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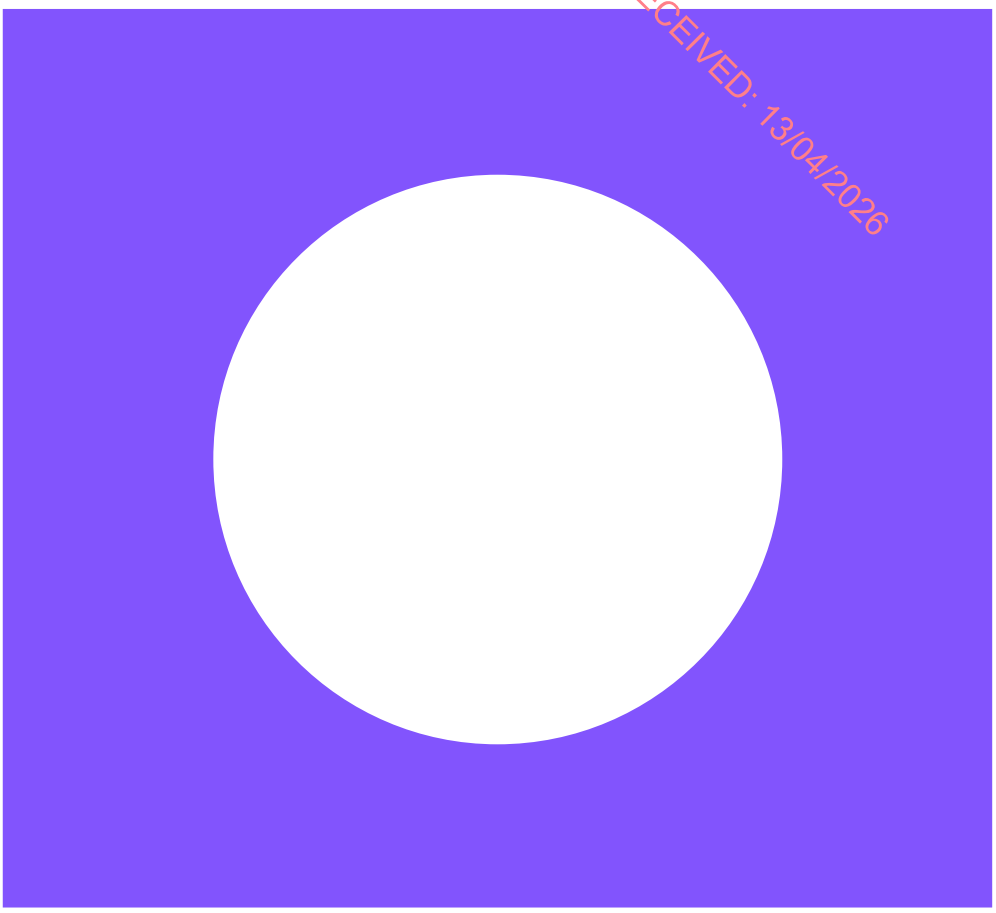

Shelburne Energy Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Chapter 3 EIA Methodology

April 2026

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Contents

Tables

Figures

3 EIAR Methodology

3.1 Introduction

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (together, the "EIA Directive") defines EIA as a process consisting of:

1. The preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) by the developer;
2. The carrying out of consultations;
3. The examination by the competent authority of the EIAR, any supplementary information provided by the developer (where necessary) and relevant information received through consultations with the public, prescribed bodies and any affected Member States;
4. The reasoned conclusion of the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment; and
5. The integration of the competent authority's reasoned conclusion into any development consent decision.

This definition provides for a clear distinction between the process of EIA to be carried out by the competent authority and the preparation by the developer of an EIAR.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports Guidelines" (2022) describes the EIAR as follows:

"The EIAR consists of a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project on the receiving environment. …The EIAR should be prepared at a stage in the design process where changes can still be made to avoid adverse effects. This often results in the modification of the project to avoid or reduce effects through redesign".

