



Tarbert Emergency Generation

An Bord Pleanála

Provision of professional ecological advice and technical support

March 2023

Project No:	2301
Rev:	A

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1 Introduction

This memorandum, or brief report, has been prepared by Monica Kane, an independent Ecologist and Environmental Consultant, in accordance with an agreement with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) to provide professional ecological advice and technical support in relation to the Tarbert Emergency Generation Power Plant project. The project has been proposed under the Development (Emergency Electricity Generation) Bill 2022, which provides for emergency measures for electricity generation development to ameliorate and protect security of supply in the State.

2 Statement of authority

This report has been undertaken by Monica Kane, BSc MSc MCIEEM, of KWA, an Ecologist and Environmental Consultant, who has over 18 years' experience working in environmental consultancy. She has extensive experience in undertaking ecological surveys and specialises in assessing the effects of developments on ecology and nature conservation. During this time, she has authored, contributed and reviewed multiple screening for appropriate assessment reports and Natura Impact Statements, EIAR's/EIS's, EclA's and other ecological and environmental reports for a variety of projects.

3 Review of application documentation

A review of the following project-related documents and drawings was carried out:

- Site layout and site location drawings
- Environmental Report (ER)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening report (AASR)
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and related documents and figures
- Written submissions or observations.

This review examined all the information provided in the application documentation including the adequacy of the ecological baseline data provided in the AASR, NIS and ER and highlighted significant inadequacies if and when they arose. Accordingly, ecological advice and technical support was provided in relation to:

- the Appropriate Assessment for the purposes of the Habitats Directive;
- the topic of biodiversity in the ER; and
- associated consent conditions relating to the application.

4 Review outcome and conclusions

A synopsis of the key outcomes and conclusions of the review are described here below.

Disturbance effects:

- A review of the predicted noise emissions, which could potentially cause disturbance to birds, mammals and marine mammals was conducted.
- A review of the adequacy of the baseline data identified deficits regarding the waterbird usage of the area. Supplementary baseline information was obtained to provide more comprehensive data of waterbird usage of the Shannon Estuary in order to facilitate assessment of potentially significant disturbance impacts.
- Supplementary information was obtained to provide information on the effects of shore piling on marine mammals to facilitate assessment of potentially significant disturbance impacts.
- Consent conditions to avoid potentially significant disturbance effects to birds, mammals and marine mammals were recommended including extending the acoustic barrier, pursuing supplementary noise measures, minimizing lighting impacts on the shore, and adherence to both the TII treatment of Otter guidance¹ and DAHG (2014)² guidance on managing risk to marine mammals from noise.

Water quality effects:

- A review of the predicted emissions to water was conducted.
- The project design information for surface water management during operation of the power plant was considered deficient.
- Consent conditions to avoid potentially significant impacts to water quality including the provision of an appropriately designed surface water management network, and adherence to relevant published standards and guidance, and water quality regulations for surface waters, groundwater and shellfish waters, were recommended.

Air quality effects:

- A review of the predicted emissions to air was conducted.

Submissions:

- A review of relevant available submissions to date was conducted.

¹ NRA (2008). Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters Prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes.

² DAHG (2014). Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters.