularly with Cork County Council. Selected viewpoints from the 'Wild Atlantic Way' tourist route and designated 'high value landscape' areas should also be included.

Reasonable alternatives considered shall be included and must also indicate the main reasons for the site selected taking into account the effects of the project on the environment.

The above planning policy considerations and comments from internal departments should be forwarded to the developer for inclusion within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The developer should be advised that the issues highlighted by the Planning Authority are not intended to be definitive and further issues may evolve as the project progresses.

Annie O'Keeffe

Area Planner

31/03/2022

Sarah Gallagher

From: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie> on behalf of CorporateSupport.Unit
Sent: Wednesday 9 March 2022 11:52
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Cc: CorporateSupport.Unit; Planning Advisory
Subject: Reply from DECC - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork

Good morning Sarah,

Following your email of 15/02/2022, please see below a reply from Ms. Trish Smullen on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) for the subject below.

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/SEA/EIA/EIS or NIS notices is CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie

Regards,
Enda Brady,
Corporate Support Unit,
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 9 March 2022 10:57
To: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Subject: EIS 22/42 - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork

Hi Enda,
Please see text below for return to Jennings O'Donovan.
Thanks and regards,
Trish

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your email dated 17 February 2022, regarding the scoping letter for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork, please note that Geological Survey Ireland has no specific comment or observations to make on this matter since our last response in January 2022 [21/481].

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 GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen
Geological Survey Ireland

From: GSI Planning
Sent: 17 February 2022 09:00
Cc: GSI Planning
Subject: EIS 22/42 - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork

EIS 22/42

Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork [cf. 21/481]. Request for observations by Jennings O'Donovan to be forwarded via the CSU mailbox. Letter and scoping report is enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Customer Service <Customer.Service@decc.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 16:00
To: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: Customer Service <Customer.Service@decc.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Hi All,

Forwarding on the below for your attention.
A follow up email to a scoping letter, forwarded to yourselves in December.

I will let Ms Gallagher know I have passed on her email

Kind regards,
Shannen

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:04
To: Customer Service <Customer.Service@decc.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 14:57
To: 'customer.service@decc.gov.ie' <customer.service@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

Sarah Gallagher

From: Defence Property Management Planning
<PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie> on behalf of Defence Property Management Planning
Sent: Friday 18 February 2022 14:00
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence); Sarah Zacharia (Defence); aogrady@jodireland.com
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: Letter to Jennings O'Donovan - re. Gortloughra Windfarm, Dunmanway , Co. Cork.pdf

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

Please find attached letter in response to your e-mail below and to Andrew O'Grady's letter dated 20th December re. proposed Gortloughra Windfarm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Best regards
Don

Don Watchorn

Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta

Department of Defence

Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

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

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:06
To: Defence Info <info@defence.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:01

To: 'info@defence.ie' <info@defence.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Mr. Andrew O'Grady
Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd.
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9

18th February 2022

Re: Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Mr. O'Grady,

I refer to your e-mail dated 15th January 2022 with your attached letter dated 20th December 2021, in relation to the proposed Gortloughra Windfarm at Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

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

As a matter of practice, the Department of Defence does not provide observations or advice in the Pre- planning process, except where the relevant parties have been directed by a planning authority to seek the Department's views.

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

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Sent via e-mail due to Covid19 restrictions

Property Management Branch
Department of Defence
Station Road, Newbridge
Co. Kildare W12 AD93
propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie

Sarah Gallagher

From: GCU - Reform Communications and Emergency Planning Divisional Mailbox <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie> on behalf of GCU - Reform Communications and Emergency Planning Divisional Mailbox
Sent: Thursday 13 January 2022 13:15
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: 20220113 DoT reply.docx

Good afternoon Sarah,

Please find attached for your attention observations from Department of Transport in relation to this request.

Kind regards
Jacqui

Jacqui Traynor
Reform Communications Emergency Planning

An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T +353 (0)1 604 1177
Jacquitraylor@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:06
To: GCU - Reform Communications and Emergency Planning Divisional Mailbox <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Mr. Andrew O'Grady
Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9
13th January 2022

Re: Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co.Cork.

Dear Andrew,

It is noted by the Department of Transport that Section 9 of the Scoping Document is entitled: ACCESS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

At section 9.3 the study area is defined as the haul route to the site for both turbine components, likely to be from Port of Cork and the local roads leading to the site which will be used for delivery of stone, concrete and other building materials during construction.

The scope does not appear to include for the potential effects of the provision of connection cables to the national grid which is essential to the development as the cable route(s) do not appear to be included in the study area. It should be noted that the Department considers the construction involved in providing these connection cables 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 of Transport considers it important that the examination of the proposal should include consideration of the following:

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

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

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



Yours sincerely,

Jacqui Traynor

Reform Communications Emergency Planning

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

Sarah Gallagher

From: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie> on behalf of EIAPanning
Sent: Tuesday 8 March 2022 12:54
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Categories: Red Category

Dear Sarah,

If the proposal is not activity that is licensable by the EPA (Industrial Emissions, Integrated Pollution Control, Waste Licence or Waste Water Licence) the Agency would not provide a Scoping Opinion (on the scope and level of detail of information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report).

Yours faithfully,
Environmental Licensing Programme



053-916 0600 (Switch)

eiaplanning@epa.ie

www.epa.ie



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 23 February 2022 10:28
To: EIAPanning <eiaplanning@epa.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Marian/Rachel

Just checking if you have any response to make on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:08
To: 'info@epa.ie' <info@epa.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:07
To: 'info@epa.ie' <info@epa.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: John Bagnall <john.bagnall@eir.ie> on behalf of John Bagnall
Sent: Friday 25 February 2022 14:37
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Mobile Networks TXN
Subject: Re: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

We have no transmission services within the search area that will be affected.

Please keep sending new development analysis requests to MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie for Eir Mobile and the Eir fixed network.



Kind regards,



John Bagnall

Transmission Design & Engineering

M: +353 85 1053746

E: john.bagnall@eir.ie

Address: EirCode - D24 HX03

On Thu, 24 Feb 2022 at 14:44, Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com> wrote:

Dear John,

Just forwarding the below emails with attachments for your attention.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:11
To: 'thomas.sheridan@eir.ie' <thomas.sheridan@eir.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:10
To: 'thomas.sheridan@eir.ie' <thomas.sheridan@eir.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie> on behalf of planning applications
Sent: Friday 25 February 2022 09:06
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork Email No :0100606001700
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

Hello Sarah,

I received your email from our Customer Support Team regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Just for your information, Fáilte Ireland has a dedicated mailbox for all planning notifications/applications, public consultations etc. email address planning.applications@failteireland.ie

By using this email address it will ensure the information/notifications will go directly to the Manager of the Environment & Planning (Mr Shane Dineen) and will be reviewed and actioned in a timely manner by the Manager and the Environment & Planning Team.

Regards,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

Product Development-Environmental & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86
Currently working Remotely | **M** +353 (0)86 0357590



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

From: sgallagher@jodireland.com;
Received: Wed Feb 23 2022 10:10:01 GMT+0000 (Greenwich Mean Time)
To: customersupport@failteireland.ie; customersupport@failteireland.ie; CustomerSupport@failteireland.ie;
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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Dear Orla Puthill

Case No. CAS-24170-26Z2Z4.

Attached is the Report and letter. If you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:15
To: 'reception@failteireland.ie' <reception@failteireland.ie>; 'planning.application@failteireland.ie' <planning.application@failteireland.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:18
To: 'reception@failteireland.ie' <reception@failteireland.ie>; 'planning.application@failteireland.ie' <planning.application@failteireland.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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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.

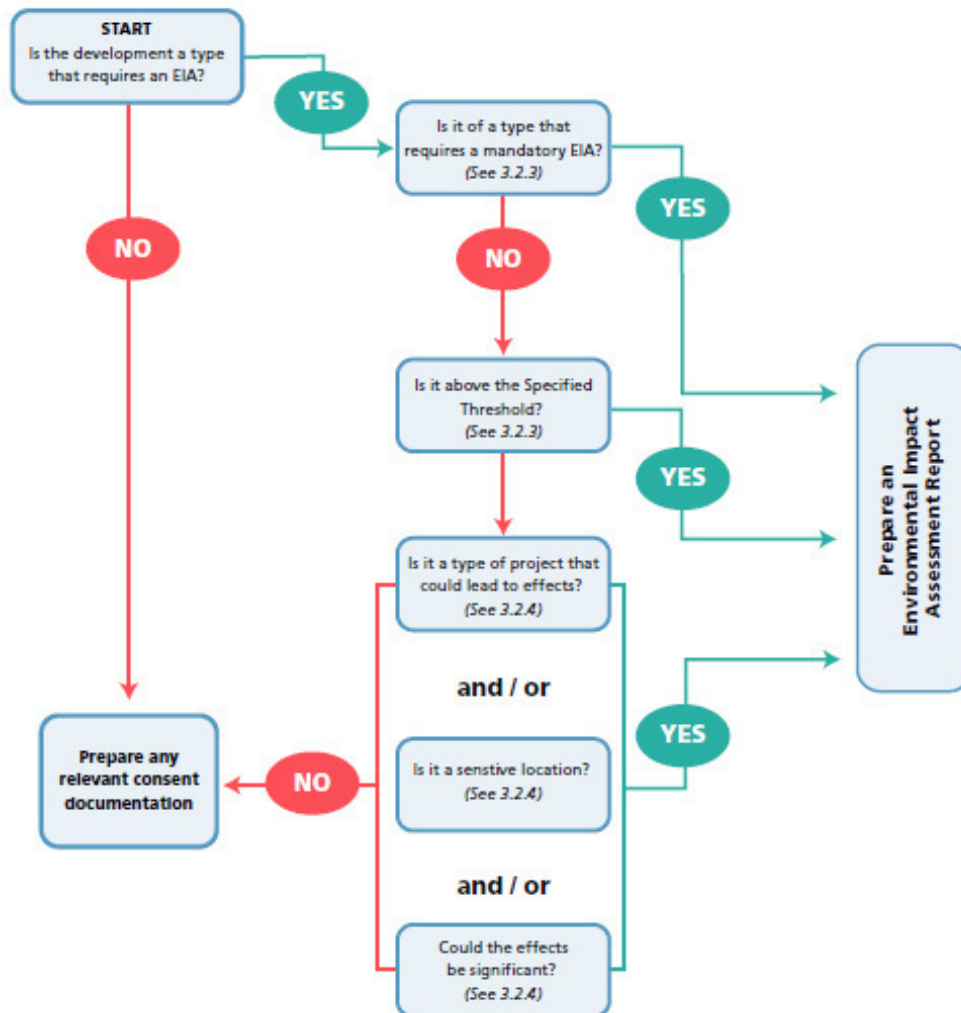
Screening

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.

Sarah Gallagher

From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie> on behalf of GSI Planning
Sent: Tuesday 18 January 2022 09:13
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: Clare Glanville; GSI Planning; Erin Leahy
Subject: 21/481 - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork
Attachments: 21_481 Gortloughra Wind Farm Dunmanway Co Cork.pdf; GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA_20210421.pdf

Your Ref: 6460/503/020/AOG

Our Ref: 21/481

Dear Sarah,

With reference to your email received on the 21st December, concerning the Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork, 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, Erin Leahy, or my colleagues Trish Smullen and Clare Glanville at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Erin Leahy
Geological Survey Ireland

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.



Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited
Finisklin Business Park,
Sligo,
Ireland,
F91 RHH9

18 January 2022

Re: EIA Scoping Request, Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork

Your Ref: 6460/503/020/AOG

Our Ref: EIS 21/481

Dear Andrew,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science organisation 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.

With reference to your letter dated the 20th December, concerning the request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, 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.

We are pleased to see reference to our Bedrock, Groundwater, Landslides, and Geological Heritage datasets within the EIA Scoping document. **All use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.**

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. Cork commenced in 2021 and will run for a three-year period. However, in the interim, unaudited CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the immediate vicinity of the proposed wind farm. We note that you have included reference to the 'Pass of Keimaneigh' County Geological Site. This is currently unaudited, and as such has no mapped site boundaries. This should be audited during 2022 and our data should be reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the EIAR process.**

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 Resources (Aquifers) data viewer indicates the area of the proposed wind farm is predominantly underlain by both a **‘Locally Important Aquifer – Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones’** and a ‘Poor Aquifer – Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones’ underlies the margins. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates **‘High’ and ‘Extreme’ groundwater vulnerability within the area covered**. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greater in these areas.

The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main report is here: <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/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.

Geotechnical Database Resources

Geological Survey Ireland continues to populate and develop our national geotechnical database and viewer with site investigation data submitted voluntarily by industry. The current database holding is over 7500 reports with 134,000 boreholes; 31,000 of which are digitised which can be accessed through downloads from our [Geotechnical Map Viewer](#). We would encourage the use of this database as part of any baseline geological assessment of the proposed development as it can provide invaluable baseline data for the region or vicinity of proposed development areas. This information may be beneficial and cost saving for any site-specific investigations that may be designed as part of the project.

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. 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 is of the view that the sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. Geological Survey Ireland highlights the consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process.

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

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. Should any significant bedrock cuttings be created, we would ask that they will be designed to remain visible as rock exposure rather than covered with soil and vegetated, in accordance with safety guidelines and engineering constraints. In areas where natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface and could be included as additional sites of the geoheritage dataset, if appropriate. Alternatively, we ask that a digital photographic record of significant new excavations could be provided. Potential visits from Geological Survey Ireland to personally document exposures could also be arranged.

The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to Geological Mapping Unit, at 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,

Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

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

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

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=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=a30af518e87a4c0b2fde2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=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; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie)	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9eae46bee08de41278b90a9916dc0b9e
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&nothing=7&lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://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.

Sarah Gallagher

From: Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie> on behalf of Michael McPartland
Sent: Thursday 6 January 2022 11:37
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: 22-1.doc

Sarah

Thanks for your email.

Please find attached response.

Michael Mc Partland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel + 353 (0)26 412 21/2
Fax + 353 (0)26 412 23
Email michael.mcpartland@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

Sunnyside House, Macroom, Co. Cork, Ireland. P12 X602

Help Protect Ireland's Inland Fisheries

From: Sarah Gallagher [<mailto:sgallagher@jodireland.com>]
Sent: 23 December 2021 10:57
To: Macroom Info
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Mr Andrew O'Grady
Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo

06 January 2022

RE: Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your request in relation to the above mentioned.

The site of the proposed development appears to encompass the upper Bandon, Owvane and Bealaphadeen Rivers and their tributaries, significant salmonid fisheries. In this context IFI would ask that the following requirements should be taken into consideration.

There should be no drainage or other physical interference with the bed or bank of any watercourse without prior consultation with IFI.

Suspended solids and or hydrocarbon contaminated site run-off waters must be controlled adequately so that no pollution of surface waters can occur. More specifically IFI feels the following issues should be addressed

- i. Identifying and zoning the project for environmental impact should a peat slip occur
- ii. Setting out contingency plan should a peat movement occur.
- iii. Setting out a plan for the control of silt in such a scenario, including measures to be put in place at the initial stages of construction.

In the event of any watercourse crossings being bridged or culverted the following general criteria should apply,

- (i) The free passage of fish must not be obstructed.

(ii) The original slope of the river bed should be maintained with no sudden drops on the downstream side. Design details on any proposed crossing should be incorporated at planning stage

(iii) Bridges are preferable to culverts.

(v) All instream works should be carried out only in the May-September period.

IFI would ask that the scoping study should include an electrofishing survey of an watercourse on which it is proposed to construct a crossing.

IFI would ask that you revert when further information and design detail is available.

Yours sincerely,

MMP

Michael Mc Partland.
Environmental Officer.

Sarah Gallagher

From: O'BRIEN Christophe <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie> on behalf of O'BRIEN Christophe
Sent: Thursday 23 December 2021 12:12
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady; HUGHES John; MULLINS Paul; Planning
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Good afternoon Sarah,

Thank you for your email and letter in relation to the scoping report for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm at Kilkeal, Bantry, Co. Cork.

It is understood that the proposal relates to 9 x Wind Turbines with a blade tip height of 175ms above ground level.

It is noted that the proposed wind farm is approximately 20kms North East of the nationally licenced Bantry Aerodrome. We would recommend that you engage with the Licensee of the aerodrome to make them aware of your proposal:

Contact details are as per Ireland's Aeronautical Information Publication:

Post: ROWA Pharmaceuticals Ltd,
Newtown,
Bantry,
Co. Cork
Phone: +353 27 50077
Phone: +353 86 8127336
Fax: +353 27 50417
Email: rowa@rowa-pharma.ie

It should be noted that the scoping report has been provided to other relevant domains within the Authority, i.e. Engineering and Airspace. They may revert directly with their own specific observations / comments in due course.

However, during the formal planning process, the Safety Regulation Division – Aerodromes will likely make the following general observations:

'In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection.'

Best Regards,

Christophe

Christophe O'Brien
Aerodromes Inspector
Safety Regulation Division
Irish Aviation Authority
T: + 353 (1) 603 1492
M: + 353 86 33 22022
E: obrienc@iaa.ie



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 09:01
To: HUGHES John <John.HUGHES@IAA.ie>; MULLINS Paul <Paul.MULLINS@IAA.ie>; O'BRIEN Christophe <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>; Planning <planning@iaa.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Ireland A limited liability company

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=====

Sarah Gallagher

From: RAFFERTY Audrey <audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie> on behalf of RAFFERTY Audrey
Sent: Thursday 6 January 2022 14:18
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sarah

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

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

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

The State requires electronic terrain and obstacle data (eTOD) in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) [Annex 15](#) requirements which shall be surveyed by [Ordnance Survey Ireland \(OSi\)](#). The cost of this OSi surveyed data is to be borne by the developer. Additionally, the following data is to be supplied once construction is planned or commenced or available to the airspace team via airspace@iaa.ie:

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

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

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

Kind regards,

Audrey Rafferty
Corporate Affairs
Irish Aviation Authority
11-12 Dolier Street
Dublin 2
01 603 1103

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 09:01
To: HUGHES John <John.HUGHES@IAA.ie>; MULLINS Paul <Paul.MULLINS@IAA.ie>; O'BRIEN Christophe <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>; Planning <planning@iaa.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

*** This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. ***

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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=====

Sarah Gallagher

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com> on behalf of Andrew O'Grady
Sent: Monday 17 January 2022 15:15
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: FW: Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

From: O'LEARY Geraldine <Geraldine.O'LEARY@IAA.ie>

Sent: Monday 17 January 2022 15:13

To: aogrady@jodireland.com

Subject: Re: Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Re: Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Mr. O'Grady,

Thank you for your letter/scoping report and request for comments in relation to the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, to be located at Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

The development appears to be approximately 50km West of Cork Airport and 48km South East of Kerry Airport, as such, it is likely that the following general observations would be proffered during a formal planning process: In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and blade tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection.

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs

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

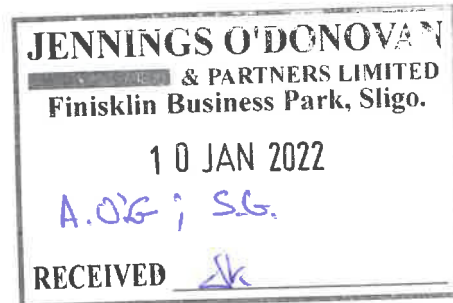
Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann
Foirgneamh na hAmanna
11-12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449,
Éire

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



6th January 2022

Attn: Ms. Sarah Gallagher
Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd
Consulting Engineers
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9



Your Ref: *Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.*

Dear Ms. Gallagher

I refer to your email of the 22nd of December with attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the proposed planning permission for the above development, details of which were received by the Irish Aviation Authority.

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

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

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

The State requires electronic terrain and obstacle data (eTOD) in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) [Annex 15](#) requirements which shall be surveyed by [Ordnance Survey Ireland \(OSi\)](#). The cost of this OSi surveyed data is to be borne by the developer. Additionally, the following data is to be supplied once

Bord Stiúrthóirí/Board of Directors

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

Oifig Chláraithe:

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

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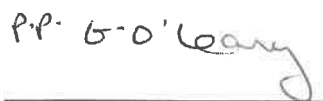
construction is planned or commenced or available to the airspace team via airspace@iaa.ie:

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

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

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

Yours sincerely



Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs

Sarah Gallagher

From: Kieran O'Regan <koregan@water.ie> on behalf of Kieran O'Regan
Sent: Tuesday 15 March 2022 15:38
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Cc: Ali Robinson; Planning
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: IrishWaterResponse_EIAR_Gortloughra Wind Farm.pdf

Afternoon Sarah,

Please find attached Irish Waters response to your EIAR Scoping request for the Gortloughra Wind Farm in Dunmanway.

Can you please ensure that Irish Water is notified via planning@water.ie when the application is submitted to the Competent Authority.

Kind regards,

Kieran

Kieran O'Regan BA MPlan
Development Management Planning (Southern Region)

Uisce Éireann
Teach na hAbhann Móire, Páirc Ghnó Mhala, Mala, Contae Chorcaí, Éire
Irish Water
Blackwater House, Mallow Business Park, Mallow, County Cork, Ireland

T + 022 52285
M +353 87 355 0100
koregan@water.ie
www.water.ie
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 9 March 2022 14:53
To: Spatial Planning <spatialplanning@water.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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To Whom It may Concern,

Just following up on my below emails, if you could send back any comments you might have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:24
To: 'operations@water.ie' <operations@water.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 11:24
To: 'operations@water.ie' <operations@water.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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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, toirimiscithe 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 thoirmiscithe 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 neamhúdaraith. 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 theachtairachtaí 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.

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neamhúdaraíthe. 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 theachtairachtaí 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.

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners,
Finisklin Business Park,
Sligo,
F91 RHH9

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath1
D01 WA07
Éire

Irish Water
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 01 89 25000
T: +353 01 89 25001
www.water.ie

15th March 2022

Re: EIAR Scoping Request – Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

To Whom it may concern,

Irish Water (IW) has received notification of your request in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping for proposed Wind Farm Development in Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Please see attached our suggested scope in relation to Water Services. On receipt of the planning referral, Irish Water will review the EIAR as part of the planning process.

Queries relating to the terms and EIAR response below should be directed to planning@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of Irish Water:

PP: Ali Robinson

Yvonne Harris
Connections and Development Services

IW currently does not have the capacity to advise on scoping of individual projects. However, in general we would like the following aspects of Water Services to be considered in the scope of an EIAR where relevant;

a) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an IW Drinking Water Source(s) the applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to IWs Drinking Water Source during construction and operational phases of the development. Hydrological/hydrogeological pathways between your site and receiving waters should be identified.

b) Where the development proposal includes backfilling of materials, the waste sampling strategy for the proposed development to ensure the material is inert.

c) Mitigation proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water source(s), in proximity including the environmental management plan and incident response.

d) Any and all potential impacts on the nearby reservoir as public water supply water source(s) is assessed, including any impact on hydrogeology and any groundwater/ surface water interactions.

e) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development if required). This is confirmed by IW in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development will require 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 IW to determine the feasibility of connection to the Irish Water network. All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from <https://www.water.ie/connections/get-connected/>

f) Any up grading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the 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 IW collection network.

h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks & potential measures to minimise/stop surface waters from combined sewers.

i) Any physical impact on IW assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.

j) If you are considering a development proposal, you are advised to determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from your 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 your intended development to datarequests@water.ie Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within your lands

are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.

k) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to IW discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion /circulation characterises. Hydrological/hydrogeological pathways between your site and receiving waters should be identified.

l) 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 IW for public supply.

m) Where a development proposes to connect to an IW 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.

n) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any IW 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 your development proposal, applicants are advised to complete the Pre Connection Enquiry process and have received a Confirmation of feasibility letter from Irish Water ahead of any planning application.
- Irish Water will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks

Sarah Gallagher

From: Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE> on behalf of Thomas Barry
Sent: Thursday 24 February 2022 14:27
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Sarah,

We anticipate no impact from the development as proposed, can you ensure the development is also reviewed by eir.

Regards,
Tom

From: Derek Rosarius
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 11:05
To: Thomas Barry
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Derek Rosarius | Compliance Manager |
TETRA Ireland Communications Ltd
Block 43a, 2nd floor, Yeats Way, Parkwest Business Park, Nangor Road, D12
M +353 85 1746044 | E derek.rosarius@tetraireland.ie | 🌐: www.tetraireland.ie/

----- Original message -----

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Date: 15/02/2022 10:27 AM (GMT+00:00)
To: Info <info@TETRAIRELAND.IE>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 11:28
To: 'info@tetraireland.ie' <info@tetraireland.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@housing.gov.ie> on behalf of Housing Manager DAU
Sent: Wednesday 16 February 2022 09:32
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Our Ref: G Pre00309/2021
Your Ref: 6460/503/042/AOG

A Chara,

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

Le meas
Diarmuid

Diarmuid Buttimer
Executive Officer

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

—
Diarmuid.Buttimer@housing.gov.ie
Manager.DAU@housing.gov.ie

From: Housing Minister Of State <ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 14:59
To: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@housing.gov.ie>
Cc: Housing Mos <MOS@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Hi folks,

Please see below and attached.

Kind Regards,

Caoimhe

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:29
To: Housing Minister <MINISTER@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 14:23
To: 'minister@housing.gov.ie' <minister@housing.gov.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Your Ref: Gortloughra Wind Farm

Our Ref: G Pre00124/2023 (Please quote in all related correspondence)

14 September 2023

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
Ireland
F91 RHH9

Via email: sgallagher@jodireland.com ; aogrady@jodireland.com

Proposed Pre Planning Development: Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd., for Gortloughra Wind Farm: pre-SID request for a EIAR Scoping Opinion in respect of an application for planning permission for Gortloughra Wind Farm: Dunmanway

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

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

All aspects of wind farm project, including both the overall turbine and grid connection proposals, need to be assessed together in terms of both EIA/EIS and NIS/AA process to avoid project splitting aspects of the project within the assessment process.

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

This is also important within the in combination effects and cumulative impacts sections of the assessments regarding the potential effects of the wind farm project. When carried out by the competent authority, the appropriate assessment cannot have lacunae and must



contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the project on European sites.

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

White-tailed sea-eagle

The proposed wind-farm is within the range of the recently re-introduced white-tailed sea eagle, a species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC). This species, which became extinct in Ireland over one hundred years ago, is now establishing itself in the wild after two phases of a reintroduction programme which released birds from Norway. This species is particularly susceptible to collision with wind turbine blades. In Norway, 39 white-tailed eagle deaths were recorded from such collisions at one large wind-farm (Smøla) between 2005-2010¹. Four deaths due to wind turbine collisions had been recorded in Ireland, representing 10% of total mortality between 2007 and 2014². Three fatalities were approx. 10-15 km to the north west of this proposed development (three at Sillahertane and Lettercannon-Coomagearlahy area wind-farms) with another at a windfarm further to the north (October 2022³). Eagles, when soaring, may even be slightly attracted to fly within the rotor-swept zone of turbines⁴, “possibly induced by the extra wind energy created by the turbulence”⁵.

Collision and mortality risk must be fully assessed for the project and it should be borne in mind that assessment cannot have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt. Dahl et al (2013) conclude, regarding management implications, that their results suggest that it will be difficult to employ mitigation measures to decrease the white-tailed eagle collision hazard. They therefore emphasize the importance of conducting thorough pre-construction studies to identify wind-power plant locations with low densities of species vulnerable to collision.

¹ Dahl, E.L., Bevanger, K., Nygørd, T., Røskift, E. and Stokke, E.C. (2011) Reduced breeding success in white-tailed eagles at Smøla windfarm, western Norway, is caused by mortality and displacement. *Biological Conservation* **145**: 79-85.

² Mee, A. (2014) Irish white-tailed sea eagle reintroduction programme report 2014. Golden Eagle Trust / Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht / Norwegian Institute for Nature Research. http://www.norway.ie/PageFiles/747152/Irish%20WTSE%20report_2014.pdf ; see also ‘Rare sea eagle killed by wind turbine’, *Irish Times*, 4 April 2011.

³ NPWS unpublished data.

⁴ Dahl, E.L., May, R., Hoel, P.L., Bevanger, K., Pedersen, H.C., Røskift, E. and Stokke, B.G. (2013) White-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) at the Smøla wind-power plant, Central Norway, lack behavioural flight responses to wind turbines. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* **37**: 66-74.

⁵ Nygørd, T., Bevanger, K., Dahl, E.L., Flagsted, Ø., Follestad, A., Hoel, P.H., May, R. and Reitan, O. (2010) A study of white-tailed eagle movements and mortality at a wind farm in Norway. <http://www.bou.org.uk/bouproc-net/ccb/nygard-et-al.pdf>



The reintroduction programme is now at a very critical phase, where the production of sufficient wild-bred eagles over the next few years will determine the survival of the population, and success of the project. Studies of reintroduced and recolonizing white-tailed eagles have emphasised the importance of controlling mortality in this current early stage of the reintroduction programme:

“Differences in demographic rates of wild-bred and released birds suggest that in future re-introduction programmes steps to maximise the success and output of the earliest breeding attempts would help ensure the most rapid shift to a population composed largely of wild-bred birds, which should then have a higher rate of increase.”⁶

In terms of increasing the risk of collision the siting of turbines on locations on ridges above valleys where eagles are likely to use rising air currents to obtain ‘orographic lift’ to gain altitude⁷ would be an additional potential concern. It is not clear if turbine micro siting is in an area of higher ‘orographic lift’. It should be assessed as part of the overall assessment whether models, such as that in Hanssen et al. (2020) , are applicable at this wind-farm in detecting microsite susceptibility to generating ‘orographic lift’ which may attract eagles into the rotor-swept zones of these turbines.

Consideration should be given to the effect of the availability of sheep carcasses and as to whether the lough could be attracting eagles to the site.

The existing adjacent windfarm could add to the cumulative risk of collision and narrow a potential corridor of flight activity (directional flight, social behaviour, and soaring). This factor should also be considered during the collision and mortality risk assessment for the project.

