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ENERGY SERVICES

Islandmore Wind Farm

Renewable Energy Development
Planning Statement

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement has been prepared by Galetech Energy Services (GES), on behalf of Islandmore Wind Farm Limited ('the Applicant'), to support a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application for a proposed wind energy development ('the proposed development') known as 'Islandmore Wind Farm', located in County Roscommon.

The proposed development comprises 10 no. wind turbines and all associated ancillary infrastructure and is located within the townlands of Largan, Boleysillagh, Cloonmeen, Toobrackan, and Tullaghanrock, County Roscommon ('the proposed development site').

This planning application is being made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála following its determination of 09 April 2026, on foot of a Pre-Application Consultation process, that the proposed development constitutes SID and that the planning application must be made directly to it in the first instance (Reference ABP-321711-25).

The proposed development is a renewable energy development and is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive (EU) 2023/2413)¹; and this planning application is subject to a completeness check under Section 37JA of the *Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)*.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement is to assist An Coimisiún Pleanála ('the Commission') in its assessment of whether the proposed development accords with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area within which it is situated.

In addition, this Planning Statement has been prepared to fulfil the requirement for a Renewable Energy Designation Policy Statement, as requested by the Commission.

1.2 THE APPLICANT

Islandmore Wind Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Statkraft Ireland, is a renewable energy development company with substantial experience in the renewable industry. Statkraft Ireland is a leading developer, owner, and operator of onshore wind energy in Ireland and holds a comprehensive range of capabilities for the development of onshore wind energy projects of all scales, ranging from the initial feasibility stage to operational management. Statkraft Ireland is also responsible for the development of solar energy development, battery energy storage systems and other grid services infrastructure.

1.3 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement has been prepared by members of the GES Planning & Environment team. GES is an Irish multi-disciplinary renewable energy consultancy that specialises in the project management of planning, environmental and technical engineering services of wind energy developments from project feasibility through to delivery and operation. GES combines the expertise of leading experts in wind farm design, planning and environmental assessment and has extensive experience in preparing and

¹ Transposed by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (SI No. 274/2025 and S.I. No. 426 of 2025) and as subsequently amended by S.I. No. 185 of 2026.

coordinating planning applications for wind energy and associated electricity grid and substation developments.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE

The proposed development site is located in north County Roscommon, c. 2-kilometres (km) north of Ballaghaderreen (**see Figure 3.1**), c. 13km east of Charlestown (County Mayo) and c. 6km southwest of Gorteen (County Sligo); and within the townlands of Largan, Boleysillagh, Cloonmeen, Toobrackan, and Tullaghanrock, County Roscommon.

The proposed development site is generally set in an upland area located between the towns of Ballaghaderreen (County Roscommon) to the south and Gorteen (County Sligo) to the north. The proposed development site is generally located on an elevated plateau with ground elevations at the wind turbine locations ranging from approximately 140-metres (m) above ordnance datum (AOD) to 170m AOD. At the southern extent of the proposed development site (the junction of the N5 and R293), ground elevations are approximately 80m AOD illustrating the undulating characteristics of the local landscape. In general, the terrain slopes to the east or southeast towards Lough Gara which is a notable waterbody located c. 7km to the east of the proposed development site.

The proposed development site and its immediate environs are relatively sparsely populated, with 125 no. dwellings located within 10-times tip height of the proposed wind turbines. Settlement patterns within the local area generally comprise one-off rural dwellings, often accompanied by agricultural buildings/structures, located along the local and regional road network. The most notable settlement is the town of Ballaghaderreen which is classified as a 'Self Sustaining Growth Town' in the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028*.

According to the Corine 2018 database, land use at the proposed development site is predominately classed as wetlands, forest and semi-natural areas and agricultural areas (pastures). The wider landscape comprises a mosaic of peat bogs, commercial forestry and agricultural scrub; with pockets of improved agricultural pasture generally limited to areas to the southwest of Ballaghaderreen and west and northwest of the town of Frenchpark.

Land cover within the project site is predominately a mixture of cutover bogs, intact bogs and small pockets of agricultural fields. All 10 no. wind turbines are located on peat bogs. The GSI have mapped the bogs as cutover raised bogs but some of the bog areas, particularly the northern portion of the project site, have a more blanket bog appearance. The bog on the southern portion of the project site has a raised bog appearance.

There are no large watercourses located within the proposed development site; with the surface water features present generally comprising headwater streams of the Owengarve River and the Lung River. In terms of the hydrogeological environment, the proposed development site is generally underlain by 'poorly productive bedrock'; while groundwater levels are assessed to be between 1.5m and 15m below ground level.

As described above, the proposed development site is located within an upland area which is characterised, most notably, by Bockagh Hill where ground levels increase to in excess of 200m AOD. The wider landscape is assessed as displaying notable human intervention in the form of agricultural activities, commercial forestry plantation, transport links and other renewable energy developments including the adjacent

Largan Hill Wind Farm.

There are no previously recorded archaeological or cultural heritage features within the proposed development site; however, it is noted that the wider landscape includes the Rathcroghan complex c. 23km to the southeast and the Carrowkeel Passage Tomb Landscape in county Sligo, located c. 17km to the north.

The N5 national primary route is the most notable transport corridor within the local landscape; while the proposed development site includes a network of regional and locally-classed roads.

2.1 PLANNING HISTORY

A desktop planning registry search of the proposed development site was carried out using the available online planning resources of Roscommon County Council ('the Planning Authority') and the Commission.

The search was conducted in 2 no. phases. Firstly, the search comprised a systematic review of the proposed development site and an evaluation of whether any existing, permitted (including not yet commenced) or proposed developments are located within or immediately adjacent to the proposed development site such that same could be incorporated into, and accounted for within, the design process of the proposed development. Secondly, the search comprised an evaluation of all existing, permitted and proposed developments within 1km of the proposed development site such that same could be incorporated within the cumulative impact assessment to be conducted within the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

There are no existing, permitted or proposed developments located within the proposed development site according to the Planning Register Map Search maintained by the Planning Authority. The proposed development site minorly overlies the site boundary of the permitted North Connacht 110kV Project (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference ABP 313724-22) at the junction of the N5 national primary road and R293 regional road; however, no physical interaction between infrastructure arises as a consequence.

