

Appendix 19-3 Addendum: Terrestrial Habitat Balance Sheet



ORIEL WIND FARM PROJECT

Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Addendum Appendix 19-3 Addendum: Terrestrial Habitat Balance Sheet

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1 TERRESTRIAL HABITAT BALANCE SHEET

1.1 Introduction

This Addendum provides information to supplement appendix 19-3: Terrestrial Habitat Balance Sheet of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (volume 2C). It has been prepared in response to a Request for Further Information (RFI) from An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) (formerly An Bord Pleanála) regarding the planning application (case reference ABP-319799-24) for the Oriel Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as “the Project”).

Table 19A-1 of EIAR chapter 19 Addendum: Onshore Biodiversity outlines the specific information requested according to the referencing used in the ‘Schedule-Further Information Request’ provided by ACP (e.g. 19.A which refers to terrestrial habitats). Table 19A-1 also indicates where the corresponding information / responses can be found within the Addendum to chapter 19 and provides a concluding statement on any resulting updates or changes to the original assessment presented in the EIAR (2024). Some of these responses have therefore resulted in changes to the Terrestrial Habitat Balance Sheet in this Addendum. These changes include:

- CS3 sedimentary sea cliffs now to be retained (previously recorded as a loss/reinstatement) at transition joint bay location;
- WD1 (mixed) broadleaved woodland and WS2 immature woodland now proposed for removal between the onshore substation and Joint Bay 4; and
- WL1 hedgerows removal now proposed at landfall for amended transition joint bay locations and associated temporary working area.

1.2 Quantitative assessment

Table 1A-1 below provides an update to results for the quantitative assessment of habitats (presented in Table 1-1 of appendix 19-3: Terrestrial Habitat Balance Sheet, EIAR volume 2C). Changes are shown in blue text.

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Table 1A-1: Quantitative assessment of habitats (this replaces Table 1-1 in appendix 19-3: Terrestrial Habitat Balance Sheet, EIAR volume 2C).

Fossitt Code ¹	Habitat Classification	Baseline		Loss		Restored		Balance		Period of restoration ²
		Total Area (m ²)	Length (m)	Total Area (m ²)	Length (m)	Total Area (m ²)	Length (m)	Total Area (m ²)	Length (m)	
BC1	Arable crops	676,998	n/a	72,217	0	23,581	0	-48,636	0	Short-term
CB1	Shingle and gravel banks	1,232	n/a	758	0	758	0	0	0	Short-term
CS3	Sedimentary sea cliffs	472	n/a	435 0	0	435 0	0	0	0	Short-term Not applicable
GA1	Improved agricultural grassland	247,976	n/a	9,909	0	9,909	0	0	0	Short-term
GA2	Amenity grassland (improved)	271	n/a	39	0	39	0	0	0	Short-term
GS1	Dry calcareous grassland	784	n/a	342	0	342	0	0	0	Medium-term
GS1_WS1 (mosaic)	Dry calcareous grassland & Scrub	14,287	n/a	1,943	0	1,943	0	0	0	Medium-term
GS2	Dry meadows and grassy verges	10,282	n/a	911	0	911	0	0	0	Short-term
GS1_GS2 (mosaic)	Dry calcareous grassland & Dry meadows and grassy verges	8,597	n/a	1,046	0	1,046	0	0	0	Medium-term
WD1	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland	1,758 24,423	n/a 1,692	0 22,665	0	0	0	0 -22,665	0	Long-term
WD2	Mixed broadleaved/ conifer woodland	9,148	n/a	980	0	980	0	0	0	Long-term
WL1	Hedgerows	n/a	24,638	0	2,446 2,456	0	2,434 2,444	-12	0	Long-term
WL2	Treelines	5,355	588	704	63	704	63	0	0	Long-term
WS1	Scrub	3,898	n/a	1,740	0	1,740	0	0	0	Medium-term
WS2	Immature woodland	n/a	11,740	0	536 2,958	0	536 2,958	0	0	Medium-term

¹ Fossitt (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council.

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The outcome of the calculations shown in Table 1A-1 indicate that, quantitatively, the Project will result in habitat losses for the following additional habitat type:

- WD1 - (Mixed) broadleaved woodland.

1.3 Qualitative assessment

The following new qualitative habitat measures are proposed for the CB1 shingle and gravel bank habitat:

- During construction, a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist will supervise the works within Dunany Point pNHA CB1 shingle and gravel bank habitat, ensuring that CB1 shingle and gravel habitat layers including cobble, pebble, gravel and sand required for removal to facilitate the offshore cable corridor, are stored by their respective particle size for later reinstatement; and
- Post-construction, that reprofiling and reinstatement of the affected shingle beach area is completed.

1.4 Conclusion

The updated assessment has included both a quantitative and qualitative analysis. Quantitatively, the Project will result in a loss of WL1 - Hedgerow (12 m), BC1 - Arable crop habitats (48,636 m²), and WD1 (Mixed) broadleaved woodland (22,665 m²). While BC1 is considered to be of low ecological value, hedgerow and mixed broadleaved woodland are often associated with higher ecological value. Qualitatively, and subject to the measures outlined in section 1.3, the Project will restore biodiversity with respect to both BC1 arable crops and WL1 hedgerow habitats lost as part of the Project. The loss of WD1 (Mixed) broadleaved woodland will not be offset, however the area will be part replanted with low-growing shrubs / allowed to revegetate.

While the qualitative habitat measures will not result in “like-for-like” habitat, they will result in habitat restoration, as applied. In light of this, it is considered that the Project will be slight negative in terms of loss / gain of habitat, as a proxy for loss/ gain of biodiversity.