

## Scoping Document

Glenard Wind Farm, Co.  
Donegal





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 General Introduction

Coillte is proposing to develop a commercial scale wind farm at Glenard, located north of Eskaheen Mountain, Inishowen, Co. Donegal.

The proposed development site is located approximately 7.5 kilometres east of Buncrana and approximately 5.2 kilometres west of Quiqley's Point. The approximate location for the centre of the site is E244,000 N432,000. The proposed site covers an area of approximately 730 hectares, in total, and it is divided into two blocks; a larger northern block of 523 hectares and a smaller southern block of 183 hectares. At this scale the site has the potential to accommodate a wind energy development in excess of 50 megawatts. The number and layout of turbines will be refined during the upcoming project design stages.

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) has been appointed as Environmental Consultants for the project and will prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to support the planning application.

The Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) thresholds for wind energy set out in the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, are 25 no. turbines or 50 Megawatts (MW). It is anticipated that the proposed development will likely have an output of greater than 50 Megawatts. Should the project be of this scale, an application will be made to An Bord Pleanála (Board) seeking a determination in relation to the SID status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind energy development. If the Board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provisions of Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, an application for planning permission will be made to Donegal County Council.

## 1.2 The Applicant

The applicant for the proposed development is Coillte, a commercial semi-state company operating in forestry, land-based businesses, renewable energy and panel products. Coillte manages an estate of 440,000 hectares (ha) which equates to 7% of the land area of Ireland. The estate includes 350,000 ha of productive forests and 91,000 ha of open space including areas designated with nature conservation as the primary management objective. In addition, the Coillte estate contains other areas of high conservation value forest where management activities are permitted only where they maintain or enhance such conservation values.

Coillte has been a supporter of wind energy since the earliest days of the sector in Ireland in the 1990s. Of the approximately 3 Gigawatts (GW) of wind farms now in operation in Ireland, nearly one-third are located on Coillte managed lands. Within Coillte Land Solutions, the Renewable Energy team has extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of wind energy developments throughout Ireland, with projects currently operating in Counties Wicklow, Galway, Roscommon and Cork. Coillte is committed to working with leading sectoral experts to deliver best-in-class projects. Coillte is also deeply committed to open and transparent consultation with local communities and other stakeholders about both existing and prospective projects.

## 1.3 Requirement for EIA

European Union Directive 2011/92/EU (and amending Directive 2014/52/EU) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the 'EIA Directive'), requires member

states to ensure that a competent authority carries out an assessment of the likely significant effects of certain types of project, as listed in the Directive, prior to development consent being given for the project. Article 5 of the EIA Directive, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, provides that where an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required, the developer shall prepare and submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR),

The proposed development exceeds the relevant threshold for mandatory EIA requirement, i.e. more than 5 turbines and more than 5 MW, as described in Part 2, Class 3 (i) of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, relating to the harnessing of wind energy. Under the requirements of Section 172 Part 1, it is therefore considered that EIA is mandatory for the proposed development.

McCarthy Keville O’Sullivan Ltd. has been appointed as Environmental Consultants for the project and will prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in support of the planning application. The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, Directive 2014/52/EU, amending Directive 2011/92/EU, relating to the information to be contained in an EIAR, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ‘Draft Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports’ (2017).

## 1.4 Purpose of Scoping Document

Scoping is the process of identifying the significant issues which should be addressed by the EIAR. Scoping is also intended to identify the potential environmental effects of the project, sensitive receptors, and the appropriate level of information to be provided in the EIAR. This Scoping Document provides details regarding the proposed development and the subject site and is being circulated to all relevant consultees. It also sets out the proposed scope of work for the EIAR. Consultees are invited to contribute to the EIAR by suggesting baseline data, survey techniques and potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. The list of consultees to whom this Scoping Document is being circulated is provided in **Appendix 1**. Appendix 1 also lists the telecommunications operators who have been contacted as part of the constraints mapping exercise for the proposed project (see Section 5 for further details).

## 1.5 Consultation

The Community Liaison Strategy for the Project is based around engaging with the local community in an open, honest and transparent manner with the aim to not only provide clear and understandable information but also to gain feedback to understand the views of the local community. This feedback and information will be used to inform the design process, thereby allowing the local community an opportunity to have an influence on the project design.

A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been appointed as the point of the contact for the Project, and has been engaging with the local community. The purpose of the CLO is to introduce the project to the local community, engage and establish a line of dialogue with the local community and facilitate one-to-one consultation meetings, or group meetings where requested. The CLO will also disseminate information on the project to the local community as it becomes available and as the project progresses.

The Coillte CLO and the Coillte Project Manager for the proposed wind farm intend to spend significant time at one-to-one and group meetings in the local community. Contact details for the CLO and Project Manager have been provided, for local residents to get in touch with any queries or comments regarding the design and assessment of the proposed project as it progresses. Coillte will encourage the establishment of a community group/local residents group for the purposes of engaging in further consultation with the project team.

## 2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Site Location and Access

The proposed development site is located in an upland area, north of Eskaheen Mountain, Inishowen, Co. Donegal. The proposed development site is located approximately 7.5 kilometres east of Buncrana and approximately 5.2 kilometres west of Quigley's Point. The approximate location for the centre of the site is E244,000 N432,000.

The proposed site covers an area of approximately 730 hectares, in total, and it is divided into two blocks; a larger northern block of 523 hectares and a smaller southern block of 183 hectares. The site ranges in elevation from 120 metres above ordnance datum (m OD), in the north of the site, to 360m OD in the south of the site. The site location is presented in Figure 2.1.

The site is located, almost in its entirety, within the Scalp Mountain Landscape Character Area (LCA), as per the Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024, which typically comprises widespread upland blanket and is dominated by the Scalp and Iskaheen Mountains. The proposed development site is surrounded by a number of prominent peaks, namely Illies Hill (240m OD) to the north, Sorne Hill (260m OD) to the west, Eskaheen Mountain (418m OD) to the south and Glackmore Hill (393m OD), Crockglass (397m OD) and Leamacrosson Hill (392m OD) to the west. The elevation at the site itself varies from 120m to 360m OD.

The site lies on the watershed divide between the Crana River to the north and the Owenkillew River which flows west along the northern boundary of the southern half of the site. The Glenard River rises within and flows north through the centre of the northern half of the site before entering the Crana River. Lough Foyle is located approximately 3.7km southeast of the site at its closest point, however, it is not hydrologically linked to the site. Both the Crana and Owenkillew Rivers flow in a westerly direction before entering Lough Swilly. The Pollan Dam and Reservoir is located approximately one kilometre north of the proposed development site. The reservoir is located upstream of the site and is not hydrologically linked to the site of the proposed development.

The site is accessed via a number of local roads and Coillte forestry roads. The northern portion of the site is accessed via local roads that adjoin the R240 Regional Road which is located to the northeast of the site. The southern portion of the site is accessed via local roads and forestry tracks adjoining the R238 Regional Road which is located east of the site.

### 2.2 Land Use

The proposed development site is used for commercial forestry, with widespread young to mature forestry coverage. Wind energy is also a significant land-use in the vicinity, and includes the operating Crockahenny, Flughland, Glackmore, Meenkeeragh and Sorne Hill wind farms. The permitted Aught Wind Farm is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the proposed development site and the permitted Fahan Wind Farm is located to the north of the site boundary. The locations of the operating and permitted wind farms listed above are presented in Figure 2.2. All existing and permitted wind farms within 20 kilometres of the proposed wind farm will be assessed in the EIAR as part of the cumulative impact assessment.

In addition to forestry and wind energy, other land-uses in the surrounding area include agriculture, peat-cutting and low to medium-density residential areas. Grid infrastructure in the area includes the 110 kV overhead line between the Sorne Hill and Trillick 110 kV substations; the line is located approximately 2.3 kilometres west of the proposed development site, as shown in Figure 2.1. This 110kV line continues from Trillick substation to the Letterkenny 110kV substation.