A number of existing, permitted or proposed developments are located immediately adjacent to the proposed development site according to the Planning Register Map Search and the mapping database maintained by the Commission. It should be noted that where a planning consent has lapsed and has not been commenced, it has been excluded from further consideration. The following table provides a list of all such recorded developments.

Planning Reference(s)	Development Type	Townland(s)	Decision Date	Status
07/746 & 12/134	Dwelling House & Septic Tank System	Toobrackan	29/10/2002 & 19/06/2012	Existing
03/1033 & 06/352	Dwelling House & Septic Tank System	Toobrackan	11/12/2003 & 29/05/2026	Existing
06/1565	Dwelling House & Effluent Treatment System	Tullaghanrock	12/03/2007	Existing
01/1370	Extension to Dwelling House, Garage and Septic Tank System	Tullaghanrock	22/11/2001	Existing
06/1996 & 07/1550	Dwelling House, Bio Cycle System & Percolation Area	Tullaghanrock	21/03/2007	Existing

06/1062	Extension to Existing Dwelling House	Tullaghanrock	19/12/2006	Existing
18/492	Forest Bell Mouth Entrance	Toobrackan	15/11/2018	Existing
18/491	2 no. Forest Bell Mouth Entrances	Tullaghanrock	15/11/2018	Existing

Table 1: Adjacent Developments

It is noted that the Planning Register Map Search maintained by the Planning Authority appears to be incomplete and does not provide a full planning history of all developments located adjacent to the proposed development site. However, it is noted, based on a desktop review and following field surveys, that the majority of development not illustrated on the Planning Register Map Search are residential developments.

The most notable non-residential development is that of the Largan Hill Wind Farm, which is located immediately adjacent to the northeastern boundary of the proposed development site. The Largan Hill Wind Farm, located in the townland of Largan, was granted planning permission in 1995 and comprises 9 no. turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure. The wind turbines have a hub height of 45.7m, a rotor diameter of 47m and an overall tip height of 70m. The grant of planning permission issued in respect of this development does not specify an operational lifetime or defined decommissioning requirement and, accordingly, the project can continue to operate indefinitely.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development consists of a ten-year permission in relation to a renewable energy development extending to a total site area of 157 hectares comprising:-

- 3 no. wind turbines with a hub height of 104 metres, a rotor diameter of 162 metres and an overall tip height of 185 metres;
- 7 no. wind turbines with a hub height of 82 metres, a rotor diameter of 136 metres and an overall tip height of 150 metres;
- All associated turbine foundations and crane hardstanding areas;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling;
- Construction of approximately 4 kilometres of wind farm access tracks;
- Construction of 6 no. site entrances and upgrade of 1 no. existing site entrance;
- 2 no. temporary construction compounds;
- 1 no. borrow pit which, when exhausted, will be utilised to permanently store excess excavated material;
- The storage, as required, of excavated material at dedicated spoil deposition areas;
- Felling of approximately 6.5 hectares of commercial forestry plantation to facilitate the construction and operation of wind farm infrastructure;
- All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works, permanent and temporary works to public roads along the turbine component haul route, the provision of site drainage infrastructure and environmental mitigation measures; and,

- A 40-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire proposed development.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany the planning application.

It should be noted that the EIAR and NIS each provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed development both individually and in combination with off-site or secondary developments which will occur as a direct result of the proposed development including those for which planning permission is not currently being applied; such as the proposed development's attendant 110-kilovolt (kV) electricity substation and approximately 7-kilometres (km) of 110kV underground electricity line between the 110kV electricity substation in the townland of Boleysillagh and the Tonroe 110kV electricity substation at Ballaghaderreen.

The 110kV underground electricity line will follow the L55018, L5501, L5506, crossing beneath the N5 via horizontal directional drilling, L55019, L1203, L12032 and L12034 and will be located within the townlands of Boleysillagh, Cloonmeen, Tullaghanrock, Toobrakan, Coolaghtane, Ballyoughter, and Derrynacross, County Roscommon

The proposed development includes upgrade works; located within the townlands listed at **Section 1.0** above; to the regional and local road network in the environs of the wind farm site and provides for junction upgrades and the widening of the carriageways of a number of public roads.

Other accommodation works are required along the turbine component haul route, remote from the proposed development site, and such works are assessed within the EIAR and NIS; however, planning consent for same is not proposed. Consent for the completion of these minor temporary works; comprising the removal of street furniture and road signage, trimming of roadside vegetation and temporary hardcoring of roadside verges; will be obtained separately via road opening licenses as may be required. These works are located within the townlands of Wellpark, Ballybaan Beg, Doughiska, Caraunduff, Killeelaun, Kilmore, Kilcloghans, Banagher, Cartron, and Milltown, County Galway; and Newtown South, Ballindine East, Ballindine North, Lugalishen North, and Ballyglass East, County Mayo.

4.0 CONSENTING STRATEGY

4.1 STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

SID is development which is of strategic national or regional importance and where a planning application must be made directly to the Commission in the first instance pursuant to Section 37E of the 2000 Act.

Wind energy installations for the generation of electricity may be considered SID should the size of the project, either in terms of turbine numbers or electrical output, exceed the thresholds set out at the Seventh Schedule of the 2000 Act. The threshold for wind energy developments is more than 25 no. turbines or having a total output greater than 50MW. Prior to submitting a SID planning application, a project must firstly be the subject of formal Pre-Application Consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála pursuant to Section 37B of the 2000 Act to determine whether it constitutes SID, or not, pursuant to the criteria set out in Section 37A.

As the project design process was progressed and the preferred turbine types were identified, it became apparent that the total output of the project was likely to

exceed 50MW and that the project may be considered to be SID. Accordingly, the Developer entered into Pre-Application Consultation (Reference ABP-321711-25) with An Coimisiún Pleanála who, subsequently, determined that, in accordance with the report of its Inspector, the project constitutes a SID and that an application for permission must be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a formal, statutory process required by the European Union (EU) Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EU ('the EIA Directive') and transposed into Irish law by way of Part X of the 2000 Act.

