



APPENDIX 2-1

Scoping Responses

MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

13th March 2024

Re: Scoping Request for the proposed Historical Peat Extraction at Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher & Lisclogher West Bogs Co. Westmeath/Meath.

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling Licence from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie or Web gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

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

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

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

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

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices are published online at: gov.ie - [Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at:
gov.ie - [Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

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

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

and
 2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
 3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Boyce
Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford

Natalia Stolarska

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 14 March 2024 09:29
To: Grainne Griffin
Subject: FW: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: DAFM Forest Service_2024 Scoping Doc Cover Letter_2024.02.14.pdf; Ballivor Bog, Co Westmeath-Meath.pdf

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Good morning,

Please see observations attached from our Felling Division.

Regards,

Environmental Co-ordination Unit

From: Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:40 AM
To: Boyce, Catherine <Catherine.Boyce@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Walsh, Ciaran <Ciaran.Walsh@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Catherine

For your area.

Peg

From: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:14 PM
To: Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin
Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO
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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

Karen Mulryan

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: 07 January 2022 15:09
To: EIAPanning
Subject: RE: EPA Ref 2493 - Scoping Consultation under Article 5(2) of Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive)

Hello

I wish to inform you that the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine has no observations re. the above at this time.

Kind regards

An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bíthhuinnimh, Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division | An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Pailliún A, Páirc Gnó Grattan, Bóthar Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Co Laoise, R32 K857

Pavilion A, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857

T +353 (0)57 868 9915 environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie

www.agriculture.gov.ie

From: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>

Sent: Friday 10 December 2021 12:17

To: An Bord Pleanála <bord@pleanala.ie>; An Taisce <planning@antaisce.org>; Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>; Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltach Affairs <fem.dau@ahg.gov.ie>; Dept of Communications, Climate Action & Environment <corporatesupport.unit@dcenr.gov.ie>; Dept of Communications, Climate Action and Environment <wppr@dcae.gov.ie>; Fáilte Ireland <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>; Health & Safety Authority <chemicals@hsa.ie>; Health Service Executive <environmental.health@hse.ie>; Inland Fisheries Ireland <environlicensing@fisheriesireland.ie>; Irish Water <IWenvironmental@water.ie>; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport <minister@dtas.ie>; Teagasc <John.Spink@teagasc.ie>; The Heritage Council <aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie>; Meath County Council (Environment Section) <environment@meathcoco.ie>; Meath County Council (Planning Section) <planning@meathcoco.ie>; Westmeath County Council (Planning Section) <secretar@westmeathcoco.ie>; WestMeath CoCo <environment-wastemanagement@westmeathcoco.ie>
Subject: EPA Ref 2493 - Scoping Consultation under Article 5(2) of Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive)

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Dear Sir /Madam,

I refer to the attached scoping request received by the Agency 02nd December 2021 in respect of the following:

- Applicant: Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries
- Location of Activity: Ballivor Bog Group, Bracklin, Ballivor, Lisclogher West, Lisclogher and Carranstown Bogs, Co Meath/Westmeath.
- Class and Nature of Activity: 1.4 - The extraction of peat in the course of business which involves an area exceeding 50 hectares
- EPA Reference No: 2493

In order to satisfy the consultation requirements under Article 5(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive), please revert to the Agency with your comments on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included by the developer in the environmental impact assessment report within two weeks of the date of this letter/email.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning and EIA matters, please contact eiapanning@epa.ie

Yours faithfully,

Environmental Licensing Programme



053-916 0600 (Switch)

eiaplanning@epa.ie

www.epa.ie

From: Karen Mulryan

Sent: Thursday 2 December 2021 18:50

To: EIAPanning

Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan

Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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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.

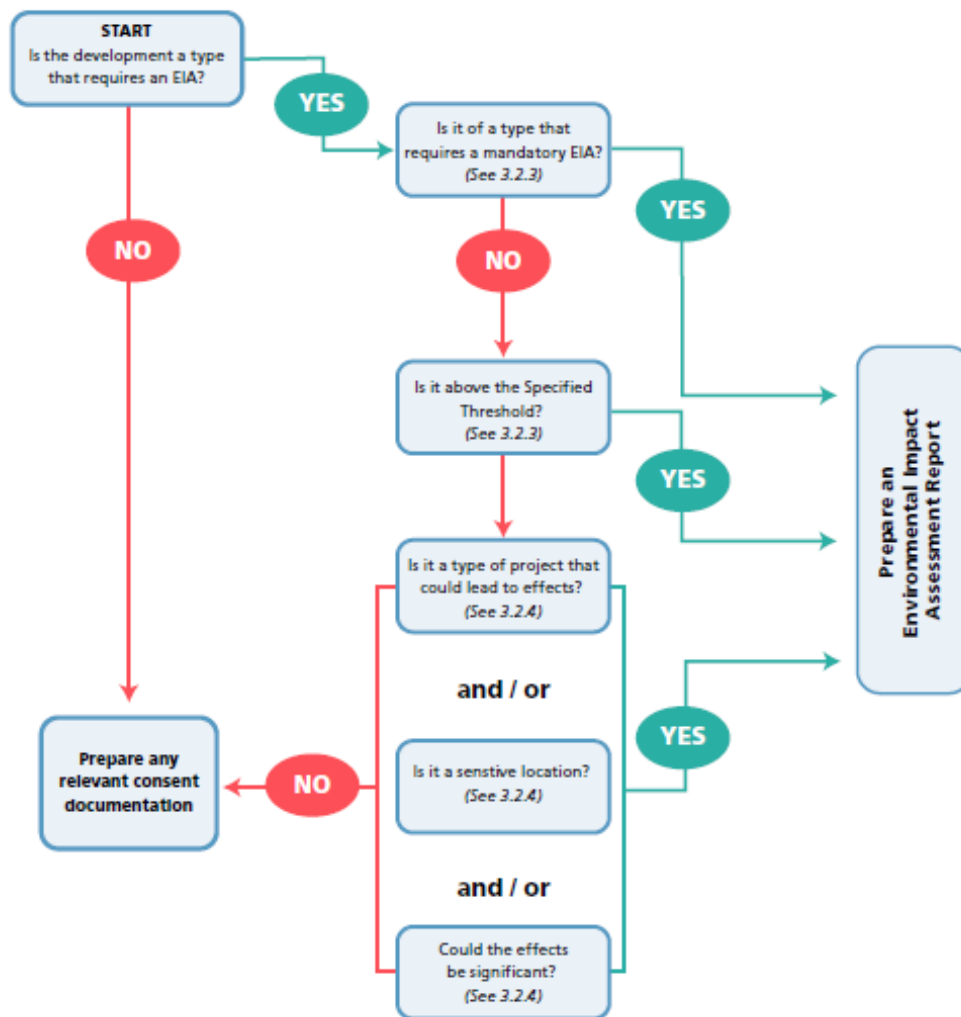
The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to the EPA EIAR Guidelines. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breadth and scope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

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceanglái leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-agmaigh an seolaí amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolaí a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scrios an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.