Guidance on EIAR

You are advised to consult the European Commission’s (2017) ‘Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)’. Any surveys and assessments should be based on a full details of the overall project, noting all lands that will be required. For a detailed list of potential considerations, see the ‘Review checklist’, and specifically ‘Section 1 – Description of the project’, in this guidance. Note also that if compensatory afforestation is required on other lands, the likely significant effects of that integral element of the development should be assessed in the main project EIAR.

In addition to guidance listed in Appendix 1, the following should be taken into account in planning and designing a windfarm and in completing the assessments. Please note the 2020 updates of the Guidance documents:

- *Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation* (European Commission, **2020**)

⁶ Evans, R.J., Wilson, J.D., Amar, A., Douse, A., MacLennan, A., Ratcliffe, N. and Whitfield, D.P. (2009) Growth and demography of a re-introduced population of white-tailed eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla*. *Ibis* **151**: 244-254.

⁷ Hanssen, F., May, R. and Nygård, T. (2020) High-resolution modelling of uplift landscapes can inform micro-siting of wind turbines for soaring raptors. *Environmental Management* **66**: 319-332.



- *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines* (DoHLGH, 2020), particularly the requirements in relation to assessing ground conditions/geology (section 5.3
- *Landslides in Ireland* (GSI, 2006)⁸.

Project planning and design

It should be remembered that a key element of EIA is the avoidance or reduction of negative effects on the environment. EIA is an iterative process and the information gathered through assessments or surveys should be used to guide the planning and design of the windfarm so that sensitive ecological or hydrological areas are avoided, and negative impacts are minimised insofar as is possible. The size, layout and design of proposed development should be informed by a constraints-type study and the compilation of an environmental constraints map that identifies and avoids, insofar as is possible and using appropriate separation distances, all nature conservation sites, other sensitive ecological and hydrological features, deep or intact peat deposits, and areas of wet and/or active bog, pool systems and flushes.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017- 2021 aimed to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity. A key objective of the plan was to achieve; no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development projects occurring within the lifetime of the plan. Accordingly, the EIAR should outline how this project would avoid a net loss of biodiversity and include relevant mitigation and or compensatory measures where necessary.

Project components

In general, the EIAR should include sufficient project details so that the full nature and extent of the likely significant effects are clear and assessed fully in relation to, among other things, road design and construction methodology; site drainage details, including settlement ponds; temporary and permanent storage or disposal areas for peat and other materials or wastes arising; extraction sites/borrow pits; and any modifications to roads, bridges or culverts along the entire length of haul routes. Volumes of surplus material arising and of fill required should be calculated. Full assessment should also take place within the EIAR and NIS of the grid connection.

The EIAR should give specific consideration to the mobilisation of silt and changes to the stability of soil. The proposed windfarm has the potential for significant changes in patterns of surface water flow and may desiccate underlying soils allowing pathways to open up resulting in subsurface water losses. 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 Leitrim⁹ and Meenbog, near Ballybofey in County Donegal. If a Peat Stability Risk Assessment is required it must be considered in light of

⁸ Creighton, R. (ed.). 2006. *Landslides in Ireland: A Report of the Irish Landslide Working Group*. Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin.

⁹ <https://www.npws.ie/news/shass-mountain-peat-landslide-report-published>



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.

There are concerns regarding the potential loss and/or degradation of blanket bog, wet heath, dry heath, molinia meadow and other peatland habitats arising from the overall wind farm proposal. Such habitats at proposed turbine locations include the potential Annex I habitats under the EU Habitats Directive wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010) and molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) (6410) for which the Department has reporting obligations under Article 17 of the Directive to the European Commission on details of losses and degradation. These habitats appear to occur at T03, T04, T10, T2 etc. In addition other annexed habitats such as blanket bogs (7130), European dry heaths (4030) and Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (6230) could also be potentially affected by the proposed project. With the possible exception of Turbine 07 (in an area that appears to have been agriculturally improved recently) most of the proposed turbine locations would involve potential annexed habitat loss. Therefore the habitats on site should be assessed regarding classification and correspondence with the above habitat types. In addition though poor (acid) fen and flush is not listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, it is very limited in extent in Ireland and should be regarded as being of special conservation importance should it occur within the project area (a bog flush is noted at the location of Turbine 03 for example). Effects on peatland habitats from the wind farm project on these habitats could arise from the following project works and details

- location of Wind Turbines, Foundations and Hardstand areas.
- Location of On-site access roads.
- On-site interconnecting electrical cabling location.
- Substation location on the wind farm site.
- Construction compound location.
- Meteorological mast location.
- Location of Borrow Pits and spoil management areas.
- Turbine component haulage route
- Replacement land location for felled forestry
- Grid connection and underground cable route

Potential negative effects on peatland habitats could arise through direct excavation of peatland habitat, drainage effects on adjacent/nearby peatland habitat, habitat fragmentation, exposure of underlying peat, increased risk of erosion, opening up of areas of the habitats to new or increased exploitation or disturbance through the provision of new



and upgraded roads, peat slippage, landscaping, side casting, drain installation, excavate storage, sediment disposal etc.

No access points, grid routes, roads, drainage, borrow pit etc. detail is provided but from the map supplied most turbines appear to be within areas of such peatland habitat with potential annexed habitat links (see above). All are hydrologically connected to the aforementioned habitats. There are therefore potential negative effects from turbine locations themselves as well as access routes, borrow pits, grid route, substation, mast, storage areas etc.

Detailed consideration should be given to the potential amount of peat / soil excavated, stored, and disposed/recovered. A detailed plan for the safe storage, disposal and rehabilitation of excavated or disturbed peat /soil would have to form part of the EIAR. The spreading or recovery of excavated peat/soil on areas of intact bog, wet and revegetated areas of cutover bog or other habitats or vegetation of ecological value is unlikely to be acceptable. Excavated or exposed peat / soil should not pose any threat to surface waters and water quality.

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

The associated impacts of quarrying or extraction should be included among the considerations at the earliest stages of project planning and design, and should be assessed fully in the EIAR. Reinstatement or restoration plans would be required for any quarries or borrow pits on-site and should be included in the EIAR. As with any other part of the development, all borrow pits (existing or proposed) to be used in construction would have to be included within the application area for the proposed development.

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

Tree felling is licensed and regulated by the Forest Service; any additional requirements in respect of this element of the proposed development, including any obligations to replant on other lands, should be made known at the planning application stage, and impacts on these other lands fully assessed as part of the EIAR. If restoration of planted areas is proposed as mitigation or compensation for negative ecological effects, the EIAR should include a detailed plan to show the location, nature and area of habitat to be reinstated, and provide details of how such areas will be reinstated, managed and improved for habitats and/or species, together with proposals for monitoring and reporting. This plan should be prepared by a



suitably qualified ecologist in consultation with other experts as appropriate and in terms of being adequate as mitigation/compensation there should be no reasonable scientific doubt as to the adequacy and effectiveness of any such proposal.

The likely impacts of grid connection, particularly for birds, sensitive habitats and surface waters, should be given full consideration at the EIA stage.

Any improvement or reinforcement works required for access and transport anywhere along the proposed haul route(s) should be included in the EIAR and subjected to ecological impact assessment with the inclusion of mitigation measures, as appropriate.

Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development (including access roads and cabling etc.) such as woodland, scrub, hedgerows and other habitats should be mitigated for. In addition, Annex I habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats outside the network should be given due consideration as part of the consideration of biodiversity matters generally for the proposed development. The loss of Annex I habitats outside SACs should be avoided. It should be noted in this regard that the site contains potential annexed habitat such as the peatland types listed above and in addition assessments of potential effects on Lough Nambrackadarg should also evaluate its potential EU Annex I habitat status.

You are advised that no disturbing or damaging site or ground investigations, or testing, should take place in an ecological site in advance of the main project consent without due consideration of the need for planning permission (for exempted development where there are restrictions on exemptions), or another consent.

Impacts of lighting on-site should also be assessed noting that lighting of turbines and masts can increase collision risk¹⁰.

Ecological Data and Surveys

The Department also highlights that along with the standard NPWS data requests which is recommended, other sources of habitat and species information beyond those already identified include (but are not be limited to): the National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.biodiversityireland.ie), Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fisheriesireland.ie), Birdwatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie), Irish Raptor Study Group, Golden Eagle Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org). Some guidance and reference documents are provided in the Appendix to this letter.

It is expected by this Department that best practice will be adhered to with regard to survey methodology and if necessary non Irish methodology adapted for the Irish situation, noting specific gaps in relation to species and age of the data outlined in some guidance documents. The EIAR should cover the whole project, including construction, operation, grid connection and, if applicable, restoration or decommissioning phases. Alternatives examined should

¹⁰ Douse, A (2020) "The Effect of Aviation Obstruction Lighting on Birds at Wind Turbines, Communication Towers and Other Structures", NatureScot Information Note. Version 1.1



also be included in the EIAR. Inland Fisheries Ireland should be consulted with regard to fish species. For information on Geological and Geomorphological sites, the Geological Survey of Ireland, should be consulted.

Where ex-situ impacts are possible, survey work may be required, outside of the development sites. Such surveys should be carried out by suitably qualified persons at an appropriate time of the year, depending on the species being surveyed for. The EIAR should include the results of the surveys and detail the survey methodology and timing of such surveys including consistency in terms of timed vantage point surveys.

Ornithology

Surveys for all species should cover bird usage and facilitate assessment of potential collision risk, habitat loss, barrier effect and displacement for these species and should be based around the daily and seasonal activity patterns of the species being surveyed. Survey work should be up to date, cover year-round site use and should cover a minimum of two years to allow for an accurate determination of site usage. Specific Target species for this site include Annex I (Birds Directive) species such as White Tailed Sea Eagle, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Golden Plover and Peregrine Falcon, and red listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) such as Kestrel, Snipe, Woodcock, Meadow Pipit and Red Grouse. A population of the amber listed species Skylark occur on site as well as suitable habitat for Dipper. In addition given the presence especially of the lake within the proposed project area survey regarding wildfowl and wetland species is also required (including winter data). Hinterland surveys should include breeding raptor surveys, including roost watches, surveys for nocturnal species and other species-specific surveys as appropriate.

In terms of the above species it should be noted that Hen Harrier, Kestrel, Golden Plover, Snipe, Meadow Pipit and Red Grouse have been confirmed to occur within the site. A Grouse Project has run on the site. It should be noted that some of the forested area adjacent to the project area contains suitable nesting habitat for hen harriers.

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

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



For example studies have highlighted turbine avoidance by wintering golden plover over distances of 50–850 m with an average of 175m (but with turbine height positively correlated with displacement distance). For Hen Harriers in addition to potential reduction of habitat suitability by the construction and/or operation of a wind energy development habitat connectivity, fragmentation, barrier effects, collision risk and foraging efficiency would be important considerations also. Foraging behaviour of breeding pairs may be influenced by habitat changes at distances conceivably up to 5-10km from extant turbines. In terms of displacement effects from upland wind farms in Hen Harriers Pearce-Higgins *et al.* (2009b) provide evidence of significant Hen Harrier avoidance of apparently suitable habitat within 250m of turbines, with a predicted 53% reduction of Hen Harrier flight activity within 500m of turbines, assuming that modelled habitat usage is proportional to breeding density (see Pearce *et al* 2009). Pearce Higgins *et al.* (2009), also found a 50% reduction in breeding density of common snipe within 500m of turbines. The majority of open semi-natural habitat onsite appears to be located within 500m of proposed turbines.

Vantage point surveys should be done in a manner that ensures sufficient data is collected to allow an assessment of the importance of all the flight paths into, out of and between sites and assess migratory movements. Consequently, the Department recommends that a visibility analysis of topography and vegetation is used in the selection of vantage points for ornithological surveys. Technological solutions should also be considered in conjunction with VPs surveys to ensure sufficient data is compiled for assessment.

Results for species need to be referenced back to the overall populations and their dynamics as, in some cases even a small risk to a population of a species could be considered significant.

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

The Department highlights and emphasises that specific calculations of area of available habitat in the overall area would be required for some species. A quantitative measurement of the availability of habitat in the wider surroundings is required when considering cumulative loss of a specie's habitat as a consequence of other developments. It should also be noted that as individual EIAR's for other nearby windfarm projects based their conclusions on the basis of similar habitats being available in the wider area these conclusions would no longer be valid/up to date (regardless of whether they were correct at the time) due to the subsequent loss of such 'similar habitats' due to subsequent windfarm developments etc.

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

Bats



Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. Bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976 to 2018, and are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). Therefore, damage/disturbance to any such roosts must be avoided in the first instance. While the Minister may grant a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015, a licence can only be granted once a number of strict criteria have been met (see Regulation 54). An assessment of the impact of the proposed wind farm on bat species should be carried out noting recent guidance available, "*Bat and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation, 2019*" published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Bat Conservation Trust and other stakeholders. Any proposed bat friendly lighting should be proven to be effective and follow up-to-date guidance.

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

Watercourses and wetlands

Wetlands are important areas for biodiversity and ground and surface water quality should be protected during construction and operation of the proposed development. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of the hydrological impacts on wetlands from the proposed development. Any watercourse or wetland which may be impacted on should be surveyed for the presence of protected species and species listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. For example, these species could include Otter (*Lutra lutra*) which are protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive, Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Lamprey (three species in Ireland) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Frogs (*Rana temporaria*) and Newts (*Triturus vulgaris*) protected under the Wildlife Acts and Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 EEC).

Tributary streams of the Bandon River, Caha River, Gortloughra River, Owvane River, Owngar River, Lough Allua etc all occur on site.

Further to potential impacts on the species listed above, for example, one of the main threats identified in the threat response plan for otter is habitat destruction (see https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/2009_Otter_TRP.pdf). A 10m riparian buffer on both banks of a waterway is considered to comprise part of the otter habitat. Therefore any proposed development should be located at least 10m away from a waterway and should consider movements between waterways and waterbodies by otters.

Flood plains

Flood plains, if present, should be identified in the EIAR and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention (green infrastructure). If applicable, the EIAR should take account of the guidelines for Planning



Authorities entitled "*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management*" published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government In November 2009.

Hedgerows, Scrub, grasslands and related habitats

Hedgerows and scrub should be maintained where possible, as they form wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in. Hedgerows provide a habitat for woodland flora, roosting places for bats and Badger setts may also be present. The EIAR should provide an estimate of the length/area of any hedgerow/scrub that will be removed. Where it is proposed that trees or hedgerows will be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation incorporated into the EIAR. Hedgerows, trees, scrub and uncultivated vegetation (including semi-natural habitats) should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st), noting the protection afforded under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018.

It should be noted that a large area of good quality semi-natural habitats occurs within the supplied project area and this will be relevant in terms of potential semi-natural habitat loss and consequently net biodiversity loss issues.

Alien invasive species

The EIAR should also address the issue of invasive alien plant and animal species such as *Rhododendron ponticum* and Japanese Knotweed, and detail the methods required to ensure they are not accidentally introduced or spread during survey and or construction. Information on alien Invasive species In Ireland can be found at <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/> and at <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>

Impact assessment

The impact of the proposed development on the flora/ fauna and habitats present should be assessed with particular regard to:

Natura 2000 sites, i.e.:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
- and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147 EC),

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

- Natural Heritage Areas;
- proposed Natural Heritage Areas;
- Nature Reserves;
- Refuges for Fauna or Flora designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018;
- species protected under the Wildlife Acts including protected flora;



'Protected species and natural habitats', as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008 including

- Birds Directive - Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur);
- Habitats Directive - Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats;
- Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur);
- important bird areas such as those identified by Birdlife International, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, such as those with a "stepping stone" and ecological corridors function, as referenced in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive;
- other habitats of ecological value in a national to local context (such as those identified as locally important biodiversity areas within Local Biodiversity Action Plans and County Development Plans);
- Red data book species;
- and biodiversity in general.

Construction Management Plans and Mitigation

Complete project details including Construction Management Plans (CMPs) need to be provided in order to allow an adequate EIAR and appropriate assessment to be undertaken. CMPS should contain sufficient detail to avoid any post construction doubt with regard to the implementation of mitigation measures, timings and roles and responsibilities for same. Any mitigation needs to be included in detail and if being relied upon to reach conclusions must be proved to be achievable and likely to be effective in any given scenario it is needed. Proof of effectiveness will be required with examples of where similar techniques have been employed previously.

Applicants need to be able to demonstrate that CMPs and other such plans are adequate, all mitigation is included and effective and supported by scientific information and analysis and that they are feasible within the physical constraints of the site. The positions, locations and sizes of construction infrastructure and mitigation such as settlement ponds, disposal sites and construction compounds may significantly affect European and other designated sites, habitats and species in their own right and could have an effect for example on, drainage, water quality, habitat loss, and disturbance. If these are undetermined at time of the assessment all potential effects of the development on the site are not being considered.

Construction work should not be allowed to impact on water quality and measures should be detailed in the EIAR to prevent sediment and/or fuel runoff from getting into watercourses which could adversely impact on aquatic species.



Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) should be consulted with regard to impacts on fish species and the applicant may find it useful to consult their publication entitled "Planning for watercourses in the urban environment" (2020) which can be downloaded from their web site.

If applicants are not in a position to state the exact location and details of cable routes at the time of application, then they need to consider the range of options (overhead and underground) that may be used within their assessment. Should the exact height and rotor diameter of the turbines not be known at EIAR stage then the assessment of impacts must be applicable to a variety of turbine heights and rotor diameters which could be used. This should be made clear in the EIAR.

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The development site is hydrologically connected to and within the zone of influence of the Bandon River SAC 2171, approximately 5km from the main Bandon River channel and approximately 10km from the Bandon River SAC. There are a minimum of five tributary streams draining directly from the projects turbine area alone (excluding grid connection) that discharge downstream to the SAC (via the main Bandon channel or the Caha River). These occur in peatland soil and braid/split further within the project area. Water quality effects and issues must be assessed and addressed in terms of the Conservation Objectives of the site. In addition to potential effects on surface water quality during and post construction the Peatland habitat works would be a potential significant effect for example through sedimentation.

Potential adverse impacts on the SAC through water quality effects (such as through sedimentation) should be assessed and it should also be assessed whether or not the project is compatible with the Conservation Objectives (CO's) for each of the SAC Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and species (including those relating to restoring the favourable conservation condition of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM)). Regarding the specific assessment of potential sedimentation risks just for FPM alone in the NIS it should be noted that the Conservation Objective (CO) target regarding sediment occurrence is to restore substratum quality to a stable cobble and gravel substrate with very little fine material with no artificially elevated levels of fine sediment. The habitat for the species is currently unsuitable for the recruitment of juveniles owing to sedimentation of the substratum. The Bandon failed the target for the Sub-basin Management Plan, with moderate to heavy sedimentation in the mussel habitat within the SAC (Conservation Services, 2009; NPWS, 2010). Sedimentation of the mussel habitat provides a rooting medium for macrophytes (*Ranunculus*) in the Bandon. Severe, sustained, sedimentation resulted from bank clearance works in 2015. Sufficient survival of juvenile mussels is being prevented by the poor condition of the river substratum. The target is for sufficient habitat in favourable condition to allow the species to maintain itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of the Bandon system. It is relevant for the CO sediment target for the Bandon, in terms of NIS/AA, that cumulative impacts can result from the successive, incremental, and/or combined effects of a development when added to other existing, planned, and/or reasonably anticipated developments.



The project is also hydrologically connected to and occurs upstream of the Gearagh SAC 108 and The Gearagh SPA 4109.

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

Screening for appropriate assessment should focus on the likely significant effects of the proposed development and related activities on European sites noting that impacts to sites via air and water may occur over large distances using the source-pathway-receptor model. Details of designated sites and species and conservation objectives can be found on <http://www.npws.ie/>.

Site-specific, as opposed to generic, conservation objectives are now available for many sites. Each conservation objective for a qualifying interest (QI) habitat or species is defined by a list of attributes and targets and is often supported by further documentation. Where these are not available for a site, an examination of the attributes that are used to define site-specific conservation objectives for the same QIs in other sites can be usefully used to ensure the full ecological implications of a proposal for a site's conservation objective and its integrity are assessed. It is advised, as per the notes and guidelines in the site-specific conservation objectives that any reports quoting conservation objectives should give the version number and date, so that it can be ensured and established that the most up-to-date versions including map boundaries¹¹ are used in the preparation of Natura Impact Statements and in undertaking appropriate assessments.

In addition, the Article 12 and 17 reports under the Birds and Habitats Directives should be referenced <https://www.npws.ie/publications>. The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment is available on the NPWS website at

<https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations> and in EU Commission guidance entitled:

- *"Wind energy developments and Natura 2000"*¹²
- *"Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC"*¹³;
- 2018 Commission notice *"Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC"*¹⁴ (updated June 2020)

More recent CJEU and Irish case law has clarified some issues and should also be consulted.

¹¹ <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data>

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind_farms.pdf

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_asses_s_en.pdf

¹⁴

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



The NIS should present a robust and reasoned scientific assessment and analysis of the implications of the proposals for the relevant conservation objectives of relevant European sites. Best scientific knowledge in the field should be applied to the understanding of the likely effects, and to the assessment and analysis of the implications of the proposals for the conservation objectives and integrity of the sites. When carried out by the competent authority, the appropriate assessment cannot have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the project on European sites. General advice on the preparation, content and scope of an NIS is included in Appendix A.

Cumulative and ex situ impacts

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

Post construction monitoring

This Department recognises the importance of pre and post construction monitoring, such as recommended in Drewitt et al. (2006), and Bat Conservation Ireland (2012). The applicant should not use any proposed post construction monitoring as mitigation to supplement inadequate information in the assessment. Please refer to Circular Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07 on this issue. This can be downloaded from the Department's website <https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations>.

The EIAR process should identify any pre and post construction monitoring which would have to be carried out. The post construction monitoring would include bird and bat strikes/fatalities including the impact on any such results of the removal of carcasses by scavengers. Monitoring results should be made available to the competent authority and copied to this Department. An appropriate plan of action would have to be agreed at planning stage with the Planning Authority if the results in future show a significant mortality of birds and/or bat species. It is important to note that unless post decision consultation with NPWS is specifically stated as a condition of planning, NPWS has no post consent role. However, regional staff are available for liaison regarding any associated licencing requirements and or new information arising for specific species of concern.

Licenses

Where there are impacts on protected species and their habitats, resting or breeding places, licenses may be required under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018 or derogations under the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

In particular, bats as outlined earlier and otters, are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law



in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). A copy of Circular Letter NPWS 2/07 entitled “*Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Regulations 1997 – strict protection of certain species/applications for derogation licences*” can be found on the Departmental web site at www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-npws-02-07.pdf. It should be noted that the Regulations of 1997 have since been superseded by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. Part 6 of those Regulations is now the relevant section dealing with the protection of flora and fauna. Reference to Regulation 23 in the circular letter should be taken to mean Regulation 51 in the current Regulations.

In addition, the EIAR should take account of species protected under sections 21, 22 and 23 of the Wildlife Acts regarding impacts on other protected species or their resting or breeding places, such as on protected plants, frogs, badger setts or birds’ nests and will also need to be cognisant of article 5 (d) of the Birds Directive. For that reason uncultivated vegetation, including hedges and trees, should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st).

In order to apply for any such licenses or derogations as mentioned above the results of a survey should be submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this Department. Such surveys are to be carried out by appropriately qualified person/s at an appropriate time of the year. Details of survey methodology should be provided. Should this survey work take place well before construction commences, it is recommended that an additional ecological survey of the development site should take place immediately prior to construction to ensure no significant change in the findings of the baseline ecological survey has occurred. As outlined already, if there has been any significant change mitigation, this may require amendment and where a licence has expired, there will be a need for new licence applications for the protected species.

Appendix 1

Notes on the preparation and content of an NIS

The term ‘NIS’ is defined in legislation¹⁵. In general, an NIS, if required, should present the data, information and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge and objective information, as required in the case of screening for appropriate assessment, and by the precautionary principle.

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

¹⁵ The term, ‘NIS’, is defined in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, and Part XAB, Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended



1. An NIS is a scientific assessment that presents relevant evidence, data and analysis, and focuses on the implications of the plan or project, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for the conservation objectives of the relevant European site(s), taking the full scope of these objectives, whether generic or site specific, into account;
2. Examination of the potential effects of the plan or project must be undertaken to identify what European sites, and which of their qualifying interests (SAC), special conservation interests (SPA) or conservation objectives, are potentially at risk. In combination effects must also be taken into account. This is required to determine a 'zone of influence' or 'zone of impact' for the project, if such a concept is used. The 15km distance in existing guidance is an indicative figure only and its application and validity should be examined and justified in each specific case on an ecological or other basis;
3. The scientific basis on which sites and their conservation objectives are included or excluded from assessment and analysis should be presented and justified;
4. The full area or extent of the likely effects of the plan or project should be determined and quantified. Where temporary damage and disturbance will occur, predicted timelines for recovery should be presented;
5. The relevant environmental baseline and trends in European sites should be taken into account, bearing in mind changes and in combination effects which have occurred since site designation;
6. An NIS should be informed by any necessary surveys of habitats and species at the appropriate time(s) of year to identify, describe, evaluate and map their presence within the receiving environment. In all relevant cases, the scientific basis and justifications for categorising or not categorising habitats as Annex I habitats, or priority types, should be presented;
7. An NIS should be informed by any necessary hydrological, hydrogeological or geotechnical investigations to assess impacts on habitat structure and function;
8. Where mitigation measures are required, full details should be included in the project description and drawings, with method statements provided, where necessary. It must be demonstrated that mitigation measures will be delivered in full, and at the appropriate time, at all post-consent stages, and that they will be effective in any specific location or set of conditions. The necessary analysis should be presented to demonstrate how the mitigation measures will avoid or remove the risks of adverse effects on the integrity of European sites that have been identified in an NIS so that the final analysis is undertaken in the context of the predicted residual effects;
9. An NIS should contain, or clearly cross-reference, all the scientific data and analysis on which the assessment is based, and should contain clear and precise findings and conclusions as to the implications of the project, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for the conservation objectives and integrity of the relevant European site(s).



The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/ies, in the role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Diarmuid Buttimer', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Diarmuid Buttimer
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Sarah Gallagher

From: Drainage Admin <drainage.admin@opw.ie> on behalf of Drainage Admin
Sent: Thursday 21 July 2022 14:38
To: akilmartin@jodireland.com; aogrady@jodireland.com; jmcclvaney@jodireland.com
Cc: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: Letter re Gortloughra Wind Farm.pdf; Section 50 brochure.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see attached letter from the Office of Public Works regarding Gortloughra Wind Farm. Section 50 brochure attached for your information.

Regards

Patrick Gaines

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/439daf-email-disclaimer/>



Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited,
Consulting Engineers,
Finisklin Business Park,
Sligo,
F91 RHH9.

OPW Ref: **0056-2022**
Your Ref: 6460/503/030/AOG

Re: Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I refer to your letter dated 20th December 2021 in relation to the above project seeking comments or observations from this office.

Please accept our apologies for not responding before now.

We would make the following comments.

If any new culverts or bridges (or modifications to any existing culverts or bridges) are required to cross watercourses as part of the development or on proposed or existing access roads to serve or access the development, you should be aware that these require consent from the Commissioners of Public Works. This is a requirement of Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act of 1945 as amended. It appears as if there are a number of watercourse crossings required on the wind farm site and on the access road.

I attach a copy of our brochure on obtaining Section 50 consent for your information. Further information on the process including copies of the appropriate application form and brochure are available on our website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/957aa7-consent-requirements-constructionalteration-of-watercourse-infrastru/>

Please note that, in the context of seeking consent under Section 50, the current required design standard for bridges or culverts is based on the flood with an annual exceedance probability of 1% (often referred to as the 100 year flood), increased by 20% to cater for the effects of Climate Change. Bridges or culverts are required to be able to convey this design flood without significantly altering the hydraulic characteristics of the watercourse – further details on this issue are available in the brochure and can be clarified depending on the circumstances of any particular proposed bridge or culvert.

You should be aware that a grant of Planning Permission by a planning authority for a development which contains bridges or culverts does not confer section 50 consent on the applicant, nor does it absolve the applicant from the requirement to obtain such consent from the Commissioners.



With regard to the proposed Grid Connection Route which is not indicated in your documentation, it is possible that this route may cross several watercourses. If the cable and ducting are to be buried in the road, as they cross bridges over the water courses, and there is no interference with the opening in the bridge spanning the watercourse, then there is no issue. On the other hand, if it is proposed to pass the cable in its ducting through the opening of any bridge or culvert, this would be considered to be a modification of a bridge and it would require the consent of the Commissioners under Section 50 as mentioned above. Similarly, if it is proposed to carry the cable in its ducting across watercourses on new support structures spanning the watercourses, these should be treated as if they are bridges, and the consent of the commissioners under Section 50 should be obtained. If the cable and ducting is to be buried under the natural bed of the watercourses being crossed, Section 50 would not apply, and we would recommend that the duct be buried a sufficient distance below the natural bed to allow for erosion and mobility of the stream bed.

With regard to the proposed haul route, similarly, if there is any proposal to modify and existing bridges or culverts over watercourses or construct new ones, these will also need consent under Section 50, as referred to earlier.

As a general comment we would advise at this stage that the existing horizontal and vertical alignment of watercourses, where crossings are proposed is not interfered with in so far as is practicable.

We would recommend that a flood risk assessment be carried out with regard to the proposed development and its construction. This should consider all sources, pathways and receptors of flood risk. This should be carried out in accordance with the principles set out in the guideline document "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management" as published by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works. Please be aware that this is a separate issue from the requirement to obtain Section 50 consent as mentioned above.

In terms of the preparation of an EIA, the matters referred to above principally relate to the Hydrology Section, and the Risk of Flooding on a development such as this can impact on Landscape (e.g. landslides that have been reported in recent years), Infrastructure (roads and bridges) and people and their homes, among other things. The aim of the Section 50 process, and the Flood Risk Assessment which is recommended would be to mitigate any increased risk of flooding and the consequences of same, as arising from the proposed development.

The risk of landslides occurring as a result of activities associated with the development is a risk which should be assessed and mitigated by the developer separately from the Section 50 process.