This chapter sets out the approach to this EIAR. For each assessment, a precautionary approach has been applied whereby maximum design parameters based on realistic worst-case dimensions, orientations and components have been assessed. This approach ensures that the assessment will consider the greatest environmental impact (i.e. largest footprint, longest exposure, or highest dimensions depending on the topic). This approach is a resilient method where it may not be possible to identify the exact design parameters at this stage within the final design, thereby accommodating flexibility in design and construction whilst ensuring maximum extents and ranges are assessed in this EIAR.

The technical chapters of this EIAR provide further topic specific details of the methodologies applied in the preparation of this EIAR.

3.2 EIA Directive

The EIA Directive requires that the EIAR provides:

"A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the project as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge".

Article 3(1) states that the EIA shall:

"Identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the following factors:

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

Article 3(2) states the following is also assessed:

The effects referred to in paragraph 1 on the factors set out therein shall include the expected effects deriving from the vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the project concerned.

Article 5(1) states that an EIAR shall include at least:

a. "A description of the project comprising information of the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;
b. A description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;
c. A description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce, and if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
d. 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;
e. A non-technical summary of the information referred to in (a) to (d); and
f. Any additional information specified in annex iv relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected".

Annex IV requires;

"The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in Article 3(1) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short term, medium term and long term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project. The description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or member State level which are relevant to the project".

In addition, Annex IV requires:

"A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved".

3.3 EIA Screening

Screening is the term used to describe the process for determining whether a proposed development requires an EIA by reference to mandatory legislative threshold requirements or by reference to the type and scale of the proposed development and the significance or the environmental sensitivity of the receiving baseline environment.

Annex I to the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU requires as mandatory the preparation of an EIA for all projects listed therein. Projects listed in Annex II to the Directive are not automatically subjected to EIA. Member States can decide to subject them to an assessment on a case-by-case basis or according to thresholds and/or criteria (for example size), location (sensitive ecological areas in particular) and potential impact (surface affected, duration).

In Ireland, Schedule 5 (Part 1 and Part 2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, transposes Annex I and Annex II to EIA Directive 2014/52/EU.

The following review seeks to determine whether any part of the Proposed Project constitutes a prescribed class of development listed within Schedule 5, Part 1 or Part 2.

3.3.1 Schedule 5, Part 1

There is no part of the Proposed Project which can be categorised under any class listed in Schedule 5, Part 1.

3.3.2 Schedule 5, Part 2

The requirement for an EIAR to be prepared for the Proposed Project relates to the exceedance of the threshold related to the recontouring of rural land holdings under Schedule 5, Part 2, Paragraph 1(a) [Agriculture, Silviculture and Aquaculture], which is reproduced below:

> *1(a) "Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings, undertaken as part of a wider proposed development, and not as an agricultural activity that must comply with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011, where the length of field boundary to be removed is above 4 kilometres, or where re-contouring is above 5 hectares, or where the area of lands to be restructured by removal of field boundaries is above 50 hectares."*

The Proposed Project requires the creation of level platforms to facilitate the installation of equipment, plant and buildings, as such the cut and fill activities related to the BESS compound and the main temporary construction compound measures an area of 6.2 hectares. Additionally, the substation compound which will also be levelled and measures an area of 0.72 hectares.

The combined earthworks activities associated with the Proposed Project total 6.92 hectares, resulting in the exceedance of the 5 hectares threshold prescribed under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Schedule 5, Part 2, Paragraph 1(a) [Agriculture, Silviculture and Aquaculture].

The Proposed Project will also require the removal of hedgerows to provide safe access and egress from the site, and to facilitate cable laying activities. The total length of hedgerow removal is calculated to measure a linear length of ca. 665m, as such, this is significantly below the threshold of 4 kilometres under Schedule 5, Part 2, Paragraph 1(a).