EIA is therefore fully integrated into the planning application process and helps to ensure that decisions to grant or refuse planning permission are made in the full knowledge of their likely significant effects on the environment, including through consultation with the public concerned. This includes an assessment of the direct effects together with any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term, long-term, permanent, temporary, positive and negative effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project. By doing so, EIA contributes to a high level of protection for the environment through better informed decision-making processes.

The first stage of the EIA process involves deciding whether the project is of a type where an EIA needs to be undertaken or not. This ensures that EIA is only undertaken for projects where the likelihood of significant effects on the environment cannot be excluded. In accordance with the provisions of the 2000 Act, EIA is mandatory when certain prescribed classes of projects exceed specific sizes and thresholds. Planning applications for such projects must be accompanied by an EIAR.

Schedule 5 of the *Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)* ('the Planning Regulations') specifies the classes of development which must be subject to formal EIA. Where an EIA is mandatory, an EIAR is required to be submitted with a planning application.

Schedule 5 of the Planning Regulations provides that the following class of development proposal shall be subject to EIA:-

"Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts."

As the project consists of 10 no. wind turbines and will have a total output in excess of 50MW, it is therefore of a scale which exceeds the mandatory threshold for EIA. Accordingly, an EIAR has been prepared and submitted with the SID planning application.

4.3 HABITATS DIRECTIVE - APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

In addition to EIA, an assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on European nature conservation sites (Natura 2000) designated under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) is also required to be undertaken through a statutory process known as Appropriate Assessment (AA). Only projects which, where it can be determined beyond reasonable scientific doubt, will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, either directly or indirectly having regard to their conservation objectives, can be granted development consent.

The first stage of this assessment requires what is known as a Screening for AA (Stage

1) to assess whether formal AA is required. If AA is required, an Applicant is required to submit a Stage 2 report (i.e. an NIS) to inform an AA to be undertaken by the competent authority. In this case, the Screening for AA concluded that there is the potential for likely significant effects due to pollution, habitat loss, spread of invasive species, displacement and collision risk. Accordingly, it was assessed that the project should be subject to an AA and that a NIS should be prepared and submitted with the planning application.

The NIS concludes; in light of best scientific knowledge; that there is reasonable scientific certainty that there will be no significant effects from the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, adversely affecting the conservation interests or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 sites. It is therefore concluded that proposed development will not, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site either directly or indirectly.

4.4 RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE 2023/2413 (AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2018/2001)

In accordance with the revised Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2023/2413, amending Directive 2018/2001 (RED III) and the *European Union (Planning and Development)(Renewable Energy Regulations) 2025* which were commenced on 6 August 2025, the proposed development is classed as a 'renewable energy development' with an electrical capacity of more than 150-kilowatts (kW) and, accordingly, the provisions of Section 37JA and 37JB of the 2000 Act shall apply.

5.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

5.1 AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

The proposed development was the subject of Pre-Application Consultation under Reference ABP-321711-25.

A meeting was held between the Applicant and An Coimisiún Pleanála on 5 March 2025. During this meeting, the evolution of the project design was described; including the site selection process, environmental scoping and constraints analysis, and details of stakeholder consultation; while advice was given to the Developer on key factors which would be relevant as part of the EIAR for any subsequent SID planning application including:-

- Landscape & visual effects;
- Transport & Access;
- Assessment of carbon losses and gains;
- Connection to the national electricity grid;
- Ecological effects, including potential effects on designated sites;
- Residential amenities;
- Ground conditions and the presence of peat; and
- Cumulative effects with other developments, including the adjacent Largan Hill Wind Farm.

A second meeting was held on 17 June 2025 during which the Applicant described the findings of site investigation works and field surveys that had been conducted

since March 2025 focusing, particularly, on biodiversity and the survey work and assessments conducted in respect of avian species and habitats.

A further meeting was held on 10 February 2026. During which, the Applicant summarised the further evolution of the project design and presented the proposed layout to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Applicant advised of the minor relocation of a number of wind turbines following further design consideration and the proposed siting of spoil deposition areas. The Applicant highlighted that further engagement had been held with the Development Applications unit (DAU) regarding ecological matters and provided updates in relation to *inter alia* biodiversity and ornithology matters, ground conditions and the management of excavated material, hydrology and hydrogeology assessments, visual impact assessment, noise assessment, and aviation assessment.

5.2 PLANNING AUTHORITY

A scoping request was issued to the Planning Authority on 24 September 2024 and included a *Preliminary Scoping Report* in order to provide the Planning Authority with sufficient information on the project and its possible likely significant environmental effects. At the time of writing, a response has not been received.

On a number of occasions, efforts were made to arrange a consultation meeting with Roscommon County Council Planning Department to discuss the project alongside the relevant environmental factors to be addressed in the EIAR. However, for a number of reasons; including the availability of personnel and scheduling difficulties; a meeting was not held.

A consultation meeting with the Roscommon County Council Roads Department was held (online) on 3 March 2025. During the meeting; the project, turbine component haul route and construction material haul routes were described and discussed. Other matters discussed during the meeting included the provisions of the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* as well as the likely grid connection infrastructure. With respect to grid connection infrastructure, several alternative electricity line route options were discussed, considering factors such as road capacity and potential disruptions.

5.3 STAKEHOLDER & PRESCRIBED BODY CONSULTATIONS

A wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations, including all bodies prescribed in the Regulations, were contacted in writing at an early stage in the EIA scoping process to gather their views and preliminary opinions on the proposed development and the possible likely significant environmental effects.

The consultation process involved furnishing, in September 2024, each organisation with a *Preliminary Scoping Report* accompanied by a set of maps and drawings, and requesting written feedback. A sample copy of the consultation letter issued to each organisation is provided at Annex 1.3 (Volume II) of the EIAR, while a copy of all responses received is enclosed at Annex 1.4 (Volume II).

5.4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There are specific statutory procedures for public participation and consultation at various stages in the EIA and SID planning application process. Public participation is not, however, a mandatory obligation for the pre-application consultation stage. Nevertheless, it is recommended as standard per the *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019* and, in accordance with best practice, the Applicant

undertook to facilitate the widest possible public participation at the earliest possible stage in the project design and EIAR preparation process.

The Applicant carried out extensive public consultation throughout the project design and EIAR process. Throughout the project design process, door-to-door visits were undertaken with local residents, together with leaflet drops, where members of the public were afforded the opportunity to discuss the project with the project team; while local representatives and local groups were also consulted in respect of the proposed development.