Please use the reference number indicated above in any further correspondence with the office on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Gaines

On behalf of Engineering Services

Ceann Oifig - Sráid Jonathan Swift, Baile Átha Troim, Co. na Mí, C15 NX36

Head Office - Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co Meath, C15 NX36

T +353 761 10 6000 / +353 46 942 6000 | LoCall 1890 213 414 | E info@opw.ie

www.opw.ie

Construction, Replacement or Alteration of Bridges and Culverts

A Guide to Applying for Consent under
Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Rev 201905-3



About this Guide

This guide has been produced by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to assist those applying for consent from the Commissioners of Public Works to construct, replace or alter a bridge or culvert. The issues that this guide addresses include:

- Why is consent required from the OPW?
- How is an application reviewed by the OPW and how long can a review take?
- What information should be submitted in support of an application for consent?
- What are the features of hydraulically efficient and inefficient bridges and culverts?

Within this guide, the following references are used:

- Bridges: This refers to the entire bridge structure, including all ancillary works such as watercourse realignment, erosion control and approach works.
- Culverts: This refers to the entire culvert structure, including all ancillary works such as watercourse realignment, erosion control and approach works.
- Structures: This refers to both bridges and culverts, including all ancillary works such as watercourse realignment, erosion control and approach works.

If further information is required, please refer to the relevant OPW contact details on the back page of this guide.

Introduction to Section 50

Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 requires that:

No local authority, no railway company, canal company or other similar body, and no industrial concern shall construct any new bridge or alter, reconstruct, or restore any existing bridge over any watercourse without the consent of the Commissioners or otherwise than in accordance with plans previously approved of by the Commissioners.

The OPW is responsible for the implementation of the regulations in the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, including Section 50.



Section 50 and Flood Risk Management in Ireland

The objective of flood risk management is to reduce the impact that flooding has on communities and infrastructure both at present and into the foreseeable future through the implementation of measures such as:

- Planning and development controls.
- Land use management.
- Flood warning systems.
- Flood relief schemes.

The role of the various State Bodies in the management of flood risk in Ireland is defined by the “Report of the Flood Policy Review Group”. Of particular relevance to this guide are the roles and responsibilities that are assigned to the OPW, which include taking the lead role in relation to the management of flood risk in Ireland.

The construction, replacement or alteration of a bridge or culvert has the potential to change the hydraulic characteristics of a watercourse. If significant, this change may result in:

- Flood levels upstream of the bridge being increased due to the creation of a restriction in the watercourse.
- Flood levels downstream of the bridge being increased due to the removal of a beneficial restriction from the watercourse.
- Erosion of the watercourse and/or floodplain being initiated or accelerated due to the restriction increasing flow velocities and turbulence.
- Deposition of material in the watercourse or on the floodplain due to a change in flow velocities and turbulence.
- Overland flow paths on the adjacent floodplain being blocked or diverted due to the construction of bridge approaches.

The above changes to the hydraulic characteristics of a watercourse or floodplain may impact on local flood risk management plans. The OPW has a broader interest in ensuring that the adverse hydraulic effects created by new or existing bridges and culverts are avoided, minimised or managed through the process of obtaining consent under Section 50.



Consent under Section 50 does not confer permission to construct and does not absolve the developer from fulfilling any other legal obligations or from third party claims that might arise from the project.



Hydraulic Design Standards

In general, a proposed bridge or culvert design submitted with an application under Section 50 should demonstrate the achievement of the following design standards:

- ✓ A bridge or culvert must be capable of passing a fluvial flood flow with a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) or 1 in 100 year flow without significantly changing the hydraulic characteristics of the watercourse.
- ✓ In addition to the above fluvial flood flow standard, if a bridge or culvert is located within a tidal zone, it must cater for a tide level with a 0.5 % (AEP) or 1 in 200 year flow without significantly changing the hydraulic characteristics of the watercourse.
- ✓ A bridge must be capable of operating under the above design conditions while maintaining a freeboard of at least 300 mm.
- ✓ If the land potentially affected does not include dwellings and infrastructure, a culvert must be capable of operating under the above design conditions while causing a hydraulic loss of no more than 300 mm (excluding the culvert gradient).
- ✓ If the land potentially affected includes dwellings and infrastructure, it must be demonstrated that those dwellings and/or infrastructure are not adversely affected by constructing the bridge or culvert.
- ✓ A culvert diameter, height and width must not be less than 900 mm to facilitate maintenance access and reduce the likelihood of debris blockage.



If the level of risk or uncertainty warrants, a HIGHER design standard may be required.



A LOWER design standard may be considered by the OPW if there is a sufficiently low risk. In such cases, adequate justification must be provided with the application.



Hydrological Considerations

The hydrological analysis submitted in support of an application should be representative of the rainfall and flood flows that can be expected at the site of the proposed bridge or culvert. It should therefore:

- Define the hydrological characteristics of the watercourse catchment upstream of the location of the proposed bridge or culvert.
- Utilise all appropriate and available rainfall and hydrometric data.
- Where appropriate, use a range of techniques to estimate the design peak flood flow.
- Incorporate any expected change in the catchment's hydrological characteristics due to "climate change".

Hydraulic Considerations

The hydraulic analysis submitted in support of an application should be representative of the bridge or culvert that will be constructed. It should therefore take into account:

- All losses associated with the bridge or culvert (e.g. entrance, exit, friction and pier losses).
- Any ancillary works that may affect the hydraulic performance of the bridge or culvert (e.g. erosion control works and debris screens).
- The effect of the downstream water level on the hydraulic performance of the bridge or culvert, including tides.
- The hydraulic implications of any environmental measures incorporated into the bridge or culvert design (e.g. depression of the invert or the installation of baffles).



If the information required to review your application is not submitted, the OPW will place your application on hold pending the receipt of outstanding or additional information.



Any change to the hydraulic design of the bridge or culvert made after receipt of consent from the OPW under Section 50 will invalidate that consent.



Level of Technical Analysis

The level of technical analysis that may be required in support of an application is outlined in the following table.

Affected Land		Information Requirements											
		Impact		Survey Information			Hydrology		Hydraulics			Additional	
		Flood level	Flood extent	Detailed plan of structure and adjacent watercourse	Cross section survey extending over the affected area	Aerial or ground-based contour survey covering the affected area	Estimation of design flood flow	Estimation of design flood hydrograph	Simple hydraulic calculations	Numerical hydraulic model	Flood risk assessment	Analysis of alternative events that may be affected by the structure	Joint probability analysis combining fluvial and tidal events
Undeveloped	✓	-	✓	○	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	○	
Rural dwellings and Infrastructure	✓	○	✓	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	○	○	○	
Urban dwellings and infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	

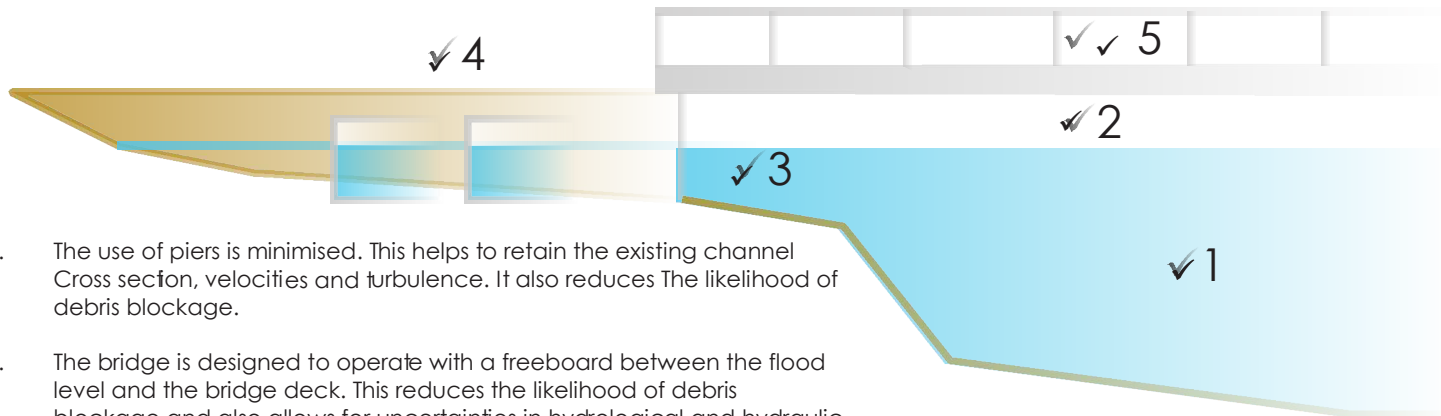
- ✓ Likely to be required
- May be required
- Unlikely to be required



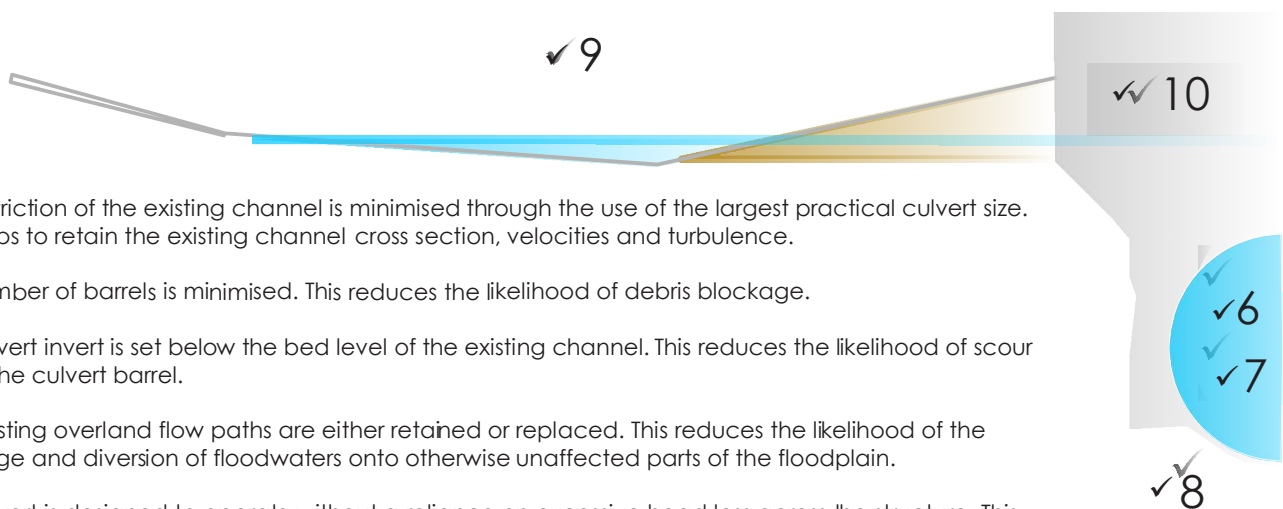
Please be aware that this information is provided as a guide only, and that additional information may be requested at the discretion of the OPW.



Some features of a Hydraulically **EFFICIENT** Bridge and Culvert



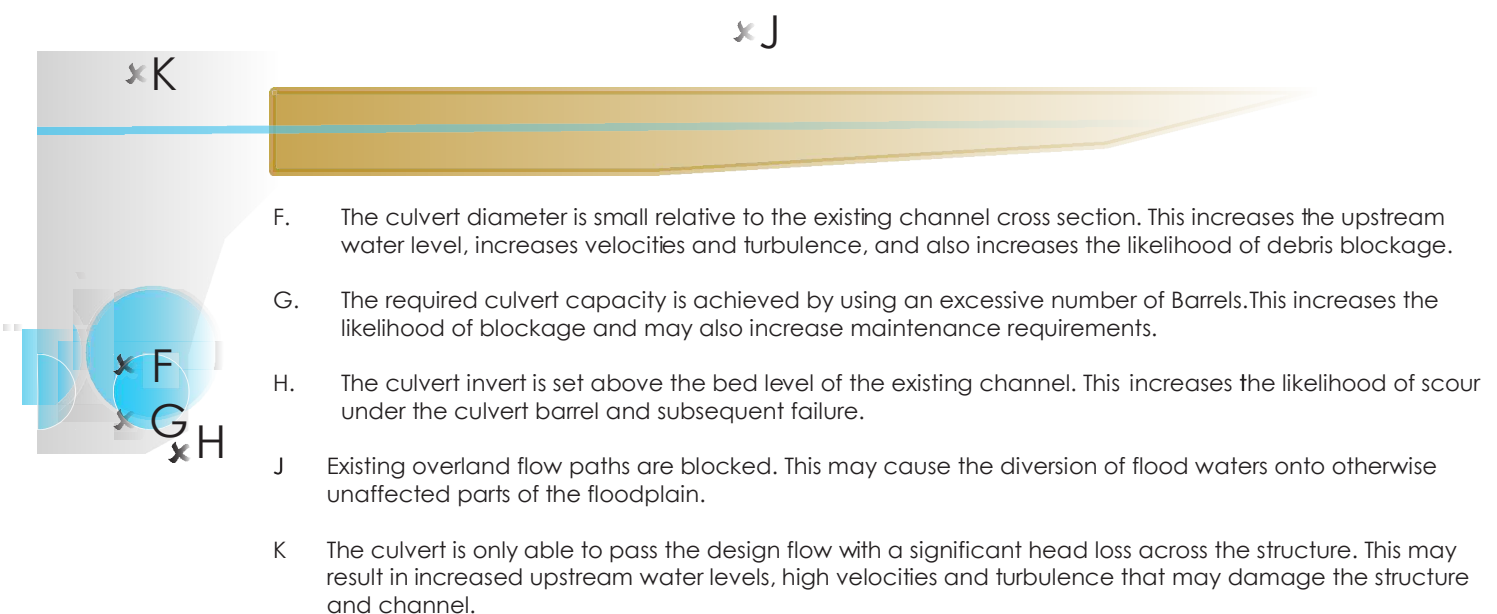
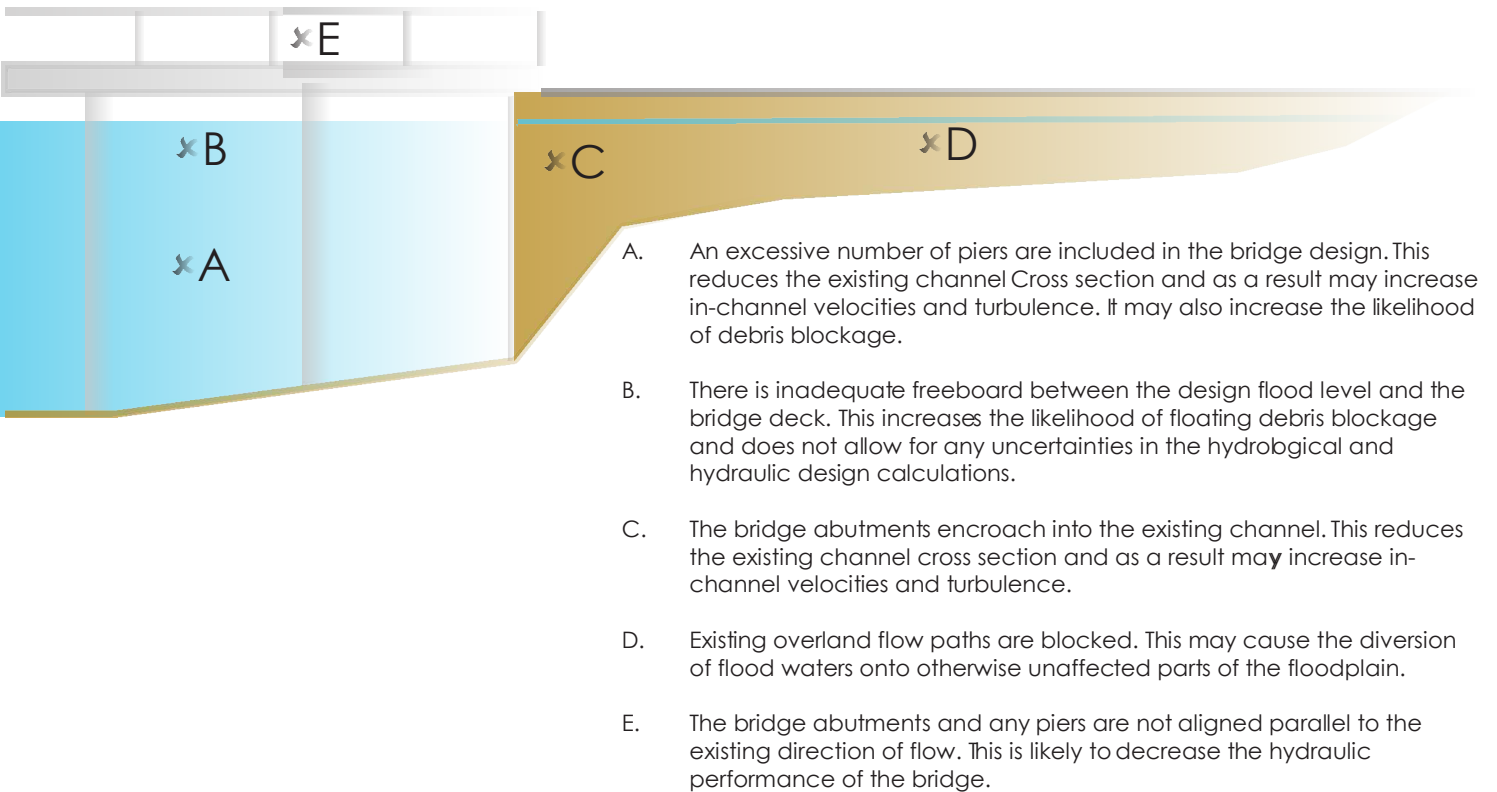
1. The use of piers is minimised. This helps to retain the existing channel Cross section, velocities and turbulence. It also reduces The likelihood of debris blockage.
2. The bridge is designed to operate with a freeboard between the flood level and the bridge deck. This reduces the likelihood of debris blockage and also allows for uncertainties in hydrological and hydraulic design calculations.
3. The encroachment of the bridge abutments into the channel is minimised. This helps to retain the existing channel cross section, velocities and turbulence.
4. Any existing overland flow paths are either retained or replaced. This reduces the likelihood of the blockage and diversion of floodwaters onto otherwise unaffected parts of the floodplain.
5. The bridge abutments and any piers are parallel with the existing direction of flow.



6. The restriction of the existing channel is minimised through the use of the largest practical culvert size. This helps to retain the existing channel cross section, velocities and turbulence.
7. The number of barrels is minimised. This reduces the likelihood of debris blockage.
8. The culvert invert is set below the bed level of the existing channel. This reduces the likelihood of scour under the culvert barrel.
9. Any existing overland flow paths are either retained or replaced. This reduces the likelihood of the blockage and diversion of floodwaters onto otherwise unaffected parts of the floodplain.
10. The culvert is designed to operate without a reliance on excessive head loss across the structure. This reduces the likelihood of high velocities and turbulence in the culvert and channel.



Some features of a Hydraulically **INEFFICIENT** Bridge and Culvert





Information Checklist

To allow us complete a full review of your application, you need to prepare and submit the following information to the OPW:

- ✓ Completed application form.
- ✓ Scaled and annotated location plan (including accurate geographic position).
- ✓ Scaled plan(s) and cross section(s) of all works associated with the bridge or culvert (including the earthworks necessary to form any approaches to the bridge or culvert) referenced to ordnance datum.
- ✓ Annotated photographs of the proposed site, the upstream channel and floodplain, and the downstream channel and floodplain. Details of any existing bridges both upstream and downstream of the proposed site are to be included, if applicable.
- ✓ Technical documentation covering the hydrological and hydraulic analysis completed during the design of the bridge or culvert.

The Review Process

An application for consent under Section 50 is reviewed by the OPW as follows:

- a. The application is received, registered and acknowledged by the OPW.
- b. The application is checked to ensure that all the information necessary to review it has been submitted.
- c. If necessary, a request for any outstanding information is issued.
- d. Once all necessary information is received, the application is reviewed. This review includes:
 - Examination of the hydrological and hydraulic calculations.
 - Review of the basis for the conclusions reached with regard to the impact of application on upstream and downstream flood levels.
 - A request is issued if any additional information is required to complete the review of the application.
- e. The application for consent under Section 50 is either granted or declined.



The OPW aims to review applications within 8 weeks of receiving all necessary information.

Further Information

Further information specific to the application for consent under Section 50 is available from:

OPW East Region
Newtown
Trim
Co. Meath
Phone: (046) 943 1352
bridgeseast@opw.ie

OPW South West Region
Templemungret House
Mungret
Co. Limerick
Phone: (061) 227 139
bridgessouthwest@opw.ie

OPW West Region
Headford
Co. Galway
Phone: (093) 35456
bridgeswest@opw.ie



General information may also be available from the following organisations.



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

www.opw.ie



www.epa.ie



www.met.ie



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie> on behalf of Matthew Craig
Sent: Friday 7 January 2022 11:45
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady; windfarms@rte.ie; Johnny Evans
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: Protocol Agreement 2022.docx

Hi Sarah,

The turbine locations have not changed since the initial scoping so Turbine 6 is sufficiently far away from our nearest path for it not to cause an issue.

We would ask that a Protocol be signed between the Developer and 2rn should the site go ahead.
I have attached a copy for your reference.

Regards

Matthew Craig

Project Engineer

Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261 Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 14:29
To: windfarms@rte.ie; Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Block B, Cookstown Court,
Old Belgard Road, Tallaght,
Dublin 24, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)1 208 2259
E-mail: 2rn@2rn.ie

Protocol Agreement

between

XXXXXXXXXX

and



concerning the wind farm at:

XXXXXXXXXX, Co. XXXXXX



“Developer”:

??????????????,
??????????????,
??????

Registered No. ????????

“2RN”:

RTÉ Transmission Network DAC
trading as “2RN”,
Montrose,
Donnybrook,
Dublin 4.

Registered No. 364909

“Development”:

Proposed development by way of
initial construction or
intensification of use of a wind
farm at ??????, Co. ?????

“Viewer(s)”:

Proprietor (or agent of proprietor)
of a private residence or
business premises where a
television set, for which a current
television licence is held, is used
and/or a broadcast radio
receiver.

“Local Dealer”:

Local dealer being a television
engineer / dealer carrying on
business in the vicinity of the
development and may be
nominated by the wind farm
developer.

Interference on Viewers' Television Sets and/or Broadcast Radio Receivers

1. When 2RN is put on notice, whether by telephone or written communication, that a viewer is having problems with their reception, 2RN will undertake a preliminary assessment, over the telephone or by other means of communication, and ascertain whether or not the wind farm is a likely cause of the interference complained of.
2. If 2RN believes the interference is wind farm related, the viewer will be asked to contact the wind farm developer. Then the developer will arrange for a local dealer to visit the viewer.
3. Both parties to this protocol note that the type of interference caused by electromagnetic disturbance emanating from wind farms manifests itself in very specific ways on television sets and broadcast radio receivers.
4. The local dealer will arrange directly with the viewer to make a visit to the viewer's house and assess the cause of the interference. The local dealer will take whatever steps are necessary to remedy the interference.
5. The local dealer will prepare a brief report in writing which will be sent to the developer. If the local dealer is of the view that the interference is due to interference from the development, the dealer will send an invoice in respect of the site visit and remedial work to the developer. The developer is the party primarily liable for the discharge of any amounts due in respect of any such site visit and remedial work. If the local dealer identifies that the problem is due to some other cause, the local dealer will invoice the viewer in the usual way.
6. Where the reception interference problem affects a number of viewers in the same vicinity, and this is identified by the local dealer and/or 2RN, it may be that it will be necessary for 2RN to develop an existing alternative or additional transposer site within that locality.
7. The developer in this instance will be responsible for all the costs associated with the development of the new transposer site, where this transposer site is necessitated by the presence of the development.
8. The maximum expenditure incurred by 2RN in the provision of the new transposer site (arising from section 6) will be €150,000, (such figure to be index linked upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12-month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN). A detailed estimate is to be submitted to the Developer in advance for comment, within a reasonable timeframe.

9. If the cost of acquiring and developing a new transposer site exceeds the sum of €150,000 the developer and 2RN will enter into negotiations to ascertain how the cost of remedying the problem being experienced by viewers in the locality might most equitably be met. The developer, however, shall be the party primarily liable for the discharge of any amounts due in respect of the acquisition and development of a new transposer site to the extent that such an acquisition and development is attributable to the presence of the development.
10. Where the acquisition and development of a transposer site is additional to the transposer(s) serving the locality prior to the commencement of operation of the development, the developer shall be liable to reimburse to 2RN the ongoing operational costs of the said additional transposer for so long as same shall be necessary to counteract the interference with viewers' reception caused by the development, up to a maximum of €15,000 per annum (such figure to be index linked – upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12 month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN).
11. The developer will be entitled to see copies of operational costs to the extent that company confidentially is not breached. All the 2RN costs involved in investigation and reports associated with the proposed development shall be covered by the developer if it is found that the said development is the cause of the interference.
12. The developer shall be entitled to retain its own engineer to inspect and report on the source of interference and if a transposer site is built, 2RN undertakes to facilitate access to the installation in question for the purposes of carrying out any such inspection and/or tests necessary.
13. The developer will indemnify 2RN fully in respect of damage to the person or property of any such engineer or inspector as retained by the developer, or any other agent or licensee of the developer involved in or associated with such inspection and/or tests. The developer will ensure that competent personnel only are deployed onto 2RN property under the terms of this clause and hereby indemnify 2RN in respect of any damage to 2RN's property or personnel caused by the negligence of such engineer, inspector or other agent or licensee.

Interference with 2RN installations (to include transmitter stations, transposers and, if applicable, links stations)

14. Where 2RN detects interference with the reception of a receive and/or transmission signal at a transposer site, 2RN will investigate the cause of the interference and report in writing to the developer if 2RN determines that the interference is attributable in whole or in part to the development.

15. The developer shall be entitled to retain its own engineer to inspect and report on the source of interference and 2RN undertakes to facilitate access to the installation in question for the purposes of carrying out any such inspection and/or tests necessary.
16. The developer will indemnify 2RN fully in respect of damage to the person or property of any such engineer or inspector as retained by the developer, or any other agent or licensee of the developer involved in or associated with such inspection and/or tests. The developer will ensure that competent personnel only are deployed onto 2RN's property under the terms of this clause and hereby indemnify 2RN in respect of any damage to 2RN's property or personnel caused by the negligence or such engineer, inspector or other agent or licensee.
17. Engineers representing both 2RN and (if applicable) the developer, will agree on remedial works (e.g. reorientation of reception antennas) and the cost of same. 2RN shall carry out the necessary remedial works and the cost of same shall be discharged/reimbursed to 2RN by the developer (subject to the provisions below).

In the following paragraph, the term "installation" shall mean one or more installation sites if applicable.

18. In the event that an additional or alternative installation is required in order to overcome reception or transmission problems caused exclusively by the development, 2RN shall identify a new location for such installation, within a reasonable timeframe.
19. The developer shall be responsible for all costs associated with the development of the new installation (e.g. repeat broadcasting station), where the new installation is necessitated exclusively because of interference caused by the development. The developer shall be liable for such costs up to a maximum of €150,000 (such figure to be index linked – upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12-month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN). Where the likely costs of such additional or alternative installation exceed €150,000 (as adjusted), 2RN and the Developer shall negotiate and determine between them how the costs of this new development might most equitably be met. The projected costs are to be submitted to and agreed with the developer prior to development of the new installation, within a reasonable timeframe.
20. Where the acquisition and development of a transposer site is additional to the transposer(s) serving the locality prior to the operation of the development, the

developer shall be liable to reimburse to 2RN the ongoing operational costs of the said additional transposer for so long as same shall be necessary to counteract the interference with viewers' reception caused by the development, up to a maximum of €15,000 per annum (such figure to be index linked – upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12-month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN).

21. The developer will be entitled to see copies of operational costs to the extent that company confidentially is not breached. All the 2RN costs involved in investigation and reports associated with the proposed development shall be covered by the Developer if it is found that the said development is the cause of the interference.
22. The parties agree that any dispute which arises concerning the interpretation of this Agreement shall first be referred to: -
 - (a) in the case of 2RN, the Executive Director for the time being; and
 - (b) in the case of the Developer, the Executive Director for the time being;and such persons shall use all reasonable commercial efforts to resolve any such dispute within ten (10) Business Days.
23. If the dispute is not resolved by the relevant parties within the time period referred to above then save in respect for a dispute referable to the Expert, the parties may by agreement in writing attempt to settle all other disputes by mediation in accordance with the rules of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). To initiate the mediation a party must give notice in writing to the other party to the dispute requesting mediation and a copy of the request must be sent to ICDR. The mediation will start not later than 20 days after the date of such notice. The commencement of mediation will not prevent the parties commencing or continuing court proceedings. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties
 - (a) the mediator will be nominated by ICDR;
 - (b) the costs of the mediator shall be borne and discharged as to 50% by the Company and as to the remaining 50% by the Developer, and
 - (c) the mediation shall be conducted in Dublin, Ireland, at a venue agreed upon by the parties and the mediator or, failing such agreement, at a venue selected by the mediator in his/her discretion.
24. If a dispute or difference arises between the parties that is technical in nature the parties may refer such dispute, by agreement in writing between the parties, for final determination to the Expert (as hereinafter defined).

25. The expert for the purposes of this Clause shall be an independent party who has expertise in the area giving rise to the dispute (the “Expert”) appointed by the agreement by the parties, or in default of agreement on such appointment, on the application of either party, by the President for the time being of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland or his duly appointed deputy, who shall carry out his functions in accordance with the following:
- (a) in making a determination, the Expert shall act as an expert and not as an arbitrator and his decision shall (in the absence of manifest error (and the Expert shall give reasons for his determination)) be final and binding on the parties;
 - (b) the Expert shall afford both parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to state their respective cases and to advance arguments or evidence in support of their respective positions;
 - (c) each party shall bear the costs and expenses of all counsel and other advisers, witnesses and employees retained by it and the costs and expenses of the Expert shall be borne by the parties in the proportions the Expert may direct, or in the absence of direction, equally.
26. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Ireland. Subject always to clauses 20, 21 and 22 above, each of the parties agrees that the courts of Ireland are to have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Agreement.