## 2.3 Designated Areas

The nearest Natura 2000 site, i.e. Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), to the proposed development site is Lough Foyle SPA, located approximately 3.65 kilometres southeast of the proposed development site at its closest point. The nearest SACs are the Magheradrumman Bog SAC and the Lough Swilly SAC, located approximately 7.7 kilometres northeast and west of the site respectively.

Camowen River Bog Natural Heritage Area (NHA) is located approximately 170 metres from the northern boundary of the proposed development site, as shown in Figure 2.3.

The potential for the proposed development to have any impact on designated sites will be assessed as part of the EIA process. A Natura Impact Statement will also be prepared in line with the requirements of the Habitats Directive; see Section 6.3 of this document for further details.

### 3. STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

#### 3.1 EU and Government Targets

Ireland's mandatory target under Directive 2009/28/EC on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources is for renewable resources to account for 16% of total energy consumption by 2020. The Department of Climate Change, Action & Environment (DCCAE) reported in their 'Fourth Progress Report on the National Renewable Energy Action Plan' (December 2017) that Ireland is expected achieve 13% of its 16% RES target by 2020.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) in their report 'Ireland's Energy Targets – Progress, Ambition & Impacts' (April 2016) estimates that Ireland's inability to achieve its 2020 renewable energy targets will result in fines of between €65 million and €130 million per percentage shortfall on its overall binding target after 2020 until it meets its targets.

The June 2018 'Off Target Report' published by the Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, which ranks EU countries ambition and progress in fighting climate change, listed Ireland as the second worst performing EU member state in tackling climate change. It also stated that Ireland is set to miss its 2020 climate and renewable energy targets and is also off course for its unambitious 2030 emissions target.

At a national level, the targets within the Government's White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland: The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020' set a 33% target of electricity from renewable sources by 2020, which was subsequently increased to 40% by 2020. The White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030' (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2015) builds upon the 2007 Paper and confirms that onshore wind is the cheapest form of renewable energy in Ireland.

A report published by the SEAI in December 2017 presents national energy statistics on energy production and consumption in Ireland over the period 1990 – 2016. Renewable energy sources (which include wind) accounted for 27.2% of Ireland's electricity consumption in 2016, which is over halfway to Ireland's 2020 target of 40%. However, Ireland remains heavily dependent on the importation of fossil fuels to meet its energy needs, with imported fossil fuels accounting for 69% of Ireland's dependency in 2016 at an estimated cost of €3.4 billion. This high dependency on energy imports is highly risky and Ireland is currently extremely vulnerable both in terms of meeting future energy needs and ensuring price stability. ('Energy in Ireland 1990-2016', SEAI, December 2017).

Against this backdrop, the importance of wind energy as the main component of Ireland's renewable energy development is acknowledged, and wind energy is accepted as the main contributor to meeting the Country's national climate change and energy supply obligations. Notwithstanding this, it must also be acknowledged that not every part of Ireland is well endowed with wind resources and therefore, not all counties will be able to deliver wind-based renewable energy. Furthermore, whilst it is accepted that there are other renewable energy technologies in operation, for the foreseeable future many areas will be unable to deliver significant renewable energy output. This primarily applies to the more populous counties in the east of the country.

National and international renewable energy and climate change targets must be achieved and it is crucial that these are appropriately translated and implemented at regional and local levels. Wind farm development at any one site involves balancing the design of the proposed project with the characteristics of the site and its surroundings.

In June 2019, the Government of Ireland published the Climate Action Plan 2019. The Plan sets out actions that are to be taken so that Ireland can achieve its climate-change targets. Among these actions, the Plan states that 70% of all electricity will come from renewable sources by 2030 with a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the intervening period. Chapter 7 of the Plan sets out the measures to



be put in place in order to achieve the above targets including the increase in onshore wind capacity from the currently installed capacity of approximately 3.7GW up to 8.2GW.

EirGrid's All Island Generation Capacity Statement 2018 - 2027' (October 2018), estimates that between 3.9 – 4.4 Gigawatts (GW) of wind may be required to meet the 2020 Renewable Energy Supply - Electricity (RES-E) target of 40%. This would mean an average of approximately 300 MW of extra wind capacity would be required to be installed each year between 2018 and 2020 to achieve targets. The EirGrid 2018 report states that new wind farms commissioned in Ireland in 2017 brought total wind capacity to over 3,300 MW, contributing to the increase in the overall RES-E percentage of 29% with wind energy accounting for 25%.

### 3.2

## Donegal County Development 2018-2024

The Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024 (CDP) is the principal instrument that is used to manage change in land use in the County. The Plan sets out the Council's strategic land use objectives and policies for the overall development of the County up to 2024 and beyond to a 20-year time frame of 2038. With regards to energy it is an aim of Donegal to:

*“To facilitate the development of a diverse energy portfolio by the sustainable harnessing of the potential of renewable energy including ocean energy, bioenergy, solar, wind and geothermal, along with the sustainable use of oil and gas, and other emerging energy sources in accordance with National Energy policy and guidance. It is also an aim to facilitate the appropriate development of associated infrastructure to enable the harnessing of these energy resources and to promote and facilitate the development of Donegal as a Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy.”*

Under the Donegal County Development Plan the Wind Energy Map (Map 8.2.1) was the main tool which identified the suitability for wind development within the County boundary. After the results of a recent court case Map 8.2.1 has become obsolete for use and currently has no influence with regards to Donegal's Wind Energy Strategy. The following note was listed within the County Development Plan which references the above:

*“By Order made on the 5th day of November, 2018, in proceedings bearing Record Number 2018/533JR between Planree Limited, Applicant and Donegal County Council, Respondent, certain provisions of the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024, being Section 6.5(c) and (f) of the Wind Energy standards at Part B: Appendix 3, Development Guidelines and Technical Standards and Map 8.2.1 as contained in the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024 as published were ordered to be deleted and/or removed from the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024. The Development Plan should be read in light of the Order in question pending any possible future variation of same.”*

A revised Wind Energy Map has yet to be published by Donegal County Council. However, under the most recent version of the Wind Energy Map (Map 8.2.1) three zones were identified, they are as follows:

1. **‘Open to Consideration’:** *Within these locations, wind farm developments are open to consideration, subject to compliance with other objectives and policies of the Plan. These areas are open to consideration for appropriate wind energy proposals. They have been identified having regard to a range of factors, including wind energy potential (through the wind speed atlas [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)), existing grid connections, proposed grid connections, natural heritage designations and landscape sensitivity, road infrastructure and where potential conflict with natural heritage designations may be managed effectively.*

2. ***‘Acceptable for augmentation of/improvements to existing windfarms’:*** *Within these locations, wind farm development would be unacceptable save as augmentation of, or improvements to, existing wind farm development subject to compliance with all other objectives and policies of the Plan.*

The Council recognises the opportunities arising from the use of more efficient turbines on established windfarms, as they generate much higher energy yields per turbine, thereby reducing the need for additional turbines. In most cases the infrastructure, roads, hardstand, turbines, sub station and fences have already been established, so there should be limited additional impact. Wind energy developments within these areas will be considered subject to compliance with all other objectives and policies of the Plan.

3. ***‘Not acceptable’:*** *Locations where Wind Farm Development would be unacceptable. Areas where wind energy proposals would be unacceptable have been identified having regard to their significant environmental, heritage and landscape constraints. These include; Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000) sites, Natural Heritage Areas, areas identified as high and medium landscape sensitivity, areas of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel including the catchments identified in the Sub-Basin Management Plans for Clady, Eske, Glaskeelin, Leannan, Owencarrow and Owenea (as listed in S.I. 296 of 2009), important views and prospects, among others. It is considered that these areas have no capacity for wind energy development.*

The site in question as per Map 8.2.1 is located primarily within an area which is designated as ‘Open to Consideration’, there’s also an element of the site located within a location which has been designated as ‘Acceptable for Augmentation’.

