

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project



Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III

Appendix 6.1 - Statement of Authority September 2025

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Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project

Appendix 6.1: Statements of Authority Technical Appendix

September 2025

This report considers the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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Notice

This report was produced by INIS Environmental Consultants Ltd. (INIS) on behalf of Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited (hereafter known as the Developer) to accompany **EIAR Chapter 6 - Biodiversity** for the Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project. The purpose of this report is to provide Statements of Authority for all ecologists involved in the collection of field survey data from the Ballyfeeny Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as the 'proposed Project'), with all reasonable skill, care and due diligence within the terms of the contract with the client, incorporating our terms and conditions and taking account of the resources devoted to it by agreement with the client.

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Table of Contents

1	<i>Statements of Authority</i>	2
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1 STATEMENTS OF AUTHORITY

Natasha Allen BA MSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys for the breeding seasons 2023, 2024 and habitat surveys in July 2023 using best practice guidance (Fossitt, 2000; Smith *et al.*, 2011). Natasha is an Assistant Ecologist, working predominantly within the INIS field ecology team. She graduated with a BA in Performance Costume from the University of Edinburgh, with ecological and environmental themes being her main design motivation. More recently, she graduated from the University Stirling with an MSc degree in Environmental Management (Conservation). She has conducted ornithological surveys at INIS, including Vantage Point counts, breeding bird transects, I-WeBs surveys and various breeding raptor surveys, as well as bat, habitat classification, Marsh Fritillary and general mammal surveys for renewable energy project since 2022. Natasha is a qualifying member of CIEEM.

Bill Brazier B.Sc. (Hons) MIFM (Ecologist, Triturus): also carried out the aquatic surveys. He is an aquatic ecologist with over 10 years' professional experience in Ireland. He specialises in freshwater fisheries ecology, biology and water quality. He has considerable experience in a wide range of ecological and environmental projects including EIAR, EcIA and AA/NIS reporting, as well as biodiversity, invasive species and fisheries management. His diverse project list includes work on renewal energy developments, flood relief schemes, road schemes, blueways/greenways and biodiversity projects. He is currently completing his Ph.D. on the genetics, reproductive biology and invasive potential impact of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in Irish waters. Additionally, Bill runs the highly respected Off the Scale magazine, Ireland's most-read recreational angling publication and is the national coordinator for the novel Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS).

Natasha Collins BSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys in the breeding seasons 2023 and 2024, winter seasons 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. She was awarded an honours B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology from IT Tralee. She has a broad range of experience in surveying, including vantage point surveys and breeding/winter bird transects, habitat classification, aquatic invertebrate surveys and bat surveys. As part of her role as an Ecologist with INIS, Natasha regularly conducts ornithological surveys for various projects across Ireland. Natasha has experience in conducting Vantage Point surveys in line with Best Practice (SNH) Guidelines. Natasha is also a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

Conor Daly MSc BSc (Hons.) ACIEEM (Ecologist, INIS) is an Ecologist with Inis and contributed to the VP, breeding raptor and Breeding wader surveys as part of the 2023 breeding season surveys. Conor was awarded a MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation and an Honours BSc (Hons) in Zoology. Conor has conducted bird, mammal, habitat and entomological surveys for renewable energy projects, conservation monitoring projects and private developments since 2021. Conor has written Preliminary Environmental Assessments (PEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening, NIS and EIA reports. During his employment with Inis, Conor has been involved in conducting a range of reports, including Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screenings, Natura Impact Statements (NIS), and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screenings and reports.

Timmy Gallagher BSc (Hons) (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys for the winter season 2024/2025 and breeding season 2025. He is an ecologist who specialises in ornithology. Timmy completed a Bachelors (Hons) degree in Ecology from University College Cork in 2018. Timmy is a specialist in bird surveying with experience undertaking the following survey types; Fatality Monitoring, Breeding Wader surveys, Breeding Merlin surveys, Golden Eagle surveys, surveying for

Wintering Swans and Geese, Hen Harrier nesting surveys and a variety of mammal and bat survey experience. He has worked with Inis since 2014 with Ornithology his primary specialism.