Dated this day of , 2022

Signed for and on
behalf of 2RN

Signed for and on behalf
of the Developer

(Authorised signatory)

(Authorised signatory)

Sarah Gallagher

From: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie> on behalf of Alister Cole
Sent: Thursday 17 June 2021 14:35
To: Andrew O'Grady
Cc: Sean Kelly; DL Estates ROI
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Windfarm

Hi Andrew,

I have reviewed the turbine locations at the proposed Gortloughra windfarm and 3Ireland have no microwave links that could potentially be affected.

Best regards,

Alister



Alister Cole
Transmission Engineer

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

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Sent: 15 June 2021 14:38
To: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Cc: Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>
Subject: Gortloughra Windfarm

CAUTION! External Email.

Hi Alister,

We are working on the design for a proposed wind farm at Gortloughra, near Dunmanway, Co. Cork. Would you be able to provide the coordinates for the end points of any link that you have passing through the area? The coordinates for the turbines are currently as follows:

Turbine	X	Y
T01	113992.1	59812.79
T02	114718.3	60049.65
T03	114553.9	59305.34
T04	115087.3	59470.89
T05	115661.4	59890.16
T06	116236.5	60163.88
T07	114200.0	58777.84
T08	114788.2	58818.35

T09 115394.8 59005.36

If you need anything else please let me know.

Kind regards,

Andrew O'Grady, BSc. (Hons), MSc., AIEMA



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: aogrady@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie> on behalf of INFO
Sent: Thursday 6 January 2022 08:29
To: 'Sarah Gallagher'
Subject: EIAR Scoping - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork. TII Ref: TII21-116643.

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 December 2021, which was forwarded by the Minister for Transport, to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), for direct response and of 22 December 2021 to TII, regarding the above EIAR scoping exercise. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.tii.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national road network. It is also an investment priority of the National Development Plan, 2018 – 2027, to ensure that the extensive transport networks, which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity to transport users. This requirement is further reflected in the recent publication of the Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).

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:

- It appears that the proposed windfarm site accesses the local and regional road network prior to access to the national road network. Access to the road network shall be developed in accordance with official policy and road safety considerations, as outlined above. Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in proximity to the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.

- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006).
- The EIAR/EIS should consider the 'Environmental Noise Regulations 2006' (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes' (1st Rev., NRA, 2004)).
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed, as TII will not be responsible for such costs.
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and 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.

The national road network is managed by a combination of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) and local road authorities, in association with TII.

The applicant/developer should also consult with all PPP Companies, MMaRC Contractors and road authorities over which the haul route traversed, to ascertain any operational requirements such as delivery timetabling, etc. and 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 network arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal 'length' 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.

Designers should consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required for any of the temporary works proposed. Any recommendations should be incorporated into designs.

- 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 recent publication of the Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

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

The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy. Therefore, TII advises that grid connection cable routing should seek to utilise the extensive existing local road network, or alternatives, as opposed to the strategic national road network, contrary to the provisions of official policy.

Other consents or licences may be required from the road authority for any trenching or cabling proposals crossing the national road. The Authority 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 hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Alban Mills

Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Paul Driver <Paul.Driver@virginmedia.ie> on behalf of Civils
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 16:24
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Sarah

I refer to your query of 22nd December about the above location. Virgin Media does not have any record of underground services at this location as indicated by your drawing.

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Regards,

Paul Driver | *Plant Protection Officer*
Construction Office - Team Lead
Virgin Media | Unit 7, Westgate Business Park, Ballymount, Dublin 24.
T: +353 (01) 2458586 | M: +353 (0)87 6287133
E: civils@virginmedia.ie | paul.driver@virginmedia.ie



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: 22 December 2021 15:27
To: VMTV info <VMTVinfo@virginmedia.ie>; Paul Driver <Paul.Driver@virginmedia.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Alan Walsh <awalsh@lawaters.ie> on behalf of Alan Walsh
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 12:52
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sarah,

As LAWPRO is not a statutory body, any submissions will be made by the relevant Local Authority and state agency.

Regards,
Alan

Alan Walsh | Communications and Marketing Lead
T 052 616 6233 M 087 257 9713

Local Authority Waters Programme
Clár Uiscí na nÚdarás Áitiúil
Ballingarrane, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary, E91 X370

 lawaters.ie catchments.ie



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2027** **Make a submission**
here <https://drbmp-vcr.ie/>

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 11:24
To: Info <info@lawco.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 15:32
To: 'info@lawwaters.ie' <info@lawwaters.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Publicity Secretary IAH (Irish Group) <publicity@iah-ireland.org> on behalf of Publicity Secretary IAH (Irish Group)
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 15:33
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: info@iah-ireland.org
Subject: Re: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for your email. Apologies for missing the earlier email in December.

IAH (Irish Group) do not comment on any planning submissions.

Regards,

Damien

--

Damien Doherty
Publicity Secretary IAH (Irish Group)

Email - publicity@iah-ireland.org
Website - www.iah-ireland.org
Twitter - twitter.com/IAH_Ireland
LinkedIn - linkedin.com/company/IAH-Ireland
YouTube - [IAH Ireland](https://www.youtube.com/IAH_Ireland)
Join us - [Become an IAH member](#)



International Association of Hydrogeologists (Irish Group)
Registered Charity Number - 20142346

--

On 2022-02-15 11:25, Sarah Gallagher wrote:

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 15:35
To: 'info@iah-ireland.org' <info@iah-ireland.org>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone (External) <fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com> on behalf of Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone (External)
Sent: Thursday 23 December 2021 09:28
To: Sarah Gallagher; Lyons, Sean, Vodafone (External); Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

Based on the coordinates provided for the proposed turbines I can confirm there will be no impact to our Network.

Kind Regards,



Fiona Byrne

Transmission Engineer

Technology- NET

+353879938050

fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com

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Ireland: No. 326967

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C2 General

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>

Sent: Wednesday 22 December 2021 15:43

To: Lyons, Sean, Vodafone (External) <sean.lyons@vodafone.com>; Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>; Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone (External) <fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com>

Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>

Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

CYBER SECURITY WARNING: This email is from an external source - be careful of attachments and links. Please follow the Cyber Code and report suspicious emails.

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Andrew O'Grady

From: Exportdept1 <Mairead@rowa-pharma.ie> on behalf of Exportdept1
Sent: Tuesday 3 May 2022 15:47
To: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: 6460 Gortloughra Wind Farm

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your email, it is received with thanks.

I have contacted the IAA and I have no comment to make on the proposed wind farm project.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention, it is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

B. Wagner-Halswick – Managing Director



rowa@rowa-pharma.ie

+353 (0)27 50077

Newtown, Bantry, Co. Cork, P75 V009, Ireland

www.rowa.ie

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday 14 April 2022 15:33
To: Exportdept1 <Mairead@rowa-pharma.ie>
Subject: 6460 Gortloughra Wind Farm

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on a proposed wind farm project north of Dunmanway. The IAA have suggested we make you aware of the proposed project. To this end, please see attached scoping report which was issued to a number of statutory and non statutory consultees in December of 2021.

If you have any comments please let me know.

Kind regards,

Andrew O'Grady



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: aogrady@jodireland.com

Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Andrew O'Grady <aograde@jodireland.com> on behalf of Andrew O'Grady
Sent: Tuesday 4 January 2022 09:34
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: Cover letter Gortloughra Windfarm Scoping.pdf; HSE submission Gortloughra Windfarm Co Cork Scoping EHIS 2110.docx

From: Amanda Fitzgerald (Senior Environmental Health Officer) <Amanda.Fitzgerald@hse.ie>
Sent: Friday 31 December 2021 11:25
To: aograde@jodireland.com
Cc: Ger Faughnan (PEHO) <Ger.Faughnan@hse.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Andrew O Grady,

Please find attached the cover letter and scoping report for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm.

A copy of the cover letter and scoping report has also been sent to:

Andrew O'Grady
Jennings O'Donovan and Partners Ltd
Finiskin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9

Should we receive any submissions from any HSE stakeholders they will be forwarded to the same.

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

Kind regards

Amanda Fitzgerald

Oifigeach Sinsearach Sláinte Comhshaoil/ Senior Environmental Health Officer
Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil / Environmental Health Service
Elmwood House, Lurriga, Skibbereen, Co. Cork P81 FC83
028-51456 | 087-2130945 amanda.fitzgerald@hse.ie | eho.westcork@hse.ie





Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Environmental Health Service,
Elmwood House,
Lurriga,
Skibbereen,
Co. Cork.
P81 FC83
Phone: 028 51456
email: eho.westcork@hse.ie

Date: 5 January 2022

Name: Mr Andrew O'Grady, Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd., Finiskin Business Park, Sligo

Consultant's reference: 6460/503/021/AOG

Re: Scoping Report

Proposed development: Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Applicant: Gortloughra Windfarm Ltd

EHIS Reference: 2110

Dear Mr O'Grady

Please find enclosed the HSE Consultation Report in relation to the above proposal.

The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the proposed development on 23 December 2021

- Emergency Planning –David O'Sullivan
- Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection – National Clinical Director for Health Protection
- CHO – Michael Fitzgerald

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

Yours sincerely

Ger Faughnan
Principal Environmental Health Officer

HSE EIA Scoping

Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Date: 5 January 2022

Our reference: EHIS 2110

Report to: Mr Andrew O’Grady, Jennings O’Donovan & Partners Ltd., Finiskin
Business Park, Sligo

Consultant’s Reference: 6460/503/021/AOG

Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping

Proposed development: Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Applicant: Gortloughra Windfarm Ltd.

Proposed Development: Gortloughra Windfarm Ltd intends to apply for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) for

- The construction of 9 No. wind turbines each 6 MW with a combined output of 54 MW located approximately 10km to the northwest of Dunmanway, Co. Cork. The turbines will have an overall ground to blade tip height of 175m. The candidate wind turbines will have a rotor diameter of 150m and a hub height of 100m
- The construction of an underground grid connection to Dunmanway 110kV substation located approximately 10km to the southeast of the development or the proposed Sheen Loop Substation to be located approximately 11km southeast.
- Construction of site access roads, crane hardstand areas and turbine foundations.
- Development of a site drainage network
- Internal wind farm underground power and communications cabling
- Construction of an on-site 38kV substation
- Erection of a permanent meteorological mast for monitoring wind speeds
- Construction of a temporary site compound for use during construction.
- Upgrade works on the turbine delivery route
- Recreational community and biodiversity improvements associated with the development

General Introduction

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

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in EIS (2002), 187kb
- Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of EIS (2003), 435kb
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment

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

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

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

Adoption of the Directive (2014/52/EU) in April 2014 initiated a review of the above guidelines. The draft new guidelines can be seen at:

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

The applicant should also consider the findings of the High Court judgement issued in the judicial review of the Derryadd Wind Farm. (2021 IEHC 390 [2020] No. 557 JR] P. Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála)

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

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

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

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

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

This report only comments on Environmental Health Impacts of the proposed development. It is based on an assessment of the correspondence submitted to this office dated 21 December 2021.

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

- Public Consultation
- Decommissioning phase
- Siting and location of turbines
- Opportunity for Health Gain
- Noise & Vibration
- Shadow Flicker
- Air Quality
- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Geological Impacts
- Ancillary facilities
- Cumulative impacts

Public Consultation

It is strongly recommended that early and meaningful public consultation with the local community should be carried out to ensure all potentially significant impacts have been adequately addressed. It is noted in Chapter 15.2 (Study Area) of the Scoping Report that there are 57 properties located within 2km of the proposed windfarm development. The EIAR should indicate how consultation was undertaken with the occupants of these properties.

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

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

It is acknowledged that restrictions around public gatherings as a result of Covid 19 prevention measures may impact on opportunities for public consultation events. However it is expected that meaningful public consultation, where the local community is fully informed of the proposed

development, will be undertaken. Members of the public should be given sufficient opportunities to express their views on the proposal wind farm.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should clearly demonstrate the link between public consultations and how those consultations have influenced the decision-making process in the EIA.

To assist with the consultation and planning process it is recommended that the applicant develops a dedicated website for the proposed wind energy project. All correspondence, maps, project updates and documentation including the EIAR should be uploaded to this site

Decommissioning Phase

The proposed operational lifetime of the wind farm should be indicated in the EIAR.

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

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

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

Siting, Location and details of Turbines

The EIAR should include a map and a description of the proposed location of each of the proposed wind turbines within the 198 hectare site. Indicative Turbine Co-ordinates are included in Table 5.1 of the Scoping Report. Any variance from these locations should be described in the EIAR.

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

Details of turbine foundation structures, including depth, quantity and material to be used should be included in the EIAR.

Opportunity for Health Gain

The EPA has issued guidance with regard to meeting the requirements of Directive 2014/52/EU which assesses the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment. The proposed development should be assessed with a view to the potential to include opportunities for health gain within the site of the proposed wind farm by including greenways, cycle-paths or walking trails within the development site.

Assessment of Consideration of Alternatives

The EIAR should consider an assessment of alternatives. It is noted that 'Alternatives Considered' will be assessed in Chapter 3 of the EIAR. The EHS recommends that alternative renewable energy options to onshore wind farms should be assessed as part of the EIAR.

Noise & Vibration

The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. Impacts during both the proposed construction phase and the operational phase should be addressed. The EIAR must also consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of all proposed mitigation measures to minimise noise and vibration.

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

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

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

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

Shadow Flicker

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

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

Air Quality

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

- Sweeping of hard road surfaces
- Provision of a water bowser on site, regular spraying of haul roads
- Wheel washing facilities at site exit
- Restrict speed on site

- Provide covers to all delivery trucks to minimise dust generation
- Inspect and clean public roads in the vicinity if necessary
- Material stockpiling provided with adequate protection from the wind
- Dust monitoring at the site boundary
- Truck inspection and maintenance plan
- Details of a road maintenance agreement between the wind farm operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during the construction phase of the project.

Surface and Ground Water Quality

The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the quality of both surface and ground water. All drinking water sources, both surface and ground water, must be identified. Public and Group Water Scheme sources and supplies should be identified. Measures to ensure that all sources and supplies are protected should be described. The Environmental Health Service recommends that a walk over survey of the site is undertaken in addition to a desktop analysis of Geological Survey of Ireland data in order to identify the location of private wells used for drinking water purposes.

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

Geological impacts

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

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

The Environmental Health Service recommends that a detailed Peat Stability Assessment should be undertaken to assess the suitability of the soil for the proposed development. The EIAR should include provision for a peat stability monitoring programme to identify early signs of potential bog slides ('pre-failure indicators' see the Scottish Government's 'Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Developments 2017)

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2017/04/peat-landslide-hazard-risk-assessments-best-practice-guide-proposed-electricity/documents/00517176-pdf/00517176-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00517176.pdf>

Ancillary Facilities

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

Cumulative Impacts

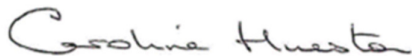
Table 3.2: 'Wind Farms within 20km of the Development' of the Scoping Report indicates that there are a number of existing and proposed wind farms within the vicinity of the proposed development. All existing or proposed wind farm developments in the vicinity should be clearly identified in the EIAR.

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

The EIAR should state clearly if there is any future proposal to further extend the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm.



Amanda Fitzgerald
Senior Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Health Service
Elmwood House,
Lurriga,
Skibbereen,
Co. Cork
P81 FC83



Environmental Health Officer
Environment OU
Ennistymon Health Centre
Ennistymon
Co. Clare

Sarah Gallagher

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com> on behalf of Andrew O'Grady
Sent: Tuesday 11 January 2022 16:47
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
Attachments: HSE South Emergency Management Consultation Report EMENV 116.docx; ETHANE Aide Memoire 2.pdf

From: Amanda Fitzgerald (Senior Environmental Health Officer) <Amanda.Fitzgerald@hse.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 11 January 2022 16:42
To: 'aogrady@jodireland.com'
Cc: Ger Faughnan (PEHO) <Ger.Faughnan@hse.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Andrew O Grady,

Further to my email of the 31st December 2021 please find attached two documents from HSE South Emergency Management regarding Gortloughra Wind Farm.

A copy of these documents has **not** been posted however if you do require a copy in the post please contact me.

Should we receive any further submissions from any HSE stakeholders they will be forwarded.

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

Kind regards
Amanda

From: Amanda Fitzgerald (Senior Environmental Health Officer)
Sent: 31 December 2021 11:25
To: 'aogrady@jodireland.com'
Cc: Ger Faughnan (PEHO)
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Andrew O Grady,

Please find attached the cover letter and scoping report for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm.

A copy of the cover letter and scoping report has also been sent to:

Andrew O'Grady
Jennings O'Donovan and Partners Ltd
Finiskin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9

Should we receive any submissions from any HSE stakeholders they will be forwarded to the same.

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

Kind regards

Amanda Fitzgerald

Oifigeach Sinsearach Sláinte Comhshaoil/ Senior Environmental Health Officer
Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil / Environmental Health Service
Elmwood House, Lurriga, Skibbereen, Co. Cork P81 FC83
028-51456 | 087-2130945 amanda.fitzgerald@hse.ie | eho.westcork@hse.ie





HSE South Emergency Management Consultation Report			
Report to	Ger Faughnan, PEHO West Cork	Date	10 th January, 2022
Type of consultation:	EIS <input type="checkbox"/> Scoping X Screening <input type="checkbox"/> EIAR <input type="checkbox"/> EPA <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please specify):			
Authority	HSE		
Reference Number	EHIS 2110		
EM Reference Number	EMENV 116		
Applicant / Consultants	Jennings O'Donovan, Consulting Engineers, Sligo, on behalf of Gortloughra Wind Farm Limited, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.		
Proposal	Construction of 9 No. Wind Turbines each 6 megawatts (MW) northwest of Dunmanway, Co. Cork.		

HSE South Emergency Management Observations:

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

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

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



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

WHEN YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE REQUISITE SERVICE(S)

GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

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

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

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

**R.V.P.
No.1**

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

2023 UPDATED SCOPING RESPONSES

Sarah Gallagher

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie> on behalf of Roger Woods
Sent: Thursday 8 June 2023 14:06
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah

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

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer

*My email address has now changed to rwoods@cnam.ie, please update your address book accordingly.
Tá mo sheoladh ríomhphoist athraithe anois go rwoods@cnam.ie, dá réir sin déan do leabhar seoltaí a uasdátú, le do thoil.*

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



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

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:41 PM
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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IRELAND**

cpd ACCREDITED EMPLOYER

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Sarah Gallagher

From: BCI Info <info@batconservationireland.org> on behalf of BCI Info
Sent: Thursday 19 October 2023 06:58
To: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Morning,

Bat Conservation Ireland has limited administrative capacity and therefore do not comment on planning applications. Please ensure that all bat survey work are undertaken according to best survey practice according to NPWS Bat Survey & Mitigation Guidelines and additional guidance documents available, some of which are listed below.

McAney, K. (2006) A conservation plan for Irish vesper bats, Irish Wildlife Manual No. 20 National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.
Marnell, F., Kelleher, C. & Mullen, E. (2022) Bat mitigation guidelines for Ireland v2. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 134. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland (Version 1: Kelleher & Marnell, 2006).
Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK: bats and the built environment series. Guidance Note 08/2019. BCT, London.
Collins, J. (Editor) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London
CIEEM (2022) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/>.
EPA (2022) Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. May 2022. EPA, Ireland.

Regards,
Bat Conservation Ireland

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 3:29 PM
To: BCI Info <info@batconservationireland.org>
Cc: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm just following up on whether you had any opportunity to look into the information we issued on 8th June in my colleague Sarah Gallagher's email below?

If you have any questions please let us know.

Kind regards,

Andrew O'Grady



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: aogrady@jodireland.com

Web: www.jodireland.com



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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:44 PM

To: 'info@batconservationireland.org' <info@batconservationireland.org>

Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>

Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Gary Mackin (CW) <gary.mackin.cw@dublinairport.com> on behalf of Gary Mackin (CW)
Sent: Thursday 15 June 2023 13:51
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: aogradey@jodireland.com
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: 6460_503_007_Scoping Ltr Cork Airport.pdf; Figure 1.1 Site Location.pdf; Figure 1.2 Site Layout.pdf

Good Afternoon Sarah,

I received the below and attached regarding the proposed Wind Farm at Gortloughra, Co. Cork.

A quick review suggests it shouldn't be an issue for Cork Airport from an obstacle/aviation perspective, however I will review with our colleagues at AirNav Ireland during our weekly meeting usually held on Tuesday mornings.

Before I confirm we have no concerns, could you clarify the proposed tip height of the turbines?

Many Thanks,
Gary



.....
Gary Mackin, Statutory Planner, Infrastructure Division
Planning Department, Level 2, Cloghran House
Dublin Airport
E: gary.mackin.cw@daa.ie
.....

Please consider the environment before printing this email

On Thu, 8 Jun at 2:07 PM , Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com> wrote:
Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Document Classification: Class 1 - General

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Separately, there are regulatory requirements that any obstacles greater than 100m above the existing ground elevation:

- Must be notified to airspace@iaa.ie, and
- A navigation warning light will be required

I have copied interested colleagues in AirNav Ireland as well as daa for information, they may provide additional feedback.

I hope this satisfies your query, please don't hesitate to get in touch should you need anything further from me.

Kind Regards,
Gary



.....
Gary Mackin, Statutory Planner, Infrastructure Division
Planning Department, Level 2, Cloghran House
Dublin Airport
E: gary.mackin.cw@daa.ie
.....

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Document Classification: Class 1 - General

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 20 June 2023 10:29
To: Gary Mackin (CW) <gary.mackin.cw@dublinairport.com>; Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Hi Gary,

We are proposing turbines with an overall tip height of 175m. Rotor diameter of 150m and hub height of 100m.

Regards,

Andrew.

From: Gary Mackin (CW) <gary.mackin.cw@dublinairport.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:51 PM
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: aogrady@jodireland.com
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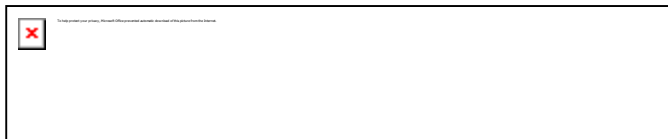
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Sarah Gallagher

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Gary Mackin, Statutory Planner, Infrastructure Division
Planning Department, Level 2, Cloughran House
Dublin Airport
E: gary.mackin.cw@daa.ie

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Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie> on behalf of Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)
Sent: Monday 10 July 2023 10:30
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: 6460_503_019_Scoping Ltr_Forestry Division.pdf; Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork.pdf

Good morning,

Please see observations attached.

Environmental Co-ordination Unit

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

??

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

??

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

??

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



??

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9.?? [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)???????????? Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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

07th July 2023

Jennings O'Donovan
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91RHH9

Re: Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm Development near Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/tree-felling/FellingReforestationPolicy240517.pdf>. As this development is within a forest lands particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) , as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and

water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);

2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2018 are published online at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-eia-publicconsultation-for-afforestation-forest-road-construction-and-felling-licences-2018/>
3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence and on request details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2018 are published online at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-2018-register-of-decisions/>

It is important to note that when applying to a Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
 - b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
 - c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;

and

2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
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
HEO Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford
e-mail: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie

Sarah Gallagher

From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie> on behalf of Housing Manager DAU
Sent: Thursday 14 September 2023 10:13
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: DAU Ref: G Pre00124/2023 RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: G Pre00124-2023 JOD Gortloughra Wind Farm.pdf

Our Ref: G Pre00124/2023

A Chara,

Please find attached Heritage related recommendations for the above mentioned pre-planning application.

Regards
Diarmuid

Diarmuid Buttimer
Executive Officer

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Oifigí an Rialtais
Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

—
Diarmuid.Buttimer@npws.gov.ie
Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie

From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 15:21
To: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: DAU Ref: G Pre00124/2023 RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Our Ref: G Pre00124/2023 (Please quote in all related correspondence)

A Chara

I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation.

Please note that the Development Applications Unit (DAU) is the co-ordinating unit for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, co-ordinating responses/submission from National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, the Underwater Archaeology Unit and Architectural Heritage.

All Correspondence in relation to preplanning consultations is to be issued to Development Applications Unit.

In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from the 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.

Kind Regards
Sinéad

Sinéad O' Brien
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: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 10:34
To: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Your Ref: Gortloughra Wind Farm

Our Ref: G Pre00124/2023 (Please quote in all related correspondence)

14 September 2023

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
Ireland
F91 RHH9

Via email: sgallagher@jodireland.com ; aogrady@jodireland.com

Proposed Pre Planning Development: Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd., for Gortloughra Wind Farm: pre-SID request for a EIAR Scoping Opinion in respect of an application for planning permission for Gortloughra Wind Farm: Dunmanway

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

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

All aspects of wind farm project, including both the overall turbine and grid connection proposals, need to be assessed together in terms of both EIA/EIS and NIS/AA process to avoid project splitting aspects of the project within the assessment process.

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

This is also important within the in combination effects and cumulative impacts sections of the assessments regarding the potential effects of the wind farm project. When carried out by the competent authority, the appropriate assessment cannot have lacunae and must



contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the project on European sites.

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

White-tailed sea-eagle

The proposed wind-farm is within the range of the recently re-introduced white-tailed sea eagle, a species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC). This species, which became extinct in Ireland over one hundred years ago, is now establishing itself in the wild after two phases of a reintroduction programme which released birds from Norway. This species is particularly susceptible to collision with wind turbine blades. In Norway, 39 white-tailed eagle deaths were recorded from such collisions at one large wind-farm (Smøla) between 2005-2010¹. Four deaths due to wind turbine collisions had been recorded in Ireland, representing 10% of total mortality between 2007 and 2014². Three fatalities were approx. 10-15 km to the north west of this proposed development (three at Sillahertane and Lettercannon-Coomagearlahy area wind-farms) with another at a windfarm further to the north (October 2022³). Eagles, when soaring, may even be slightly attracted to fly within the rotor-swept zone of turbines⁴, “possibly induced by the extra wind energy created by the turbulence”⁵.

Collision and mortality risk must be fully assessed for the project and it should be borne in mind that assessment cannot have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt. Dahl et al (2013) conclude, regarding management implications, that their results suggest that it will be difficult to employ mitigation measures to decrease the white-tailed eagle collision hazard. They therefore emphasize the importance of conducting thorough pre-construction studies to identify wind-power plant locations with low densities of species vulnerable to collision.

¹ Dahl, E.L., Bevanger, K., Nygørd, T., Røskift, E. and Stokke, E.C. (2011) Reduced breeding success in white-tailed eagles at Smøla windfarm, western Norway, is caused by mortality and displacement. *Biological Conservation* **145**: 79-85.

² Mee, A. (2014) Irish white-tailed sea eagle reintroduction programme report 2014. Golden Eagle Trust / Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht / Norwegian Institute for Nature Research. http://www.norway.ie/PageFiles/747152/Irish%20WTSE%20report_2014.pdf ; see also ‘Rare sea eagle killed by wind turbine’, *Irish Times*, 4 April 2011.

³ NPWS unpublished data.

⁴ Dahl, E.L., May, R., Hoel, P.L., Bevanger, K., Pedersen, H.C., Røskift, E. and Stokke, B.G. (2013) White-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) at the Smøla wind-power plant, Central Norway, lack behavioural flight responses to wind turbines. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* **37**: 66-74.

⁵ Nygørd, T., Bevanger, K., Dahl, E.L., Flagsted, Ø., Follestad, A., Hoel, P.H., May, R. and Reitan, O. (2010) A study of white-tailed eagle movements and mortality at a wind farm in Norway. <http://www.bou.org.uk/bouproc-net/ccb/nygard-et-al.pdf>



The reintroduction programme is now at a very critical phase, where the production of sufficient wild-bred eagles over the next few years will determine the survival of the population, and success of the project. Studies of reintroduced and recolonizing white-tailed eagles have emphasised the importance of controlling mortality in this current early stage of the reintroduction programme:

“Differences in demographic rates of wild-bred and released birds suggest that in future re-introduction programmes steps to maximise the success and output of the earliest breeding attempts would help ensure the most rapid shift to a population composed largely of wild-bred birds, which should then have a higher rate of increase.”⁶

In terms of increasing the risk of collision the siting of turbines on locations on ridges above valleys where eagles are likely to use rising air currents to obtain ‘orographic lift’ to gain altitude⁷ would be an additional potential concern. It is not clear if turbine micro siting is in an area of higher ‘orographic lift’. It should be assessed as part of the overall assessment whether models, such as that in Hanssen et al. (2020) , are applicable at this wind-farm in detecting microsite susceptibility to generating ‘orographic lift’ which may attract eagles into the rotor-swept zones of these turbines.

Consideration should be given to the effect of the availability of sheep carcasses and as to whether the lough could be attracting eagles to the site.

The existing adjacent windfarm could add to the cumulative risk of collision and narrow a potential corridor of flight activity (directional flight, social behaviour, and soaring). This factor should also be considered during the collision and mortality risk assessment for the project.

Guidance on EIAR

You are advised to consult the European Commission’s (2017) ‘Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)’. Any surveys and assessments should be based on a full details of the overall project, noting all lands that will be required. For a detailed list of potential considerations, see the ‘Review checklist’, and specifically ‘Section 1 – Description of the project’, in this guidance. Note also that if compensatory afforestation is required on other lands, the likely significant effects of that integral element of the development should be assessed in the main project EIAR.

In addition to guidance listed in Appendix 1, the following should be taken into account in planning and designing a windfarm and in completing the assessments. Please note the 2020 updates of the Guidance documents:

- *Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation* (European Commission, **2020**)

⁶ Evans, R.J., Wilson, J.D., Amar, A., Douse, A., MacLennan, A., Ratcliffe, N. and Whitfield, D.P. (2009) Growth and demography of a re-introduced population of white-tailed eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla*. *Ibis* **151**: 244-254.

⁷ Hanssen, F., May, R. and Nygård, T. (2020) High-resolution modelling of uplift landscapes can inform micro-siting of wind turbines for soaring raptors. *Environmental Management* **66**: 319-332.



- *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines* (DoHLGH, 2020), particularly the requirements in relation to assessing ground conditions/geology (section 5.3
- *Landslides in Ireland* (GSI, 2006)⁸.