With regards to the County Development Plan the following wind and energy related objective have been listed which support the development of renewable sources of energy production:

- **E-O-1:** *“To develop sustainably a diverse renewable energy portfolio to meet demands and capitalize on the County’s competitive locational advantage.”*
- **E-O-4:** *“To facilitate a sustainable and diverse mix of developments which limit the net adverse impacts associated with global warming such as promoting renewable energy, the growth of local farm produce and the promotion of sustainable modes of public transport.”*
- **E-O-5:** *“To ensure that wind energy developments meet the requirements and standards set out in the DEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, or any subsequent related Guidelines (or as may be amended).”*
- **E-O-6:** *“To ensure that wind energy developments do not adversely impact upon the existing residential amenities of residential properties, and other centres of human habitation (as defined at Para. 6.6, ‘Wind Energy’, Appendix 3, Development Guidelines and Technical Standards, Part B, Objectives and Policies of the Plan).”*

It is also the policy of the council to:

- **E-P-2:** *“It is a policy of the Council to facilitate the appropriate development of renewable energy from a variety of sources, including, hydro power, ocean energy, bioenergy, solar, wind and geo-thermal and the storage of water as a renewable kinetic energy resource, in accordance with all relevant material considerations and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.”*

The following policy is listed specifically for Wind Energy:

*“As well as implementing the undernoted policy framework, the Council encourages all wind energy development applications to engage with the Planning Authority in pre-planning*

meetings in relation to development proposals. It is also encouraged that developers engage with the local community to investigate the potential for local community benefit that may arise and/or arrangements for local community investment. They attach the following policies in relation to wind energy:

- **E-P-10:** *“It is a policy of the Council that development proposals for wind energy shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2006 (or as may be amended).”*
- **E-P-13:** *“Within the areas identified as 'Open To Consideration' on Map 8.2.1, it is a policy of the Council to encourage the development of community windfarms/co-operatives to enable communities to generate their own electricity, income and to sell surplus back to the grid, in accordance with other objectives and policies of this Plan and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.”*
- **E-P-14:** *“It is a policy of the Council to support voluntary initiatives from developers/renewable energy operators for local community benefits, in accordance with other policies of this Plan and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. (Examples could include; shared ownership of development proposals, financial dividends, the development of improved local infrastructure, the donation of land for community use, such as playing fields, the development or refurbishment of local community facilities, the creation of rights of way/cycle, walking and bridleways, educational tours and promotional days).”*
- **E-P-16:** *“It is a policy of the Council to support the strengthening and enhancement of the capacity of existing wind farms, within the local environmental capacity including the sustainable upgrade/replacement of older turbines with newer and more efficient models.”*
- **E-P-17:** *“It is a policy of the Council to ensure that all roads associated with the development of wind farms are maintained or repaired at the developer’s expense to the satisfaction of the Council.”*
- **E-P-18:** *“It is a policy of the Council that potential impacts on natural, built and cultural heritage including impacts on archaeological monuments and watercourses are assessed as part of renewable development proposals. Where such impacts are identified, mitigation measures such as buffer zones, separation distances and access arrangements should be employed as appropriate.”*
- **E-P-19:** *“It is a policy of the Council to facilitate the development of combined wind and wave, tidal and/or hydro proposals in areas where there are no significant environmental, heritage or landscape constraints, to generate and export renewable energy and to generate local revenue subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.”*
- **E-P-20:** *“It is the policy of the Council that all proposals for renewable energy development will have regard to the cumulative effect of the development on the environment when considered in conjunction with other existing and permitted developments in the area.”*
- **E-P-21:** *“It is the policy of the Council that all applications for renewable energy projects will ensure that details of the proposed grid connection and all associated infrastructure are considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement as may be required.”*

### 3.3

## Landscape Policy

Chapter 7 of the Donegal County Development Plan covers the guidance for ‘The Natural and Built Heritage’ within its boundaries. With regards to landscape the following is noted:

“The landscape of County Donegal is distinctive, unique and synonymous with the identity of County Donegal, and the extensive coastline and seascape is an integral and constituent element. The nature of

the landscape is such that it is a contributory factor in the economic draw owing to its quality as a place to live and work, attracting Foreign Direct Investment and associated population growth.”

The landscape of the County has been categorised into three layers of value and are illustrated on Map 7.1.1 of the County Development Plan. The definitions for each of the areas of landscape value and classification are as followed:

1. **Areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity (EHSA)**  
*Areas of Especially High Scenic Amenity are sublime natural landscapes of the highest quality that are synonymous with the identity of County Donegal. These areas have extremely limited capacity to assimilate additional development.*
2. **Areas of High Scenic Amenity (HSA)**  
*Areas of High Scenic Amenity are landscapes of significant aesthetic, cultural, heritage and environmental quality that are unique to their locality and are a fundamental element of the landscape and identity of County Donegal. These areas have the capacity to absorb sensitively located development of scale, design and use that will enable assimilation into the receiving landscape and which does not detract from the quality of the landscape, subject to compliance with all other objectives and policies of the plan.*
3. **Areas of Moderate Scenic Amenity (MSA)**  
*Areas of Moderate Scenic Amenity are primarily landscapes outside Local Area Plan Boundaries and Settlement framework boundaries, that have a unique, rural and generally agricultural quality. These areas have the capacity to absorb additional development that is suitably located, sited and designed subject to compliance with all other objectives and policies of the Plan.*

The majority of the site is located in an area designated as MSA- Areas of Moderate Scenic Amenity with aspects of the site being located in an area designated as HSA- Areas of High Scenic Amenity.

The site is located within Landscape Character Area 9- Scalp Mountain. The Scalp Mountain LCA is characterised by widespread upland blanket bog and dominated by the imposing Scalp and Iskaheen mountains. Substantial areas of commercial forestry extend throughout the area and 25 wind turbines are located in 2 groupings with 4 no. wind turbines located in the east of this LCA and 21 no. turbines in the west of this LCA. There are pockets of agricultural land and dispersed rural dwellings on the periphery of this area and alongside the Owenkillew and Barnahone Rivers.

The council has attached the following objectives in relation to landscape within County Donegal:

- **NH-04:** To ensure the protection and management of the landscape in accordance with current legislation, ministerial and regional guidelines and having regard to the European Landscape Convention 2000.
- **NH-05:** To protect, manage and conserve the character, quality and value of the landscape having regard to the proper planning and development of the area, including consideration of the scenic amenity designations of this plan, the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural, cultural, social or historic interest.

The following policies have been issued by the council in relation to landscape within Donegal:

- **NH-P-7:** Within areas of 'High Scenic Amenity' (HSC) and 'Moderate Scenic Amenity' (MSC) as identified on Map 7.1.1: 'Scenic Amenity', and subject to the other objectives and policies of this Plan, it is the policy of the Council to facilitate development of a nature, location and scale that allows the development to integrate within and reflect the character and amenity designation of the landscape.

- **NH-P-8:** It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the scenic context, cultural landscape significance, and recreational and environmental amenities of the County's coastline from inappropriate development.
- **NH-P-9:** It is the policy of the Council to manage the local landscape and natural environment, including the seascape, by ensuring any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of the area.
- **NH-P-13:** It is a policy of the Council to protect, conserve and manage landscapes having regard to the nature of the proposed development and the degree to which it can be accommodated into the receiving landscape. In this regard the proposal must be considered in the context of the landscape classifications, and views and prospects contained within this Plan and as illustrated on Map 7.1.1: 'Scenic Amenity.
- **NH-P-16:** It is a policy of the Council to protect and enhance the landscape character, culture and heritage of the Islands whilst facilitating appropriate development. All development must be considered in the context of the landscape classification contained within this Plan and as illustrated on Map 7.1.1: Scenic Amenity

## 4. SITE SELECTION

### 4.1 Selection of the Optimum Site

To ensure that the Levelised Costs of building each Megawatt of electricity-generating capacity on a wind farm is controlled efficiently, it is incumbent on the design team to ensure that the most suitable site for development of a proposed wind farm is chosen. In combination with policy and environmental considerations, sites selected for the development of a wind farm must also satisfy the following basic criteria:

- Wind resource;
- Suitable planning policy context
- Low population density; and
- Reasonable access to the national electricity grid.