Other potential EIA project classes of relevance to the Proposed Project include:

Paragraph 10(dd) [Infrastructure projects] "All private roads which exceed 2000 metres in length."

The Proposed Project provides internal access tracks to solar farm transformer units and to the substation and BESS compounds, which have a combined total length of 2850m. Notwithstanding, these access tracks cannot be deemed to characterised as roads under the meaning given in to road under Section 2 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended)[1], these access

[1] Section 2 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended), provides the following definition and interpretation of a "road" – it includes (a) any street, lane, footpath, square, court, alley or passage,

tracks are not considered to be a road for the purposes of this project class as they are not for the conveyance of people and vehicles per se, except as necessary in connection with the construction, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed solar farm development, BESS and substation compounds, and are materially different from a 'road' as defined under the Roads Act, 1993. In any event, the EIAR assesses the entirety of the Proposed Project as set out below.

In this respect, the Proposed Project is of a project type listed in Schedule 5, Part 2, Paragraph 1(a) and the relevant threshold has been exceeded thereby requiring it to be subject to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Whilst the relevant Schedule 5, Part 2, Paragraph 1(a) has triggered the requirement for EIA, out of an abundance of caution this EIAR is an assessment of the ***whole project*** and not of the rural restructuring in-combination with the wider elements of the project.

3.4 EIA Scoping

Scoping is the process of identifying the significant issues which should be addressed by a particular impact assessment as well as the means or methods of carrying out the assessment. Scoping of an EIAR is voluntary for a developer. A scoping exercise was not carried out prior to the development of this EIAR.

3.5 EIAR Methodology

3.5.1 Regulations and Guidelines

This EIAR has been prepared in line with the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, having regard to the following guidelines.

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022);
- Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018); and
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects, Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) (European Commission).

Further specific reference documents are cited within the technical chapters of this EIAR, as appropriate.

(b) any bridge, viaduct, underpass, subway, tunnel, overpass, overbridge, flyover, carriageway (whether single or multiple and whether or not designated for a particular class of vehicle), pavement or footway,

(c) any weighbridge or other facility for the weighing or inspection of vehicles, toll plaza or other facility for the collection of tolls, service area, emergency telephone, first aid post, culvert, arch, gulley, railing, fence, wall, barrier, guardrail, margin, verge, kerb, lay-by, hard shoulder, island, pedestrian refuge, median, central reserve, channelliser, roundabout, gantry, pole, ramp, bollard, pipe, wire, cable, sign, signal or lighting forming part of the road, and

(d) any other structure or thing forming part of the road—

(i) used, or the use of which is reasonably required, for the safety, convenience or amenity of road users or for the construction, maintenance, operation or management of the road or for the protection of the environment, or

(ii) prescribed by the Minister;

3.5.2 Receiving Environment

The baseline environment describes the current state of environmental characteristics, detailing the condition, sensitivity and significance of relevant environmental factors which are likely to be significantly affected by the proposals.

The EIA Directive also requires consideration of the likely future receiving environment in the absence of the project, refer to Section 3.5.9 *Do Nothing Effects* below.

"A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the project as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge".

3.5.3 Temporal and Spatial Scope

The duration of effects is described for each technical chapter of this EIAR.

Spatial (or geographical) scope refers to the area over which the EIAR considers effects. The environmental sensitivity of the surrounding geographical areas and the establishment of source-pathway-receptor linkages (i.e. the zones of influence) determine the extent of the area assessed as part of this EIAR. This is defined in each of the technical chapters of the EIAR.

3.5.4 Identification of Potential Receptors

A receptor is defined in the EPA 2022 Guidelines as *"any element in the environment which is subject to impacts".*

The environmental effect will depend on the spatial relationship between the source and the receptor with some receptors being more sensitive than others to particular environmental effects. Topic specific receptors have been identified in each technical chapter, as appropriate.