Natalia Stolarska

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 1 March 2024 12:32
To: Grainne Griffin
Cc: Karen Mulryan
Subject: RE: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines 2023.pdf

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Gráinne,

Thank you for your email and scoping document regarding the Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. Co. Meath/Westmeath.

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.

Regards,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86
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From: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:51 PM
To: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>

Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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

Dear Ms Jackson,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin

Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO

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Karen Mulryan

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Sent: 09 December 2021 09:54
To: Karen Mulryan
Subject: RE: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf

Hello Karen,

Thank you for your email and including Fáilte Ireland in the EIA process for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group located in Meath and Westmeath.


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.

Regards & thanks,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

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From: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 December 2021 18:52
To: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIA) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIA. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



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1. Introduction

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

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

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

2. Background to this Document

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

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

Legislation

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

Statutory Guidance

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

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

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

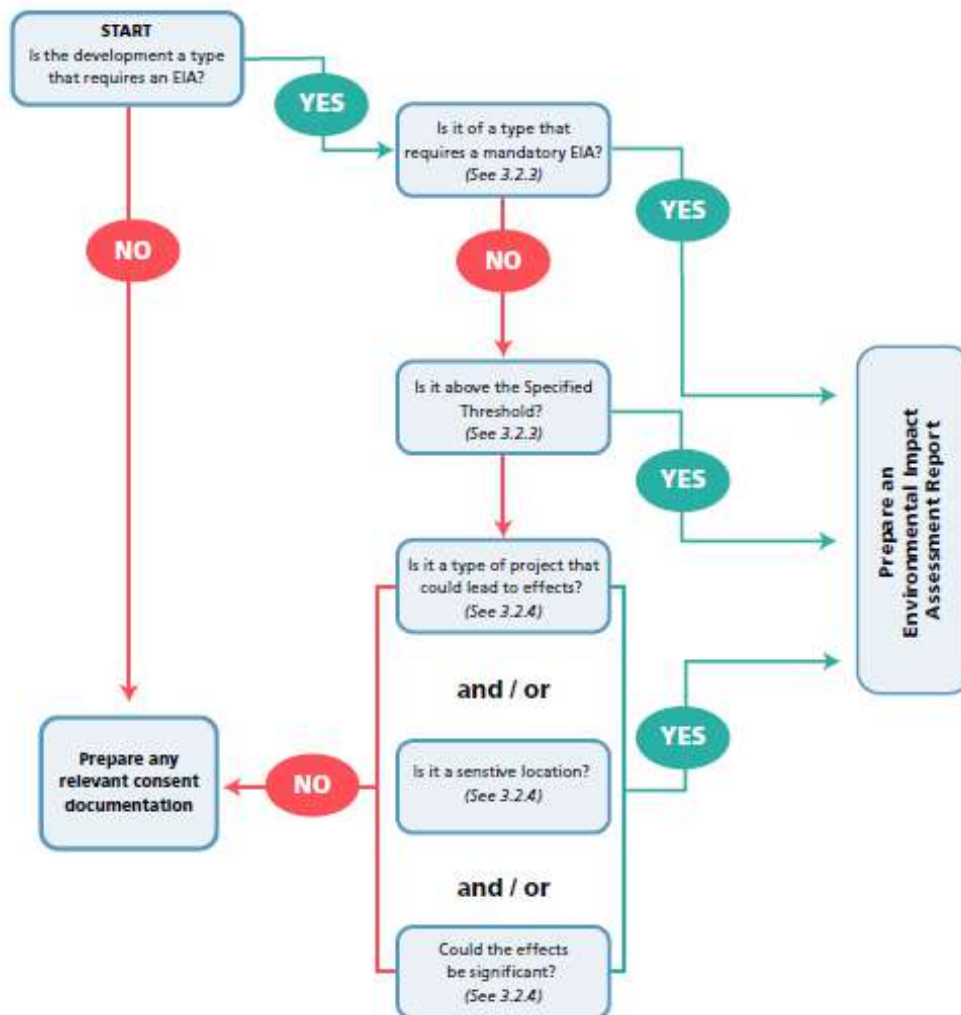
Screening

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

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

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

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

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

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

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

EIAR Scoping

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

4. Assessing Tourism

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

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

Projects which involve a tourism element

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

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

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

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

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

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

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

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

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

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

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

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

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

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

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

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

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

7. EIAR Requirements

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

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;

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

Project Description

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

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

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

Assessment of Alternatives

The assessment of alternatives is a requirement of EIAR

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

Baseline Assessment

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

For example, in a tourism context;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impact Assessment

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

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

Population and Human Health

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

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

Biodiversity

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

Land, Soils and Geology

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

Water

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

Air Quality and Climate

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

Noise and Vibration

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

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

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

Cultural Heritage

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

Archaeology

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

Material Assets; Waste Management

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

Material Assets

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

Landscape

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

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

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

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

Interaction of Effects

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

Mitigation

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

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

Reduce the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact

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

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

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

Cumulative Impact

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

Transboundary Impact

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

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

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

Tourism Ireland

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

Local Authorities

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

Regional Authorities

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

Central Statistics Office

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

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

| Geological Survey Ireland Programme | Dataset | Relevant EIA Topic | Coverage | Description / Notes / Limitations | Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------|---|---|
| Geohazards | Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map | Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape | National | Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available. | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c |
| Geohazards | Groundwater Flooding (Historic) | Water | Regional | Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future] | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc |
| Geohazards | Groundwater Flooding (Predictive) | Water | Regional | Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps] | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc |
| Geohazards | Radon Map | Land & Soils/Air | National | | http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/ |
| Geohazards | County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Plans | Land & Soils/Landscape | Regional | All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228 |
| Geological Mapping | Bedrock geology: | Land & Soils | National | 1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs. | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Bedrock geology: | Land & Soils | Regional | 1:50,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Quaternary geology: Sediments | Land & Soils | National | 1:50,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Quaternary geology: Geomorphology | Land & Soils | National | 1:50,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Physiographic units: | Land & Soils | National | Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a20fc54877843aca1bc075c62b |
| Geological Mapping | GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas | Land & Soils | Regional | includes 3D models | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b794c16093beb2212a850ce6&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Geotechnical database | Land & Soils | National | Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c |
| Goldmine | Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records | Land & Soils/Water | National | available online | https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Groundwater resources (aquifers) | Water | National | Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Groundwater recharge. | Water | National | Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Groundwater vulnerability. | Water | National | Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Group scheme and public supply source protection areas. | Water | National | Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies. | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Groundwater Protection Schemes | Water | National | Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protection areas | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Catchment and WFD management units. | Water | National | | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | karst specific data layers | water | National | For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turf/rough water levels (gwlevel.ie) | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Wells and Springs | Water | National | Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Groundwater body Descriptions | Water | National | Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020 | https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx |
| Groundwater & Geothermal | Geothermal Suitability maps | Land & Soils/Water | National | | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ee46bee08de41278b90a9916dc0b9e |
| Marine & Coastal Unit | INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's | Water | National | | https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/ |
| Marine & Coastal Unit | CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands) | Water | Regional | | http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/ |
| Marine & Coastal Unit | Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI). | water / Land & Soils | Regional | Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally | https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx |
| Minerals | Aggregate potential | Land & Soils/Material Assets | National | Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956 |
| Minerals | Active quarries | Land & Soils | National | | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956 |
| Minerals | Historic mines | Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage | National | Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC). | https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&northing=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.