The public consultation process was managed by a dedicated Community Liaison Officer and in accordance with a Community Liaison Strategy to ensure clarity and consistency, and to maintain an objective and factual approach. A website was also established where members of the public could view details of the project, receive updates on the project and to contact the Applicant via email or phone number (www.projects.statkraft.ie/islandmore-wind-farm).

6.0 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The Applicant is committed to operating a community benefit fund in accordance with Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) best practice and it will be available to the community at a rate of €2 per megawatt hour (MWh) produced, should the project qualify for the *Renewable Energy Support Scheme* (RESS). In the event that the project does not participate in, or qualify for, the RESS, an alternative comparable community benefit fund shall be put in place. Therefore, an investment of approximately €296,000 (or c. €29,600 per turbine) per year for up to 15-years, is committed to by the Applicant. There will also be a community investment element available where there will be an opportunity for all local residents to participate, should they wish to do so. The structure for the investment scheme will form part of the RESS (or alternative model) design.

The community benefit fund will be administered by a committee set up by the Applicant and will comprise members from the local community. This will allow the local community to prioritise the fund and target the projects which they consider are of local importance. Local community groups will be invited to submit funding requests to the committee and preference will be given to local projects, thereby contributing to the vitality of the local population, and to projects which are considered to represent an environmental/social benefit or incorporate a renewable energy element/aspect.

7.0 CLIMATE & PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The following sections provide an overview of relevant legislation and international, national, regional and local planning policy regarding the delivery of renewable energy developments, the abatement of greenhouse gases and the achievement of climate change targets; and, in particular, assesses whether the proposed development complies with and assist in the achievement of policy objectives.

7.1 INTERNATIONAL

7.1.1 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was implemented by the United Nations in May 1992, settled upon a long-term objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The overarching objective of the framework is to reduce, or prevent,

human and man-made interference with the global climate system. The UNFCCC recognises that the climate system is a global resource and its stability can be significantly affected by emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

The proposed development will, through the generation of renewable energy, off-set energy production which would likely otherwise have been generated by non-renewables sources thus avoiding the emission of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Therefore, it is assessed that the proposed development complies with the principles of the UNFCCC.

7.1.2 Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty that enables the practical implementation of UNFCCC by binding industrialised countries to specific and legally enforceable targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was adopted in December 1997 but did not enter into force until February 2005 and when a sufficient number of countries had ratified it. The first commitment period ran from 2008 to 2012.

The central aim is to address global warming by requiring developed nations to reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions, based on the principle of "*common but differentiated responsibilities*." This principle provides that industrialised countries bear a greater responsibility for historical emissions and should therefore shoulder increased reduction obligations compared to developing nations.

The Protocol was amended through the Doha Amendment in December 2012. This established a second commitment period running from 2013 to 2020, under which the participating parties agreed to reduce emissions by at least 18% below 1990 levels. However, due to delayed ratification, the Doha Amendment did not formally enter into force until December 2020 i.e. at the end of the second commitment period

The Kyoto Protocol's framework was ultimately superseded by the Paris Agreement, which was adopted in 2015 and came into force in 2016, which provided a more flexible system of nationally-determined contributions to greenhouse gas reduction targets.

While the second commitment period ended in 2020 and has not been extended and the Paris Agreement has largely superseded the Protocol, the proposed development will support Ireland's target regarding the abatement of greenhouses gas emissions and, therefore, it is assessed that the proposed development complies with the overarching objectives of the Protocol.

7.1.3 Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty adopted by 196-parties at COP21 in Paris in December 2015 and entered into force in November 2016. It was negotiated under the UNFCCC as the successor framework to the Kyoto Protocol and replaced the Kyoto Protocol's top-down and binding-target model with a more flexible and universal approach.

The Agreement's central objective is to maintain the increase in average global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while endeavouring to limit the increase to 1.5°C. In order to achieve these goals, it also aims to increase the ability of countries to adapt to climate impacts.

Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the Agreement does not impose mandated emissions targets. Instead, each country submits its own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which is a self-determined emissions reduction commitment, and is expected

to strengthen its commitment every 5-years. Countries are legally bound to pursue and implement measures toward their NDCs; however, the commitments themselves are not binding and there are no penalties for failing to achieve them. A key differentiator to the Kyoto Protocol is that the Agreement applies to all countries, developed and developing, as opposed to the Protocol which applied to developed-countries only.

The proposed development will positively contribute to the achievement of the EU's NDC (of which Ireland's contribution forms part) through the generation of electricity from renewable sources and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

7.2 EUROPEAN

The EU's energy policy is based on the core principles of decarbonisation, competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability. Its objectives include ensuring a functional energy market and security of supply, while promoting energy efficiency and savings. In particular, the development of renewable energy infrastructure is recognised as being central to the achievement of the core principles and objectives.

The EU aims to be climate neutral by 2050. In order to achieve this, it is recognised that there will be a requirement to implement a wide-ranging series of initiatives to encourage the deployment of renewable technologies through investment in the green economy.

7.2.1 European Union Emission Trading System

The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) is the world's first, and largest, 'cap-and-trade' carbon market. The ETS was launched in 2005 as the EU's flagship mechanism for cost-effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It operates on the 'cap-and-trade' principle; whereby the EU sets an absolute, but declining, ceiling on total emissions from relevant sectors, followed by issuing a matching number of tradable emission allowances (EUAs), each of which permits the emission of 1-tonne of CO₂-equivalent. As the emissions-cap shrinks annually, allowances become scarcer which places an increase price on allowable emissions thus resulting in a direct financial incentive to cut emissions.

The system has evolved through four phases. Phase 1 (2005–2007) was a pilot programme which addressed the energy generation and heavy industry sectors. Phase 2 (2008–2012) geographically expanded the ETS to include Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway; while Phase 3 (2013–2020) added the aviation sector and shifted the system towards EU-wide auctioning. Phase 4 (2021–2030), the current phase, extended the system to maritime shipping and, following a 2023 legislative revision, altered the ETS to target a 62% reduction in relevant emissions by 2030 relative to 2005 levels. By 2024, the relevant sectoral emissions were assessed to have reduced approximately 50% below 2005 levels.