Project planning and design

It should be remembered that a key element of EIA is the avoidance or reduction of negative effects on the environment. EIA is an iterative process and the information gathered through assessments or surveys should be used to guide the planning and design of the windfarm so that sensitive ecological or hydrological areas are avoided, and negative impacts are minimised insofar as is possible. The size, layout and design of proposed development should be informed by a constraints-type study and the compilation of an environmental constraints map that identifies and avoids, insofar as is possible and using appropriate separation distances, all nature conservation sites, other sensitive ecological and hydrological features, deep or intact peat deposits, and areas of wet and/or active bog, pool systems and flushes.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017- 2021 aimed to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity. A key objective of the plan was to achieve; no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development projects occurring within the lifetime of the plan. Accordingly, the EIAR should outline how this project would avoid a net loss of biodiversity and include relevant mitigation and or compensatory measures where necessary.

Project components

In general, the EIAR should include sufficient project details so that the full nature and extent of the likely significant effects are clear and assessed fully in relation to, among other things, road design and construction methodology; site drainage details, including settlement ponds; temporary and permanent storage or disposal areas for peat and other materials or wastes arising; extraction sites/borrow pits; and any modifications to roads, bridges or culverts along the entire length of haul routes. Volumes of surplus material arising and of fill required should be calculated. Full assessment should also take place within the EIAR and NIS of the grid connection.

The EIAR should give specific consideration to the mobilisation of silt and changes to the stability of soil. The proposed windfarm has the potential for significant changes in patterns of surface water flow and may desiccate underlying soils allowing pathways to open up resulting in subsurface water losses. 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 Leitrim⁹ and Meenbog, near Ballybofey in County Donegal. If a Peat Stability Risk Assessment is required it must be considered in light of

⁸ Creighton, R. (ed.). 2006. *Landslides in Ireland: A Report of the Irish Landslide Working Group*. Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin.

⁹ <https://www.npws.ie/news/shass-mountain-peat-landslide-report-published>



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.

There are concerns regarding the potential loss and/or degradation of blanket bog, wet heath, dry heath, molinia meadow and other peatland habitats arising from the overall wind farm proposal. Such habitats at proposed turbine locations include the potential Annex I habitats under the EU Habitats Directive wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010) and molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) (6410) for which the Department has reporting obligations under Article 17 of the Directive to the European Commission on details of losses and degradation. These habitats appear to occur at T03, T04, T10, T2 etc. In addition other annexed habitats such as blanket bogs (7130), European dry heaths (4030) and Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (6230) could also be potentially affected by the proposed project. With the possible exception of Turbine 07 (in an area that appears to have been agriculturally improved recently) most of the proposed turbine locations would involve potential annexed habitat loss. Therefore the habitats on site should be assessed regarding classification and correspondence with the above habitat types. In addition though poor (acid) fen and flush is not listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, it is very limited in extent in Ireland and should be regarded as being of special conservation importance should it occur within the project area (a bog flush is noted at the location of Turbine 03 for example). Effects on peatland habitats from the wind farm project on these habitats could arise from the following project works and details

- location of Wind Turbines, Foundations and Hardstand areas.
- Location of On-site access roads.
- On-site interconnecting electrical cabling location.
- Substation location on the wind farm site.
- Construction compound location.
- Meteorological mast location.
- Location of Borrow Pits and spoil management areas.
- Turbine component haulage route
- Replacement land location for felled forestry
- Grid connection and underground cable route

Potential negative effects on peatland habitats could arise through direct excavation of peatland habitat, drainage effects on adjacent/nearby peatland habitat, habitat fragmentation, exposure of underlying peat, increased risk of erosion, opening up of areas of the habitats to new or increased exploitation or disturbance through the provision of new



and upgraded roads, peat slippage, landscaping, side casting, drain installation, excavate storage, sediment disposal etc.

No access points, grid routes, roads, drainage, borrow pit etc. detail is provided but from the map supplied most turbines appear to be within areas of such peatland habitat with potential annexed habitat links (see above). All are hydrologically connected to the aforementioned habitats. There are therefore potential negative effects from turbine locations themselves as well as access routes, borrow pits, grid route, substation, mast, storage areas etc.

Detailed consideration should be given to the potential amount of peat / soil excavated, stored, and disposed/recovered. A detailed plan for the safe storage, disposal and rehabilitation of excavated or disturbed peat /soil would have to form part of the EIAR. The spreading or recovery of excavated peat/soil on areas of intact bog, wet and revegetated areas of cutover bog or other habitats or vegetation of ecological value is unlikely to be acceptable. Excavated or exposed peat / soil should not pose any threat to surface waters and water quality.

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

The associated impacts of quarrying or extraction should be included among the considerations at the earliest stages of project planning and design, and should be assessed fully in the EIAR. Reinstatement or restoration plans would be required for any quarries or borrow pits on-site and should be included in the EIAR. As with any other part of the development, all borrow pits (existing or proposed) to be used in construction would have to be included within the application area for the proposed development.

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

Tree felling is licensed and regulated by the Forest Service; any additional requirements in respect of this element of the proposed development, including any obligations to replant on other lands, should be made known at the planning application stage, and impacts on these other lands fully assessed as part of the EIAR. If restoration of planted areas is proposed as mitigation or compensation for negative ecological effects, the EIAR should include a detailed plan to show the location, nature and area of habitat to be reinstated, and provide details of how such areas will be reinstated, managed and improved for habitats and/or species, together with proposals for monitoring and reporting. This plan should be prepared by a



suitably qualified ecologist in consultation with other experts as appropriate and in terms of being adequate as mitigation/compensation there should be no reasonable scientific doubt as to the adequacy and effectiveness of any such proposal.

The likely impacts of grid connection, particularly for birds, sensitive habitats and surface waters, should be given full consideration at the EIA stage.

Any improvement or reinforcement works required for access and transport anywhere along the proposed haul route(s) should be included in the EIAR and subjected to ecological impact assessment with the inclusion of mitigation measures, as appropriate.

Any losses of biodiversity habitat associated with this proposed development (including access roads and cabling etc.) such as woodland, scrub, hedgerows and other habitats should be mitigated for. In addition, Annex I habitats which occur outside the Natura 2000 network are important in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of any Annex I habitats outside the network should be given due consideration as part of the consideration of biodiversity matters generally for the proposed development. The loss of Annex I habitats outside SACs should be avoided. It should be noted in this regard that the site contains potential annexed habitat such as the peatland types listed above and in addition assessments of potential effects on Lough Nambrackadarg should also evaluate its potential EU Annex I habitat status.

You are advised that no disturbing or damaging site or ground investigations, or testing, should take place in an ecological site in advance of the main project consent without due consideration of the need for planning permission (for exempted development where there are restrictions on exemptions), or another consent.

Impacts of lighting on-site should also be assessed noting that lighting of turbines and masts can increase collision risk¹⁰.

Ecological Data and Surveys

The Department also highlights that along with the standard NPWS data requests which is recommended, other sources of habitat and species information beyond those already identified include (but are not be limited to): the National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.biodiversityireland.ie), Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fisheriesireland.ie), Birdwatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie), Irish Raptor Study Group, Golden Eagle Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org). Some guidance and reference documents are provided in the Appendix to this letter.

It is expected by this Department that best practice will be adhered to with regard to survey methodology and if necessary non Irish methodology adapted for the Irish situation, noting specific gaps in relation to species and age of the data outlined in some guidance documents. The EIAR should cover the whole project, including construction, operation, grid connection and, if applicable, restoration or decommissioning phases. Alternatives examined should

¹⁰ Douse, A (2020) "The Effect of Aviation Obstruction Lighting on Birds at Wind Turbines, Communication Towers and Other Structures", NatureScot Information Note. Version 1.1



also be included in the EIAR. Inland Fisheries Ireland should be consulted with regard to fish species. For information on Geological and Geomorphological sites, the Geological Survey of Ireland, should be consulted.

Where ex-situ impacts are possible, survey work may be required, outside of the development sites. Such surveys should be carried out by suitably qualified persons at an appropriate time of the year, depending on the species being surveyed for. The EIAR should include the results of the surveys and detail the survey methodology and timing of such surveys including consistency in terms of timed vantage point surveys.

Ornithology

Surveys for all species should cover bird usage and facilitate assessment of potential collision risk, habitat loss, barrier effect and displacement for these species and should be based around the daily and seasonal activity patterns of the species being surveyed. Survey work should be up to date, cover year-round site use and should cover a minimum of two years to allow for an accurate determination of site usage. Specific Target species for this site include Annex I (Birds Directive) species such as White Tailed Sea Eagle, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Golden Plover and Peregrine Falcon, and red listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) such as Kestrel, Snipe, Woodcock, Meadow Pipit and Red Grouse. A population of the amber listed species Skylark occur on site as well as suitable habitat for Dipper. In addition given the presence especially of the lake within the proposed project area survey regarding wildfowl and wetland species is also required (including winter data). Hinterland surveys should include breeding raptor surveys, including roost watches, surveys for nocturnal species and other species-specific surveys as appropriate.

In terms of the above species it should be noted that Hen Harrier, Kestrel, Golden Plover, Snipe, Meadow Pipit and Red Grouse have been confirmed to occur within the site. A Grouse Project has run on the site. It should be noted that some of the forested area adjacent to the project area contains suitable nesting habitat for hen harriers.

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

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



For example studies have highlighted turbine avoidance by wintering golden plover over distances of 50–850 m with an average of 175m (but with turbine height positively correlated with displacement distance). For Hen Harriers in addition to potential reduction of habitat suitability by the construction and/or operation of a wind energy development habitat connectivity, fragmentation, barrier effects, collision risk and foraging efficiency would be important considerations also. Foraging behaviour of breeding pairs may be influenced by habitat changes at distances conceivably up to 5-10km from extant turbines. In terms of displacement effects from upland wind farms in Hen Harriers Pearce-Higgins *et al.* (2009b) provide evidence of significant Hen Harrier avoidance of apparently suitable habitat within 250m of turbines, with a predicted 53% reduction of Hen Harrier flight activity within 500m of turbines, assuming that modelled habitat usage is proportional to breeding density (see Pearce *et al* 2009). Pearce Higgins *et al.* (2009), also found a 50% reduction in breeding density of common snipe within 500m of turbines. The majority of open semi-natural habitat onsite appears to be located within 500m of proposed turbines.

Vantage point surveys should be done in a manner that ensures sufficient data is collected to allow an assessment of the importance of all the flight paths into, out of and between sites and assess migratory movements. Consequently, the Department recommends that a visibility analysis of topography and vegetation is used in the selection of vantage points for ornithological surveys. Technological solutions should also be considered in conjunction with VPs surveys to ensure sufficient data is compiled for assessment.

Results for species need to be referenced back to the overall populations and their dynamics as, in some cases even a small risk to a population of a species could be considered significant.

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

The Department highlights and emphasises that specific calculations of area of available habitat in the overall area would be required for some species. A quantitative measurement of the availability of habitat in the wider surroundings is required when considering cumulative loss of a specie's habitat as a consequence of other developments. It should also be noted that as individual EIAR's for other nearby windfarm projects based their conclusions on the basis of similar habitats being available in the wider area these conclusions would no longer be valid/up to date (regardless of whether they were correct at the time) due to the subsequent loss of such 'similar habitats' due to subsequent windfarm developments etc.

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

Bats



Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. Bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976 to 2018, and are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). Therefore, damage/disturbance to any such roosts must be avoided in the first instance. While the Minister may grant a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015, a licence can only be granted once a number of strict criteria have been met (see Regulation 54). An assessment of the impact of the proposed wind farm on bat species should be carried out noting recent guidance available, "*Bat and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation, 2019*" published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Bat Conservation Trust and other stakeholders. Any proposed bat friendly lighting should be proven to be effective and follow up-to-date guidance.

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

Watercourses and wetlands

Wetlands are important areas for biodiversity and ground and surface water quality should be protected during construction and operation of the proposed development. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of the hydrological impacts on wetlands from the proposed development. Any watercourse or wetland which may be impacted on should be surveyed for the presence of protected species and species listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. For example, these species could include Otter (*Lutra lutra*) which are protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive, Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Lamprey (three species in Ireland) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Frogs (*Rana temporaria*) and Newts (*Triturus vulgaris*) protected under the Wildlife Acts and Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 EEC).

Tributary streams of the Bandon River, Caha River, Gortloughra River, Owvane River, Owngar River, Lough Allua etc all occur on site.

Further to potential impacts on the species listed above, for example, one of the main threats identified in the threat response plan for otter is habitat destruction (see https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/2009_Otter_TRP.pdf). A 10m riparian buffer on both banks of a waterway is considered to comprise part of the otter habitat. Therefore any proposed development should be located at least 10m away from a waterway and should consider movements between waterways and waterbodies by otters.

Flood plains

Flood plains, if present, should be identified in the EIAR and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention (green infrastructure). If applicable, the EIAR should take account of the guidelines for Planning



Authorities entitled "*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management*" published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government In November 2009.

Hedgerows, Scrub, grasslands and related habitats

Hedgerows and scrub should be maintained where possible, as they form wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in. Hedgerows provide a habitat for woodland flora, roosting places for bats and Badger setts may also be present. The EIAR should provide an estimate of the length/area of any hedgerow/scrub that will be removed. Where it is proposed that trees or hedgerows will be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation incorporated into the EIAR. Hedgerows, trees, scrub and uncultivated vegetation (including semi-natural habitats) should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st), noting the protection afforded under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018.

It should be noted that a large area of good quality semi-natural habitats occurs within the supplied project area and this will be relevant in terms of potential semi-natural habitat loss and consequently net biodiversity loss issues.

Alien invasive species

The EIAR should also address the issue of invasive alien plant and animal species such as *Rhododendron ponticum* and Japanese Knotweed, and detail the methods required to ensure they are not accidentally introduced or spread during survey and or construction. Information on alien Invasive species In Ireland can be found at <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/> and at <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>

Impact assessment

The impact of the proposed development on the flora/ fauna and habitats present should be assessed with particular regard to:

Natura 2000 sites, i.e.:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
- and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the EC Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147 EC),

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

- Natural Heritage Areas;
- proposed Natural Heritage Areas;
- Nature Reserves;
- Refuges for Fauna or Flora designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018;
- species protected under the Wildlife Acts including protected flora;



'Protected species and natural habitats', as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008 including

- Birds Directive - Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur);
- Habitats Directive - Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats;
- Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur);
- important bird areas such as those identified by Birdlife International, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, such as those with a "stepping stone" and ecological corridors function, as referenced in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive;
- other habitats of ecological value in a national to local context (such as those identified as locally important biodiversity areas within Local Biodiversity Action Plans and County Development Plans);
- Red data book species;
- and biodiversity in general.

Construction Management Plans and Mitigation

Complete project details including Construction Management Plans (CMPs) need to be provided in order to allow an adequate EIAR and appropriate assessment to be undertaken. CMPS should contain sufficient detail to avoid any post construction doubt with regard to the implementation of mitigation measures, timings and roles and responsibilities for same. Any mitigation needs to be included in detail and if being relied upon to reach conclusions must be proved to be achievable and likely to be effective in any given scenario it is needed. Proof of effectiveness will be required with examples of where similar techniques have been employed previously.

Applicants need to be able to demonstrate that CMPs and other such plans are adequate, all mitigation is included and effective and supported by scientific information and analysis and that they are feasible within the physical constraints of the site. The positions, locations and sizes of construction infrastructure and mitigation such as settlement ponds, disposal sites and construction compounds may significantly affect European and other designated sites, habitats and species in their own right and could have an effect for example on, drainage, water quality, habitat loss, and disturbance. If these are undetermined at time of the assessment all potential effects of the development on the site are not being considered.

Construction work should not be allowed to impact on water quality and measures should be detailed in the EIAR to prevent sediment and/or fuel runoff from getting into watercourses which could adversely impact on aquatic species.



Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) should be consulted with regard to impacts on fish species and the applicant may find it useful to consult their publication entitled "Planning for watercourses in the urban environment" (2020) which can be downloaded from their web site.

If applicants are not in a position to state the exact location and details of cable routes at the time of application, then they need to consider the range of options (overhead and underground) that may be used within their assessment. Should the exact height and rotor diameter of the turbines not be known at EIAR stage then the assessment of impacts must be applicable to a variety of turbine heights and rotor diameters which could be used. This should be made clear in the EIAR.

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The development site is hydrologically connected to and within the zone of influence of the Bandon River SAC 2171, approximately 5km from the main Bandon River channel and approximately 10km from the Bandon River SAC. There are a minimum of five tributary streams draining directly from the projects turbine area alone (excluding grid connection) that discharge downstream to the SAC (via the main Bandon channel or the Caha River). These occur in peatland soil and braid/split further within the project area. Water quality effects and issues must be assessed and addressed in terms of the Conservation Objectives of the site. In addition to potential effects on surface water quality during and post construction the Peatland habitat works would be a potential significant effect for example through sedimentation.

Potential adverse impacts on the SAC through water quality effects (such as through sedimentation) should be assessed and it should also be assessed whether or not the project is compatible with the Conservation Objectives (CO's) for each of the SAC Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and species (including those relating to restoring the favourable conservation condition of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM)). Regarding the specific assessment of potential sedimentation risks just for FPM alone in the NIS it should be noted that the Conservation Objective (CO) target regarding sediment occurrence is to restore substratum quality to a stable cobble and gravel substrate with very little fine material with no artificially elevated levels of fine sediment. The habitat for the species is currently unsuitable for the recruitment of juveniles owing to sedimentation of the substratum. The Bandon failed the target for the Sub-basin Management Plan, with moderate to heavy sedimentation in the mussel habitat within the SAC (Conservation Services, 2009; NPWS, 2010). Sedimentation of the mussel habitat provides a rooting medium for macrophytes (*Ranunculus*) in the Bandon. Severe, sustained, sedimentation resulted from bank clearance works in 2015. Sufficient survival of juvenile mussels is being prevented by the poor condition of the river substratum. The target is for sufficient habitat in favourable condition to allow the species to maintain itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of the Bandon system. It is relevant for the CO sediment target for the Bandon, in terms of NIS/AA, that cumulative impacts can result from the successive, incremental, and/or combined effects of a development when added to other existing, planned, and/or reasonably anticipated developments.



The project is also hydrologically connected to and occurs upstream of the Gearagh SAC 108 and The Gearagh SPA 4109.

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

Screening for appropriate assessment should focus on the likely significant effects of the proposed development and related activities on European sites noting that impacts to sites via air and water may occur over large distances using the source-pathway-receptor model. Details of designated sites and species and conservation objectives can be found on <http://www.npws.ie/>.

Site-specific, as opposed to generic, conservation objectives are now available for many sites. Each conservation objective for a qualifying interest (QI) habitat or species is defined by a list of attributes and targets and is often supported by further documentation. Where these are not available for a site, an examination of the attributes that are used to define site-specific conservation objectives for the same QIs in other sites can be usefully used to ensure the full ecological implications of a proposal for a site's conservation objective and its integrity are assessed. It is advised, as per the notes and guidelines in the site-specific conservation objectives that any reports quoting conservation objectives should give the version number and date, so that it can be ensured and established that the most up-to-date versions including map boundaries¹¹ are used in the preparation of Natura Impact Statements and in undertaking appropriate assessments.

In addition, the Article 12 and 17 reports under the Birds and Habitats Directives should be referenced <https://www.npws.ie/publications>. The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment is available on the NPWS website at

<https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations> and in EU Commission guidance entitled:

- *"Wind energy developments and Natura 2000"*¹²
- *"Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC"*¹³;
- 2018 Commission notice *"Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC"*¹⁴ (updated June 2020)

More recent CJEU and Irish case law has clarified some issues and should also be consulted.

¹¹ <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data>

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/Wind_farms.pdf

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_asses_s_en.pdf

¹⁴

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



The NIS should present a robust and reasoned scientific assessment and analysis of the implications of the proposals for the relevant conservation objectives of relevant European sites. Best scientific knowledge in the field should be applied to the understanding of the likely effects, and to the assessment and analysis of the implications of the proposals for the conservation objectives and integrity of the sites. When carried out by the competent authority, the appropriate assessment cannot have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the project on European sites. General advice on the preparation, content and scope of an NIS is included in Appendix A.

Cumulative and ex situ impacts

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

Post construction monitoring

This Department recognises the importance of pre and post construction monitoring, such as recommended in Drewitt et al. (2006), and Bat Conservation Ireland (2012). The applicant should not use any proposed post construction monitoring as mitigation to supplement inadequate information in the assessment. Please refer to Circular Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07 on this issue. This can be downloaded from the Department's website <https://www.npws.ie/development-consultations>.

The EIAR process should identify any pre and post construction monitoring which would have to be carried out. The post construction monitoring would include bird and bat strikes/fatalities including the impact on any such results of the removal of carcasses by scavengers. Monitoring results should be made available to the competent authority and copied to this Department. An appropriate plan of action would have to be agreed at planning stage with the Planning Authority if the results in future show a significant mortality of birds and/or bat species. It is important to note that unless post decision consultation with NPWS is specifically stated as a condition of planning, NPWS has no post consent role. However, regional staff are available for liaison regarding any associated licencing requirements and or new information arising for specific species of concern.

Licenses

Where there are impacts on protected species and their habitats, resting or breeding places, licenses may be required under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018 or derogations under the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

In particular, bats as outlined earlier and otters, are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law



in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). A copy of Circular Letter NPWS 2/07 entitled “*Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Regulations 1997 – strict protection of certain species/applications for derogation licences*” can be found on the Departmental web site at www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-npws-02-07.pdf. It should be noted that the Regulations of 1997 have since been superseded by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. Part 6 of those Regulations is now the relevant section dealing with the protection of flora and fauna. Reference to Regulation 23 in the circular letter should be taken to mean Regulation 51 in the current Regulations.

In addition, the EIAR should take account of species protected under sections 21, 22 and 23 of the Wildlife Acts regarding impacts on other protected species or their resting or breeding places, such as on protected plants, frogs, badger setts or birds’ nests and will also need to be cognisant of article 5 (d) of the Birds Directive. For that reason uncultivated vegetation, including hedges and trees, should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st).

In order to apply for any such licenses or derogations as mentioned above the results of a survey should be submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this Department. Such surveys are to be carried out by appropriately qualified person/s at an appropriate time of the year. Details of survey methodology should be provided. Should this survey work take place well before construction commences, it is recommended that an additional ecological survey of the development site should take place immediately prior to construction to ensure no significant change in the findings of the baseline ecological survey has occurred. As outlined already, if there has been any significant change mitigation, this may require amendment and where a licence has expired, there will be a need for new licence applications for the protected species.

Appendix 1

Notes on the preparation and content of an NIS

The term ‘NIS’ is defined in legislation¹⁵. In general, an NIS, if required, should present the data, information and analysis necessary to reach a definitive determination as to 1) the implications of the plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, for a European site in view of its conservation objectives, and 2) whether there will be adverse effects on the integrity of a European site. The NIS should be underpinned by best scientific knowledge and objective information, as required in the case of screening for appropriate assessment, and by the precautionary principle.

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

¹⁵ The term, ‘NIS’, is defined in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, and Part XAB, Section 177T of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended



1. An NIS is a scientific assessment that presents relevant evidence, data and analysis, and focuses on the implications of the plan or project, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for the conservation objectives of the relevant European site(s), taking the full scope of these objectives, whether generic or site specific, into account;
2. Examination of the potential effects of the plan or project must be undertaken to identify what European sites, and which of their qualifying interests (SAC), special conservation interests (SPA) or conservation objectives, are potentially at risk. In combination effects must also be taken into account. This is required to determine a 'zone of influence' or 'zone of impact' for the project, if such a concept is used. The 15km distance in existing guidance is an indicative figure only and its application and validity should be examined and justified in each specific case on an ecological or other basis;
3. The scientific basis on which sites and their conservation objectives are included or excluded from assessment and analysis should be presented and justified;
4. The full area or extent of the likely effects of the plan or project should be determined and quantified. Where temporary damage and disturbance will occur, predicted timelines for recovery should be presented;
5. The relevant environmental baseline and trends in European sites should be taken into account, bearing in mind changes and in combination effects which have occurred since site designation;
6. An NIS should be informed by any necessary surveys of habitats and species at the appropriate time(s) of year to identify, describe, evaluate and map their presence within the receiving environment. In all relevant cases, the scientific basis and justifications for categorising or not categorising habitats as Annex I habitats, or priority types, should be presented;
7. An NIS should be informed by any necessary hydrological, hydrogeological or geotechnical investigations to assess impacts on habitat structure and function;
8. Where mitigation measures are required, full details should be included in the project description and drawings, with method statements provided, where necessary. It must be demonstrated that mitigation measures will be delivered in full, and at the appropriate time, at all post-consent stages, and that they will be effective in any specific location or set of conditions. The necessary analysis should be presented to demonstrate how the mitigation measures will avoid or remove the risks of adverse effects on the integrity of European sites that have been identified in an NIS so that the final analysis is undertaken in the context of the predicted residual effects;
9. An NIS should contain, or clearly cross-reference, all the scientific data and analysis on which the assessment is based, and should contain clear and precise findings and conclusions as to the implications of the project, on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, for the conservation objectives and integrity of the relevant European site(s).



The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/ies, in the role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diarmuid Buttimer', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Diarmuid Buttimer
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Sarah Gallagher

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie> on behalf of Transport GCU
Sent: Thursday 29 June 2023 15:48
To: Sarah Gallagher; Transport GCU
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Good afternoon Sarah,

Thank you for contacting Department of Transport in relation to Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork.

At this point in time the department has no revision to make to previous comments given.

It would be appreciated if you could update the department of any further developments.

Kind regards
Jacqui

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

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday 8 June 2023 14:28
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: John Bagnall <john.bagnall@eir.ie> on behalf of John Bagnall
Sent: Monday 12 June 2023 15:31
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: thomas.sheridan@eir.ie; Andrew O'Grady
Subject: Re: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

We have no transmission links within the proposed area and it has no risk to the network.

Kind regards,



John Bagnall

Transmission Design & Engineering

M: +353 85 1053746

E: john.bagnall@eir.ie

Address: EirCode - D24 HX03

On Thu, 8 Jun 2023 at 14:38, Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com> wrote:

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



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& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Sarah Gallagher

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie> on behalf of planning applications
Sent: Friday 30 June 2023 10:15
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork Email No :0100606001700 (547 KB)

Hello Sarah,

Thank you for your email and letter regarding an update on Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an EIA for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

We replied to the original request on 25th of February 2022 (see attached) and we have nothing further to add.

Regards,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

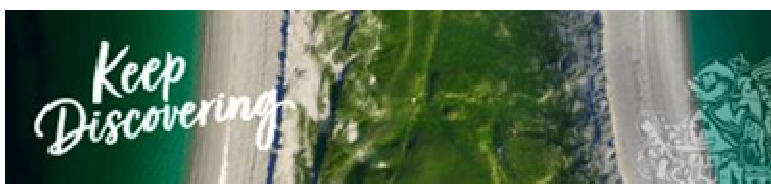
Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86

M +353 (0)86 0357590



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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Reception <reception@failteireland.ie>; planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 25 February 2022 09:06
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork Email No :0100606001700
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

Hello Sarah,

I received your email from our Customer Support Team regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Just for your information, Fáilte Ireland has a dedicated mailbox for all planning notifications/applications, public consultations etc. email address planning.applications@failteireland.ie


By using this email address it will ensure the information/notifications will go directly to the Manager of the Environment & Planning (Mr Shane Dineen) and will be reviewed and actioned in a timely manner by the Manager and the Environment & Planning Team.

Regards,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

Product Development-Environmental & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86
Currently working Remotely |  +353 (0)86 0357590



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

From: sgallagher@jodireland.com;
Received: Wed Feb 23 2022 10:10:01 GMT+0000 (Greenwich Mean Time)
To: customersupport@failteireland.ie; customersupport@failteireland.ie; CustomerSupport@failteireland.ie;
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

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Dear Orla Puthill

Case No. CAS-24170-26Z2Z4.

Attached is the Report and letter. If you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 15 February 2022 10:15
To: 'reception@failteireland.ie' <reception@failteireland.ie>; 'planning.application@failteireland.ie' <planning.application@failteireland.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Just following up on my below email, if you could send back any comments you may have on the Gortloughra document.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah.

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Tuesday 21 December 2021 15:18
To: 'reception@failteireland.ie' <reception@failteireland.ie>; 'planning.application@failteireland.ie' <planning.application@failteireland.ie>
Cc: 'Andrew O'Grady' <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter and Report in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

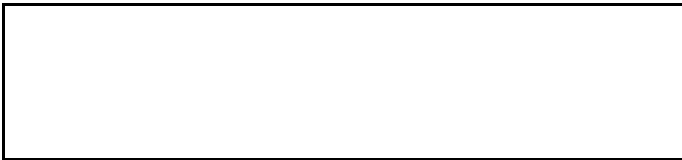
Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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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.