3.5.5 Identification of Likely Significant Impacts

Where appropriate and unless otherwise stated, the evaluation of impacts on the environment has been evaluated according to the criteria outlined in Table 3.1 *Description of Effects* and as referenced in the EPA 2022 Guidelines.

The EPA 2022 Guidelines suggest that EIAR should focus on the likely, significant effects. Likely or probable effects are defined as "*those which are planned to take place (e.g. the projected emissions, the proposed earthmoving etc.) and those which can be reasonably foreseen to be inevitable consequences of the normal construction and operation of the project*." Significance of effects is described as "*the importance of the outcome of the effects (the consequences of the change*). Significance is determined by a combination of (objective) scientific and subjective (social) concerns. The professional judgement of competent experts plays an important role in determining likely significant effects."

Table 3.1: Description of Effects (EPA Guidelines, 2022)

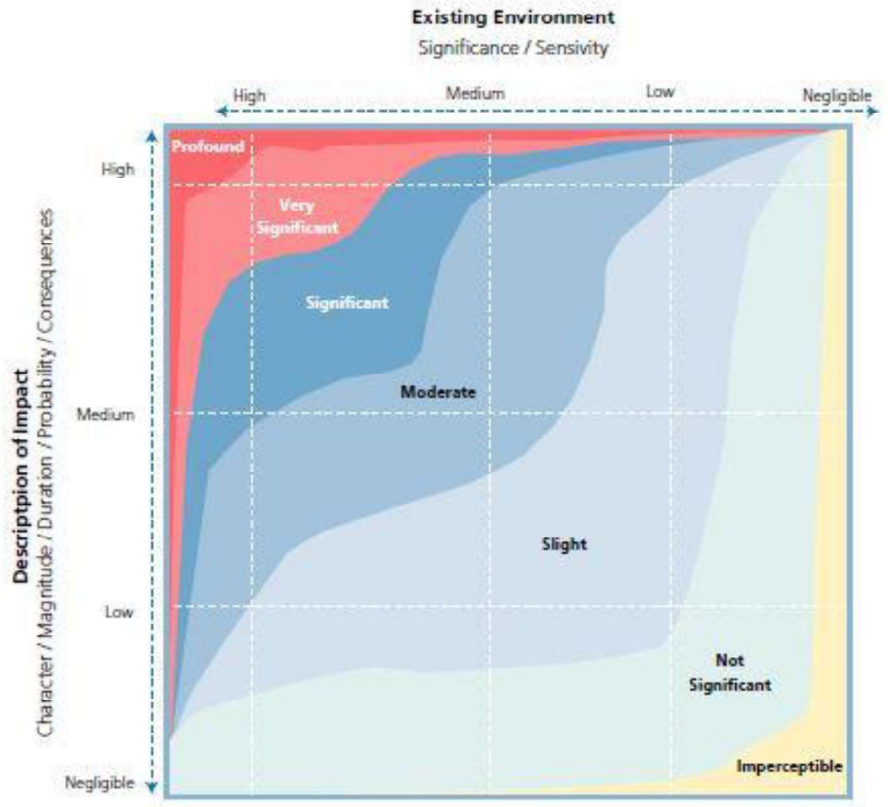
Category	Description of Effects
Quality of Effects It is important to inform the non-specialist reader whether an effect is positive, negative or neutral	**Positive Effects** A change which improves the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity; or the improving reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or by removing nuisances or improving amenities).
	Neutral Effects No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error

Category	Description of Effects
	Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment (for example, lessening species diversity or diminishing the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem; or damaging health or property or by causing nuisance).
Describing the Significance of Effects 'Significance' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful (also see Determining Significance below.).	**Imperceptible** An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
	Not significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences
	Slight Effects An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
	Moderate Effects An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
	Significant Effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very Significant An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound Effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing the Extent and Context of Effects Context can affect the perception of significance. It is important to establish if the effect is unique or, perhaps, commonly or increasingly experienced.	**Extent** Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
	Context Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
Describing the Probability of Effects Descriptions of effects should establish how likely it is that the predicted effects will occur – so that the CA can take a view of the balance of risk over advantage when making a decision.	**Likely Effects** The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely Effects The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects 'Duration' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful	**Momentary Effects** Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief Effects Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary Effects Effects lasting less than a year
	Short-term Effects Effects lasting one to seven years.
	Medium-term Effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years
	Long-term Effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years
	Permanent Effects