A notable recent development is the creation of a second, parallel system; known as ETS2; which will extend carbon pricing to buildings, road transport, and additional fuel-combustion sectors not covered by the original ETS and is considered to address the most notable gaps in EU carbon pricing i.e. the heating of domestic homes and car transport.

The proposed development, through the generation of renewable electricity, will support the core purpose of the ETS which is to cost-effectively decarbonise the electricity sector through a reduced demand for fossil fuel generated electricity and a reduction in overall emissions thus supporting the EU's declining emissions cap.

7.2.2 Renewable Energy Directives

The Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC (RED I) was passed by the EU in 2009, and was subsequently revised in 2018 (RED II) and 2023 (RED III). RED III obliges Member States to collectively ensure the share of renewable energy in the EU's gross energy consumption by 2030 is at least 42.5%.

RED III also places the presumption of overriding public interest for renewable energy projects (Imperative Reasons for Overriding Public Interest [IROPI]) on a permanent footing. Article 16f of the Directive states that Member States must ensure that, in their permitting procedures, the planning, construction and operation of renewable energy plants, their connection to the grid, the grid itself and storage assets are presumed to be of overriding public interest.

RED III, most notably, obliges Member States to speed up and simplify renewable infrastructure permitting procedures by ensuring that procedures for granting permits to build, repower and operate energy assets do not exceed certain timelines, depending on the asset type, size and location; and the EU anticipates that this obligation will accordingly speed up development and deployment timelines.

The proposed development, itself, does not rely on IROPI; however, the fact that the EU has applied this classification to renewable energy infrastructure clearly demonstrates the essential role of renewable energy infrastructure in contributing to the EU's legally binding objective of achieving 'net-zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is set out in further detail below.

The proposed development directly supports the Renewable Energy Directives' binding targets, including RED III's 42.5% EU-wide renewable energy share by 2030 and Ireland's national target of 43%. By adding domestic renewable electricity generation, the proposed development will assist in reducing Ireland's current shortfall toward that target, reduces reliance on imported fossil fuels, and contributes to national renewable electricity ambitions.

7.2.3 2030 Climate & Energy Framework

The 2030 Climate and Energy Framework, agreed by the European Council in October 2014, was the EU's policy position for climate and energy action out to 2030. At the time, it was deemed to be a 'bridge' the EU's then 2020 targets and its long-term ambition which, at that time, was an 80–95% reduction in emissions by 2050 relative to 1990 levels. That target was later superseded by the 'net-zero' target under the European Climate Law 2021 (see below).

The framework set out 3 no. headline EU targets for 2030. Firstly, the framework provided a binding commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% compared to 1990 levels. It was intended that the target would be achieved through a combination of the ETS (see above) and national targets. Secondly, at least 27% of the EU's overall energy consumption was to be provided by renewable energy sources. Thirdly, an at-least 27% improvement in energy efficiency compared to projected future energy use was targeted. Unlike the emissions target, the renewables and efficiency targets were originally set at EU level only, without being broken down into individual binding national targets, giving Member States more flexibility in how the collective goal was met.

The framework's targets were subsequently revised on 2 no. occasions. In 2018, as part of the Clean Energy Package (see below), the renewables target was raised to 32% and the efficiency target to 32.5% by 2030. Subsequently, following the launch of the

European Green Deal (see below), the headline emissions target was substantially increased, from 40% to at least 55% by 2030. This change was formalised in the European Climate Law 2021 and implemented through the Fit for 55 package.

While the majority of the targets set out in the framework have been subsequently revised, the proposed development complies with the overall ambition of the framework by generating zero-carbon electricity, displacing fossil fuel use and contributing to Ireland's renewable capacity. In turn, the proposed development supports the framework's decarbonisation, security-of-supply, and energy-transition objectives.

7.2.4 Clean Energy Package (2019)

The *Clean Energy for All Europeans* package (referred to as the 'Clean Energy Package') is a major set of EU energy legislation which was proposed by the European Commission in November 2016 and finalised in June 2019. The package was designed to update the EU's legal framework to enable the achievement of the 2030 climate and energy targets agreed at that time and to support the broader shift toward a low-carbon economy. The central goals of the package were to prioritise energy efficiency, to make the EU a global leader in the deployment of renewable energy technologies, and to ensure a fair deal for consumers.

The package comprises 4 no. Directives and 4 no. Regulations:-

- 1) *Energy Performance of Buildings Directive* which sets stricter energy-efficiency standards for buildings;
- 2) *Renewable Energy Directive* (this became RED II and was later superseded by RED III) which set a binding EU-wide target of 32% renewables in the energy mix by 2030 at the time;
- 3) *Energy Efficiency Directive* which set a 32.5% energy-efficiency improvement target for 2030;
- 4) *Electricity Directive* which modernised rules on electricity generation, distribution, supply and storage, and strengthened consumer rights including the right to generate, store, and sell your own electricity;
- 5) *Governance of the Energy Union Regulation* which required each Member State to draw up a 10-year National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) showing how it will contribute to the EU's collective targets;
- 6) *Electricity Regulation* which provided updated rules and principles for how the internal EU electricity market should function;
- 7) *Risk-Preparedness Regulation* which requires Member States to plan jointly for potential electricity supply crises; and,
- 8) *ACER Regulation* which strengthened the powers of the EU's Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators providing it with a stronger coordinating role across national regulators.

Collectively, the package aimed to support a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030, alongside targets regarding the deployment of renewables and increased energy efficiency. Since the legislation was adopted, many of the individual targets contained within the package have been revised upwards as part of the more ambitious *Fit for 55* package related to the European Green Deal (see

below); however, the Clean Energy Package remains the foundational legislation upon which all latter revisions have been based.

Given the focus within the Clean Energy Package on renewable energy generation; particularly through the Renewable Energy Directive and the *Risk Preparedness Regulation*; it is assessed that the proposed development complies with the provisions of the legislation and will assist Ireland and the EU in meeting its respective renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas abatement targets.

7.2.5 European Green Deal (2019)

The European Green Deal is the EU's overarching growth and climate strategy, published in December 2019 and launched in 2020. Its central aim is to transform the EU into a "*modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy*" while making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use.