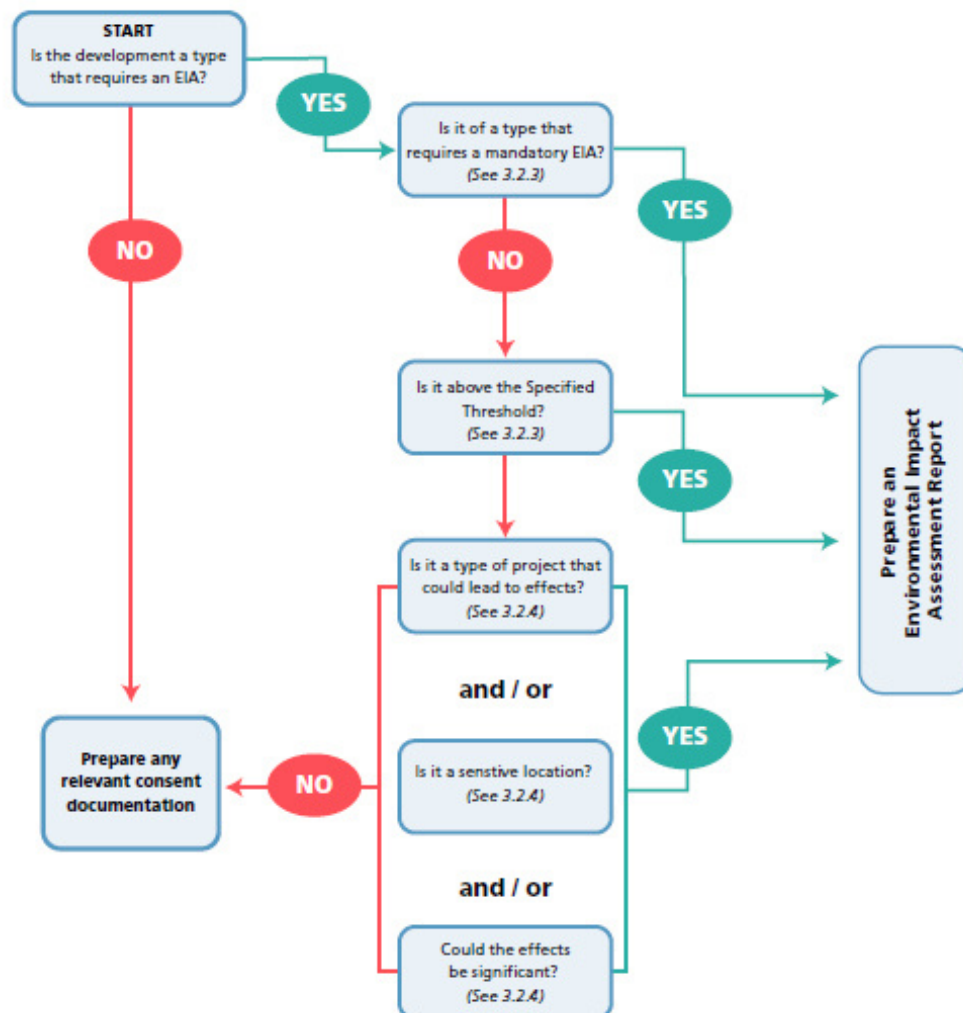
Screening

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.

Sarah Gallagher

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie> on behalf of Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)
Sent: Monday 10 July 2023 10:30
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: 6460_503_019_Scoping Ltr_Forestry Division.pdf; Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork.pdf

Good morning,

Please see observations attached.

Environmental Co-ordination Unit

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

??

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

??

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

??

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



??

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9.?? [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)???????????? Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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

07th July 2023

Jennings O'Donovan
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91RHH9

Re: Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm Development near Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/tree-felling/FellingReforestationPolicy240517.pdf>. As this development is within a forest lands particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) , as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and

water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);

2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2018 are published online at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-eia-publicconsultation-for-afforestation-forest-road-construction-and-felling-licences-2018/>
3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence and on request details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2018 are published online at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-2018-register-of-decisions/>

It is important to note that when applying to a Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
 - b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
 - c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;

and

2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
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
HEO Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford
e-mail: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie

Sarah Gallagher

From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie> on behalf of GSI Planning
Sent: Tuesday 13 June 2023 12:25
To: 'Sarah Gallagher'
Cc: GSI Planning; 'aogrady@jodireland.com'
Subject: RE: EIS 23/153 - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork

Dear Sarah,

With reference to your email dated 09 June 2023, regarding the Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork – Scoping Request Update, please note that Geological Survey Ireland has no specific comment or observations to make on this matter at this time since our last response 21/481.

If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen



Trish Smullen *Geoheritage & Planning.*

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

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

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

From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 11:24
To: Trish Smullen <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>; Planning Advisory <PlanningAdvisory@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Subject: EIS 23/153 - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork

EIS 23/153

Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork – Scoping Request Update. Request for observations by Jennings O'Donovan. Letter and site plans are enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Duty Geologist <Duty.Geologist@decc.gov.ie>; Siobhan Power <Siobhan.Power@decc.gov.ie>; GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

Sarah Gallagher

From: Christophe O'BRIEN <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie> on behalf of Planning
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 14:42
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady; John HUGHES
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Good afternoon Sarah,

Thank you for your email. The Authority has no specific requirements in relation to the completion of the EIAR.

Based on the preliminary information provided, should a formal planning application be submitted, the Irish Aviation Authority will likely offer the following general observations:

"In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind turbine development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection."

Following [the separation of the Irish Aviation Authority and Air Navigation Ireland \(the IAA ANSP\) from the 30th April 2023](#), Air Navigation Ireland has responsibility for the maintenance and safeguarding of en route communications and navigation surveillance equipment in Ireland. Please forward the report for their review to: planning@airnav.ie

Please be advised that Paul Mullins has left the Authority. Audrey and Geraldine have transferred to the new entity – Air Nav Ireland.

For future correspondence related to planning matters, please email: planning@iaa.ie

Best Regards,

Christophe

Christophe O'Brien

Aerodromes Inspector

M: +353 (0) 86 33 22022 |

E: obrienc@iaa.ie | www.iaa.ie

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



IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY
ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA HÉIREANN

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:21 PM
To: Audrey RAFFERTY <audrey.rafferty@iaa.ie>; Geraldine.Oleary@iaa.ie; John HUGHES <John.HUGHES@IAA.ie>; Paul.MULLINS@iaa.ie; Christophe O'BRIEN <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogradey@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie> on behalf of Michael McPartland
Sent: Monday 26 June 2023 12:29
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Sarah

Thanks very much for your email.

The only real change from our previous letter is that instream works should be limited to the period July to September inclusive.

Michael Mc Partland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

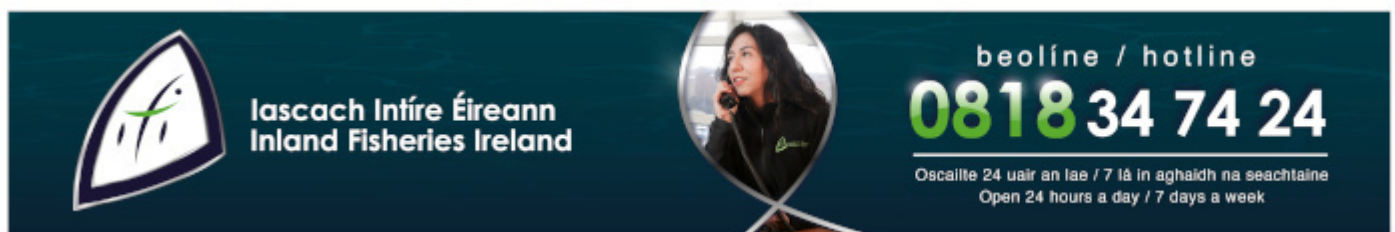
Tel + 353 (0)26 412 21/2
Fax + 353 (0)26 412 23
Email michael.mcpartland@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

Sunnyside House, Macroom, Co. Cork, Ireland. P12 X602

Help Protect Ireland's Inland Fisheries

Michael McPartland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)26 41222 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 P12 X602



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Our confidential phone number is 0818 34 74 24, which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:16 PM
To: macroom@fisheries.ie; Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com> on behalf of Andrew O'Grady
Sent: Wednesday 7 August 2024 16:10
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

See below from IFI. Can you add this to the scoping tracker for 6460 please?

Regards,

Andrew.

From: Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 2:44 PM
To: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Andrew

Thanks for your email.

Please find a link to IFI "Guidelines on protection of fisheries during construction works in and adjacent to waters"

<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/media/guidelines-on-protection-of-fisheries-during-construction-works-in-and-adjacent-to-waters>

More specifically the following should apply

1. Instream works should be limited to the period July to September inclusive.
2. All necessary measure should be taken to prevent the entry of polluting matter to waters.
3. It is desirable that the works should be undertaken in the dry.
4. The works should be designed and undertaken in a manner so as not to obstruct fish passage.

If you revert when specifics and a method statement are available for any instream works we can discuss in more detail.

Regards

Michael Mc Partland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

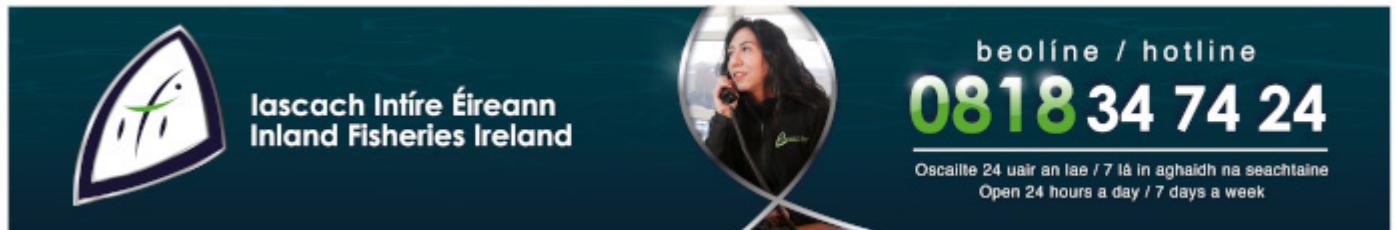
Tel + 353 (0)26 412 21/2
Fax + 353 (0)26 412 23
Email michael.mcpartland@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

Sunnyside House, Macroom, Co. Cork, Ireland. P12 X602

Help Protect Ireland's Inland Fisheries

Michael McPartland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)26 41222 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 P12 X602



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From: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 11:39 AM
To: Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>
Cc: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Michael,

Just as follow on, we've been looking at how best to access the site and we are looking at approaching the site from the east and north (as per image below). There are 4 bridges on this route and these will likely need to be upgraded as outlined in the attached structural report. Some in stream works are likely to be required at Crossing 2 (+51° 48' 6.649", -9° 14' 3.768" ITM: 514868.31, 561784.84). Just wondering if you had any observations or comments on this?

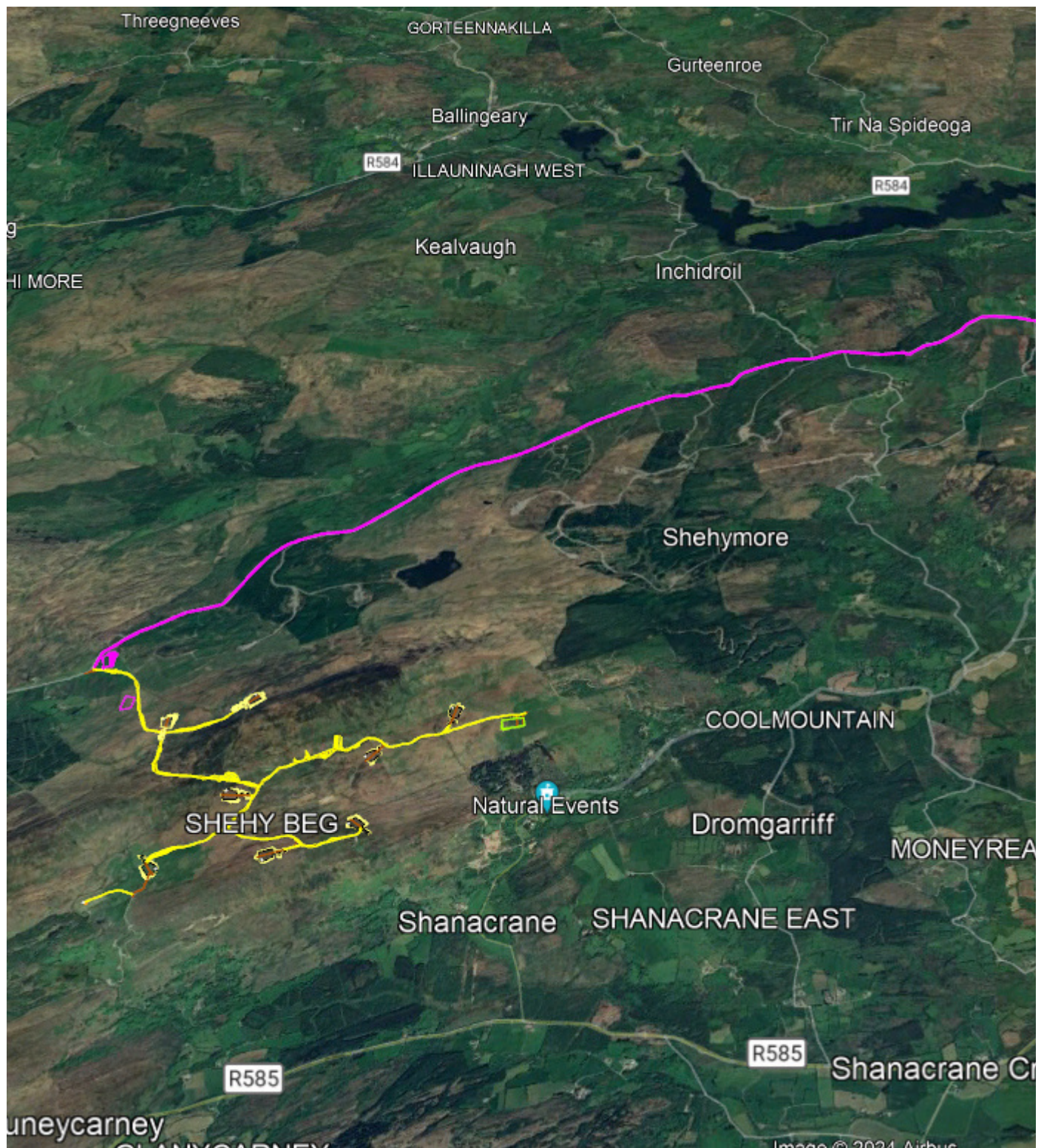
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/HqLuzwC86LEfggkZ7>

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z8J5jP7UQR3oMDdt6>

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/GDaqaf8JkQ6UexkM6>

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zX2JPu5sKRfVJFgL7>

Note the attached report only covers 3 crossings, the 4th one will be added following a follow on survey later this month. I can forward on that later.



Regards,

Andrew.

From: Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 12:29 PM

To: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>

Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Sarah

Thanks very much for your email.

The only real change from our previous letter is that instream works should be limited to the period July to September inclusive.

Michael Mc Partland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

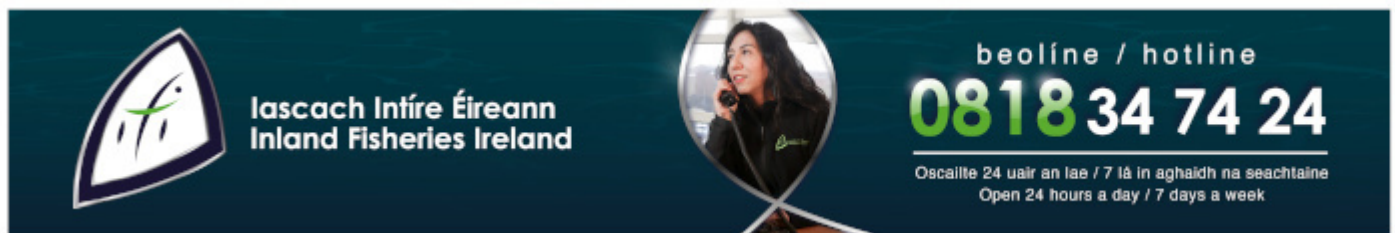
Tel + 353 (0)26 412 21/2
Fax + 353 (0)26 412 23
Email michael.mcpartland@fisheriesireland.ie
Web www.fisheriesireland.ie

Sunnyside House, Macroom, Co. Cork, Ireland. P12 X602

Help Protect Ireland's Inland Fisheries

Michael McPartland
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

✉ Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)26 41222 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 P12 X602



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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:16 PM
To: macroom@fisheries.ie; Michael McPartland <Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Sarah Gallagher

From: Irish Peatland Conservation Council <bogs@ipcc.ie> on behalf of Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Sent: Friday 16 June 2023 12:13
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: Re: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: Gortloughra_WF PDF.pdf; Untitled attachment 00220.htm

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for contacting IPCC RE The proposed Gortloughra WF. IPCC's original submission from February still applies, attached here for convenience.

Please keep us updated as to when or if the project gets to SID with An Board Pleanala.

Kind Regards

Tristram Whyte BSc (Hons) Applied Freshwater & Marine Biology
Conservation, Policy & Fundraising Officer
Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Lullymore
Rathangan
Co. Kildare
R51 V293

045 860133

bogs@ipcc.ie

CHY6829

Registered Charity Number 20013547

Visit <http://www.ipcc.ie> to learn all about the Save the Bogs Campaign or to arrange your visit to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre

On 8 Jun 2023, at 15:26, Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com> wrote:

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher

<image001.jpg>

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com

<image002.jpg>

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<6460_503_025_Scoping Ltr_Irish Peatland.pdf><Figure 1.1 Site Location.pdf><Figure 1.2 Site Layout.pdf>



IRISH PEATLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHAOMHNATHE PHORTAIGH NA HÉIREANN

Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, Ireland R51 V293

Liolach Mór, Rath Iomgáin, Co. Chill Dara, Éire, R51 V293

Tel/Teil: +353-(0)45-860133

e-mail/riomhphost: bogs@ipcc.ie

web/idirlíon: www.ipcc.ie

Andrew O'Grady
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91RHH9

22nd February 2022

Re: Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm

Dear Mr O'Grady,

Thank you for consulting the Irish Peatland Conservation Council regarding the proposed windfarm. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) was established in 1982 and has 40 years of experience in peatland conservation. Our aim is to conserve a representative sample of intact peatlands. Only 18% of Ireland's original range of peatland habitats are deemed worthy of conservation. 82% have become degraded from multiple pressures such as peat extraction, agriculture, forestry, habitat fragmentation and developments (Ireland's Peatland Conservation Action Plan 2020, Malone & O'Connell, 2009). Specifically, County Cork has only 13% of the original peatland habitat in a conservation worthy state (Peatlands & Climate Change Action Plan 2030, O'Connell, 2021). This has had a major effect on biodiversity and the ecological functioning of the County's indigenous habitats and species. This makes it imperative that all must be done to halt the loss of any more wildlife during the climate and biodiversity emergency which was declared by Government in 2019.

Our work is guided by our 6th Action Plan "Ireland's Peatland Conservation Action Plan 2020" and a recent amendment "Peatlands & Climate Change Action Plan 2030", which focuses on the role of peatlands in tackling predicted climate change. These documents are available for download on our website at www.ipcc.ie. Many of the actions in our plan have been included within the National Peatlands Strategy which has been adopted by every Government Department and Local Authority. The "National Peatlands Strategy" can be downloaded from www.npws.ie.

While we are not inherently opposed to the construction of wind farms as we understand that Ireland has legal obligations to provide 80% (Climate Action Plan 2021) of its energy production from renewable sources by 2030, there is however a responsibility on wind farm developers to ensure that there is no loss of important peatland habitat and the species that utilise it through the development of wind farms. Also, bad construction practices can result in an active carbon sink being converted to a carbon source which is detrimental to any effort in combating anthropogenically caused global climate change.

We have a number of concerns pertaining to the proposed development which need to be given due consideration within the pre-planning stage before IPCC could support the project.

Legal Obligations to Protect Peatlands

We are legally bound by National and European legislation (The Wildlife Acts, EU Habitats and Bird's Directives) and international conventions (Ramsar, Bern Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity) to do our utmost to protect peatlands now and for future generations. Peatland habitats have been severely diminished in the country and this destruction is an issue in other legislation and conventions such as the UN Convention on Climate Change, Bonn Convention, World Heritage Convention, Water Framework Directive, Environment Liability Directive, Planning and Development Acts, National Monuments Acts, Environmental Directive, EIA and SEA. All of these legislative instruments have been adopted by Ireland and the IPCC ask that you assess your development with regard to these legal obligations.

40 YEARS TAKING ACTION FOR BOGS AND WILDLIFE

Charity No/Uimhir Carthanacht: CHY6829 Registered in Ireland No/Uimhir Cláraithe in Éirinn: 116156 Registered Office/Oifig Cláraithe: Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293, Ireland.

Governance Code Statement of Compliance: IPCC confirm that our organisation complies with The Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland.

Company Secretary/Rúnaí Comhlacht: Rachel Kavanagh

Directors/Stiúrthóirí: Martin Kelly, Catherine O'Connell, Rachel Kavanagh, Jennifer Roche, Seán Ó Fearghail,

Patrons/Pátrúnaí: Pauline Bewick, Don Conroy, HRH Princess Irene of the Netherlands,

Eanna Ní Lamhna, Matthijs Schouten, His Excellency Mr Peter Kok Netherlands Ambassador to Ireland

Bogland

The IPCC would advise any developer planning construction in, or within close proximity to peatland habitat to be familiar with the Environmental Protection Agency funded project BOGLAND (www.ucd.ie/bogland).

This project recommends the best practice guidelines to ensure no damaging development occurs on, or affects peat soils and peatlands of conservation value. Its overall objective was to develop guidance in the development of strategies for the sustainable future management of peatlands in Ireland. To this effect, the report aimed to provide a synthesis of knowledge on this key natural resource, the important functions and roles that peatland ecosystems perform, their various utilisations and how attitudes and policies affect them.

We urge developers to properly assess and screen for any adverse impacts on the habitat or species utilising them that may occur during the construction of any infrastructural development such as wind farms. We would also implore developers to have proper plans in place for the habitat regarding after-use rehabilitation/restoration. The IPCC could not support a development that does not plan with conservation put responsibly in action.

Designated Sites (See [Map 1](#))

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council have identified a number of designated sites within the proximity of the proposed wind-farm which need to be given due attention in ascertaining the impacts to biodiversity from the proposed project. In particular, developments have the potential to disrupt the hydrology of peatland and even small impacts to the water table may have disastrous consequences for specialised peatland species that live within minimal ranges of chemical and hydrological limits, such as the *Vertigo* whorl snails. Developers need to ensure that their project in no way affects the integrity of the habitats and qualifying interests including species of the designated sites.

Bandon River SAC (Sitecode 002171)

The Bandon River SAC consists of the Bandno and Saha rivers and has been described by the National Parks and Wildlife Service Site Synopsis (SAC&NHA) as containing two ANNEX I habitats including alluvial forest and floating river vegetations. The Northern section of the site is dominated by peat soils.

There is also a number of species that require investigation to ensure that the proposed development does not interfere or destroy important refugia or displace important species hindering Ireland's recovery from the Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency declared by Government in 2019. Otter (ANNEX II&IV, Irish Wildlife Acts), Kingfisher (ANNEX I, Amber Listed. BoCCI) , Atlantic Salmon (ANNEX II&IV, Vulnerable Listed, Ireland Red List No.5), Badger (Irish Wildlife Acts), and Irish Hare (ANNEX IV, Irish Wildlife Acts), Brook Lamprey (ANNEX II), Freshwater Pearl Mussel (ANNEX II&V), Mute Swan (Amber Listed. BoCCI), Snipe (Amber Listed. BoCCI), Daubenton's Bat (ANNEX I, Wildlife Act) and Pipistrelle Bat (ANNEX II&IV, Wildlife Act) have all been identified on site and current populations need to be described and possible pathways to disruption of these species needs to be investigated before any project gets permission.

Conigar Bog NHA (Sitecode 002386)

This site has been described by the National Parks & Wildlife Service Site Synopsis (SAC&NHA) as being dominated by upland blanket bog and heath. There are six oligotrophic lakes present which support nutrient-poor plant communities.

Red Grouse has been recorded on site and listed within the Site Synopsis and they need to be investigated to ascertain their susceptibility to disruption from the proposed development before any project is given approval. This species has a national status of Red on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland list.

Overgrazing by sheep and burning have been identified by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as damaging the hydrological condition of the site. This needs to be taken into account when assessing peat stability.

Gouganebarra Lake pNHA (Sitecode 001057)

Grazing, Forestry and tourism have been identified by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as causing erosion which is damaging the surrounding area. The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) has been recorded at this site which is designated as an ANNEX I species. This species needs to be protected from developments that have the potential to disturb behaviour and habitat. Any development needs to ensure that peatland habitats are not lost through poor hydrological planning and management.

Gouganebarra Lake is nutritionally poor, which makes it susceptible to pollution and acidification. This development has the potential to disrupt the hydrology of the area and even small impacts to the water table may have disastrous consequences for the ecology of this lake. Any proposed development needs to ensure using best practice that no detrimental effects will occur to the hydrology of the designated conservation area or the species utilising the site. IPCC could not support any proposed development which does not take these concerns on board and ensure that either their project can alleviate or at least not add to the ongoing conservation issues.

Ballagh Bog pNHA (sitecode 001886)

The National Parks and Wildlife Services states that this site is mainly mountain blanket bogland is dominated by purple moor grass (*Molina caerulea*). The site synopsis also names Twiggy Spear-moss (*Calliergon sarmentosum*) as a species of significance. To date very little is known about the species on Ballagh Bog pNHA so a full survey of the flora and fauna present must be carried out and these species must be monitored, as any development must have a baseline data to compare any changes to.

Lough Allua pNHA (sitecode 001065)

Lough Allua is surrounded by fen, heath, and wet grassland habitats. Pale Violet (*Viola lacteala*) has been recorded on this site. This species is endangered and is listed as vulnerable under Red List no. 10, and is protected under the 1999 Flora Protection Order. Snipe (Amber Listed. BoCCI) and Lapwing (Red Listed. BoCCI) have also been identified on site and current populations need to be described and possible pathways to disruption of these species needs to be investigated before any project gets permission. Fens are susceptible to ground water pollution and small changes in hydrology. This needs to be taken into account in order to maintain the quality of this habitat.

Nitrogen Deposition

In 2018 in the UK 39 of 57 Special Areas of Conservation listed on the APIS website (<http://www.apis.ac.uk>) exceeded the Critical Load Threshold for nitrogen. This is having negative impacts on the vegetation of the designated habitats. There are various sources of excess nitrogen such as construction (e.g. roads, developments), urban waste water (pollution) and agriculture (e.g. fertilizer/pig-gerys) and can enter a habitat via wet or dry deposition. The proposed development needs to account for nitrogen within pre-planning coupled with a nitrogen monitoring agenda which could highlight possible pathways of nutrient enrichment. Peatlands are naturally nutrient poor and the excessive loads can decimate botanical species.

Biosecurity

Peatlands are susceptible to invasive species when they are drained and/or degraded as when the peat dries out it allows species which would not normally survive in the wet acidic conditions to take hold. The introduction of invasive species can exacerbate erosion and transpiration increasing degradation of the peatland. They can be introduced by many vectors such as traffic, which is increased through developments and fragmentation of the peatland habitat as access roads and construction lorries traverse the landscape. The movement of soils and machinery has to be monitored in and out of construction sites to ensure that best practice in relation to biosecurity is adhered to. The affects of fragmentation and increasing traffic and how they increase the risk of invasives needs to be accounted for in the pre-planning stage. The IPCC could not support a project that does not assess the risks in relation to the spread of invasive species.

National Monuments

Peatlands in Ireland hold a great deal of cultural and ancestral history, preserved in the anaerobic conditions. Ireland has international obligations under the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, ratified by Ireland in 1997. Article 1 of this convention states that Ireland must “protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study”. The IPCC would like to know if there will be scientific supervision from an independent body that will evaluate the proposed windfarm area for its archaeological importance. The IPCC could not support the development before a full archaeological survey is undertaken and the necessary precautions and mitigations are in place to ensure that no loss of archaeological information and cultural history happens.

Water Framework Directive (See [Map2](#))

Ireland has legal obligations under the WFD to ensure that all rivers and lakes are of “Good Ecological Status” by 2027. Please ensure that the proposed development will not adversely impact on the water quality and lower Ireland’s standing with our legal obligations in protecting our waterways. Silt runoff and chemical/construction pollution can be disastrous for aquatic wildlife and this should also be factored into the management and construction plans of the proposed development. IE_SW_20B020200 and IE_SW_19L030200 are of good quality and their status needs to be protected from the development. IE_SW_21O070200, IE_SW_20C010400 and IE_SW_21O040400 are all of high quality and their status also needs to be protected from the development.

BirdWatch Ireland (See [Map3](#) and [Map4](#))

Red Grouse and Barn Owl have both been recorded within the 10km buffer zone. The IPCC would like to remind you that both Red Grouse and Barn Owl have a national status of Red on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland list.

A study conducted by BirdWatch Ireland on the sensitivity of certain bird species to windfarm developments shows that Red Grouse and Barn Owl have shown sensitivity in this proposed location and need due attention and assessment to determine if they will be affected by this development. The IPCC could not support the development unless an ornithological survey is undertaken and the necessary precautions and mitigations are in place to ensure that disruption to the breeding, feeding, or local migration does not occur.

Wetland Surveys Ireland (See [Map5](#))

Wetland Surveys Ireland (www.wetlandsurveysireland.com) have identified a number of wetlands which have had or need to have an ecological survey to ascertain the biodiversity and ecological value within them. There are many wetlands within the 10km buffer zone, most of which have yet to be surveyed. Those that have been surveyed include: Gouganebarra Lake pNHA - WMI_CO79, Ballagh Bog (Cork) pNH - WMI_CO42, Lough Allua pNHA - WMI_CO38, Bandon River SAC - WMI_CO59 and Conigar Bog NHA - WMI_CO47. Currently, within the 10km buffer, all wetlands not contained within an SAC, NhHA or pNHA have not been

surveyed. Every effort must be made to ensure the quality of these wetlands remain as is, and that the unsurveyed wetlands are given due attention to ascertain possible impacts, such as what species are at risk.

Please liaise with WSI to gather as much information about these sites as possible and ensure that the proposed development will not have a adverse effect on the habitats or species that are utilising them or moving/migrating between them and other significant sites. North-Western Europe has lost ~90% of its wetlands (BOGLAND, EPA, 2011) and it is imperative that all is done to halt the loss of this important climate regulating, carbon sequestering and biodiverse landscape.