Camille Groh BSc MSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys for the breeding season 2023, winter seasons 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 and habitat surveys in July 2023 using best practice guidance (Fossitt, 2000; Smith *et al.*, 2011). She is a Project Manager at INIS with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from Northeastern University and an MSc (Hons) in Wildlife Conservation and Management from University College Dublin. Camille regularly conducts a range of bird, habitat, terrestrial mammal and amphibian surveys in-line with Best Practice standards and has been conducting such surveys in 2018. Camille has experience writing Ecology Survey Reports and Ecological Impact Assessments. Her work studying Irish and British avifauna communities was published in Ecology and Evolution. Camille is an Associate member of CIEEM.

Karole Guilfoyle BSc (Assistant Ecologist, INIS): carried out VP surveys for the winter season 2024/2025. Karole has a BSc in Zoology from the University of Galway. Karole has experience conducting a wide variety of surveys including Red Grouse surveys, Woodcock surveys, Breeding Raptor surveys, Vantage point surveys, I-WeBS, CBS transects, amphibian and mammal surveys in line with best practice guidance since joining INIS in 2024. She is a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

Vanessa Hofer BSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out I-WeBS surveys for the breeding season 2023. She has a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and presented her thesis on breeding populations in wetlands. Her subsequent work has therefore focused on wetlands of international importance, where she has carried out surveys of breeding populations and migratory activity. At Inis she carried out a variety of surveys and gained experience in mammal and bat surveys. Survey has been involved in renewable energy project surveys and ecological monitoring in Ireland since 2023 and Central Europe since 2019.

Lisa Kavanagh MSc BSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys and bat static detector deployments. Lisa has achieved a BSc (Hons) in Zoology from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a MSc (Hons) in Biodiversity & Conservation from Trinity College Dublin. She has completed a wide array of bird surveys including vantage point surveys, I-WeBS, Hen Harrier roost monitoring, breeding wader surveys and breeding bird transects. As the mammal team lead at Inis, Lisa oversees camera trap deployments across a variety of sites, and carries out camera trap image analysis, general mammal walkover surveys and small mammal trapping. Lisa is also part of the bat survey team where she carries out emergence/re-entry surveys, transects, static detector deployment and bioacoustics analysis. Lisa holds a LANTRA accredited qualification in conservation detection dog handling and is a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

Nicole Leadbetter BSc MSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys in the breeding season 2023 and bat transect surveys in 2023 following best practice guidance (Collins, 2016; Collins, 2023). Nicole has achieved a BSc (Hons) in Animal & Conservation Biology from Edinburgh Napier University and a MSc (Hons) in Environmental Management from the University of Stirling. She has completed a variety of surveys including vantage point surveys, I-WeBS, breeding bird transects, as well as habitat and mammal surveys. Nicole is also part of the bat survey team where she carries out emergence surveys, transects, static detector deployment and bioacoustics analysis and delivered regular analysis since 2022 for bat ecological baseline data. Nicole is also a member of the report team and has drafted AA screenings and baseline ecology reports for small- and large-scale developments. Nicole is a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

Megan Lee MSc (Hons) BSc (Hons) (Ecologist, INIS): carried out breeding Woodcock surveys for the breeding season 2023. Megan was awarded a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from National University of Ireland Galway in 2018 and a MSc (Hons) in Biodiversity and Land-use Planning from University of Ireland Galway in 2020. Megan is a Qualifying member of CIEEM. She has a wide range of experience in report writing and ecological surveys, with particular focus on bird, bat, and mammal surveys with regular practice of surveys since 2021.

Kevin McElduff BSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out habitat surveys on this project. Kevin is a Project Manager, Field Team Lead and Ecologist with INIS Environmental Consultants Ltd. and has a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from the University of Galway. He has managed multiple large-scale, multi-disciplinary developments across the country. Kevin has comprehensive experience in writing and reviewing several report types which include Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports (AASR), Natura Impact Statements (NIS) and Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA/ EIAR). He has extensive experience in ecological field surveys, including habitat classification using best practice guidance (Fossitt, 2000; Smith *et al.*, 2011), mammal surveys, vantage point surveys, invertebrate surveys, Ecological Clerk of Works, breeding wader surveys and bat surveys which he has conducted to various levels since 2021. He is also skilled in the use of QGIS. He is also a Qualifying CIEEM member.