From a legal perspective, it is tied to the European Climate Law and made the 2050 climate-neutrality target legally binding on the EU, alongside an intermediate target of cutting net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 relative to 1990 levels. The European Commission has since proposed a further intermediary target of a 90% emissions-reduction target for 2040; however, this remains under negotiation among Member States.

The Green Deal is a wide-ranging strategy spanning multiple policy areas. On climate and energy, it is implemented through the 'Fit for 55' legislation which includes a strengthened Emissions Trading System, the Renewable Energy Directive, and the Energy Efficiency Directive; in addition to REPowerEU, which directs funding toward energy security purposes and cutting fossil-fuel dependence following the 2022 energy crisis.

The proposed development, once operational, will positively contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by off-setting electricity generation which would otherwise likely have been generated by fossil-fuels and strengthening energy security by reducing the requirement for fossil fuel imports.

7.2.6 Fit for 55

Fit for 55 is the EU's primary legislative package for delivering on the European Green Deal's climate goals. The package was proposed by the European Commission in July 2021, its core objective is to reduce the EU's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 from 1990 levels. The package comprises approximately 12 no. individual pieces of climate and energy legislation, the majority of which were formally adopted between 2022 and 2024.

On carbon pricing, it revised the ETS, as described above and created the ETS2 system. It also introduced the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which prices the carbon content of a range of imported goods to prevent production simply shifting outside the EU to avoid carbon pricing. CBAM became fully operational as of January 2026.

For sectors which are not covered by ETS, the revised Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) increased the required emissions reduction for sectors such as domestic transport; buildings; and, notably, agriculture from 29% to 40% by 2030; and divided each into binding targets for each individual Member State. The Land Use, Land-Use Change,

and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation, which forms part of Fit for 55, sets a target for net carbon removals from land use and forestry of 310 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent.

On energy, the package consolidated the updated *Renewable Energy Directive* (RED III) targeting 42.5–45% renewables by 2030 and reinforced the *Energy Efficiency Directive* to target an 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030 in addition to revised building-efficiency requirements.

The proposed development, through the generation of electricity from renewable sources, will assist in achieving the greenhouse gas reduction targets set out in Fit for 55 and ESR obligations and, therefore, is assessed to be compliant with the legislative package.

7.2.7 European Climate Law 2021

The *European Climate Law* is the legal cornerstone of the EU's climate strategy. The law, formally adopted as Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 and entering into force in July 2021. The purpose of the law was to create legally binding obligations related to the commitments set out in the European Green Deal.

The central provision is to make climate neutrality by 2050 a legally binding EU-wide target; meaning that the EU, as a whole, must achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It also enshrined the intermediate target of a reduction of at least 55% in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, which became the key numerical figure for the Fit for 55 package.

More recently, in March 2026, the European Council adopted Regulation 2026/667 which introduced a new binding intermediate target of a 90% net emissions reduction by 2040, compared to 1990 levels. This creates a further milestone in emission reduction targets - 55% by 2030, 90% by 2040, and net-zero by 2050.

The proposed development accords with the provisions of the European Climate Law as the renewable electricity generated by it will contribute directly to the EU's binding decarbonisation targets, will support Ireland's obligations under the Law's governance framework, and will advance the shift towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon energy system.

7.2.8 RePowerEU

REPowerEU is the EU's strategy to end its dependence on Russian fossil fuels and accelerate the clean energy transition. REPowerEU was launched in May 2022 in direct response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which exposed the reliance of the EU on Russian gas, oil, and coal supplies and raised significant questions over energy security within the EU. The strategy builds on the existing Fit for 55 and Green Deal framework rather than replacing it, essentially adding an energy security and diversification layer to the EU's climate strategy.

The strategy is built on three main pillars. The first is energy savings, and is built on the premise that the cheapest and cleanest energy is that which is never used; and the pillar focuses on both short-term demand-reduction measures and a longer-term investment in efficiency measures. Recent evidence suggests that the measures have resulted, between August 2022 and January 2026, in a c. 19% reduction in EU gas demand.

The second pillar is diversifying energy supply and increasing storage capacity to buffer against future shocks. As a result of the measures implemented, the share of Russian gas in EU imports fell from 45% in 2022 to c. 12% by 2025; Russian coal imports

were eliminated entirely; and Russian oil imports reduced from 27% to c. 2%. The REPowerEU Gas Regulation, formalised in February 2026, seeks to continue this trend and mandates a complete phase-out of Russian LNG imports by the end of 2026 and Russian pipeline gas by November 2027.

The third pillar is accelerating the rollout of renewable energy and electrification. The rationale for this acceleration is that self-sufficiency is a more preferable strategy that simply substituting one non-EU energy supplier for another. Since 2021, c. 260-gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity has been added across the EU, and wind and solar energy development now supplying c. 31% of EU electricity demand. Between 2006 and 2024, the EU's overall renewables share increased dramatically from c. 10% to c. 25%.

Through the generation of renewable electricity, the proposed development will provide a source of indigenous energy production which will, in turn, reduce the requirement for energy supplies to be imported to Ireland and the EU and further support the increasing contribution of renewable energy to meeting the EU's energy demands.

Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 is an emergency EU law "*laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy*". The Regulation was adopted in December 2022 as part of the broader REPowerEU response to the energy crisis.

Its core purpose was to address delays in permitting procedures that were slowing the consenting of renewable energy projects across Member States on the basis that the more-rapid deployment of renewable energy technologies was an energy-security measure and would reducing the reliance on imported fossil fuels.

The Regulation was intended to be temporary and being applicable for a period of 18-months, with a provision for a mandatory review by the European Commission to assess whether a further extension was required. However, the Regulation was in fact extended by the European Council in December 2023 due to persisting concerns regarding energy security. Subsequently, the accelerated permitting provisions have largely been incorporated into RED III.

The proposed development will directly support REPowerEU's core objectives of ending EU dependence on Russian fossil fuels and accelerating the renewable energy transition. By increased domestic wind generation, the proposed development will reduce Ireland's reliance on imported gas and strengthen energy security and supply diversification.

7.3 NATIONAL

7.3.1 National Biodiversity Action Plan

Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan is the country's overarching strategy for tackling biodiversity loss. The Plan was first launched in 2002 and now in its fourth iteration, covering 2023 to 2030 and is focused on addressing the 'biodiversity emergency' relating to Ireland's decline in species, habitats, and ecosystem health.