Gráinne Griffin
MKO
Tuam Road,
Galway, H91 VW84

28 February 2024

Re: Bord Na Móna Plc Substitute Consent Application for Historical Peat Extraction at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath & Westmeath

Your Ref: 191137-F
Our Ref: 24/46

Dear Gráinne,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

With reference to your email received on the 14 February 2024, concerning the Bord Na Móna Plc Substitute Consent Application for Historical Peat Extraction at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath & Westmeath, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Westmeath and Co Meath were completed in 2019 and 2007 respectively. The full reports can be found [here](#) and [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the peat extraction.**

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#) which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates aquifers classed as 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' underlie the Ballivor Bog Group.



The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and ‘Rock at or near surface’ in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here:** <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>

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.

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.

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

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

Guidelines

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

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

Other Comments

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

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to the Geological Survey Ireland Planning Team at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.



Yours sincerely,

Geoheritage and Planning Programme

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

Natalia Stolarska

From: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 28 February 2024 09:41
To: Grainne Griffin
Cc: DECC GSI Planning; DECC Planning Advisory
Subject: RE: EIS 24/46 - rEIA Scoping for past peat extraction activities at Ballivor, Co Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: 24_46 REIA scoping peat extraction Ballivor Co Meath.pdf; GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA_20210421.pdf

You don't often get email from gsiplanning@gsi.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Gráinne,

With reference to your email received on the 14 February 2024, concerning the Bord Na Móna Plc Substitute Consent Application for Historical Peat Extraction at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath & Westmeath, please find attached response and dataset sheet from Geological Survey Ireland.

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: Thursday 15 February 2024 14:45
To: Patricia Smullen (DECC) <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>
Cc: DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; DECC Planning Advisory <PlanningAdvisory@decc.gov.ie>
Subject: EIS 24/46 - rEIA Scoping for past peat extraction activities at Ballivor, Co Meath/Westmeath

EIS 24/46

Remedial EIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co Meath/Westmeath. Request for observations by MKO. Letter is enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 14 February 2024 16:55
To: Patricia Smullen (DECC) <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>; DECC GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Dear Ms Smullen,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin

Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

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Karen Mulryan

From: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>
Sent: 17 December 2021 08:27
To: EIAPanning
Cc: CorporateSupport.Unit
Subject: Reply from DECC re EIS 21/422 - rEIA for Peat Extraction at Ballivor Bog in Counties Meath and Westmeath
Attachments: GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA_20210421.pdf; 21_422 rEIA Ballivor Bog Group, Co Meath & Co Westmeath.pdf

Good morning,

Please see attached and below a reply from Erin Leahy and Dr Clare Glanville (Senior Geologist) on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) for the subject below. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie at your earliest convenience.

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

From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 15 December 2021 16:48
To: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: Clare Glanville <Clare.Glanville@decc.gov.ie>; Trish Smullen <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>; GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; Erin Leahy <erin.leahy@gsi.ie>
Subject: EIS 21/422 - rEIA for Peat Extraction at Ballivor Bog in Counties Meath and Westmeath

Hello,

Please see attached for return to the EPA.

Kind regards,

Erin Leahy

From: GSI Planning
Sent: 13 December 2021 19:09
To: GSI Planning
Subject: EIS 21/422 - rEIA for Peat Extraction at Ballivor Bog in Counties Meath and Westmeath

From: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>

Sent: Friday 10 December 2021 12:39

To: An Bord Pleanála <bord@pleanala.ie>; An Taisce <planning@antaisce.org>; Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine <environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>; Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltach Affairs <fem.dau@ahg.gov.ie>; CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>; WPPR <WPPR@decc.gov.ie>; Failte Ireland <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>; Health & Safety Authority <chemicals@hsa.ie>; Health Service Executive <environmental.health@hse.ie>; Inland Fisheries Ireland <environlicensing@fisheriesireland.ie>; Irish Water <IWenvironmental@water.ie>; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport <minister@dtas.ie>; Teagasc <John.Spink@teagasc.ie>; The Heritage Council <aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie>; Meath County Council (Environment Section) <environment@meathcoco.ie>; Meath County Council (Planning Section) <planning@meathcoco.ie>; Westmeath County Council (Planning Section) <secretar@westmeathcoco.ie>; WestMeath CoCo <environment-wastemanagement@westmeathcoco.ie>

Subject: RE: EPA Ref 2493 - Scoping Consultation under Article 5(2) of Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive)

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

Good Afternoon,

I refer to the below email. Please be advised that any comments should be provided within 4 weeks of this email – i.e 7th January 2022.

Kind Regards
EIA Planning

From: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>

Sent: Friday 10 December 2021 12:17

To: An Bord Pleanála <bord@pleanala.ie>; An Taisce <planning@antaisce.org>; Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine <environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>; Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltach Affairs <fem.dau@ahg.gov.ie>; Dept of Communications, Climate Action & Environment <corporatesupport.unit@dcenr.gov.ie>; Dept of Communications, Climate Action and Environment <wppr@dcae.gov.ie>; Failte Ireland <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>; Health & Safety Authority <chemicals@hsa.ie>; Health Service Executive <environmental.health@hse.ie>; Inland Fisheries Ireland <environlicensing@fisheriesireland.ie>; Irish Water <IWenvironmental@water.ie>; Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport <minister@dtas.ie>; Teagasc <John.Spink@teagasc.ie>; The Heritage Council <aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie>; Meath County Council (Environment Section) <environment@meathcoco.ie>; Meath County Council (Planning Section) <planning@meathcoco.ie>; Westmeath County Council (Planning Section) <secretar@westmeathcoco.ie>; WestMeath CoCo <environment-wastemanagement@westmeathcoco.ie>

Subject: EPA Ref 2493 - Scoping Consultation under Article 5(2) of Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive)

Dear Sir /Madam,

I refer to the attached scoping request received by the Agency 02nd December 2021 in respect of the following:

- Applicant: Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries
- Location of Activity: Ballivor Bog Group, Bracklin, Ballivor, Lisclogher West, Lisclogher and Carranstown Bogs ,Co Meath/Westmeath.
- Class and Nature of Activity: 1.4 - The extraction of peat in the course of business which involves an area exceeding 50 hectares
- EPA Reference No: 2493

In order to satisfy the consultation requirements under Article 5(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive), please revert to the Agency with your comments on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included by the developer in the environmental impact assessment report within two weeks of the date of this letter/email.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning and EIA matters, please contact eiaplanning@epa.ie

Yours faithfully,
Environmental Licensing Programme

Environmental Licencing Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil
Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



053-916 0600 (Switch)
eiaplanning@epa.ie
www.epa.ie

From: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Thursday 2 December 2021 18:50

To: EIAPanning <eiaplanning@epa.ie>

Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI
MKO
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www.mkoireland.ie



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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.