Category	Description of Effects
	Effects lasting over sixty years
	Reversible Effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration
	Frequency of Effects Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).
Describing the Types of Effects	**Indirect Effects (a.k.a. Secondary Effects)** Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway.
	Cumulative Effects The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	'Do Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
	`Worst case' Effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable Effects When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible Effects When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual Effects The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
	Synergistic Effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents, (e.g. combination of SOx and NOx to produce smog).

The significance of a potential impact is defined by the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the character of the predicted impact as shown in Figure 3.1. In some cases, magnitude or significance cannot be quantified with certainty, and in these cases professional judgement remains the most effective way to identify the significance of an impact. Where significant adverse effects are likely, mitigation to offset those impacts is required.

Figure 3.1: Impact Assessment Methodology



Source: EPA 2022 Guidelines

3.5.6 Mitigation and Monitoring

There are four established strategies for the mitigation of effects - avoidance, prevention, reduction and offsetting. The efficacy of each is related to the stage in the design process at which environmental considerations are taken into account. Mitigation measures that have been defined for each environmental topic are set out in the technical chapters comprising this EIAR. These mitigation measures relate to the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the project. Mitigations, as proposed, are representative of best practice guidance in the respective specialist technical fields. The proposed mitigation and monitoring measures will be implemented by means of targeted management plans. A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (including a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Resource Waste Management Plan (CRWMP)) is included as part of this application for consent. These are live documents and will be updated by the developer and any Contractors appointed during the various project phases. Monitoring provides assurance that proposed systems are operating as intended. This allows adjustments of operations to be made to ensure continued compliance with consent conditions

3.5.7 Residual Impacts

Residual impacts that remain from the predicted impacts once additional mitigation has been implemented are set out in the technical chapters in this EIAR.

3.5.8 Decommissioning

Subject to the granting of statutory approval, the Shelburne Energy Farm and grid connections will form part of the national electrical grid infrastructure. The design life of the PV Solar Farm and BESS is 30 years and 20 years respectively, where the planning permission for the operational life span of the Proposed Project overall is 40 years. This is based the project team expert knowledge and Solar Ireland (formerly the Irish Solar Energy Association) statement that solar farms can operate successfully for 40 years (stated within Solar Ireland best practice guidance[2]). The Shelburne Energy Farm is to be decommissioned in line with the Decommissioning and Land Restoration Plan, contained in Appendix 3.1, Volume 3 of this EIAR.

It is expected that the 220kV Grid Connection will remain a permanent part of the national electricity transmission network and will be refurbished and / or redeveloped as required rather than be decommissioned.

3.5.9 Decommissioning effects are assessed in each technical chapter. Do Nothing Effects

As outlined in the EPA Guidelines 2022, the description of Do-Nothing effects relates to “the environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out”. The Do Nothing scenario is considered in each technical chapter of this EIAR.

3.5.10 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects take account of the addition of many minor or significant effects to create larger, more significant effects. As outlined in the EPA Guidelines 2022, while a single activity may itself result in a minor impact, it may, when combined with other impacts (minor or significant), result in a cumulative impact that is collectively significant. A single effect which may, on its own, have a significant effect, may also have a reduced and insignificant impact when combined with other effects.

Existing projects have been considered as part of the chapter baselines within this EIAR.

Intra Project Effects

There are no intra-projects effects assessed as part of this EIAR, this is due the application of an abundance of caution regarding the assessment approach which assesses the entirety of the ***whole project***, and not just the EIA class which has triggered the requirements for mandatory EIA, that of the rural restructuring in combination with the wider proposed development.