This section of the Scoping Document outlines the site selection process that led to the identification of the proposed site as the optimal site for the proposed wind energy development.

### 4.2 Site Selection Criteria

In recent years, Coillte has undertaken a comprehensive site selection exercise to identify the most suitable sites within the Coillte managed lands for the next phase of wind farm developments beyond Gate 3, i.e. the group processing (now closed) by EirGrid of applications for the connection of renewable energy projects to the national grid.

The site selection exercise entails the application of a number of key criteria, as summarised in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4-1 Site Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Planning Policy	Review of relevant planning policy documents, including County Development Plans and Wind/Renewable Energy Strategies (where available).
Planning History Review	Review of other wind farm planning permission applications in the vicinity and wider area.
Ecological Desk Study	Desk study of potential ecological constraints, such as national/international designations, priority habitats and bird species of concern, etc.
Geotechnical Appraisal	Desktop review of available geotechnical information, including site slope, CORINE landcover, GSI bedrock and subsoil data and Teagasc soil mapping data.

Criteria	Description
Site Visit	<p>Each of the candidate sites has been visited, primarily in connection with the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Confirmation of houses and buildings.</li> <li>➤ Assessment of general landscape character, visibility from scenic routes or protected views.</li> <li>➤ Identification of any other potential constraints.</li> <li>➤ Confirmation of the presence/absence of sensitive habitats.</li> <li>➤ Assessment of potential turbine transport routes.</li> </ul>
Grid Connection Feasibility	Identification of sites with the greatest overall development potential, including consideration of potential grid connection routes.
Constraints Mapping	Review of site properties and potential constraints, including proximity to houses, wind resource, potential available development area, ecology, telecommunications, scenic views, slope, access and watercourses/waterbodies.
Indicative Turbine Layouts	Review of preliminary wind turbine layouts for each site to assess the likely development potential.
Planning Policy	Review of relevant planning policy documents, including County Development Plans and Wind/Renewable Energy Strategies (where available).
Planning History Review	Review of other wind farm planning permission applications in the vicinity and wider area.

The proposed development site at Glenard was identified as a suitable site with regard to the key site selection criteria. Further details are provided below with regard to each criterion.

### Planning Policy

The Glenard site is located in Co. Donegal. The site in question as per Map 8.2.1 of the County Development Plan is located primarily within an area which is designated as ‘Open to Consideration’, there’s also an element of the site located within a location which has been designated as ‘Acceptable for Augmentation’.

### Planning History Review

The proposed development site is located adjacent to the permitted Aught Wind Farm wind farm. A number of other operating wind farms are located in the surrounding area. Wind energy is an established land-use in the area, which will assist in the assimilation of the proposed development into

the receiving environment. The design of the proposed development will take account of the most appropriate layout and size of turbines for this site, with regard to the neighbouring projects.

The EIAR will include a comprehensive assessment of the potential for cumulative effects from the proposed wind farm in combination with all existing and permitted wind farms within 20 kilometres of the site.

### Ecological Desk Study

An ecological desk study and preliminary field studies have been carried out to determine the suitability of the Glenard site for a wind farm development. Bird surveys are also underway. No significant constraints have been identified; the proposed development will be located outside designated sites and will be designed so as to avoid sensitive habitats within the site. A Natura Impact Statement will accompany the planning application.

### Geotechnical Appraisal

Peat depths and site slopes have been measured and mapped by Coillte. Further analysis with regard to peat depths and stability will be carried out by Fehily Timoney & Company's geotechnical engineers. Detailed site investigations will be carried out to inform the design of the proposed development; see Section 6.2.4.8 of this document for further details.

### Site Visit and Constraints Mapping

The initial site visit to the proposed development area confirmed the absence of any significant environmental constraints; see Section 5.1 of this document for further details.

### Grid Connection Feasibility

The proposed development site is located close to existing grid infrastructure. A number of potential grid connection routes have been identified for the proposed development site, which is located approximately 2.3 kilometres east of the Sorne Hill 110kV substation and 5.2 kilometres northeast of from the Trillick 110 kV substation.

### Indicative Turbine Layout

The preliminary design for the proposed development has indicated that the Glenard site could accommodate a wind energy development in excess of 50 megawatts. The final design to be proposed will be informed by the detailed studies which are underway as part of the EIAR process, and taking into account feedback received during scoping and consultation for the proposed project.

Further studies are now underway to inform the optimum design of the proposed development and to contribute to preparation of the EIAR and planning application. See Sections 5 and 6 of this report for further details.



## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Site Facilitators and Constraints

The design of the proposed development is constraints and facilitators-led. Facilitators are factors that give an advantage to a proposed design layout, such as existing road infrastructure within a site. Constraints are restrictions that inform the design of a project by highlighting onsite sensitivities and providing appropriate setback buffers. Mapping the constraints and facilitators for a wind farm project identifies a viable area within which wind turbines could be accommodated. Once the viable area is established, the siting requirements of the wind turbines in terms of separation distances etc. are considered and a preliminary layout developed for the site.

The initial site layout is currently being prepared by taking into consideration a number of planning and environmental constraints surrounding the study area. These include physical, social, cultural, policy, ecological, hydrological and geotechnical constraints. The design and layout of the proposed development will follow the recommendations and guidelines set out in the 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006), the 'preferred draft approach' to the Review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2017) and the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' (Irish Wind Energy Association, 2008).

The constraints mapping process involves the placing of buffers around different types of constraints so as to identify clearly the areas within which no development works will take place. The constraints map for the proposed development includes the following features and relevant buffers:

- > Dwellings plus 700-metre buffer;
- > Designated sites plus 200-metre buffer;
- > Rivers plus 50metre buffer;
- > Streams plus 50-metre buffer;
- > Telecommunication links plus operator-specific buffer;
- > Neighbouring existing or permitted wind turbines plus 2.5 x rotor diameter buffer.

The inclusion of all the above constraints on a map of the site of the proposed development allows for a viable area to be identified. The current constraints map is shown in Figure 5.1. An initial turbine layout is currently being developed to take account of all the constraints mentioned above and their associated buffer zones and the separation distance required between the turbines. This process is also being informed by LiDAR topographical data, site investigations including peat probing, and modelling of potential turbine layouts with regard to noise and landscape and visual properties.

Facilitators at the proposed development site build on the existing advantages of the site, which include the following:

- > Available lands for development;
- > Proximity to suitable grid connection; and
- > Existing access points and onsite road infrastructure of all areas of the site due to commercial forestry activities.

Following the mapping of all known constraints and preparation of a preliminary site layout, detailed site investigations will be carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. These investigations will include habitat mapping and ecological surveying, and hydrological and geotechnical investigations of the site.

Where specific areas are deemed unsuitable for development following site investigations, the layout of turbines, roads, borrow pits and substation can be amended and placed at alternative locations for assessment within the viable area.

## 5.2 The Proposed Development

The proposed wind energy development will likely comprise approximately 14-18 No. wind turbines, access roads and entrance(s), electricity substation and wind farm control buildings, borrow pit(s), electrical cabling for grid connection, temporary construction compound and a permanent anemometry mast. New sections of turbine access routes will also be required; the siting of which will have regard to the constraints identified onsite. All wind farm site cabling, including connection to the onsite substation, will be laid underground.

Grid connection will also be assessed as part of the EIAR. The proposed wind farm connection to the national grid will be by either overhead or underground connection. A number of grid connection route options are currently being considered between the site and Trillick and Some Hill substations.