Karen Mulryan
MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

15 December 2021

Re: rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Your Ref: 191137f

Our Ref: 21/422

Dear Karen,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 02 December 2021, concerning rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audits for Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath were carried out in 2007 and 2019 respectively. The full report details can be found [here](#) and [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the Bog Group.**

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#), which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps.

For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.



The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates two aquifers classed as 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', underlie the Bog Group. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of available datasets on our groundwater Map Viewer to assess potential impacts to groundwater in your EIAR.

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>.

With regard to groundwater flooding, we recommend referring to our Groundwater and Geothermal Unit run [GWClimate](#) project; which is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWflood).

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>. This page also hosts Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural and Grazing Land Soil of Europe (GEMAS) and lithogeochemistry (rock geochemistry) from southeast Ireland datasets. Geological Survey Ireland and partners are undertaking applied geochemistry projects to provide data for agriculture ([Terra Soil](#)), waste soil characterisation ([Geochemically Appropriate Levels for Soil Recovery Facilities](#)) and mineral exploration ([Mineral Prospectivity Mapping](#)).

Other Comments

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

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

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=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228 |
| Geological Mapping | Bedrock geology: | Land & Soils | National | 1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs. | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Bedrock geology: | Land & Soils | Regional | 1:50,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Quaternary geology: Sediments | Land & Soils | National | 1:50,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Quaternary geology: Geomorphology | Land & Soils | National | 1:50,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Physiographic units: | Land & Soils | National | Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a20fc54877843aca1bc075c62b |
| Geological Mapping | GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas | Land & Soils | Regional | includes 3D models | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b794c16093beb2212a850ce6&scale=0 |
| Geological Mapping | Geotechnical database | Land & Soils | National | Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads | https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c |
| Goldmine | Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records | Land & Soils/Water | National | available online | https://secure.dcae.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=9ee46bee08de41278b90a9916dc0b9e |
| Marine & Coastal Unit | INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's | Water | National | | https://secure.dcae.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 https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/ |
| 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.

Karen Mulryan

From: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>
Sent: 21 January 2022 17:01
To: Karen Mulryan
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping for Substitute Consent Application for Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: Ballivor Subcon Scoping - F1 - 2021.11.23 - 191137f compressed.pdf; RE: EPA Ref 2493 - Scoping Consultation under Article 5(2) of Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive); Reply from DECC re EIS 21/422 - rEIA for Peat Extraction at Ballivor Bog in Counties Meath and Westmeath; RE: EPA Ref 2493 - Scoping Consultation under Article 5(2) of Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive)

Re: Scoping Opinion under Article 5(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive)

EPA Reference No: 2493

Dear Ms Mulryan,

I refer to the request for a scoping opinion in relation to substitute consent for peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath, received by the Agency on 02 December 2021. In accordance with the requirements of Article 5(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU *on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment* (EIA Directive), the Agency has consulted with the Planning Authorities: Meath County Council and Westmeath County Council and the relevant prescribed bodies under Section 89 of the EPA Act. I attach copies of the responses received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Fáilte Ireland.

It should be noted that Bord na Móna Energy Limited was issued an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Register No. P0501) on 26 April 2000 for Class 1.4 of the First Schedule of the EPA Act 1992 *'the extraction of peat in the course of business which involves an area exceeding 50 hectares'* at Derrygreenagh Group, c/o Derrygreenagh Works, Rochfordbridge, Mullingar, County Westmeath.

Having regard to the specific characteristics of the project and likely impact on the environment, the Agency is of the opinion that the scope and level of detail to be included in the remedial environmental impact assessment report should as a minimum:

- (i) address the matters raised in the responses received from the bodies detailed above;
- (ii) have regard to the rehabilitation plan(s) required under Condition 10 of Licence Reg No. P0501 for any relevant bog areas;
- (iii) consideration should be given to inclusion of any relevant bog areas in an enhanced rehabilitation scheme, e.g., under the Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (PCAS).
- (iv) have regard to relevant water quality monitoring data. Any gaps in water quality data for receiving waters should be filled by a sampling programme over an appropriately representative period of time.

Natalia Stolarska

From: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 27 March 2024 15:52
To: Grainne Griffin
Cc: Karen Mulryan
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: 191137f- rEIA Scoping for Substitute Consent Application for Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath; EPA_2024 Scoping Doc Cover Letter_2024.02.14.pdf

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Re: rEIA Scoping for Substitute Consent Application for Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Ms Griffin,

I refer to your below correspondence dated 14 February 2024 regarding EIA scoping and a substitute consent application for peat extraction activities and your attached Scoping Document dated 2021. Please see attached Scoping Opinion under Article 5(2) of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive) that was issued by the EPA to MKO (Consultants on behalf of Bord na Móna Plc) on 21 January 2022.

For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning and EIA matters, please contact eiapanning@epa.ie

Yours faithfully,
Water, Energy and Business Support Programme

Water, Energy and Business Support Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



053-916 0600 (Switch)

eiapanning@epa.ie

www.epa.ie



From: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>
Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkofireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see revised email with full scoping document attached.

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin
Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Grainne Griffin

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:40 PM

To: EIAPPlanning <EIAPPlanning@epa.ie>

Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

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Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin

Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

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If you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned.
For all further queries and correspondence relating to planning and EIA matters, please contact eiaplanning@epa.ie

Yours faithfully,
Environmental Licensing Programme

Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil
Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Chomhshaoil



053-916 0600 (Switch)

eiaplanning@epa.ie

www.epa.ie



From: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Thursday 2 December 2021 18:50

To: EIAPanning <eiaplanning@epa.ie>

Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway
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From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 20 March 2024 10:58
To: Grainne Griffin
Cc: Karen Mulryan
Subject: TII24-126264 - rEIAR Scoping response in relation to Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath.

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Dear Ms. Griffin,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 February 2024 in relation to the above rEIAR Scoping exercise. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants concerning proposed developments. 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 national road and light rail policy and guidelines including 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.

The rEIAR Scoping document circulated is a copy originally circulated in 2021 to which TII provided a response under ref. TII21-116436 in December 2021.

With respect to rEIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road and light rail networks.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- Official policy for development at or near national roads is set out in the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/85b83-planning-guidelines-standards/>,
- In addition, as part of TII's responsibilities for managing and improving the country's national road and light rail networks, TII sets development guidance and standards for traffic and road assessments and construction that may be necessary by reason of proposed development location, scale, or typology to be prepared to accompany applications for developments or works. Technical guidance and standards are contained in TII Publications, available at <https://www.tiipublications.ie/>,
- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes,
- TII would be specifically concerned with to potentially significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development; N51 and N52, national secondary roads,

- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement or Assessment Report and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should have regard for any potential cumulative impacts,
- The developer, should have regard to TII's guidelines, including the Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes (March 2014),
- The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and 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 Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes (March 2014),
- 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. TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (TII Publication No. PE-PDV-02045) should be referred to in relation to the 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 Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA,
- 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,
- In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify the haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Separate structure approvals/permits, and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant local authorities, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Companies and Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contractors (MMaRC) may also be required. All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed, including abnormal weight load.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development-specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

Alban Mills
Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



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Karen Mulryan

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: 08 December 2021 10:30
To: Karen Mulryan
Subject: RE: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Ms. Mulryan,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email of 2 December 2021 relating to the above Remedial EIAR (rEIAR) Scoping exercise.