Chris McKiernan BSc ACIEEM (Ecologist, INIS): carried out VP surveys for the breeding season 2025. Chris has more than 6 years of experience carrying out professional ornithology surveys in Ireland on a variety of projects. They received a BSc in Ecology and Environmental Biology from UCC in 2020 and are an Associate member of CIEEM. They have been heavily involved in carrying out and coordinating hen harrier surveys with INIS, for both breeding and wintering. Chris also carried out many of the other surveys for INIS, including Vantage Point surveys, I-WeBS, Woodcock surveys, Red Grouse surveys, Breeding Raptor (Kestrel, Peregrine, Barn Owl, Merlin) surveys, CBS transects, mammal walkover surveys and bat surveys.

Ross Macklin B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM., MIFM, HDip GIS, PDip IPM (Ecologist, Triturus): carried out the aquatic surveys. He is an ecologist with over 16 years' professional experience in Ireland. He specialises in freshwater fisheries ecology, biology and water quality. He has considerable experience in a wide range of ecological and environmental projects including EIAR, EclA, AA/NIS, CEMP reporting, as well as biodiversity, water quality monitoring, invasive species and fisheries management. He also has expert identification skills in macrophytes, freshwater invertebrates, protected aquatic habitats and protected aquatic species including freshwater pearl mussel. His diverse project list includes work on renewable energy developments, flood relief schemes, road schemes, blueways/greenways, biodiversity projects, fisheries management projects and catchment wide water quality management. He is currently completing his Ph.D. on the ecology and impact of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in Irish waters.

Calum McSorley BSC MSC (Lead Bat Ecologist, INIS): carried out a static deployment surveys in 2023 and PRA survey in 2024 following best practice guidance (Collins, 2023). He has a BSc in Environmental Science from National University of Ireland Galway and an MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology from Queen's University Belfast. Calum has extensive bat surveying experience including roost assessments, emergence/re-entry surveys, static detector deployments and various exclusion practices since 2021. He also has experience in a range of other ecological surveys including habitat classification, mammal surveys, amphibian surveys and reptile surveys.

Heather Murray BSc MSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird, mammal and bat transect surveys and static detector deployments. Heather holds a BSc (Hons) in Animal and Conservation Biology from Edinburgh Napier University and a MSc in Environmental Management from the University of Stirling. She has completed several different ecological surveys including vantage point surveys, breeding bird transects, I-WeBS, and habitat surveys. In addition to this Heather is also experienced in conducting bat transects, emergence and re-entry surveys on trees and buildings, static detector deployment and bioacoustics analysis as part of her role in the bat team. Heather also specialises in using thermal cameras for bat emergence surveys and analysing video footage obtained from the cameras. Heather is a Qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

James O’Connell BSc ACIEEM (Ecologist, INIS): carried out I-WeBS for the winter season 2023/2024. James is a Project Manager and Field Team Lead with INIS. He was awarded a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Biology from IT Tralee. He started out his ecology career completing Hen Harrier surveys, and in the following years expanded on his professional career by working on research projects with Estación Biológica de Doñana (EBD) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). He has a broad range of experience in surveying, including Vantage Point surveys, I-WeBS, Hen Harrier Roost Watches, Breeding Waders surveys, Breeding Raptor surveys and Breeding/Winter Bird Transects, Habitat classification, Marsh Fritillary and Bat surveys since 2019. James regularly conducts ornithological surveys for various projects across Ireland. James has experience in conducting Vantage Point surveys in line with Best Practice (SNH; now NatureScot) Guidelines.