The proposal may also include the development of recreation and amenity facilities within the proposed development.

## 6. SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Project Team

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) will act as overall project managers, with responsibility for the preparation of the EIAR and planning application. Input from a number of specialists will also be required during the course of the project. The EIAR project team is presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6-1 EIAR Project Team

Consultants	EIAR Input
<b>McCarthy Keville O' Sullivan Ltd. (MKO)</b>	<p>Planning application preparation, EIAR co-ordinators; Scoping and Consultation; Preparation of EIAR Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chapter 1: Introduction</li> <li>➤ Chapter 2: Background to the Proposed Development</li> <li>➤ Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives</li> <li>➤ Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development</li> <li>➤ Chapter 5: Population and Human Health</li> <li>➤ Chapter 6: Biodiversity - Flora and Fauna</li> <li>➤ Chapter 7: Biodiversity - Birds</li> <li>➤ Chapter 10: Air and Climate</li> <li>➤ Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual</li> <li>➤ Chapter 14: Material Assets (non-Traffic sections), including Telecommunications and Aviation</li> <li>➤ Chapter 15: Interaction of the Foregoing</li> </ul>
<b>Hydro-Environmental Services Ltd.</b>	<p>Hydrological and Hydrogeological Consultants; Drainage Design; Preparation of EIAR Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chapter 8: Land, Soils and Geology</li> <li>➤ Chapter 9: Water</li> </ul>
<b>Fehily Timoney &amp; Company</b>	<p>Geotechnical site investigations; Peat Stability Assessment and Peat Management Plan</p>
<b>AWN Consulting Ltd.</b>	<p>Noise and Vibration Consultants; Baseline Noise Survey; Preparation of EIAR Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration</li> </ul>
<b>Tobar Archaeological Services</b>	<p>Archaeological Consultants; Preparation of EIAR Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chapter 13: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants</b>	<p>Traffic Engineering; Preparation of EIAR Section:</p>

	> Chapter 14: Material Assets – Traffic and Transportation
<b>MullanGrid Consulting</b>	Grid Connection Review
<b>TLI Group</b>	Substation and Grid Connection Design

## 6.2 Scope of the EIAR

### 6.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the EIAR will be to document the current condition of the environment in the vicinity of the proposed development site in an effort to quantify the likely significant effects, if any, of the proposed development on the environment. The assessment process will serve to highlight any areas where mitigation measures may be necessary in order to protect the surrounding environment from any negative effects associated with the proposed development. Mitigation by avoidance will be used in the first instance. The objective of this process is to facilitate the most efficient and positive design of the proposed development in order to enable the development to be incorporated into the surrounding landscape. The design process will also plan for any identified effects so that measures are in place to ensure the environment is protected.

### 6.2.2 General Structure

The information to be contained in an EIAR is specified in Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended and in the updated EIA Directive 2014/52/EU. The EIAR for the proposed development will use the grouped structure method to describe the existing environment, the likely significant effects of the proposed development thereon and the proposed mitigation measures, under the chapter headings listed in Table 6.1 above.

Background information relating to the proposed development, scoping and consultation undertaken and a description of the proposed development, including both the construction and operational phases, will be presented in separate sections.

A detailed review of all reasonable alternatives considered for the proposed development will be undertaken and incorporated into the EIAR to demonstrate that the proposed development represents the best technology, the best design and is located on the best site to suit the requirements of such a project. The assessment will also include the main reasons for selecting the chosen option and will include a comparison of the environmental effects of the reasonable alternatives.

The EIAR will also include a Non-Technical Summary, which is a condensed and easily comprehensible version of the EIAR document. The Non-Technical Summary will be a concise statement of the significant findings and recommended actions presented in the EIAR.

### 6.2.3 Use of Standards and Methodologies

European Union Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the 'EIA Directive') was amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, which has been transposed into Irish law with the recent European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018).

Industry-wide, best practice methodologies and standards will be used in preparation of the EIAR. The likely significant effects of the proposed development will be described using standard, best-practice

terms. In consultation with the project design team, appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed in the EIAR to reduce, remedy or eliminate any likely negative effects identified.

The classification of impacts in this EIAR follows the definitions provided in the Glossary of Impacts contained in the following guidance documents produced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- ‘Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports – Draft August 2017’ (EPA 2017);
- ‘Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements – Draft September 2015’ (EPA 2015);
- ‘Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements’ (EPA, 2003).

The European Commission published a number of guidance documents in December 2017 in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) including ‘Guidance on Screening’, ‘Guidance on Scoping’ and ‘Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report’, which will also be referred to.

The EPA impact assessment terminology is presented in Table 6.2. The use of standardised terms to describe the likely significant effects will ensure that the EIAR employs a systematic approach, which can be replicated across all disciplines covered in the EIAR, as advised in ‘Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements’ (EPA, 2017). The consistent application of terminology throughout the EIAR facilitates the assessment of the proposed development on the receiving environment.

Table 6-2 Effect Classification Terminology (EPA, 2017)

Impact Characteristic	Term	Description
<b>Quality</b>	Positive	A change which improves the quality of the environment
	Neutral	No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative	A change which reduces the quality of the environment
<b>Significance</b>	Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences
	Not significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
	Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
	Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Impact Characteristic	Term	Description
	Significant	An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
	Very significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment
	Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
<b>Extent and Context</b>	Extent	Describe the size of the area, number of sites and the proportion of a population affected by an effect
	Context	Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions
<b>Probability</b>	Likely	Effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented
	Unlikely	Effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented
<b>Duration and Frequency</b>	Momentary	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief	Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary	Effects lasting less than a year
	Short-term	Effects lasting one to seven years
	Medium-term	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years
	Long-term	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years
	Permanent	Effect lasting over sixty years
	Reversible	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration
	Frequency	Describe how often the effect will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually)

Impact Characteristic	Term	Description
Type	Indirect	Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway
	Cumulative	The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	'Do Nothing'	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out
	Worst Case'	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail
	Indeterminable	When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described
	Irreversible	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity, or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost
	Residual	Degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect
	Synergistic	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents

Effects will be described in terms of quality, significance, duration and type, where possible. A *Do Nothing*' impact will also be predicted in respect of each environmental theme in the EIAR. Residual impacts will be presented following any impact for which mitigation measures are prescribed. The remaining impact types will be presented as required or applicable throughout the EIAR.

## 6.2.4 EIAR Sections

Details of the extent and scope of the assessments to be undertaken in the most significant sections of the EIAR are outlined below.

### 6.2.4.1 Introduction

This section of the EIAR will provide details on the following:

- > The Applicant;
- > The Competent Authority;
- > Legislative Context, Purpose and Scope of the EIAR;
- > Brief Description of the Proposed Development;
- > Need for the Proposed Development;
- > The Project Team;
- > Any difficulties/limitations encountered in preparing the EIAR; and
- > Where the EIAR can be viewed/purchased.

## 6.2.4.2 Background to the Proposed Development

This section will provide information in relation to the following main headings:

- > Renewable Energy Policy and Targets;
- > Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy and Targets;
- > Strategic Planning Context – National, Regional, Local;
- > Planning History;
- > Scoping and Consultation; and
- > Cumulative Impact Assessment Methodology.

## 6.2.4.3 Description of the Proposed Development

This section will provide a detailed description of the proposed development, including:

- > Proposed Development Layout;
- > Development Components, including all infrastructure, grid connection, turbine delivery and associated works;
- > Proposed Felling and Replanting;
- > Community Benefit Proposals;
- > Amenity and Recreation Proposals (where forming part of the project);
- > Access and Transportation;
- > Site Drainage;
- > Construction Phase Management and Methodologies;
- > Operational Phase; and
- > Decommissioning Phase.