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.

With respect to rEIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes,
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development; N51 and N52, national secondary roads,
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads,
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement 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 rEIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works),
- The developer, in preparing rEIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006),
- The rEIAR/EIS should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)),
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with

relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, the TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed as TII will not be responsible for such costs,

- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required,
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the rEIAR 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.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your rEIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

Alban Mills

Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive

Ref No. TII21-116436



From: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Thursday 2 December 2021 19:04

To: INFO <Information@tii.ie>

Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the

preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkoireland.ie



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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <https://www.tii.ie/about/about-tii/Data-Protection/?set-lang=ga>

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Natalia Stolarska

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 29 February 2024 10:23
To: Grainne Griffin; Transport GCU
Cc: Karen Mulryan
Subject: RE: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Department of Transport in relation to an rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath.

The Department has no observations to make at this point in time.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Transport could be kept informed of any updates in relation to this project.

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: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 14 February 2024 16:29
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin
Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO

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Karen Mulryan

From: GCU - Reform Communications and Emergency Planning Divisional Mailbox
<GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: 16 December 2021 12:00
To: Karen Mulryan
Subject: FW: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: Ballivor Subcon Scoping - F1 - 2021.11.23 - 191137f compressed.pdf

Good morning Karen,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to this project.

The Department of Transport has no observations to make at this point in time.

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: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 December 2021 18:47
To: TRAYNOR Jacqui <JacquiTRAYNOR@transport.gov.ie>; Dept of Transport <info@transport.gov.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

MKO
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Ireland, H91 VW84
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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. 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. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. 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 agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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Karen Mulryan

From: Hueston, Caroline <caroline.hueston@hse.ie>
Sent: 22 December 2021 11:33
To: Karen Mulryan
Subject: HSE submission Scoping for Substitute Consent Ballivor Bog Your ref: 191137f
Attachments: Cover letter Ballivor Bog rEIAR EHIS 2084.docx; HSE submission Ballivor Bog Co Meath Westmeath Scoping MKO 191137f EHIS 2084.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Karen

Please find attached the HSE submission in respect of the above. The Environmental Health Service is satisfied that assessment methods proposed in the Scoping Document address the significant potential impacts and have very few additional comments to make

Regards and best wishes for a Happy Christmas

Caroline



Environmental Health Officer
Environment OU
Ennistymon Health Centre
Ennistymon
Co. Clare
065 7071143
086 8236817

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An tOifig Náisiúnta um Sláinte Chomhshaoil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Urlár 2, Teach na Darach, Ascaill na Teile
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara.

National Office for Environmental Health Services
2nd Floor, Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
Eircode: W91KDC2

T: 045 880 442
ehnationaloffice@hse.ie

Date: 22 December 2021

Name: Karen Mulryan, MKO, Tuam Road, Galway

Consultant's reference: 191137f

Re: rEIA Scoping Report

Proposed development: Substitute consent at Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath

Applicant: Bord na Mona PLC

EHIS Reference: 2084

Dear Ms Mulryan

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 7 December 2021

- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor

- Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection
- CHO – Des O’Flynn

If you have any queries regarding this report please contact me on the number below

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Hueston'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

**HSE EIAR Scoping Report
Environmental Health Service Consultation Report
(as a Statutory Consultee under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) &
Regulations made thereunder)**

Date: 22 December 2021

Proposed Development: Application for substitute consent for Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Applicant: Bord na Mona PLC

Our reference: EHIS 2084

Report to: Ms. Karen Mulryan, Environmental Scientist, MKO, Tuam Road, Galway

Consultant's Reference: 191137f

Type of consultation: Scoping Consultation

General Introduction

The Environmental Health Service (EHS) is aware of the Supreme Court Judgement in regard to the granting of Substitute Consent and the process of remedial EIA published on the 2nd July 2020.

Supreme Court Record No: 9/19

High Court Record Number: 2014/342 JR

In this regard the leave to apply for Substitute Consent under section 177 and the granting of such is not consistent with the EIA Directives in that there should be public participation in the decision making on granting leave to apply for Substitute Consent and that the granting of this was not subject to an exceptionality test.

It is therefore the understanding of the EHS that the process of Remedial EIA (rEIA) and the granting of Substitute Consent will have to be subject to review and/or legislative change.

It is within this context that the EHS makes this submission.

The HSE will consider the final rEIAR accompanying the planning application and will in particular make comments to the Planning Authority on the methodology used for assessing the significant impacts and the evaluation criteria used in assessing the significance of the impact. Whilst it is accepted that rEIA is considering impacts that have occurred, reference will still be made to the following documents:

- 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/reviewofdrafteisguidelinesadvicenotes/>

Generally the EHS will consider if the rEIA has examined all significant impacts and provided the following information for each:

- a) Description of the receiving environment including licencing compliance
- b) Legislative framework
- c) Description of the development
- d) The nature and scale of the impact
- e) An assessment of the significance of the impact
- f) Mitigation measures
- g) Residual impacts.
- h) Peatland rehabilitation proposals

In particular the EHS will consider the impacts on, or from:

- Noise & Vibration
- Air Quality including dust
- Surface and Ground water quality
- Geological Impacts
- Ancillary facilities

The cumulative impacts should also be assessed and evaluated in the rEIA.

The EHS has studied the document submitted by MKO on 2 December 2021 and is satisfied that the Scoping Document identifies the potential environmental effects (listed above) of the project which will be addressed in the rEIAR.

Population and Human Health

Directive 2014/52/EU has an increased requirement to assess likely significant impacts on Population and Human Health, in the case of a rEIA this is the actual impacts on Population and Human Health. It is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered in a

proportionate manner when considering the rEIA. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at www.publichealth.ie

Non-Technical Summary

The Non-Technical Summary is an important document to enable public access to the information. It should accurately summarise the rEIAR in non-technical language. It should identify the methodologies used and the criteria to evaluate the significant impacts and clearly state the mitigation that has been implemented. It should be easily referenced across to the main body of text.

Public Consultation

Meaningful public consultation with the local community should be carried out. All legitimate concerns from the public should be identified in the rEIA. The EIAR should clearly demonstrate how the outcome of consultation with the public influenced decision making within the EIA.



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

From: Jonathan Stirland (Housing) <Jonathan.Stirland@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 15:02
To: Grainne Griffin
Subject: Co. Westmeath. Ballivor Bog Group

You don't often get email from jonathan.stirland@housing.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Date: 16/02/2024

Our ref: WM-CON-A220310-0019

Re: Co. Westmeath. Ballivor Bog Group

MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

Dear Grainne Griffin

We refer to the consultation in relation to the above proposed development. Outlined below are the archaeological recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Archaeology

With regard to the above proposed development the Department has reviewed the Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report Scoping Document Substitute Consent for Peat Extraction at Ballivor Bog Group.