Landslide Susceptibility (See Map6)

Of the nine proposed wind turbines six are located on areas of high or moderately high landslide susceptibility. Peat has an exceptionally high water content, is a low density material with low compressive strength. Disturbed peat also has a low shear strength. These parameters allow long runouts to develop when there is a peat failure with the potential to destroy aquatic wildlife directly and down stream. The possibility and extent of runouts could be examined further to ascertain where these might occur, what paths they would take and what would be at risk environmentally. This of course has to be done with proper contingency and management plans in the event of an actual peat-slide. There is a high possibility that if there is a peat slide event it would affect neighbouring designated sites which would be unacceptable and disastrous. If there is a possibility of any more damage occurring to the designated sites and ANNEX habitats as a result of this development then the project should not go ahead. Suitable measures must be taken to ensure landslide susceptibility levels are not worsened due to the disturbance associated with this development. The IPCC could not support a project that does not assess the risks in relation to increased landslide susceptibility.

Conclusion

The proposed windfarm is situated within an area of high biodiversity, ANNEX I habitat and surrounded by designated sites. The risk to these from construction would put them at increased strain with disastrous consequences to the aquatic and terrestrial environment if there is a peat slide. The developers also need to assess the cumulative effects of windfarms, afforestation, peat extraction, drainage, overgrazing on the environment - specifically including the designated sites, carbon sequestration and also assess the implications of impacts on annexed species and biodiversity. It is IPCC's understanding that the peat soils will still be drained while the turbine (hardstands) are being constructed and operational. What will be the impact of this on the Water Framework Directive and carbon storage compared to straight restoration of the habitat, such as forestry removal and drain blocking? Taking into account that the peatland, once restored, would last for 1000s of years (sequestering carbon and providing refugia for biodiversity) and that off-shore windfarms are being planned, is it appropriate to fragment and destroy one of the rarest habitats in Europe even more than it is at present?

There are concerns, due to the results of a study done by BirdWatch Ireland relating to the sensitivity of certain species to windfarm developments, that disturbance from turbines may displace and dissuade species such as the Red Grouse and the Barn Owl from inhabiting this site. This would negate the point of providing areas of conservation in the first place. As the amount of blanket bog in County Cork has been reduced to 13% of the original resource of blanket bog, a globally unique habitat, and as the amount of wetlands in Europe have been lost to less than 10% (BOGLAND, EPA, 2011), it is imperative that they are protected from development or Ireland will not recover from the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. The carbon cost of this project needs to also be accounted for, and this has to also include the other habitat degrading activities such as forestry, peat extraction and fragmentation (roads/cabling etc, already present and proposed as part of this project) over the lifespan of the project. Any future plans to upgrade the turbines also needs to be a feature of this proposal, along with the proposed impacts.

Thank you for reading through our concerns.

Thank you for giving IPCC the opportunity to comment on this project.

Emily Mangan

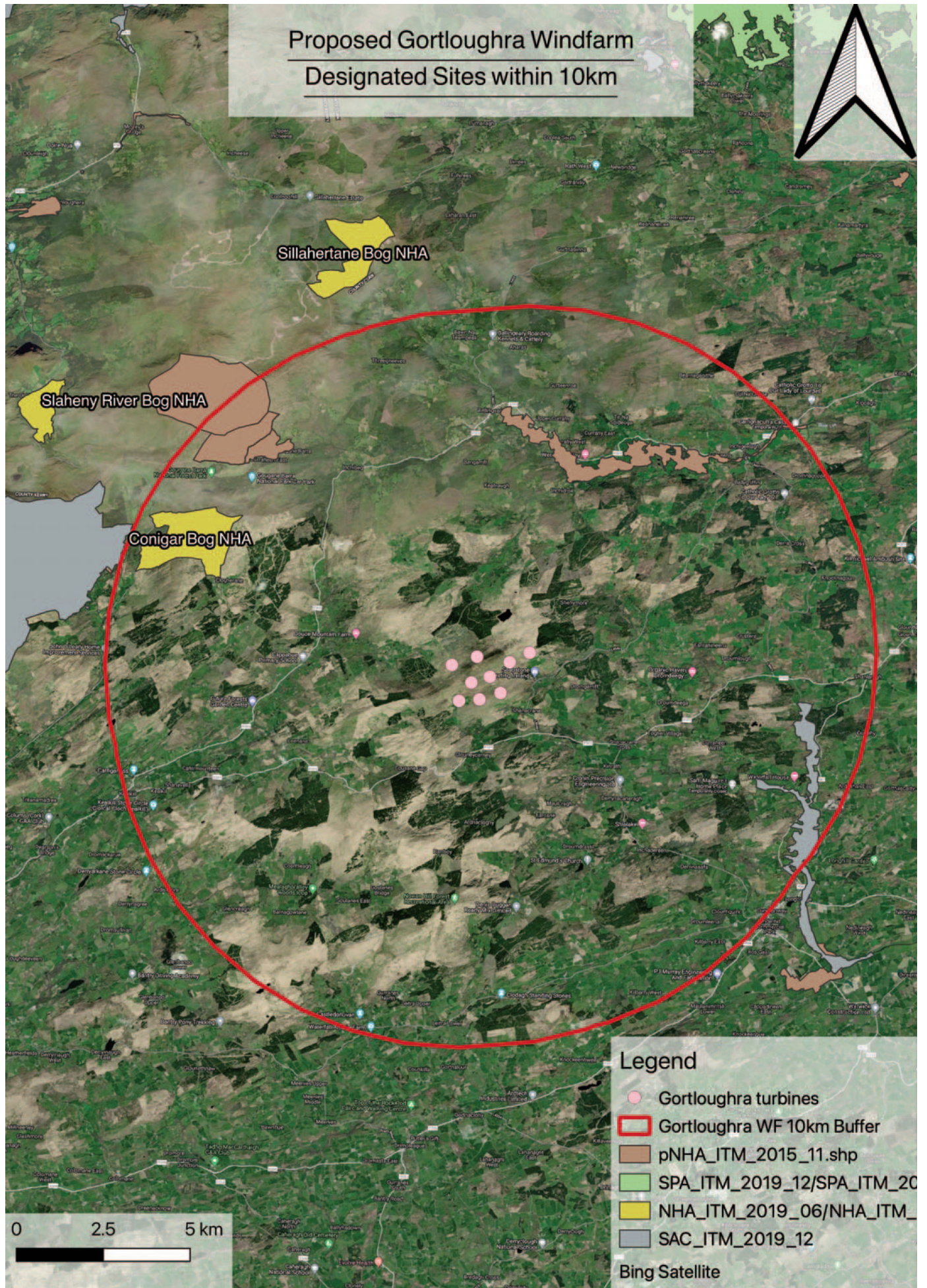
Emily Mangan B.Sc (hons) Zoology
Campaign Officer - IPCC

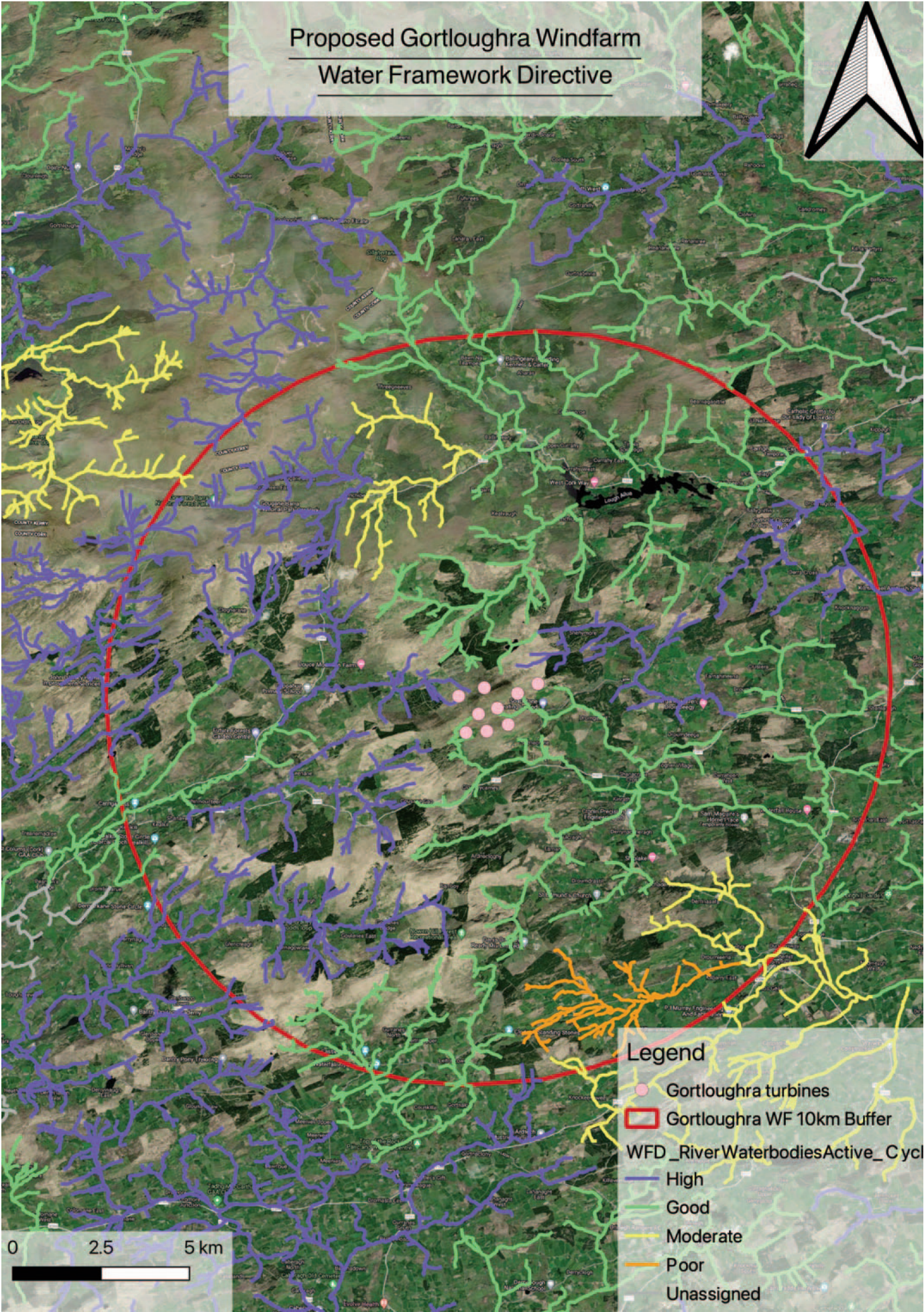
Peatlands and Climate Change Action Plan 2030, O'Connell, C.A., Madigan, N., Whyte, T. & Farrell, P., 2021, Irish Peatland Conservation Council.

EPA STRIVE Programme 2007–2013 - BOGLAND: Sustainable Management of Peatlands in Ireland, Florence Renou-Wilson, Tom Bolger, Craig Bullock, Frank Convery, Jim Curry, Shane Ward, David Wilson and Christoph Muller, Environmental Protection Agency & University College Dublin, 2011.

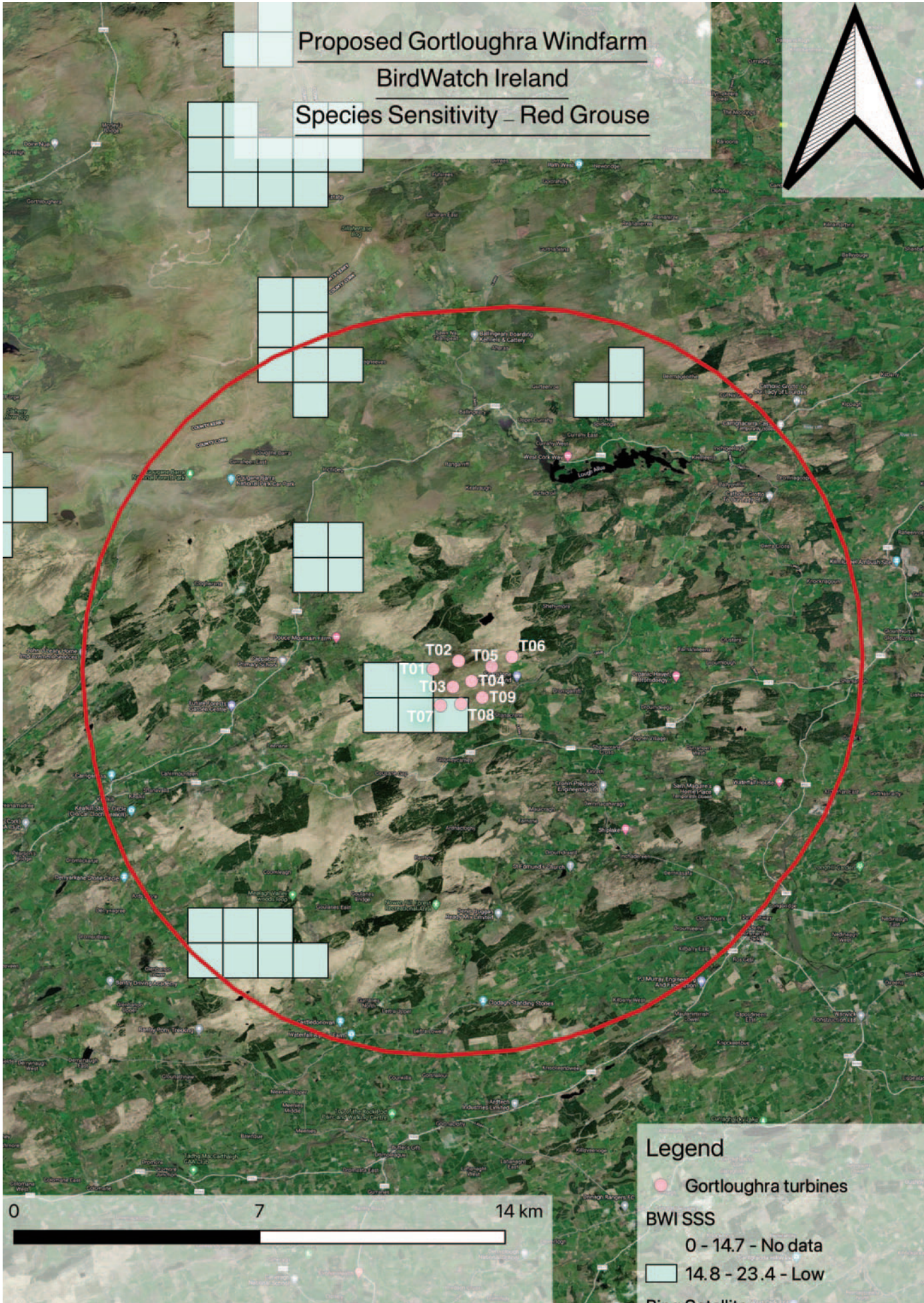
Ireland's Peatland Conservation Action Plan 2020, Sarah Malone B.A. Heritage Studies, Dr Catherine O'Connell, The Irish Peatland Conservation Council, 2009.

Map1

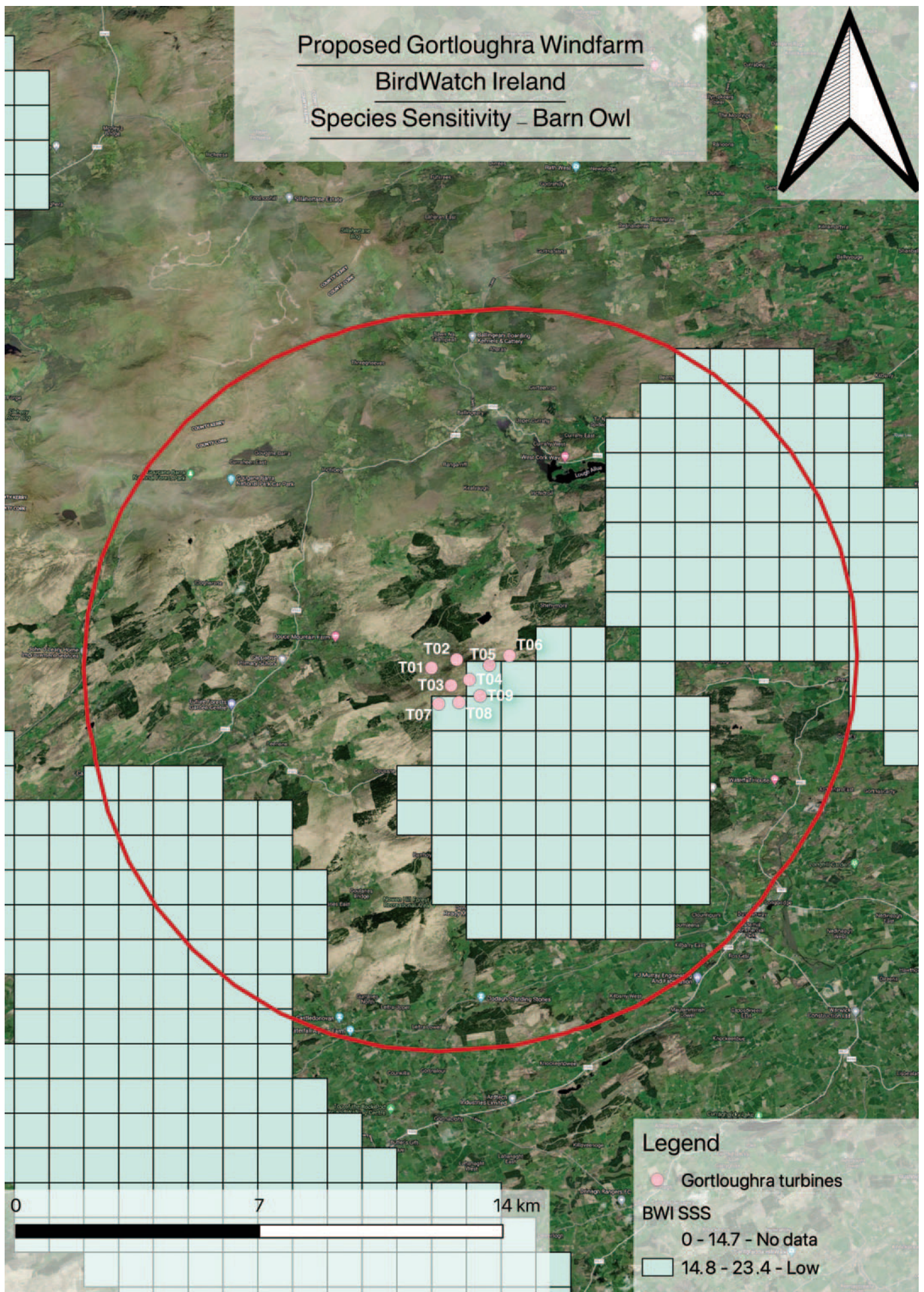




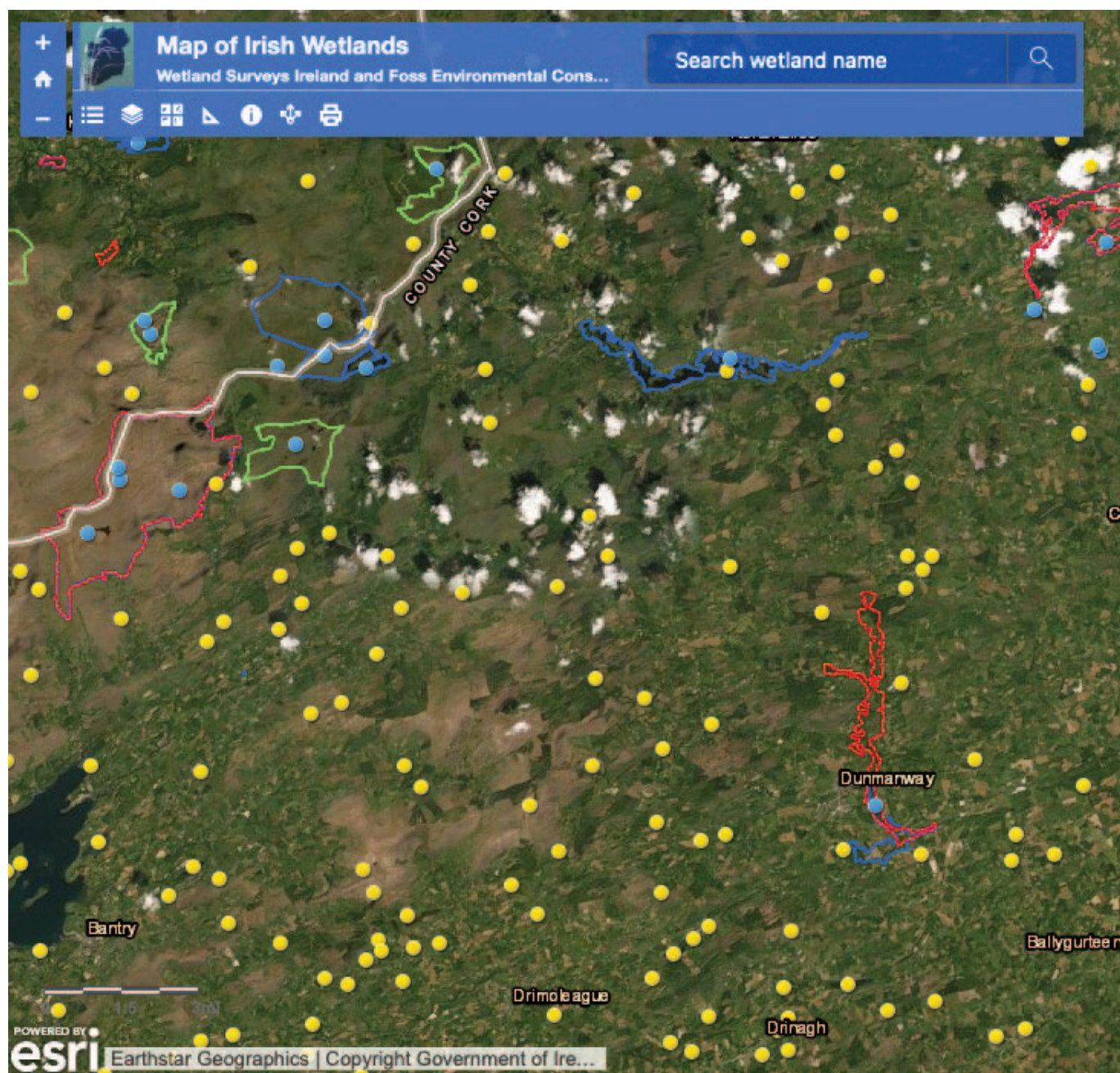
Map3



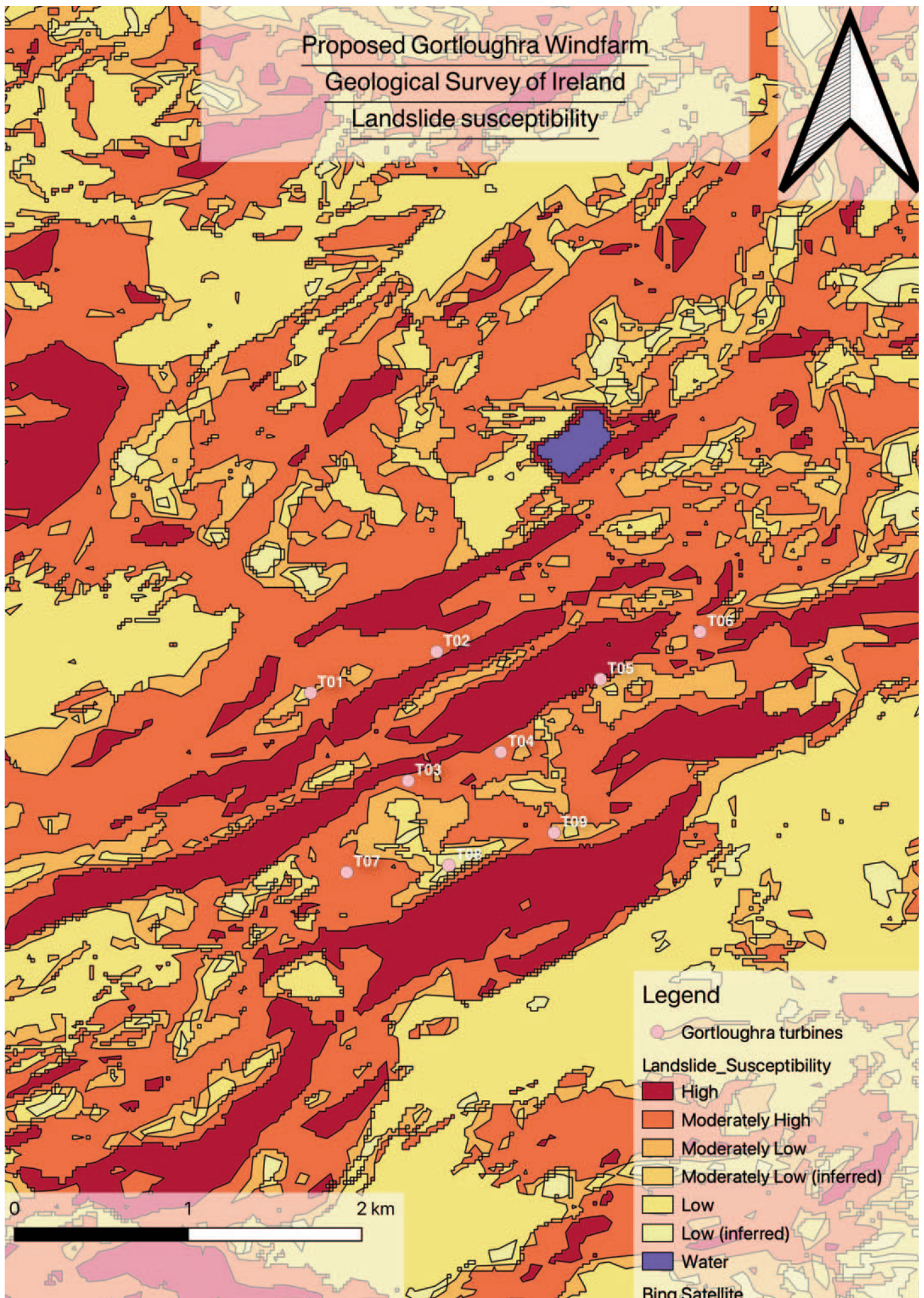
Map4



Map5



Map6



Sarah Gallagher

From: Planning <Planning@water.ie> on behalf of Planning
Sent: Thursday 22 June 2023 11:53
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Cc: Barry Kelly (C)
Subject: EIAR Scoping response - Gortloughra
Attachments: EIAR ScopingResponse - Gortloughra.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for Gortloughra Wind Farm development located in Dunmanway, Co. Cork..

Please find attached Uisce Éireann's observations.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Martha Gilligan
Planning Application Specialist

Uisce Éireann
Teach Colvill, 24–26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86, Éire
Uisce Éireann
Colvill House, 24–26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86, Ireland

Text to Voice/Voice to text 1800 378 378

planning@water.ie
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Is don duine amháin nó don eintiteas amháin ainmnithe ar an seoladh an fhaisnéis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh na tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid den fhaisnéis. Tá toirmeasc ar aon daoine nó aon eititis; nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis- aon athbhreithniú a dhéanamh, aon atarchur a dhéanamh nó aon athdháileadh a dhéanamh, nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as an bhfaisnéis, nó aon ghníomh a bhraithfeadh ar an bhfaisnéis seo a dhéanamh agus d'fhéadfaí an dlí a shárú dá ndéanfaí sin. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas as aon ghníomh agus as aon iarmhairt bunaithe ar úsáid neamhúdraithe na faisnéise seo. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo agus séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann leis an bhfaisnéis a fháil. Má tá an ríomh-phost seo faighte agat trí dhearmad, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir más é do thoil é agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. D'fhéadfadh ríomhphost a bheith so-ghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasuithe neamhúdraithe. Séanann Uisce Éireann aon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin tar éis a sheolta. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfadh monatóireacht a bheith á dhéanamh ar theachtaireachtaí chuig Uisce Éireann agus ó Uisce Éireann d'fhonn ár ngnó a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag teacht le beartais agus le caighdeán

Uisce Éireann. Is cuideachta gníomhaíochta ainmnithe é Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, a bunaíodh de bhun fhorálacha na n-Achtanna um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2007-2022, a bhfuil a bpríomh-ionad gnó ag Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

For the attention of Sarah Gallagher

Jennings O'Donovan Consulting Engineers
Finisklin Business Park,
Sligo,
Ireland,
F91 RHH9

22nd June 2023

By Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com

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

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

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

Re: EIA Scoping Request – Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm development located in Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Sarah Gallagher,

Uisce Éireann has received notification of your Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request relating to the forthcoming planning application for a windfarm development in Gortloughra, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

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

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

PP *Alí Robinson*

Signed on behalf of Yvonne Harris

Connections and Developer Services

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 Irish Water 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 Irish Water 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.

Sarah Gallagher

From: Eoin Kelleher <eoin.kelleher@kerrycoco.ie> on behalf of Eoin Kelleher
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 12:27
To: aogrady@jodireland.com
Cc: sgallagher@jodireland.com; plan
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork - EAU Scoping Response
Attachments: 6460_503_041_Scoping Ltr Kerry Co Co.pdf; Figure 1.1 Site Location.pdf; Figure 1.2 Site Layout.pdf

Dear Andrew,

Further to your updated scoping request letter, please note that the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 is now the relevant County Development Plan for Kerry.

This is available for viewing, along with a map browser showing the landscape designations and listed views at <https://cdp.kerrycoco.ie/>

These should be taken into consideration as part of the proposal. In addition, please note that should the proposed site be of potential importance to White Tailed Eagle, the mitigation to prevent eagle mortality implemented on the Grousemount Wind Farm, Co Kerry may be of relevance.

Regards Eoin

*Eoin Kelleher E. Planner & Ecologist
Environmental Assessment Unit
Kerry County Council*

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 10:32
To: County Secretary <secretary@kerrycoco.ie>; plan <plan@kerrycoco.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office
Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie> on behalf of Matthew Craig
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 11:18
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady; windfarms@rte.ie; Johnny Evans
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

The new turbine locations make no difference to our earlier assessment, we have no fixed linking nearby but would request that a protocol be signed should the site go ahead.

Regards

Matthew Craig

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

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 9:59 AM
To: windfarms@rte.ie; Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE> on behalf of Thomas Barry
Sent: Tuesday 20 June 2023 13:55
To: Sarah Gallagher; Info
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Sarah,

We anticipate no impact from the development as proposed. Can you ensure it is also reviewed by eir.