A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), will be prepared and presented as an Appendix to the ELAR. Preparation of the CEMP will include:

- > Detailed description of the works;
- > Management and Reporting Structure;
- > Roles and Responsibilities;
- > Communications Plan;
- > Construction Method Statements;
- > Construction Programme and Staging;
- > Site Environmental Policy;
- > Environmental Management Schedule;
- > Environmental Monitoring, Auditing and Inspection Schedule; and
- > Construction-related complaints log.

## 6.2.4.4 Population and Human Health

### Aspects to be Addressed

- > Population and Human Health;
- > Employment and Economic Activity;
- > Community Benefit;
- > Land-Use;
- > Community Facilities and Amenity;
- > Tourism;
- > Public Perception of Wind Farms;
- > Health Impacts of Wind Farms;
- > Property Values;
- > Vulnerability to Accidents and Natural Disasters



- Shadow Flicker; and
- Residential Amenity.

### Methodology and Guidelines

The assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development will be assessed by way of a desk study of data sourced from the Central Statistics Office, County Development Plan(s), Fáilte Ireland and any other literature pertinent to the area.

Impacts on population and human health will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The potential for shadow flicker arising from the proposed development will be predicted and assessed using specialist computer software programmes specifically developed for the wind energy industry, such as WindFarm (ReSoft). Shadow flicker results for the proposed development will be assessed against the DoEHLG guideline thresholds.

The following guidelines will be used in the preparation of the Population and Human Health chapter:

- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2017).
- *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002).
- *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *'Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities'* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2006).
- *Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 "Preferred Draft Approach"* (Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), 2017).
- *'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry'* (Irish Wind Energy Association, 2012).

## 6.2.4.5 Biodiversity: Flora and Fauna

### Aspects to be Addressed

- Designated Areas;
- Flora in the Existing Environment, including Habitat Mapping; and
- Fauna in the Existing Environment, including Bats, Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology.

### Methodology and Guidelines

The scope of works will include:

- Desk study of information maintained by:
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Site Synopses;
- New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (2000);
- EPA Water Quality data for most proximal sites;
- National Parks and Wildlife Records; and
- Other Ecological Information (as available).
- Consultation and Scoping with Relevant Authorities

- Ecological Field Assessment
- Description of the full extent of the site in accordance with the Heritage Council's 'Standard Methodology for Habitat Survey and Mapping in Ireland'.
- Identification of terrestrial floral and faunal species on the site.
- Multi-season bat surveys.
- Identification and evaluation of any other features of ecological interest.
- Presence of Annex I (Habitats Directive) habitats will be recorded and their condition assessed. Comments will be made on the significance of species recorded such as Irish Red Data Book status or presence of flora protected under the Irish Flora Protection Order (1999).

The following guidelines will be used in the preparation of the Biodiversity: Flora and Fauna chapter:

- *Standard Methodology for Habitat Survey and Mapping in Ireland* (The Heritage Council, 2005).
- *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal* (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2016).
- *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002).
- *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2017).
- *Environmental Impact Assessment of National Road Schemes –A Practical Guide* (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2009).
- *Guidelines for assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes*, (NRA, 2009).
- *Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines* (NRA, 2006).
- *Guidelines for Consideration of Bats in Wind Farm Developments* (EUROBATS Advisory Committee, 2014).
- *Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines 2nd Edition* (Bat Conservation Trust, Hundt. L., 2012).
- *Wind Turbine/Wind Farm Development Bat Survey Guidelines* (Bat Conservation Ireland, 2012).
- *Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2019)

Impacts on flora and fauna will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

#### 6.2.4.6 Biodiversity: Birds

##### Aspects to be Addressed

- Winter Bird Species;
- Summer Bird Species; and
- Designated areas (Special Protection Areas).

##### Methodology and Guidelines

The scope of the works will include:

- Desk study of information maintained by:
  - The Atlases of Breeding Birds (Sharrock, 1976, Gibbons et al., 1993 and Balmer et al. 2013).
  - Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) data (If available for any I-WeBS sites in the vicinity).
  - National Parks and Wildlife Records.
  - National Biodiversity Data Centre.
  - Other Ecological Information (as available).
- Bird Surveys
  - Completion of breeding bird surveys and winter bird surveys in accordance with the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 2014 Guidelines.
  - Collision risk assessments will be carried out on target species in accordance with Band et al (2007).

Impacts on birds will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The following strategy guidance documents published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will be applied where relevant in the assessment of the potential effects on bird communities and their habitats:

- *Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms.* (Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), 2014).
- *Avoidance rate information and guidance note: Use of avoidance rates in the SNH wind farm collision risk model.* (SNH, 2010).
- *Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs).* (SBH, 2013).
- Developing field and analytical methods to assess avian collision risk at wind farms. In: de Lucas, M., Janss, G.F.E. & Ferrer, M. (eds.) *Birds and Wind Farms: Risk Assessment and Mitigation*, pp. 259-275. (Quercus, Madrid. Band et al., 2007).
- *Estimates of waterbird numbers wintering in Ireland, 2006/07 – 2010/11.* *Irish Birds*, 9, 545–552 (Crowe, O. & Holt, C., 2013).
- *Raptors: A Field Guide for Surveys and Monitoring.* (The Stationery Office, Edinburgh. Hardey, J., Crick, H., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B. & Thompson, D., 2013).
- *Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments.* (SNH, 2012).
- *Republic of Ireland National Hen Harrier Survey 2010.* (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin. Ruddock, M., Dunlop, B.J., O’Toole, L., Mee, A. & Nagle, T., 2012).
- *Assessing Significance of Impacts from Onshore Windfarms on Birds Outwith Designated Sites.* (SNH, 2006).
- *Monitoring the impact of onshore wind farms on birds.* *Scottish Natural Heritage.* SNH (2009).
- *Wind farms and birds: calculating a theoretical collision risk assuming no avoidance action.* SNH Guidance Note. (SNH, 2000).
- *Bird Atlas 2007-11: The Breeding and Wintering Birds of Britain and Ireland.* (BTO, Thetford. Balmer, D.E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B.J., Swann, R.L., Downie, I.S. & Fuller, R.J., 2013).
- *Key Habitat Attributes for Birds and Bird Assemblages in England - Part 1. English Nature Research Report No. 359.* (English Nature, Peterborough. Kirby, J., Drewitt, A., Chivers, L. & Saunders, R., 2000).

## 6.2.4.7 Land, Soils and Geology

### Aspects to be Addressed

- Soils and Subsoils;
- Bedrock Geology;
- Ground Conditions and Peat Stability; and
- Peat Management Plan.

### Methodology and Guidelines

The scope of works will include:

- Desk Study
  - Desk study review of published data (where available) such as: EIARs for other developments in the area, aerial photographs etc.
  - Previous ground investigation, topographic and geological maps.
- Geotechnical Walkover of Site
  - Geotechnical walkover survey of site to identify salient features of site with respect to geotechnics (peat stability and geology) such as extent/depth of peat, geomorphological features, relict failures, rock exposures, wet ground, general soil/rock types, etc.
  - Indicative peat shear strength using hand-held vane.
  - Peat depth probing across the site. More detailed peat depth probing in areas where deep peat and high-risk areas are identified.
  - Measurement of slope inclination at infrastructure locations.
  - Mapping of salient geological features.
  - Recording of areas at low/medium/high risk of peat instability.
  - Identification of potential peat storage areas during the site walkover.
  - All site investigations and geological mapping will be done to British Standard BS5930:2015.
- Land, Soils and Geology EIAR Chapter
  - Chapter will comply with impact assessment requirements contained in EPA and DoEHLG Guidelines for wind farm developments.
  - Mitigation/control measures at each turbine/track to minimise the relative risk of ground instability.
  - Assessment of temporary and permanent aspects of the wind farm development.
  - Geotechnical and Peat Stability Assessment
  - Site walkover and assessment of prevailing ground conditions as they relate to peat stability issues, with reference to the proposed development.
  - Peat Stability Assessment Report will provide an engineering geological assessment of the prevailing ground conditions as they relate to peat stability issues, with reference to the development of the site as a wind farm, in particular;
    - Desk study summary;
    - Site walkover findings;
    - Overview of ground conditions;
    - Peat stability assessment;
    - Quantitative/qualitative risk assessment for each main infrastructure location;
    - Comparison of site conditions with known failed sites;
    - Mitigation/control measures for each main infrastructure location to minimise the relative risk of peat instability;