Other Developments

For each technical topic, the nature and scale of ‘other development’ has been evaluated, and the potential for spatial or temporal overlap within the topic-specific zone of influence (ZoI) has been assessed, having regard to the potential for significant cumulative effects. A desk top study was undertaken to collate publicly available information on granted and proposed plans or projects within the defined ZoI. This search was conducted using planning application databases available on the websites of local planning authorities, namely, Wexford County Council, Waterford County Council, and An Coimisiún Pleanála’s website. A search for drainage or flooding works undertaken by the Office of Public Works was also undertaken.

[2] Best Practice Planning Guidance Report for Large Scale Solar Energy Development in Ireland (Irish Solar Energy Association, November 2023) p.54

The following development types were excluded from the collated list of 'Other Developments'; as these projects would not have the potential for cumulative or significant environmental effects or already form part of the baseline.

- One-off housing and related extensions or renovations
- Agricultural buildings and extensions to farm complexes with agricultural buildings/structures
- Planning applications with a status of 'incomplete', 'withdrawn', 'refused', or refused on appeal
- Planning applications for 'retention' as it is assumed these planned projects are already constructed

The list of proposed or planned development – 'Other Development' is contained in Table 3.2. A ten-year timeframe dating back from September 2025[3] is considered appropriate as the typical permission duration granted is five years, thus permission granted more than five years ago is at a minimum likely to be under construction, if not already completed before the Proposed Project commences construction, therefore cumulative effects are unlikely to occur. A radius of 15km was applied to search criteria in the collation of the list of 'Other Developments'.

The environmental assessments presented in this report have had regard to these planned developments in the context of potential for cumulative effects. Each specialist has reviewed the projects in Table 3.2 with regard to their potential for significant effects, relevant to their discipline, and these assessments are presented in each technical chapter. In relation to the potential for cumulative effects, prior to commencement of construction and during the construction phase, engagement with the local communities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project will continue. Where there is potential for works to be carried out at the same time appropriate mitigation measures have been described and will be implemented within the parameters assessed in this EIAR. This includes the scheduling of works and regular liaison meetings to ensure that plans are coordinated, and effects are minimised.

Attention is drawn to the first two listed 'Other Developments' in Table 3.2, which state the potential for one of two options regarding the development of lands immediately north of the proposed BESS compound. These lands have potential for further siting of BESS units or solar panels. At the time of writing, it is not known which option will be progressed.

At the time of preparing this EIAR, it is not known which option may be progressed and there is no interdependence between the Proposed Project and either of these options. They do not form part of the proposed development, the subject of the planning applications to Wexford County Council and An Coimisiún Pleanála, and do not form part of the Proposed Project, which is the subject of this EIAR and EIA to be carried out.

Any such proposal(s) will be subject to and fully assessed as part of a further planning application to the relevant competent authority, including any necessary EIA and AA, which would take into account the effects of any potential future development in-combination with the effects of the Proposed Project if permitted and in light of other developments at that time.

However, the potential for cumulative effects of the Proposed Project in the context of these potential future developments are considered in far as practicable/relevant in each technical chapter.

[3] The timeframe applied within the planning application search is 01 August 2019 to 01 August 2025

Table 3.2: Other Development (with potential for cumulative effects)