Mr. Peter O Connor BA MSc (GIS Manager, INIS) is the lead GIS Specialist at INIS and is responsible for the oversight and generation of all INIS GIS related outputs. This includes elements of constraints design, such as the use of survey data and aerial imagery in a constraints led design process- in addition to the design and implementation of all Biodiversity related mapping outputs. He has developed bespoke survey templates in Qfield which have allowed INIS to transition to digital field work collection for all surveys. He manages the GIS team and is involved in the training an upskilling of staff members. Peter has prepared GIS mapping (including viewshed analyses) for six windfarms in Ireland, with a combined total of 62 turbines and generating output of c.294MW. Peter has experience in the design, and production of Viewshed Analysis of Vantage Points to inform Collision Risk Modelling. This involves using high resolution Radar Topographic imagery from Earth Observation Satellites to perform 3D analysis of the Vantage Points. He has over eight years’ experience in producing EIAR Biodiversity Chapter supporting Figures (Map books and Appendices) and Appropriate Assessment supporting maps where he is responsible for all data capture, and integration into project mapping of field data (Habitats, Aquatics, Birds, Bats, Mammals, Invasive Species, etc.). Peter has extensive experience in using ArcGIS Pro, QGIS and Qfield software , utilising advanced GIS tools for spatial analysis, developing mobile applications for field work and online mapping applications using ArcGIS Experience Builder and Dashboards. Peter led the production of figures, calculations and all other GIS inputs to this EIAR chapter.

Julie O’Hare BSc MSc (Agr) (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys for the winter season 2023/2024 and mammal surveys. Julie received an honours in BSc in Zoology in 2018 and MSc (Agr) in Environmental Resource Management in 2021, both from University College Dublin. She has a special interest in waders and her BSc (Agr) research project involved reviewing the Curlew Conservation Programme’s (CCP) data furthermore proposing methodology for more effective surveying. During her employment with Inis, Julie has conducted a variety of survey types for birds, bats, invertebrates and small mammals for various renewable energy projects across Ireland since 2022. Such ornithological

surveys include Vantage Point counts, Hen Harrier roost surveys, Kestrel/Peregrine/Barn Owl/Hen Harrier/Merlin Breeding surveys, I-WeBS, habitat surveys, etc. all in alignment with Best Practice Guidelines.

Molly O'Hare BSc MSc (Bat Ecologist, INIS): carried out Preliminary Roost Surveys (PRA) in 2023 following best practice guidance (Collins, 2023). She has a BSc in Ecology and Environmental Biology and an MSc in Marine Biology from University College Cork. Molly has extensive Bat Surveying and Handling experience ranging from Radio Tracking, Mist Netting, Harp Trapping and Hand Netting since 2020. She also has experience with carrying out Roost Assessments, Emergence/Re-entry Surveys and various exclusion practices. Molly also has experience in the preparation and writing of reports, including Ecology Reports and screening for Appropriate Assessment.

Daelyn Purcell BSc. (Ecologist, INIS): Daelyn carried out bird surveys for the breeding season 2023 and Marsh Fritillary surveys. He has a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Biology from the Institute of Technology Tralee. Daelyn's expertise lies within the area of ornithology with ten years' experience conducting various ornithological surveys in line with best practice guidelines through Inis Environmental, other various Ecological Consultancies and has worked on several conservation projects with BirdWatch Ireland in previous years. Daelyn also has experience with terrestrial mammal surveys and habitat classification. Daelyn is also a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

Siddharth Sonny BSc MSc (Ecologist, INIS): carried out bird surveys for the breeding season 2023. He serves as an Assistant Ecologist at INIS Environmental Consultants Ltd, where he actively contributes to both fieldwork and GIS teams. Possessing a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Sacred Heart College Kerala, India (2017) and a Master of Science in Coastal and Marine Environment Science Policy and Practices from the University of Galway (2019). Siddharth has undertaken numerous ornithological and mammal surveys integral to diverse projects spanning the geographical landscape of Ireland since 2021 with experience in zoological research prior to his work in Ireland. His expertise encompasses a wide spectrum of survey methodologies, including but not limited to Vantage Point surveys, breeding/winter bird transects, I-WeBS, and bat surveys, all executed in adherence to the highest industry standards. Siddharth is also a Qualifying member of CIEEM and has been a practicing ecologist with Inis since 2022.