- Plan showing distribution of peat across the site i.e. Peat Depth Plan;
  - Plan showing distribution of potential peat instability i.e. Factor of Safety Plan;
  - Plan showing the location of any construction buffer zones on site i.e. Construction Buffer Zone Plan; and
  - Recommendations for specific construction considerations to suit the ground conditions at the site to mitigate against potential peat instability risks, such as turbine/road layout and peat storage.
- Peat and Spoil Management Plan
- A Peat and Spoil Management Plan will cover peat stability, with reference to the construction phase of the wind farm, in particular:
  - Excavated Road Construction Methodology;
  - Floating Road Construction Methodology;
  - Plan drawing of road construction types and typical access track cross section drawings;
  - Excavation and placement of arisings;
  - Proposed peat repository/storage areas on site;
  - Plan and cross section drawings for borrow pits for site;
  - Estimated excavated peat volumes based on development footprint;
  - Excavation in peat for turbine bases and hard standings;
  - Instrumentation and monitoring requirements (if necessary); and
  - Contingency measures (if a peat failure were to occur).

Impacts on land, soils and geology will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The land, soils and geology section of the EIAR will be carried out in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002).
- *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2017).
- *Guidelines for Preparation of Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters in Environmental Impact Statements* (Institute of Geologists Ireland, 2013).
- *Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology for National Road Schemes.* (National Roads Authority, 2005).

## 6.2.4.8 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

### Aspects to be Addressed

- Surface Water Environment; and
- Groundwater Environment

### Methodology and Guidelines

Hydro Environmental Services will carry out the detailed hydrology, hydrogeology and water quality assessments as follows:

- Desk study and review of available information and existing reports, including previous EIAR, geological and ecological assessments, geological maps/field sheets data etc.;
- Inspection and mapping of all relevant hydrological features, such as existing drainage ditches, streams and springs;
- Field hydrochemistry monitoring within surface water features across the site to determine likely sources of flow;
- Measurement of slope inclination and mapping of significant hydrological features, confirmation of site catchments and drainage regime, and any hydrological buffers to be implemented;
- Undertake site-specific flood risk assessment;
- Identification of potential downstream receptors such as water supplies and designated conservation sites and hydrological connectivity with the same, if any; and
- Make proposals relating to sediment control and SUDs in terms of mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts on water quality.

Impacts on hydrology and hydrogeology will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

This section of the EIAR will be carried out in accordance with guidance contained in the following:

- *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002).
- *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2017).
- *Guidelines for Preparation of Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters in Environmental Impact Statements* (Institute of Geologists Ireland, 2013).
- *Guidelines on Procedures for Assessment and Treatment of Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology for National Road Schemes*. (National Roads Authority, 2005)
- *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2006) Forests and Water Guidelines, Fourth Edition. Publ. Forestry Commission, Edinburgh (Forestry Commission, 2003).
- *Forest Operations and Water Protection Guidelines* (Coillte, 2013).
- *Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements – Site Assessment and Mitigation Measures* (Forest Service, 2008).
- *Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines*. (Forest Service, 2000).
- *Forest Road Manual – Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Management of Forest Roads* (COFORD, 2004).

- *Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites* (Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, not dated).
- *Good Practice During Wind Farm Construction* (SNH, 2010).
- *PPG1 – Understanding your environmental responsibilities* (UK Guidance Note).
- *GPP5 – Works or Maintenance in or Near Water* (UK Guidance Note).
- *Guidance on Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects* (Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Report No. C648, 2006).
- *Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites - Guidance for Consultants and Contractors.* (CIRIA C532., 2001).

#### 6.2.4.9 Air and Climate

##### Aspects to be Addressed

- Air Quality;
- Climate and Weather; and
- Carbon Balance calculations.

##### Methodology and Guidelines

The Air and Climate Chapter will include an impact assessment including appropriate mitigation measures and non-technical summary and will be based on;

- Calculation of carbon emissions and mitigation arising from the construction and operation of the development;
- Determination of construction related air emissions;
- Review of all relevant legislation, statutory guidance and recognised best practice with respect to air emissions arising from construction and operation of wind farms; and
- Project Carbon Balance.

Impacts on air and climate will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The following guidelines will be used in the preparation of the Air and Climate chapter:

- *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002).
- *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015)
- *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2017).

## 6.2.4.10 Noise and Vibration

### Aspects to be Addressed

- Construction Phase Noise effects on sensitive receptors;
- Operational Phase Noise effects on sensitive receptors;
- Construction Phase Vibration effects on sensitive receptors; and
- Operational Phase Vibration effects on sensitive receptors.

### Methodology and Guidelines

The Noise chapter will include detailed baseline information on the existing noise environment and assess potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with the proposed development. The scope of works will include:

- Predictive noise modelling using background noise data gathered during Baseline Noise Survey;
- Identify any potential exceedances of the limit in relation to the relevant Irish guidance and/or derived ETSU day and night limits as appropriate; and
- The EIAR Chapter will address construction and operational phase noise and vibration, including traffic noise and include a cumulative assessment.

The preparation of noise models and prediction of noise levels at all relevant locations will follow all technical guidance as per “Prediction and assessment of wind turbine noise, Agreement about relevant factors for noise assessment from wind energy projects”, Acoustics Bulletin March/April 2009 DT/BERR Noise Working Group) and associated good practice publications issued by the Institute of Acoustics.

The noise and vibration assessment of the EIAR will be carried out in accordance with the following guidance:

#### **Construction Phase**

- *Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Noise* (British Standard (BS) 5228-1:2009+A1:2014).
- *Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings – Part 2: Guide to damage levels from ground-borne vibration* (BS 7385, 1993).
- *Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 2: Vibration* (BS 5228, 2009+A1:2014).
- *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (NRA, 2014).

#### **Operational Phase**

- *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2006).
- *Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 “Preferred Draft Approach”* (Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), 2017).
- *The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms* (Department of Trade and Industry (UK) Energy Technology Support Unit (ETSU), 1996). Planning Policy Renewable Energy PPS 18 (Department of the Environment Northern Ireland).
- *The measurement of low frequency noise at three UK Wind Farms, W/45/00656/00/00* (Department of Trade and Industry).
- *Research into Aerodynamic Modulation of Wind Turbine Noise* (Salford University / DEFRA / CLG and BERR).
- *Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 – Renewable Energy* (UK Guidance Note).



- *Wind Turbine Amplitude Modulation: Research to Improve Understanding as to its Cause and Effect* (Renewable UK, December 2013).
- *Prediction and Assessment of Wind Turbine Noise – Agreement about Relevant Factors for Noise Assessment for Wind Energy Projects* (Institute of Acoustics: Acoustic Bulletin Technical Contribution, March/April 2009).
- *Acoustics – Description, measurement and assessment of environmental noise* (International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), 1996 and 2016).
- *Acoustics – Attenuation of sound outdoors, Part 2: General method of calculation* (ISO 9613-2, 1996).

#### 6.2.4.11 Landscape and Visual

##### Aspects to be Addressed

- Physical Landscape;
- Landscape Character;
- Landscape Value and Sensitivity;
- Visibility of the Proposed Development; and
- Residential Visual Amenity.