Planning Authority / Planning reference	Grant/ Approval Date	Location	Brief Development Description	Distance	Construction Schedule
Potential future expansion of the Proposed Project	N/A	Nash, Co. Wexford	Shelburne Energy Farm – Phase 2 BESS within area immediately adjoining the proposed BESS site, and an associated AIS plant/equipment and control building in the undeveloped AIS compound	Within existing project site boundary	Potential for a separate planning application would follow within 3 years of a grant of permission for Shelburne Energy Farm
Potential future expansion of the Proposed Project	N/A	Nash, Co. Wexford	Shelburne Energy Farm – Extension of the solar farm within area immediately adjoining the proposed BESS site,	Within existing project site boundary	Potential for a separate planning application would follow within 3 years of a grant of permission for Shelburne Energy Farm
An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PL26.318204 Wexford County Council 20230871	15 January 2025	Great Island Power Station, Great Island, Campile, New Ross, Co. Wexford	A 10 year planning permission for the construction of a Grid Stability Service Development and all associated site clearance and site development works. The proposed grid stability service development consists of the provision of a synchronous condenser within a building circa 13 metres in height; elevated modular containers to house electrical and control equipment and all associated plant/apparatus	c. 9.2km (west - southwest)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20231294	21 March 2024	Great Island, Co. Wexford	Construction of an electrical infrastructure installation and associated underground grid connection (UGC) on lands within the townland of Great Island measuring approximately 2.6Ha. in overall area. The installation will consist of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would comprise 16no. individual battery storage units, a 38kV tail-fed substation, underground grid connection (UGC) to connect the proposed substation to an existing ESB substation at Campile and associated ancillary development.	c. 9.2km (west - southwest	No specific information available – construction is due to last 16 months
Wexford County Council 20240309	15 July 2024	Great Island, Co. Wexford	Permission for development consisting of construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), landscaping works and all other associated ancillary infrastructure on lands measuring approximately 1.34Ha. The BESS would comprise 44no. individual battery storage units and 22no. inverter units.	c. 9.2km (west - southwest	No information available

Planning Authority / Planning reference	Grant/ Approval Date	Location	Brief Development Description	Distance	Construction Schedule
Wexford County Council 20240650	23 October 2024	Knockmullen, New Ross, Co. Wexford	A ten year planning permission is being sought for the proposed development which will consist of the following elements: the installation and operation of 1 no. battery energy storage system compound containing battery energy storage containers, 1 no. electrical substation and compound connected to the national grid system via 300m of underground cable to the ESB Knockmullen 38kV substation, electrical transformers and inverter units, underground cabling and ducting, boundary fencing, security entrance gates, CCTV, internal access road and all associated ancillary site development, landscaping and reinstatement works.	c. 7.82km (north-northwest)	No specific information available – construction is due to last 6-12 months
Wexford County Council 20241230	24 March 2025	Nash, Tellarought, Carnagh (numerous other townlands) Co. Wexford	The proposed development within Co. Wexford will comprise: - the replacement (restringing) of the existing overhead line circuit conductor wires with a new higher capacity conductor; - the strengthening of foundations at 6 no. locations; - shear block remedial works at 55 no. locations; - the strengthening of towers (i.e. member replacement) at 20 no locations; - the painting of all structures; - the replacement of insulating and ancillary hardware at structures; - all associated works within the existing Great Island 220kV substation to accommodate the uprated 220kV OHL including uprating of the Kellis bay in the Great Island 220kV substation	c. 1.8km (west)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20250414	02 July 2025	Rosspile, Clongeen, Co. Wexford	Permission for development which will consist of a 10 year permission for the construction of an energy storage facility within a total site area of up to 3hA, to include an IPP compound with one single storey substation building, transformer and ancillary electrical equipment, containerised battery storage modules and inverter/transformer station modules	c. 7.4km (east-southeast)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20220900	28 September 2022	Ballygowny, Killesk, Co. Wexford	Permission for a 10-Permission for a 10-year planning permission for development which will consist of the construction of a solar PV farm with an operational life of 35 years consisting of ca. 79,450m2 of solar photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames within a	c.5.1km (south)	No specific dates available – The entire construction phase is expected to last 20 weeks.