The Plan takes a "*whole of government, whole of society*" approach and spreads the accountability for protecting and restoring biodiversity across public bodies, businesses, communities, and individual citizens.

The Plan includes 5 no. core objectives:-

- embedding a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to biodiversity;
- meeting urgent conservation and restoration needs through protecting and restoring threatened habitats and species;
- recognising ecological and biodiversity services like clean water, pollination, and flood mitigation;
- strengthening the evidence base through better biodiversity data and monitoring; and,
- strengthening Ireland's contribution to international biodiversity efforts.

While the proposed development, by virtue of its characteristics, will result in some adverse effects on ecological receptors (see **Chapter 5 (Volume I)** of the EIAR); including a loss of peatland habitats; the proposed development has been subject to careful design processes and numerous design iterations to minimise, insofar as practicable and by design, the magnitude and significance of effects on biodiversity. Mitigation measures have been proposed to minimise the significance of effects to the greatest possible degree; while habitat enhancement measures have been proposed to maximise the benefit of the proposed development to biodiversity. In particular, the enhancement measures focus on supporting the restoration of peatland habitats which, if implemented effectively, are expected to yield positive effects on the peatland habitats present at the project site. In this context, it is assessed that the proposed development complies with the strategy and objectives of the Plan.

7.3.2 Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030

This White Paper is Ireland's energy policy framework and was published in December 2015. It succeeded the previous energy policy statement from 2007 and was developed through an extensive public consultation process.

Its overarching vision is the transformation of Ireland's energy system, which was then still heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, into a low-carbon energy system by 2050. It set an aspiration to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% compared to 1990 levels by 2050, with an even longer horizon goal of reaching zero or below-zero energy emissions by 2100.

In practice, the White Paper has since been substantially superseded by the annual Climate Action Plans and the more binding architecture of the *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021*; however, it remains the foundation energy policy statement which sets out Ireland's long-term direction.

7.3.3 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 & Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021

The *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015* ('the 2015 Act') was Ireland's first statutory climate framework, establishing what it called a 'National Transition Objective' which was a general aspiration to move Ireland toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

The *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021* ('the 2021 Act') substantially overhauled the framework established by the 2015 Act. The 2015 Act was viewed as largely aspirational whereas the 2021 Act created a structured and binding system. Most notably, the 2021 Act replaced the vague 2050 aspiration

with a legally binding requirement that the State "*pursue and achieve*" a climate-neutral economy by the end of 2050. Additionally, an interim target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, measured against a 2018 baseline, was also introduced.

The most notable component of the 2021 Act was the introduction of carbon budgets, which comprise successive 5-year ceilings on the total greenhouse gases which Ireland is permitted to emit. The independent Climate Change Advisory Council proposes these budgets and the Government formally adopts them. Within each carbon budget period, the relevant Government ministers are required to set sectoral emissions ceilings which forms the national carbon budget.

The 2021 Act also significantly strengthened the Climate Change Advisory Council, expanding its membership and functions to enable it to fulfil a more robust independent oversight and advisory role. Separately, the 2021 Act also placed new statutory obligations on local authorities, each of which must now produce and periodically update their own local Climate Action Plans and incorporate climate considerations into their decision making processes.

By generating zero-carbon electricity that will displace electricity generated from fossil fuels, the proposed development will directly contribute to the energy sector's sectoral ceiling and will support Ireland's advancement to a low carbon economy and society.

7.3.4 National Adaptation Framework – Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2018

The National Adaptation Framework (NAF) is Ireland's overarching national strategy for climate change adaptation, which focuses on managing and reducing Ireland's vulnerability to the effects of climate change that are already being experienced or are now unavoidable. The first NAF was published in January 2018, in accordance with the 2015 Act which requires the Government to prepare and periodically update such a framework, with a five-year statutory review cycle.

The NAF's core objective is to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative effects of climate change; which includes increased flooding, coastal erosion and sea level rise, more frequent extreme weather events, drought, and knock-on effects on biodiversity, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The NAF operates on the basis of a 'whole-of-government' approach rather than being a single standalone action plan. At the top level, it sets the national and strategic objective. Below, it requires individual Government departments to prepare sectoral adaptation plans covering areas such as agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, transport infrastructure, flood risk management, energy, and public health. At the local level, every local authority is required to prepare its own Climate Adaptation Strategy to implement national and sectoral priorities at the local level.

An updated NAF was published in June 2024 and incorporated updates based on wider EU adaptation policy. Notably, this update added a new dedicated 'Planning and Built Environment' sector in recognition of the fact that land-use planning and building standards are central to climate adaptation.

While the NAF focuses on climate resilience as opposed to emissions reduction, the proposed development accords with its principles by seeking to address the underlying causes of climate risks; while its design and construction incorporate

climate risk assessment (flood risk, extreme weather resilience) consistent with adaptation strategies.

7.3.5 Climate Action Plan 2025

The *Climate Action Plan 2023* (CAP23) was the first CAP to be prepared under the 2021 Act and followed the introduction of the carbon budgets and legally binding sectoral emissions ceilings. Since 2023, further revisions of the CAP has been prepared, CAP24 and CAP25.

The latest iteration of the Government of Ireland's *Climate Action Plan* (CAP25) was published in 2025 updating many of the suggested measures and actions required to achieve carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings from CAP24. Both CAP24 and CAP25 should be read together. The plans, taken together, provide the roadmap for halving Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The CAP25 advances sector-specific measures including decarbonising the residential building sector. This includes the complete phase-out of fossil fuel heating for both new builds and retrofits.

The CAP25 creates a roadmap for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and to achieve net-zero by no later than 2050. The key driver underpinning this aim is the intention to enable a large-scale deployment of renewable energy technologies that will be central to decarbonising the energy/power sector and enabling the electrification of other sectors.

A key element of CAP25 is the decarbonisation of Ireland's electricity system, primarily through a significant increase in renewable energy generation. The CAP25 reiterates ambitious targets for renewable electricity, aiming for 50% by 2025 and 80% renewable energy by 2030. These goals will be met by accelerating the deployment of:-

- Onshore wind: 6GW by 2025 and 9GW by 2030;
- Offshore wind: 5GW by 2030; and,
- Solar energy: 5GW by 2025 and 8GW by 2030.