##### Methodology and Guidelines

The landscape and visual impact assessment will be prepared to address the following issues:

- County Landscape Character Assessment.
- Assessment of existing landscape character.
- Visual impact assessment of proposed project with reference to Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government’s Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2006 and the preferred draft approach to the review of these guidelines.
- Identification of sensitive visual receptors and sensitive locations.
- Assessment of site and project visibility (from public roads, housing clusters, towns, villages and amenity areas).
- Identification of physical and visual units.
- Production and description of Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps. Where other wind farms are proposed, permitted or in operation in the same area, a cumulative ZTV map will also be produced.
- Production and description of photomontages, including cumulative photomontages.
- Identification of potential impacts on visual landscape.
- Identification of potential impacts on landscape character.

Landscape and visual impacts will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The assessment of the potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development will be carried out in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Outstanding Landscapes* (An Foras Forbartha, 1976).
- *Landscape and Landscape Assessment: Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment and Local Government, 2000).
- *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities’* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), 2006)
- *Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 “Preferred Draft Approach”* (Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), 2017).

- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (The Landscape Institute/Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, UK, 2013).
- *Visual Assessment of Wind Farms: Best Practice* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
- *Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Version 2.2* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2017)..
- *Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments*. (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2012).
- *Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment* (Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11, 2011).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA 2002).
- *Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2003).
- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA 2017).
- *National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025*.

The assessment will include reference to designations outlined in the Donegal County Development Plan to identify key characteristics.

#### 6.2.4.12 **Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage**

##### Aspects to be Addressed

- Archaeological Heritage; and
- Architectural and Cultural Heritage.

##### Methodology and Guidelines

An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Assessment will be completed as set out below:

- Consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- Desktop review of all relevant literature and data available, including but not limited to:
- Local knowledge.
- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).
- The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps and other relevant maps and cartographic studies.
- Aerial photographs.
- Excavation bulletins.
- Relevant County Development Plan.
- Relevant County Heritage Plan.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).
- Historic site characterisations.
- Field Inspection/ Site Walkover.
- Impact Assessment and Constraints Mapping.
- Conclusions and Recommendations.

Impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on architectural heritage will be carried out in accordance with the following:

- *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011).
- *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003).
- *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002).
- *Draft Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2015).
- *Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2017).

### 6.2.4.13 Material Assets: Traffic and Transportation

#### Aspects to be Addressed

- Traffic Volumes;
- Transport Infrastructure; and
- Turbine Delivery.

#### Methodology and Guidelines

This section will assess the potential construction, operational and cumulative impacts on the road network and will include:

- A review of the existing and future transport infrastructure in the vicinity of the development, including an assessment of traffic flows and traffic forecasts during the construction year.
- A description of the nature of the proposed development and the traffic volumes that it will generate during the different construction stages and when it is operational.
- A description of the abnormally large loads and vehicles that will require access to the site.
- A review of the effects of development generated traffic on links and junctions during construction and when the facility is operational.
- A geometric assessment of the turbine delivery route including site entrances and their capacity to accommodate the abnormal loads associated with the development.
- An assessment of the provision for sustainable modes of travel (in this case primarily with respect to the transport of construction staff).
- The description of likely significant effects of the construction and operational phases of the proposed development on traffic and transport both individually and in combination with other permitted, proposed and operational wind energy developments and other projects in the wider area. The assessment of cumulative effects will also take into account the likely significant effects of the proposed replanting of forestry required as part of the overall development.

This assessment will adopt the guidance set out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), (formerly the National Roads Authority (NRA)) in the document *Guidelines for Traffic and Transport Assessments*, May 2014.

## 6.2.4.14 **Material Assets: Telecommunications, Aviation and Electromagnetic Interference**

### Aspects to be Addressed

- Detailed consultation with relevant telecommunication and aviation consultees, including TV/Radio consultees; and,
- Telecommunications Assessment.

### Methodology and Guidelines

The assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on telecommunications and aviation will be carried out by way of a desk study and review of the responses to consultation with the relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies.

Impacts in relation to telecoms, aviation and electromagnetic interference will be assessed in terms of the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development. Potential cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed.

The scoping of statutory and non-statutory bodies will be carried out in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry (Irish Wind Energy Association, 2012) and Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2017).

## 6.2.4.15 **Interaction of the Foregoing**

This section will provide a matrix and description of the potential interaction of effects between the various aspects of the environment that will be discussed in the EIAR. The matrix will highlight the occurrence of potential positive or negative effects during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.

## 6.2.5 **Proposed Table of Contents**

A sample Table of Contents for the EIAR is outlined below.

- Volume 1: Main EIAR, including all figures
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Background to the Proposed Development
  - Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives
  - Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development
  - Chapter 5: Population and Human Health including Shadow Flicker
  - Chapter 6: Biodiversity: Flora and Fauna
  - Chapter 7: Biodiversity: Birds
  - Chapter 8: Land, Soils and Geology
  - Chapter 9: Hydrology and Hydrogeology
  - Chapter 10: Air and Climate
  - Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration
  - Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual
  - Chapter 13: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
  - Chapter 14: Material Assets
  - Chapter 15: Interaction of the Foregoing
- Volume 2: Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 3: Photomontages
- Volume 4: EIAR Appendices

The main headings in each of the environmental aspect chapters of the EIAR, i.e. Chapters 4 to 14, will encompass the following:

- Introduction
  - Background and Objectives
  - Statement of Authority
  - Relevant Legislation
  - Relevant Guidance
- Methodology
  - Desk Study
  - Fieldwork
  - Impact Assessment Methodology
- Receiving Environment
  - Policy Context
  - Description of study area
- Likely and Significant Effects, including Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects
  - Do-Nothing Scenario
  - Construction Phase
  - Operational Phase
  - Decommissioning Phase
  - Cumulative Effects

The final detailed Table of Contents for the EIAR is subject to change but will follow the main structure listed above.

## 6.3

# Natura Impact Assessment

The proposed development will be subject to the Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment (AA) Process. An AA Screening and a Natura Impact Statement, if required, will be prepared in accordance with the European Commission guidance document Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and the Department of the Environment's Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (December 2009, amended February 2010).

In addition to the guidelines referenced above, the following relevant guidance will be followed:

1. *DoEHLG (2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government,*
2. *European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission,*
3. *Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission,*
4. *EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. European Commission,*
5. *EC (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission*



This assessment will be carried out in tandem with the EIAR of the proposed development. The AA Screening Report and NIS, if required, will be submitted to the Planning Authority as stand-alone documents as part of the planning application.



# APPENDIX 1

**EIA CONSULTEES**

Table 1 EIA Scoping Consultees

No.	Consultee
1	Airspeed Communications
2	An Taisce
3	Bat Conservation Ireland
4	BirdWatch Ireland
5	Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
6	Commission for Communications Regulation
7	Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Water and Energy
8	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
9	Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (includes National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service)
10	Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment
11	Department of Defence
12	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
13	Eir Ltd. (Telecoms)
14	EirGrid
15	ESB Telecoms
16	Failte Ireland
17	Forest Service
18	Geological Survey of Ireland
19	Health Service Executive
20	Highland Radio
21	Imagine Group (Telecoms)
22	Inland Fisheries Ireland – Western Region
23	Irish Aviation Authority
24	Irish Peatland Conservation Council
25	Irish Raptor Study Group



26	Irish Red Grouse Association
27	Irish Water
28	Irish Wildlife Trust
29	Donegal County Council Roads Section
30	Donegal County Council Water Services
31	Donegal County Council Environment Section
32	Donegal County Council – Heritage Officer
33	Derry City & Strabane District Council
34	Office of Public Works
35	2m (formerly RTE Transmission Network Ltd.)
36	Donegal Airport
37	City of Derry Airport
38	North Western IRBD Project
39	Tetra Ireland Communications Ltd.
40	The Heritage Council
41	Three Ireland Ltd. (Telecoms)
42	Towercom Ltd. (Telecoms)
43	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
44	Viatel (Telecoms)
45	Virgin Media Ireland Ltd.
46	Vodafone Ireland Ltd. (Telecoms)
47	Waterways Ireland