Regards,
Tom

From: Sarah Gallagher [mailto:sgallagher@jodireland.com]
Sent: 09 June 2023 09:42
To: Info; Thomas Barry
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,
??

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

??

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

??

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



??

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9.?? [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)???????????? Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie> on behalf of Monika Biniaszewska
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 11:02
To: Sarah Gallagher; Alan Hutchinson; David Montgomery
Cc: Andrew O'Grady; Sean Kelly
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah/Andrew,

I've reviewed the new Turbine positions and they will have no impact on the Three Ireland Microwave Transmission network.

Thanks
Monika

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Alan Hutchinson <alan.hutchinson@three.ie>; Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>; David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

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We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Andrew O'Grady

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie> on behalf of INFO
Sent: Friday 23 June 2023 09:33
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Subject: TII Ref: TII23-123277 - EIAR Scoping - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork.

Dear Ms Gallagher,

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 June 2023 regarding the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the 'National Planning Framework' includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network. It is also an investment priority of the 'National Development Plan', to ensure that the extensive transport networks which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity to transport users. This requirement is further reflected in the recent publication of the 'Draft 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:

- It appears that the proposed windfarm site accesses the local and regional road network prior to access to the national road network. Access to the road network shall be developed in accordance with official policy and road safety considerations, as outlined above. Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly 'DMRB' and the 'Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works').

- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006).
- The EIAR/EIS should consider the 'Environmental Noise Regulations 2006' (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes' (1st Rev., NRA, 2004)).
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed, as TII will not be responsible for such costs.
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and 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.

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 such as delivery timetabling, etc. and 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 'length' 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.

Designers should consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required for any of the temporary works proposed. Any recommendations should be incorporated into designs.

- 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 roads 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 recent publication of the Draft 'National Investment Framework for Transport in

Ireland' and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

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

The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy. Therefore, TII advises that grid connection cable routing should seek to utilise the extensive existing local road network, or alternatives, as opposed to the strategic national road network, contrary to the provisions of official policy.

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 practise.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Moore

Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>

Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 10:08

To: INFO <Information@tii.ie>

Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aograd@jodireland.com>

Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Civils <Civils@virginmedia.ie> on behalf of Civils
Sent: Tuesday 13 June 2023 08:58
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Sarah

I refer to your query of 9th June about the above location. Virgin Media does not have any record of underground services at this location as indicated by your drawing.

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Regards,

Paul Driver | *Plant Protection Officer*
Construction Office
Virgin Media | Unit 7, Westgate Business Park, Ballymount, Dublin 24.
T: +353 (01) 2458586 | M: +353 (0)87 6287133
E: civils@virginmedia.ie | paul.driver@virginmedia.ie



From: Paul Driver <Paul.Driver@virginmedia.ie>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Civils <Civils@virginmedia.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Sinead - FYI Below

----- Original message -----

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Date: 09/06/2023 10:12 (GMT+00:00)
To: VMTV info <VMTVinfo@virginmedia.ie>, Paul Driver <Paul.Driver@virginmedia.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Sarah Gallagher



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Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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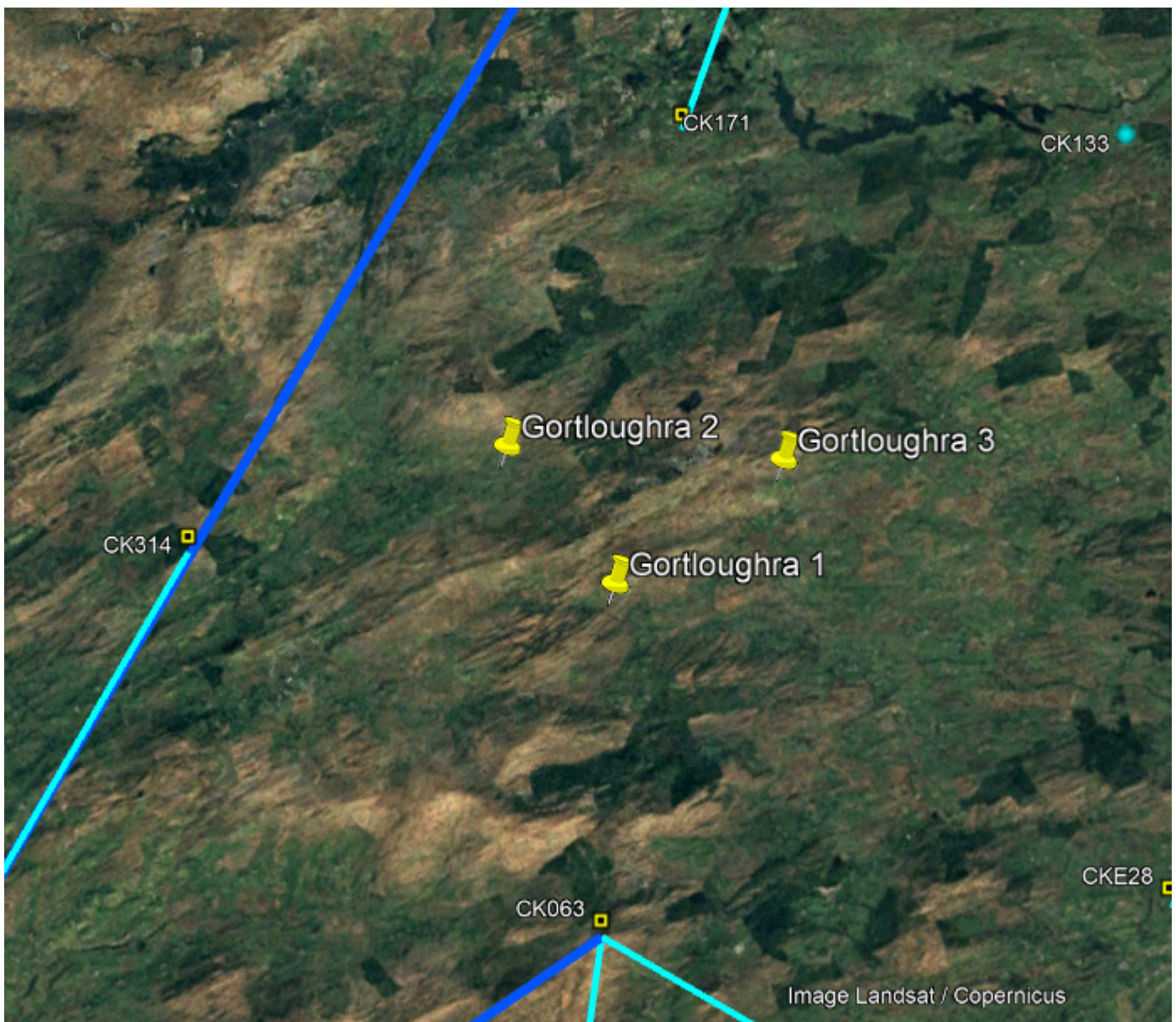
Sarah Gallagher

From: Robert Power, Vodafone (External) <robert.power1@vodafone.com> on behalf of Robert Power, Vodafone (External)
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 11:40
To: Sarah Gallagher; Andrew O'Grady
Cc: Sean Lyons, Vodafone (External)
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah and Andrew,

Vodafone does not have any transmission in the area. See below. I've just dropped pins to give a rough out line of the site boundary and I couldn't find any co-ordinates in the file you provided.

Kind Regards,
Robert



From: Sean Lyons, Vodafone (External) <sean.lyons@vodafone.com>
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 10:33
To: Robert Power, Vodafone (External) <robert.power1@vodafone.com>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Rob,

Can you please have a look at this proposed development?

Please send your findings to:
Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>

Thanks,

Seán Lyons

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



[Vodafone.ie](https://www.vodafone.ie)

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 10:29
To: Sean Lyons, Vodafone (External) <sean.lyons@vodafone.com>; Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>; fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached Scoping Letter with Maps in relation to the above mentioned project for your consideration.

We would be grateful if you could revert with any comments you may have on the proposed development at your earliest convenience.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com

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2024 RESPONSES GRID UPDATE

Sarah Gallagher

From: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie> on behalf of Matthew Craig
Sent: Friday 5 April 2024 11:06
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: windfarms; Johnny Evans; Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

If the turbine locations, particularly T6 have not changed, we have no objections to the proposed site. We would only ask that a protocol be signed between the developer and 2RN should the site go ahead.

Regards

Matthew Craig

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

From: windfarms <windfarms@rte.ie>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:04 AM
To: Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@rte.ie>; Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:05:45 AM (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London
To: windfarms <windfarms@rte.ie>; Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,
We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.
Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie> on behalf of Roger Woods
Sent: Monday 8 April 2024 10:47
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah

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

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer

*My email address has now changed to rwoods@cnam.ie, please update your address book accordingly.
Tá mo sheoladh ríomhphoist athraithe anois go rwoods@cnam.ie, dá réir sin déan do leabhar seoltaí a uasdátú, le do thoil.*

Coimisiún na Meán | 1 Áras Shíol Bhroinn, Bóthar Shíol Bhroinn, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 NP20, Éire
Coimisiún na Meán | 1 Shelbourne Buildings, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4, Dublin D02 XP29, Ireland
T: + 353 (0)1 644 1200 | rwoods@cnam.ie



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

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 9:37 AM
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware we issued you an updated scoping letter on 3rd April. However, the letter contained an incorrect date. The letter has now been updated, so please refer to the attached in place of the letter issued on 3rd April.

Thanks and Kind Regards,"

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Defence Property Management Planning
<PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie> on behalf of Defence Property Management Planning
Sent: Wednesday 17 April 2024 09:59
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Cc: Don Watchorn (Defence); Sarah Kelly (Defence)
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: Observation Letter for Gortloughra Windfarm.pdf

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

Re: EIAR for the proposed Gortloughra Windfarm, Co. Cork

With reference to your e-mail below and to Mr. O'Grady's letter dated 03 April 2024, please see attached response from the Department.

Kind Regards,
Gillian

Gillian Holden

Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta

Department of Defence

Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

T+353 (045) 45 2043

M +353 87 1660640

E-mail: gillian.holden@defence.ie

www.defence.ie

Follow us on Twitter: [Department of Defence](#) | [Civil Defence](#) | [Office of Emergency Planning](#)

From: Defence Property Management Planning
Sent: Monday 8 April 2024 14:26
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com' <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Cc: Don Watchorn (Defence) <Don.Watchorn@defence.ie>; Sarah Kelly (Defence) <Sarah.Kelly@defence.ie>
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

The Department of Defence wishes to acknowledge receipt of your email below re: the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

The Department is currently consulting with the Defence Forces subject matter experts and we will revert in due course.

Kind Regards,
Gillian

Gillian Holden

Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta

Department of Defence

Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

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M +353 87 1660640

E-mail:gillian.holden@defence.ie

www.defence.ie

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From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>

Sent: Wednesday 3 April 2024 15:40

To: Defence Info <info@defence.ie>

Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>

Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request

on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Mr. Andrew O'Grady
Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd.
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9

17 April 2024

Re: Update on Request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Mr. O'Grady,

I refer to your letter, dated 03 April 2024, in relation to an update on request for Scoping Opinion on information to be included in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

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

As a matter of practice, the Department of Defence does not provide observations or advice in the scoping process, except where the relevant parties have been directed by a planning authority to seek the Department's views.

Based on the information supplied and following consultations with the subject matter in the Irish Air Corps, the Department of Defence wishes to make the following observations:

- All turbines should be illuminated by Type C, Medium intensity, Fixed Red obstacle lighting with a minimum output of 2,000 candela to be visible in all directions of azimuth and to be operational H24/7 days a week. Obstacle lighting should be incandescent or, if LED or other types are used, of a type visible to Night Vision equipment. Obstacle lighting used must emit light at the near Infra-



Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum, specifically at or near 850 nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.

Any Irish Air Corps (IAC) requirements for are separate to Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) require

We would appreciate if you could keep us informed on any progress relating to this proposed development.

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

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Sent via e-mail

Gillian Holden
Property Management Branch
Department of Defence
Station Road
Newbridge
Co. Kildare W12 AD93

Sarah Gallagher

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie> on behalf of Transport GCU
Sent: Wednesday 17 April 2024 14:36
To: Sarah Gallagher
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: 20240417 DoT response.docx

Good afternoon Sarah,

Please find attached for your attention observations on behalf of Department of Transport in relation to Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork.

Kind regards
Jacqui

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

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 11:42 AM
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware we issued you an updated scoping letter on 3rd April. However, the letter contained an incorrect date. The letter has now been updated, so please refer to the attached in place of the letter issued on 3rd April.

Thanks and Kind Regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91 RHH9

17th April 2024

Re: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

The Department of Transport makes the following comments on the consultation request relating to the Scoping Report for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm in Co. Cork.

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 will likely 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 ground conditions and not be based on a sample of the general soil 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,
- 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,
- Elimination of jointing bays from beneath the road pavement to protect the integrity of the road structure for the safety of those driving on the public road by eliminating hard spots and also preserve the road width for other utilities,
- Prevention of the attachment of cables to all bridge structures and culverts by diverting them beneath or away from these structures 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 include as constructed surveys of all infrastructure altered, added, removed or relocated and exact detail of the road construction including any drains or other features encountered. The record should be lodged with the local authority and with the ESB Networks for retention on their records.

4. A condition to require the elimination of jointing bays from under the road pavement to protect the integrity of the road structure, thereby improving safety for those driving on the public road by eliminating hard spots and preserving the road width for other utilities.
5. 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.
6. A condition requiring the replacement of culverts that have been excavated during the cable duct placement operation. The replacement culverts should be designed appropriately and include an allowance for the effects of climate change.
7. 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.

Central Policy, Coordination and Reform

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

Lána Liosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T +353 (0)1 604 1177

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

Sarah Gallagher

From: John Bagnall <john.bagnall@eir.ie> on behalf of John Bagnall
Sent: Monday 15 April 2024 09:59
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com; Andrew O'Grady
Subject: Re: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

We have no issue with these changes on the EirMobile and Eir fixed network.

Kind regards,



John Bagnall

Wireless Transmission Engineer

M: +353 85 1053746

E: john.bagnall@eir.ie

Address: EirCode - D08 Y42N

On Thu, 4 Apr 2024 at 14:35, John Bagnall <john.bagnall@eir.ie> wrote:

Hi,

I am out of the office till 12th April, contact lorna.brennan@eir.ie for Tetra queries and paul.marron@eir.ie for other all other queries or I will respond on return.

--

Kind regards,

John Bagnall

Wireless Transmission Engineer

M: +353 85 1053746

E: john.bagnall@eir.ie

Address: EirCode - D08 Y42N

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Sarah Gallagher

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie> on behalf of planning applications
Sent: Friday 12 April 2024 09:21
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines 2023.pdf

Hello Sarah,

Thank you for your email & update. We have no further comments to make at this stage of the project but please refer to the attached Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines 2023.

Regards,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

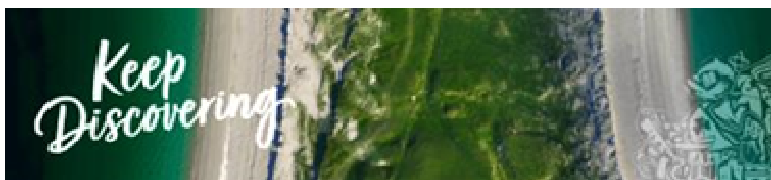
Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86

M +353 (0)86 0357590



[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#)



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Reception <reception@failteireland.ie>; planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request

on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.
Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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ElAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



July 2023

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1. Introduction

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

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

This guidance document has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative and guidance requirements.

2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€9.5 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.8 billion** in 2019, which helps fund other key public services.

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

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority established by the Irish Government in May 2003. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

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

Legislation

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

Statutory Guidance

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in May 2022. The Guidelines are a statutory document to be regarded by those preparing EIARs and the decision makers considering the EIARs.

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

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

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

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

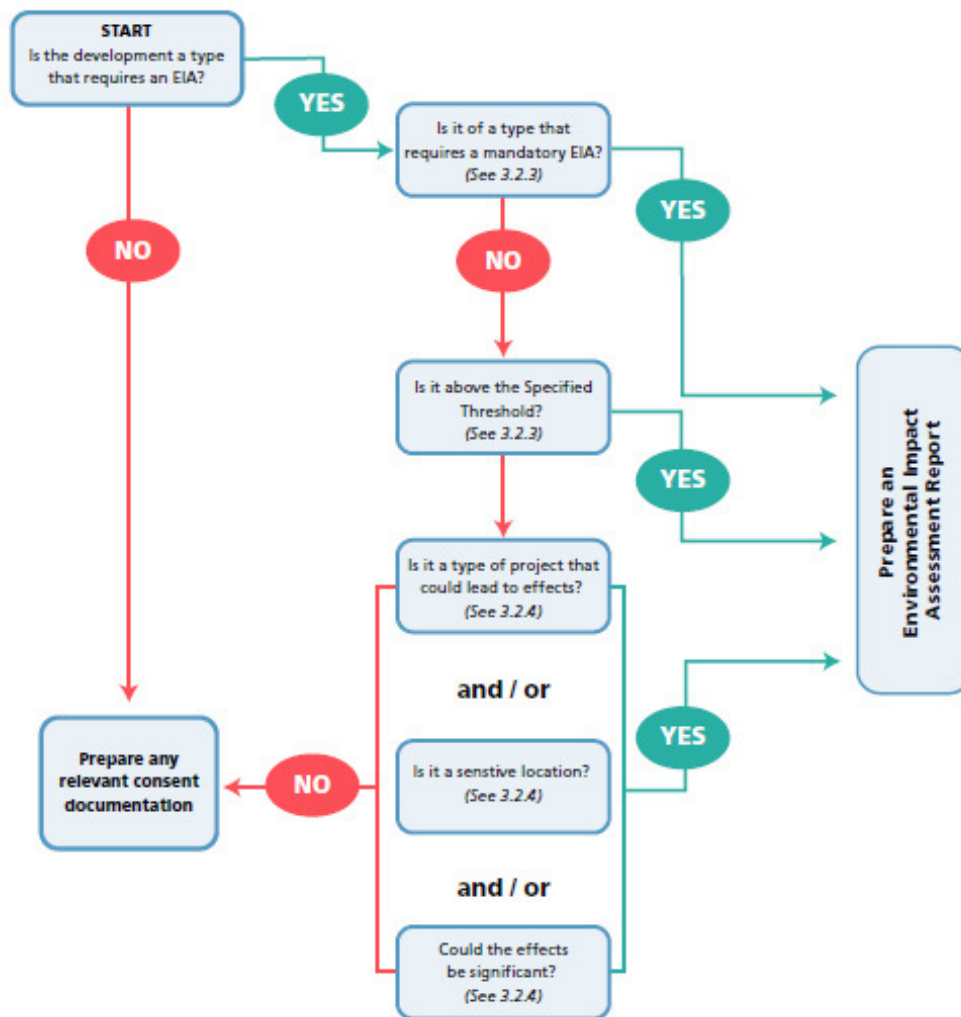
The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to the EPA EIAR Guidelines. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breadth and scope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

Screening

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

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which does not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

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

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

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

EIAR Scoping

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

4. Assessing Tourism

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

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

Projects which involve a tourism element

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

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

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

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

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2019 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

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

- Pace of Life

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

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

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

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

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

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

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

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

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

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

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

7. EIAR Requirements

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

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;
- baseline assessment;
- assessment of effects;
- cumulative impact;
- interaction of impacts;
- mitigation & monitoring; and
- residual impacts

Project Description

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

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

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

Assessment of Alternatives

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

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

Baseline Assessment

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

For example, in a tourism context;

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

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

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance should be included. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should also be provided.

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

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

Impact Assessment

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

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism under the 'Population and Human Health' and / or 'Landscape' topics as suggested below.

Population and Human Health

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

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section. The EPA guidelines makes reference to amenity “..which may be relevant under ‘Population and Human Health’ and ‘Landscape’”.

Biodiversity

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are ‘unspoiled’ can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impacts.

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

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

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

Land, Soils and Geology

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

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

Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

Water

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

Air Quality and Climate

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

Noise and Vibration

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

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

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

avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

Cultural Heritage

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

Archaeology

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

Material Assets; Waste Management

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

Material Assets

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

Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

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

Interaction of Impacts

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

Cumulative Impact

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

Transboundary Impact

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

Mitigation & Monitoring

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

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

Reduce the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Residual Impacts

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

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

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

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

Discover Ireland:

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

Tourism Ireland

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

Local Authorities

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

Regional Assemblies

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

Central Statistics Office

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

Sarah Gallagher

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Coordination@agriculture.gov.ie> on behalf of Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)
Sent: Thursday 2 May 2024 09:38
To: 'sgallagher@jodireland.com'
Subject: FW: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork.pdf; 6460_503_017_Forest_Service_Scoping_Ltr.pdf

Good morning,

Please see observations attached from our Felling Division.

Regards

Environmental Co-ordination Unit

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 2:57 PM
To: Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

??

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher

??



??

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9.?? [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)???????????? Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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

Jennings O'Donovan
Finisklin Business Park
Sligo
F91RHH9

1st May 2024

Re: Scoping Request for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm near Dunmanway, Co Cork.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie or Web gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may

make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Felling Licence Applications (www.gov.ie))

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Felling Licence Decisions (www.gov.ie))

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
 - b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
 - c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;
- and
2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
 3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

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

Sarah Gallagher

From: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie> on behalf of DECC GSI Planning
Sent: Tuesday 16 April 2024 13:42
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com; aogrady@jodireland.com
Cc: DECC GSI Planning; DECC Planning Advisory
Subject: RE: EIS 24/120 - Updated Scoping Request for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork

Dear Sarah, Andrew,

With reference to your email on April 4, 2024, regarding the Updated Scoping Request for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork, please note that Geological Survey Ireland have no comments or observations to make since our previous response 21/481.

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen



Trish Smullen Geoheritage & Planning.

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

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

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

From: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Patricia Smullen (DECC) <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>
Cc: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; DECC Planning Advisory <PlanningAdvisory@decc.gov.ie>
Subject: EIS 24/120 - Updated Scoping Request for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork

EIS 24/120

Updated Scoping Request for Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork. Request for observations by Jennings O'Donovan. Letter and scoping documents are enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 3:01 PM
To: Duty.Geologist@gsi.ie; DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; Siobhan Power (DECC) <Siobhan.Power@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Christophe O'BRIEN <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie> on behalf of Christophe O'BRIEN
Sent: Friday 5 April 2024 09:40
To: 'Sarah Gallagher'
Cc: Andrew O'Grady; John HUGHES; Planning
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Good morning Sarah,

Thank you for your email. The Authority has no observations on the proposed amendments or specific requirements for integration into the EIAR.

Based on the preliminary information provided, should a formal planning application be submitted, the Irish Aviation Authority will likely offer the following general observations:

"In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind turbine development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection."

For future correspondence related to planning matters, please email: planning@iaa.ie directly.

Best Regards,

Christophe

Christophe O'Brien

Aerodromes Inspector

M: +353 (0) 86 33 22022 |

E: obrienc@iaa.ie | www.iaa.ie

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



From: John HUGHES <John.HUGHES@IAA.ie>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 9:25 AM
To: 'Sarah Gallagher' <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>; Christophe O'BRIEN <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>; Planning <planning@iaa.ie>
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Dear Sarah,

I acknowledge receipt of your email and attachments.

We will review the documentation and revert with any comments, if necessary.

Please also note that Paul Mullins is no longer an employee of the Authority, so his email address can be removed from any future correspondence.

Best regards

John

John Hughes

Manager Aerodromes Division

M: +353 (87) 797 2944 | T: (01) 603 1560

E: john.hughes@iaa.ie | www.iaa.ie

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



From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 9:10 AM

To: John HUGHES <John.HUGHES@IAA.ie>; Paul.MULLINS@iaa.ie; Christophe O'BRIEN <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>; Planning <planning@iaa.ie>

Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>

Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Edel Fitzgerald <efitzger@kerrycoco.ie> on behalf of Edel Fitzgerald
Sent: Monday 15 April 2024 17:13
To: sgallagher@jodireland.com
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

A Chara,

We acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th April 2024 regarding Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co Cork.

A Scoping Opinion was previously given in relation to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm, Dunmanway, Co Cork.

The contents of the letter are noted and Kerry County Council have nothing further to add in relation to the proposed changes to this development at this time.

Mise Le Meas

Edel Fitzgerald

Office of Director | Oifig Stiúrthoir Serbhisí

Planning, Environment & Emergency Management | Pleanáil, Comhshaol & Bainistíocht Éigeandála

Kerry County Council | Comhairle Contae Chiarraí

Tel: 066-7183492 **Extn:** 3492 **email:** efitzger@kerrycoco.ie

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 11:45 AM
To: County Secretary <secretary@kerrycoco.ie>; plan <plan@kerrycoco.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.
Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
& PARTNERS LIMITED
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)

Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com

Web: www.jodireland.com

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Tom Barry <tom.barry@motorolasolutions.com> on behalf of Tom Barry
Sent: Monday 17 June 2024 07:31
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Sarah,

We anticipate no impact from the development as proposed.

Regards,
Tom

On Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 9:37 AM Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com> wrote:

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

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If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



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Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9.?? [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416)???????????? Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com

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Sarah Gallagher

From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie> on behalf of Monika Biniaszewska
Sent: Friday 12 April 2024 13:45
To: Sarah Gallagher; Alan Hutchinson; David Montgomery
Cc: Andrew O'Grady
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Hi Sarah,

no additional comments on the proposed development.

Thanks
Monika

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Alan Hutchinson <alan.hutchinson@three.ie>; Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>; David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.
Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

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Sarah Gallagher

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie> on behalf of INFO
Sent: Wednesday 10 April 2024 08:57
To: Sarah Gallagher
Subject: TII Ref: TII23-123277 - EIAR Scoping - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork
Attachments: TII Ref: TII23-123277 - EIAR Scoping - Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork. (124 KB)

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

Thank you for your further correspondence of 5 April 2024 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII has examined the material included with your correspondence and advises that TII's observations of the 23 June 2023 remain. A copy of this correspondence is attached for your reference.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Moore
Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:19 AM
To: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Cc: Andrew O'Grady <aogrady@jodireland.com>
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)



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Sarah Gallagher

From: Planning <Planning@water.ie> on behalf of Planning
Sent: Friday 10 May 2024 12:38
To: Sarah Gallagher; Planning
Cc: aogrady@jodireland.com; Barry Kelly(C)
Subject: RE: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork EMAIL:0534008
Attachments: UÉ_EIAR_ScopingResponse_Gortloughra_24.pdf

Dear Sarah,

Please find attached, Uisce Éireann's EIAR Scoping Response for the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project in Co. Cork.

Kind regards,

Barry Kelly
Development Management Planning

Uisce Éireann
Aonad 6, Páirc Ghnó N5, An Móinín, Caisleán an Bharraigh, Contae Mhaigheo
Uisce Éireann
Unit 6, N5 Business Park, Moneen, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland

M +353 86 142 8943
barry.kelly@water.ie
www.water.ie
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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

From: Sarah Gallagher <sgallagher@jodireland.com>;
Received: Fri Apr 05 2024 09:22:55 GMT+0100 (Irish Standard Time)
To: Kieran O'Regan <koregan@water.ie>; Planning <planning@water.ie>; Connection Refunds <operations@water.ie>;
Cc: aogrady@jodireland.com;
Subject: Gortloughra Wind Farm, Co. Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We issued a scoping request to you on 20th December 2021 concerning the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm project. In the intervening period since that initial scoping request, the proposed development has undergone environmental assessments and layout design changes. As a result, we issued an updated Scoping Request on 8th June 2023 informing you of these changes. Since that time additional changes have occurred, in particular a second grid connection option is being considered to Carrigdangan 110kV Substation.

If you have any additional comments to make on the project please let us know.

Thanks and Kind regards,

Sarah Gallagher



JENNINGS O'DONOVAN
— & PARTNERS —
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Head Office

Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9. [MAP](#)

Tel: [+353719161416](tel:+353719161416) Email: sgallagher@jodireland.com Web: www.jodireland.com



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Is don duine amháin nó don eintiteas amháin ainmnithe ar an seoladh an fhaisnéis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh na tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid den fhaisnéis. Tá toirmeasc ar aon daoine nó aon eititis; nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis- aon athbheithniú a dhéanamh, aon atarchur a dhéanamh nó aon athdháileadh a dhéanamh, nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as an bhfaisnéis, nó aon ghníomh a bhraithfeadh ar an bhfaisnéis seo a dhéanamh agus d'fhéadfaí an dlí a shárú dá ndéanfaí sin. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas as aon ghníomh agus as aon iarmhairt bunaithe ar úsáid neamhúdraithe na faisnéise seo. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo agus séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann leis an bhfaisnéis a fháil. Má tá an ríomh-phost seo faighte agat trí dhearmad, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir más é do thoil é agus scrios an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. D'fhéadfadh ríomhphost a bheith so-ghabhálach i leith truailithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasuithe neamhúdraithe. Séanann Uisce Éireann aon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin tar éis a sheolta. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfadh monatóireacht a bheith á dhéanamh ar theachtaireachtaí chuig Uisce Éireann agus ó Uisce Éireann d'fhonn ár ngnó a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag teacht le beartais agus le caighdeáin

Uisce Éireann. Is cuideachta gníomhaíochta ainmnithe é Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, a bunaíodh de bhun fhorálacha na n-Achtanna um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2007-2022, a bhfuil a bpríomh-ionad gnó ag Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

For the attention of Andrew O'Grady

Jennings O'Donovan Consulting Engineers
Finisklin Business Park,
Sligo,
Ireland,
F91 RHH9

10th May 2024

By Email: aogrady@jodireland.com

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

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

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

Re: EIA Scoping Request – Proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm development located in Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Dear Andrew O'Grady,

Uisce Éireann has received notification of your updated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request relating to the forthcoming planning application for a windfarm development in Gortloughra, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

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

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

PP *Alí Robinson*

Signed on behalf of Yvonne Harris

Connections and Developer Services

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 Irish Water 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 Irish Water 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.