It is noted that the proposed development is large in scale. Given the extent and location of the proposed development it could impact on recorded monuments and subsurface archaeological remains.

In line with national policy, see Section 3.6 of the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999, the Department recommends that an archaeological impact assessment should be prepared to assess the impact of the development on the archaeological heritage. It is recommended that the assessment should be submitted with any further planning application. This will enable the Planning Authority and the Department to prepare an informed archaeological recommendation before a planning decision is taken.

Archaeological Impact Assessment;

1. The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to carry out an archaeological impact assessment of the development site. No sub-surface work should be undertaken until an archaeological assessment has been completed and commented on by this office.
2. The archaeologist should carry out any relevant documentary research and inspect

the development site. The ground impacts of the development on the Recorded Monument shall be assessed and described in detail.

3. Having completed the work, the archaeologist should submit a written report stating their recommendations to the National Monuments Service. Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, preservation *in situ*, preservation by record (excavation) or monitoring may be required.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

Jon Stirland

Seandálaí - *Archaeologist*
Seirbhís Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta - *National Monuments Service*

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

M +353 (0) 85 747 9528
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Email: Jonathan.Stirland@housing.gov.ie

Karen Mulryan

From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: 14 January 2022 14:38
To: Karen Mulryan
Subject: G Pre00299/2021 - 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: G Pre00299-2021 MKO 191137f Ballivor Bog.pdf

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 Oidhreacht
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



Your Ref: 191137f

Our Ref: G Pre00299/2021 (Please quote in all related correspondence)

14 January 2022

MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

Via email: kmulryan@mkoireland.ie

Proposed Pre Planning Development: MKO on behalf of Bord na Móna Plc.: for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath: Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs

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

The Department refers to your letter dated 2nd of December 2021, in regard to the preparation of a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) on behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. Your letter indicates that a Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) is currently being prepared which will accompany applications to An Bord Pleanála for Substitute Consent. The Department notes that MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants have been commissioned by Bord na Móna to act as consultants in relation to the application for Substitute Consent and as part of the EIAR process are engaging in consultation with prescribed bodies and other organisations seeking observations on the proposed applications and inputs in relation to scoping for environmental assessments.

The following observations are made by the Department in its role as a prescribed body under planning legislation and as the authority with overarching responsibility for nature conservation and the nature directives (i.e. the Birds and Habitats Directives). The observations are not exhaustive and are intended to assist you in addressing potential



impacts in relation to biodiversity and nature conservation in any environmental assessments you are preparing as part of applications for planning consent.

Given the scale of the application, the observations provided here are made without prejudice to any observations or recommendations that may be made by the Minister in the future.

In relation to environmental assessment which may be required both in relation to applications for substitute consent and future proposed development, the Department notes that consideration must be given to potential impacts to European sites. As you will be aware the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) requires that screening for appropriate assessment and where required, appropriate assessment be undertaken for all development proposals. This is required in order to meet the obligations arising from the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. These requirements are addressed in more detail below.

In addition the Department draws your attention to the duties of public authorities in relation to nature conservation as set out in Regulation 27 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). Public authorities are obliged, when exercising their functions, to take appropriate steps to avoid in European sites the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of species for which a site has been designated insofar as this disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Habitats Directive. Public authorities, in the exercise of its functions, must also strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats outside Special Protection Areas in accordance with Regulation 27(4) and Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive.

Matters relating to the Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report:

Scope of the Project

The Department notes that the Substitute Consent process seeks to regularise historic peat extraction using two different harvesting methods, namely milling and sod moss for horticulture. The Department understands that on many of the bogs, turf cutting by third parties, is also taking place, primarily at the edge of uncut remnant raised bogs, often at the periphery of central peat extraction areas. Such areas are included in the map which accompanied your letter. The extent and scope of the developments for which consent is sought must be clearly defined in the rEIAR. Precise mapping of the project area should be included. Where third party turf cutting is not included in the applications to the Board, the cumulative impacts of any such peat extraction together with milling and sod moss production on the same bogs should be assessed.

Project description

The rEIAR should describe in detail the project activities, including the use of peat resources, which have taken place from 1st February 1990, when the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) was transposed into Irish law. It is important that spatial and temporal details of peat resource



use and drainage operations are included. Scoping indicates that peat extraction related activities including the drainage of peat extraction areas, peat handling activities and ancillary works associated with peat extraction such as workshops, fuel storage area and canteens will be included in the rEIAR. The rEIAR should also include activities such as drain maintenance, settlement ponds and silt traps, disposal of silt, use and disposal of materials such as plastic sheeting, landscaping, mechanical and chemical clearance and destruction of vegetation. The timing of vegetation clearance operations should be provided to enable the assessment of impacts on habitats, flora and fauna.

The rEIAR should include consideration of any off-site but related projects including end use projects, such as the horticultural peat processing factory located at Ballivor. The rEIAR should also include an assessment of any other off-site projects linked to the main project by the movement / transport of material to other sites and locations.

In addition the rEIAR should also consider secondary projects, as appropriate. These are projects that arise largely because of the existence of the principal project, though they are usually not carried out by the developer of the principal project. Such projects include recreational land-use projects (e.g. development of walking and cycling facilities), and afforestation of cutaway bog.

The rEIAR should describe baseline environmental conditions as they were on 1st February 1990. The description of the baseline environment needs to be sufficiently accurate to provide a reliable reference against which impacts can be assessed. As the bog units have been in Bord na Móna's ownership since the reference date, significant internal sources of information should be available. Sources of external historical baseline information include data from state agencies such as EPA monitoring data, including river and lake water quality monitoring, bird, mammal, butterfly and plant atlases, aerial photography and reports, including raised bog reports available from the National Parks and Wildlife Service on request.

Impact Assessment

The rEIAR must contain a statement of the significant effects, if any, on the environment, which have occurred or which are occurring or which can reasonably be expected to occur because the development the subject of the application for substitute consent was carried out¹. Potential impacts should be identified using the source-pathway-receptor approach. Impacts should be assessed by analysing the effects of each impact on ecological receptors. The ecological significance of such effects should then be reported in relation to each receptor and appropriate mitigation and/or remediation proposed. The rEIAR must identify and describe adequately the direct and indirect significant effects on the environment of the development². Potential impacts which may be significant and which should be assessed include:

¹ Section 177F(1)A(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended

² Section 177E(4A)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended



1. Habitat loss (both temporary and permanent)³
2. Species loss (including loss of typical raised bog flora and fauna)⁴
3. Habitat Fragmentation
4. Hydrological and Hydrogeological impacts
5. Nature Conservation site impacts (e.g. proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves etc.)
6. Emissions to air (dust, ammonia) from operations and storage of peat
7. Impacts to climate
8. Invasive species impacts
9. Increase in predation of ground nesting birds due to afforestation and habitat degradation
10. Ecological impacts of dumping
11. Disturbance to habitats and species both from operations and other activities (including recreational use)
12. Fires

The rEIAR should identify the extent of peatland habitats and species present during the timeframe of the historic peat extraction within the bog group and it should assess impacts from peat extraction and related works and activities on these habitats and species during that period up to the present date.