Planning Authority / Planning reference	Grant/ Approval Date	Location	Brief Development Description	Distance	Construction Schedule
			site area of 12.6 hectares and associated ancillary development including 2 no. inverter / transformer stations, 1 no. ESB delivery substation, 1 no. MV switch room module, 1 no. spare parts storage container		
An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: VA26.318914	05 June 2024	Great Island, Kilmokea, County Wexford.	110kV substation and 110kV underground grid connection	c. 9.2km (west - southwest	No information available
Wexford County Council 20220900	26 August 2022	Ballygowny, Killesk	Permission for a 10-year planning permission for development which will consist of the construction of a solar PV farm with an operational life of 35 years on a site of 12.6 hectares.	c. 4.5km (south)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20230651	08 December 2023	Marshmeadows, County Wexford	The project passes under the River Barrow across the county boundaries of Wexford and Kilkenny. The development consists of (1) Medium Voltage (MV) electricity system improvement by the installation of a new 20kV electricity underground cable (UGC) by means horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under the River Barrow to connect the Lake Region circuit at Marshmeadows, County Wexford to the Beechgrove circuit at Raheen, Rosbercon, County Kilkenny. From end to end the UGC measures approximately 580m. The majority of the circuit, approximately 365m will be installed by HDD under the River Barrow. The remainder of the circuit, approximately 215m will be a UGC installed by traditional trenching and ducting means. Approximately 355m of this UGC will be installed within County Wexford and the remaining 225m will be installed within County Kilkenny. (2) A second 'spare' duct will be installed within the HDD to enable a second circuit to be installed at a future date to further enhance and future proof the network. (3) Permission is sought for all associated works including temporary works required.	7.5km (northwest)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20221633	13 November 2024	New Ross, Co. Wexford	Development of a new electricity circuit	9.0km (south-southwest)	No information available

Planning Authority / Planning reference	Grant/ Approval Date	Location	Brief Development Description	Distance	Construction Schedule
An Coimisiún Pleanála ABP-318103-23					
Kilkenny County Council 20200588 An Coimisiún Pleanála ABP-307962-20	04 February 2021	Grange (ED Fethard), Fethard, Co. Wexford.	Construction of an 18 metre high free standing communications structure.	13.7km (north)	No information available
Kilkenny County Council 2288 An Coimisiún Pleanála ABP-315856-23	26 March 2024	Drumdowney Upper Townland,Murtaghstown, Co. Kilkenny	The development consists of an existing 25 metre high telecommunications support structure and associated works as previously granted under local authority reference 13/30	10.8km (northwest)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20160717 An Comision Pleanála PL 26.247179	21 December 2016	Tomfarney, Clonroche, Co. Wexford	A 10 year permission for the construction of a solar PV energy development within a total site area of up to 12.7 hectares with all associated site works.	13.6km (northwest)	No information available
Wexford County Council 20210807 An Comision Pleanála ABP-312674-22	06 May 2022	Rochestown, Harperstown, Co. Wexford	Permission for development consisting of a ten year permission for a solar farm on a site of approximately 86.6 hectares consisting of the following: solar photovoltaic panels on ground mounted steel frames; IPP electrical control building and associated compound; inverter/transformer stations; battery storage units and associated hard standings; storage containers for spare parts; underground power and communication cables and ducts; boundary security fencing; upgraded internal access tracks; new internal access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure; CCTV cameras and all associated site services and works. A Natura impact statement accompanies this application.	14.5km (southeast)	No information available

3.5.11 Transboundary Effects

Certain environmental effects of a Proposed Project have the potential to cross state boundaries and have a 'transboundary effect'. The need to consider transboundary impacts has been enshrined in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, adopted in 1991 (the Espoo Convention). The Espoo Convention has been ratified by the European Union, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Under the amended EIA Directive, the likely significant transboundary effects of a proposed Project must be described. All activities associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Project are wholly within Ireland and there is no potential for transboundary effects and as such are not considered further in this EIAR.

3.5.12 Interactions between Environmental Factors

Interactions between effects may arise from the reaction between effects of the Proposed Project on different aspects of the environment which may exacerbate the magnitude of those effects. These are presented in Chapter 18.

3.6 References

Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022).

Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, Draft September 2015)