The primary emissions to water associated with peat harvesting are discharges arising from the bog surface water drainage channels. Water can be pumped and gravity fed. Environmental impacts generally relate to the release of suspended solids and ammonia to streams and rivers and to resultant hydromorphological alterations to these watercourses. All such potential impacts must be assessed. For example, there is evidence that high levels of ammonia are being released from peat-extraction activities during the draining process and along with suspended solids, may be causing ecological impacts in receiving water bodies⁵.

It is the Department's understanding that EPA Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licencing, limits the discharge of suspended solids to 35mg/l for all surface water outfalls from boglands within licenced areas. In addition there are a number of parameters monitored on a quarterly basis such as pH, flow, suspended solids, total solids, total phosphorus, total Ammonia, colour and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). It is important that the focus of impact

³ The loss of habitat in the reference period should be quantified.

⁴ Biodiversity loss (including typical raised bog flora and fauna) in the reference period should be quantified

⁵ River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021



assessment in relation to biodiversity should be on impacts to sensitive ecological receptors and not only on compliance with water quality standards as set down in EPA licences.

Environmental impact assessment should also take account of cumulative impacts which may arise as has been set out above.

Remedial measures

The rEIAR must also contain details of any appropriate remedial measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the applicant for substitute consent to remedy any significant adverse effects on the environment and the period of time within which any proposed remedial measures will be carried out by or on behalf of the applicant⁶. The Department recommends that any such measures should be based on the significant effects identified in the assessment and should be informed by the following:

- The requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended).
- National Peatlands Strategy 2015
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021, or any succeeding plan
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, or any succeeding plan
- Climate Action Plan 2021 and National Climate Policy
- Planning policy at national, regional and local level

Remedial measures should not, however, rely on measures to be undertaken in the above plans but should be specific measures based on a full assessment to the project(s) to which the applications to An Bord Pleanála relate.

The Department notes that Bord na Móna is currently producing rehabilitation plans for all Bord na Móna bogs to stabilise former peat production areas and enhance biodiversity. Should measures included in such plans be included as remedial measures for the purposes of the developments under consideration, they should relate specifically to the significant effects identified in the rEIAR and should provide adequate remediation of these effects.

Matters relating to Appropriate Assessment:

As noted above the Department advises that screening for appropriate assessment and if required, appropriate assessment must be undertaken in respect of the peat extraction projects which are the subject of planning applications.

The peat harvesting activities associated with the Ballivor Bog Group have occurred upstream of, downstream of, and adjacent to European sites. Screening for appropriate

⁶ Section 177F(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended



assessment should focus on the likely significant effects of peat extraction and related activities on European sites noting that impacts to sites via air and water may occur over large distances. The Department is of the view that the preparation of a remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) (see Section 177G of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)) may be required in relation to the planning application. You should note the specific requirements for a rNIS as set out in Section 177G(a) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as follows:

“A remedial Natura impact statement shall contain the following:

- (a) A statement of the significant effects, if any, on the relevant European sites which have occurred or which are occurring or which can reasonably be expected to occur because the development the subject of the application for substitute consent was carried out;”*

It is noted that the scope of any rNIS should include the timeframe from the date of enactment of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (26th February 1997) to the present date.

The rNIS should provide a full description of the development and each bog within the Ballivor Bog Group within the development.

All relevant stages, works and processes associated with site preparation, operation and decommissioning of the peat harvesting activities historically should be taken into account as part of the assessment undertaken subject to the appropriate legislative timeframe. This includes access provision, clearance and stripping of vegetation and overburden, expansion, extraction and processing operations over time, machinery and materials used, surface water and groundwater management, silt and sediment control, discharges and emissions, berms and landscaping, transportation infrastructure, waste storage and management, site restoration, reinstatement and after-use.

Any rNIS (and subsequent appropriate assessment) should examine the implications of the project, individually and in-combination with other plans and projects, for the Qualifying Interests (QIs), or the Special Conservation Interests (SCIs), of the European site(s) concerned, in view of the site's conservation objectives and in light of the best scientific knowledge in the field. Any assessment cannot have lacunae or gaps, and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions. Where appropriate any rNIS must put forward mitigation or remedial measures and demonstrate clearly that these measures are effective in addressing the impacts identified and capable of full implementation. The timeframe during which these remedial or mitigation measures are to be carried out must also be indicated. The rNIS should form the basis for an appropriate assessment to be undertaken by the competent authority. Competent authorities can authorise a project only after having made certain that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site(s). This is so when there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of such effects.



The Department recommends that any rNIS should consider the historic and current threats and pressures to European sites in its analysis. All impacts that have occurred should be identified and assessed and it should not be assumed that because compliance has occurred with licence conditions during peat harvesting operations (e.g. EPA IPC licence), that no adverse impacts have occurred to European sites. Scientific data available for the time period involved should be utilised including the Article 17 (Habitats Directive) assessment of conservation status reports (2007, 2013 & 2019) and the Article 12 (Birds Directive) status and trends of Ireland's bird species reports.

Some key impacts on European Sites from historic peat harvesting operations, which should be considered in any rNIS, include:

- Drainage
- Hydrological effects (both surface and ground water)
- Silt/Sediment run off via surface water & drains
- Particulate emissions from operations and storage of peat
- Ammonia emissions from operations
- Disturbance to habitats and species both from operations and other in-combination activities including, for example, recreational use
- Fires
- Invasive species
- Illegal dumping
- Habitat fragmentation
- Pumping of water off sites

The rNIS should focus on source-receptor pathways in identifying the impacts of peat harvesting activities and their effects. The ecological effects of specific impact that have occurred in relation to the habitats and species for which European sites have been designated should be assessed both individually and in-combination with other plans and projects and appropriate mitigation and remedial measures proposed as part of any assessment.

Future use

The Department recognises the opportunity for climate change mitigation through the rewetting and restoration of dry, bare cutaway bog, thereby lowering carbon emissions from these sites as well as restoring biodiversity and notes that this is an objective of the National Peatland Strategy 2015 and the Climate Action Plan 2021. Detailed and specific rehabilitation plans for sites will be required to achieve these outcomes. The Department is of the view that any proposed peat extraction or other proposed developments at such sites



must be designed taking full account of the detailed and specific requirements of rehabilitation planning at these sites. Rehabilitation plans should inform the peat extraction process so as to optimise the potential of any bog unit to recover after decommissioning, in terms of biodiversity, reductions in carbon emissions and all other ecosystem services.

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@housing.gov.ie.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Diarmuid Buttimer'.

Diarmuid Buttimer
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Karen Mulryan

From: Wendy Bagnall <wbagnall@meathcoco.ie>
Sent: 03 February 2022 12:10
To: Karen Mulryan
Cc: Loreto Guinan; Louise Heeney
Subject: RE: rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Karen,

Please see below for your attention comments from MCC Heritage Officer, on behalf of Meath County Council:

'I have made comments in respect of the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIA.

- *The scope of works proposed in the Biodiversity Section (5.2.4.6) should include reference to invasive species in accordance with European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – Third Schedule (Regulations 49 and 50)*
- *Habitat Surveys should have regard to the extent of Annex I habitats on site – in particular – Annex I habitat Degraded raised bogs still capable of regeneration [code 7120]*
- *It is noted in section 4.2 - 'In compliance with the IPC licence P0501-01, draft Rehabilitation Plans have been produced by Bord na Móna for all Bogs in the Ballivor Bog Group It is a requirement of Condition 10 of the aforementioned IPC Licence, however, that following decommissioning of use or involvement of all or part of the site in the licensed activity, Bord na Móna prepares (to the satisfaction of the EPA) and implements a final Cutaway Bog Rehabilitation Plan for the Ballivor Bog Group. The discharge of Condition 10 will facilitate the permanent rehabilitation of the Ballivor Bog Group in conjunction with any parallel future end-uses (wind energy infrastructure)'.*

Please note:

- Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 accessible from www.meath.ie.
- The county the subject lands are located within should be clearly illustrated on the mapping.

Regards Wendy Bagnall

For and on behalf of Meath County Council

Wendy Bagnall | Senior Executive Planner | B Soc Sci | MRUP | Dip Law | MIPI

| Meath County Council | Planning Department |

Contact Details: wbagnall@meathcoco.ie | DD 353 46 9097505 |

Keep up to date: www.meath.ie |    



From: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Tuesday 7 December 2021 14:38

To: Wendy Bagnall <wbagnall@meathcoco.ie>

Cc: Frank O'Donnell <frank.odonnell@meathcoco.ie>

Subject: RE: rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Good afternoon Wendy,

Thank you very much for getting back to me. Mid January is fine, we appreciate the busy period in the lead up to Christmas, paired back availabilities due to covid restrictions and Christmas shut down. We look forward to your feedback in the New Year.

Kind regards,

Karen.



Karen Mulryan
Environmental Scientist BA MSc ACIfA IAI

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkoireland.ie



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From: Wendy Bagnall <wbagnall@meathcoco.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 7 December 2021 14:34
To: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Frank O'Donnell <frank.odonnell@meathcoco.ie>
Subject: rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Good afternoon Karen,

I have been asked to address the provision of comments to yourselves on the rEIA.

Due to our current workloads this information will not be available until mid January.

Can you confirm if that timeline fits with your work programme,

Regards Wendy

For and on behalf of Meath County Council

Wendy Bagnall | Senior Executive Planner | B Soc Sci | MRUP | Dip Law | MIPI

-: Meath County Council | Planning Department | Buvinda House | Dublin Road | Navan | C15 Y 291:

+353 46 9097505 | 7: +353 46 9097001

Visit our web sites: <https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/planning-and-building> [MakeltMeath.com](https://www.makeltmeath.com)



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**Buvinda House,
Dublin Road,
Navan,
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

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Meath County Council's new corporate headquarters are:

**Buvinda House,
Dublin Road,
Navan,
Co. Meath, C15 Y291**

Natalia Stolarska

From: IWT Info <info@iwt.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 21 February 2024 10:20
To: Grainne Griffin
Subject: Re: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

You don't often get email from info@iwt.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Grainne,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

We do not have the staff capacity to respond to this consultation at the moment but we will endeavour to respond if possible.

Kind regards,
Fabiola Vieira

On Wed, 14 Feb 2024 at 17:28, Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie> wrote:

Dear Ms Vieira,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin

Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



Offices in Galway and Dublin

mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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Irish Wildlife Trust, 8 Cabra Road, Dublin 7, D07T1W2

Registered Charity (CRA) Number: 20010966

Facebook: IrishWildlifeTrust

Twitter: @irishwildlife

Phone: 01 445 7259 (landline available Wednesday-Thursday 9:30 to 5pm)

Natalia Stolarska

From: Sabine Browne <Sabine.Browne@waterwaysireland.org>
Sent: Thursday 15 February 2024 12:12
To: Grainne Griffin
Cc: Karen Mulryan
Subject: RE: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon Gráinne,

This is not within any Zone of Influence of our waterways so we will not be commenting.

Kind regards,

Sabine Browne

From: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 5:47 PM
To: Sabine Browne <Sabine.Browne@waterwaysireland.org>
Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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For the attention of Gráinne Griffin
Environmental Scientist
MKO
Tuam Road,
Galway, H91 VW84

By Email: ggriffin@mkofireland.ie

Date: 20th March 2023

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 –Substitute Consent Application at the Ballivor Bog Group.

Dear Gráinne Griffin

Uisce Éireann has received your email notification and accompanying report re. the proposed Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group.

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 the EIA scoping opinions below should be directed to planning@water.ie

PP. *Ali Robinson*

Geoffrey Burke

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 Uisce Éireann network.

All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from <https://www.water.ie/connections/connection-steps/>.
- f) The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.
- g) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.
- h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers.

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

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note;

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

Natalia Stolarska

From: Cillian Claffey(C) <cillian.claffey@water.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 20 March 2024 10:28
To: Grainne Griffin
Cc: Karen Mulryan
Subject: FW: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath
Attachments: Uisce Éireann_2024 Scoping Doc Cover Letter_2024.02.14.pdf;
UisceÉireann_EIAScopingOpinion_Ballivor Bog Group.pdf

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Good morning Gráinne,

Hope you are keeping well today.

Please find attached Uisce Éireann's response to your EIA scoping request relating to Ballivor Bog Group,.

Could you please notify myself OR planning@water.ie upon submission on this planning application so that we can get a heads up and ensure we receive the referral in adequate time.

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

Kind regards,

Cillian Claffey
Development Management Planning

Mallow
Uisce Éireann
Teach na hAbhann Duibhe, Mala, Co. Chorcaí, P51 K3CX
Uisce Éireann
Blackwater House, Mallow, Co. Cork, P51 K3CX

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cillian.claffey@water.ie
www.water.ie
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Grainne Griffin <ggriffin@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 14 February 2024 17:26
To: Planning <Planning@water.ie>
Cc: Karen Mulryan <kmulryan@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: 191137f- rEIA Scoping Document for Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath/Westmeath

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Following on from initial scoping in December 2021, please consider the below:

On behalf of Bord na Móna Plc and subsidiaries ('the Applicant'), MKO is preparing a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) to accompany a Substitute Consent Application for past peat extraction activities at the Ballivor Bog Group. The Ballivor Bog Group comprises Ballivor, Carranstown, Bracklin, Lisclogher and Lisclogher West Bogs located approximately 2.2km west of Ballivor Village, Co. Meath, and 3.7km east of Raharney and 2.5km south-southeast of Devlin, both located in Co. Westmeath.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you may have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the rEIAR. In order to facilitate this, a Scoping Document providing details of the proposed project and the site of the proposed development is attached.

If you could return any comments or suggestions within four weeks upon this receipt, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gráinne.

Gráinne Griffin
Environmental Scientist BSc. MSc. CEcol.

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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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 bhraitheadh 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 theachtairreachtaí 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.

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 theachtairreachtaí 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.