Overall, the share of renewable electricity generation in Ireland increased to 40.9% in 2025, according to the SEAI.

The CAP25 outlines that electricity emissions decreased by 26.2% from 2018 to 2023 due to the increasing share of renewable generation and net electricity imports.

The targets set out in the CAP2025 for 2030 include:-

- Increase electricity generated from renewable sources to 80%;
- Complete the phase-out of coal and peat-fired electricity generation; and,
- 51% reduction in overall green-house gas emissions.

The plan notes that the transition from fossil fuels and towards renewable energies will improve energy security and reduce Ireland's dependence on imported energy.

The CAP25 clearly recognises that the deployment of renewable energy developments will need to outpace the growth in energy demand in order to deliver the required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The demand for electricity in Ireland is predicted to grow substantially in the next decade and the CAP25 notes that additional electricity generation will be a key enabler to achieve renewable energy and emissions targets and to meet this demand.

The proposed development will generate 53.1MW and supports the target of the doubling of onshore wind energy generation in Ireland by 2030 and contributes to the national target of increasing renewable electricity generation to 80% by 2030.

7.3.6 Project Ireland 2040

7.3.6.1 National Planning Framework – First Revision

The National Planning Framework (NPF) First Revision is Ireland's updated 20-year spatial strategy, and was formally approved by Government in April 2025. It amends the original NPF published in 2018 which, alongside the National Development Plan (NDP), forms the twin pillars of Project Ireland 2040. The NPF and NDP sit at the top of the Irish strategic planning hierarchy and guides the 3 no. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and, in turn, city and county development plans. All of the regional and local plans must be consistent with the NPF. At a strategic level, the NPF seeks to manage population growth and ensure balanced, compact, and sustainable development.

On climate and energy, the NPF aligns with updated national commitments, including a 51% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2030 and supporting the delivery of at least 5GW of offshore renewable energy capacity by 2030, with an ambition of over 37GW by 2050.

The NPF and NDP include 10 no. common goals, known as National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs). NSO 8 is the 'Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society' and seeks to provide for the significant expansion of onshore renewable energy generation in accordance with overarching national climate and energy policies. Through NSO 8, the NPF seeks to:-

"Deliver 80% of our electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030 with a strategic aim to increase renewable deployment in line with EU targets and National policy objectives out to 2030 and beyond. It is expected that this increase in renewable deployment will lead to a greater diversity of renewable technologies in the mix."

and,

"Reinforce the distribution and transmission network to facilitate planned growth and distribution of a more renewables focused source of energy across the major demand centres."

Chapter 9, relating to 'Climate Transition and Our Environment' sets out a series of overarching aims which include a recognised need to accelerate action on climate change and transition to a climate neutral energy future. In particular, the NPF states that:-

"It is necessary to address the long term causes of climate change through reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, while adapting to its impacts over the short, medium and longer terms."

The Government has committed to achieving targets underpinned by the adoption of a series of carbon budgets and national Climate Action Plans over the period to 2050, informed by UN and EU policy. These actions are also underpinned by other key national policies including the National Development Plan, National Adaptation Framework and by Sectoral Adaptation Plans."

In addition to legally binding targets agreed at EU level, it is a national objective for Ireland to transition to be a competitive zero carbon, economy no later than 2050.

Meeting our commitments will require investment and ambitious and effective action across all sectors, as well as societal behavioural change."

In support of the overarching objectives of the NPF and the NSOs, a number of National Policy Objectives (NPOs) are set out and those of relevance to the proposed development are described in **Table 2** below.

NPO ID	NPO Content
66	The planning system will be responsive to our national environmental challenges and ensure that development occurs within environmental limits, having regard to the medium and longer-term requirements of all relevant environmental and climate legislation and the sustainable management of our natural capital.
70	Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a climate neutral economy by 2050.
71	Support the development and upgrading of the national electricity grid infrastructure, including supporting the delivery of renewable electricity generating development.
73	Support the co-location of renewable technologies with other supporting technologies and complementary land uses, including agriculture, amenity, forestry and opportunities to enhance biodiversity and promote heritage assets, at appropriate locations which are determined based upon the best available scientific evidence in line with EU and national legislative frameworks.
74	Each Regional Assembly must plan, through their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, for the delivery of the regional renewable electricity capacity allocations indicated for onshore wind and solar reflected in Table 9.1 below, and identify allocations for each of the local authorities, based on the best available scientific evidence and in accordance with legislative requirements, in order to meet the overall national target.
75	Local Authorities shall plan for the delivery of Target Power Capacity (MW) allocations consistent with the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, through their City and County Development Plans.

Table 2: National Policy Objectives

With regard to NPO 75, the NPF states that each regional assembly shall prepare a Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy (RRES) wherein additional details as to how the regional renewable energy allocations can be achieved and shall set out specific targets for each local authority.

The regional allocations as set out at **Table 9.1** of the NPF are provided at **Figure 1** below.

Region	Energised capacity 2023 (MW)	Additional Renewable Power Capacity Allocations (MW)	Total % of National Share in 2030	Energised Capacity 2023 (MW)	Additional Renewable Power Capacity Allocations (MW)	Total % of National Share in 2030
	Onshore Wind			Solar PV		
Eastern and Midlands	284	1,966	25%	306	3,294	45%
Northern and Western	1,761	1,389	35%	0.3	959	12%
Southern	2,622	978	40%	138	3,302	43%
Total	4,667	4,333		445	7,555	

Figure 1: Regional Renewable Electricity Capacity Allocations

According to **Figure 1**, the Northern & Western Region; within which the proposed development is located; has been allocated and additional renewable energy generation target of 1,389MW. The output capacity of the proposed development, 53.1MW, represents 3.8% of this allocation and, therefore, the proposed development will make a notable contribution to the achievement of the 2030 target for the Northern & Western Region.

Moreover, the proposed development aligns with NPOs 66, 70, 71 and 73 and, therefore, is assessed as according with the overarching framework and objectives of the NPF.

7.3.6.2 National Development Plan

The National Development Plan (NDP) is Ireland's capital investment strategy and the financial counterpart to the NPF within Project Ireland 2040. The NPF and NDP are highly integrated, with the NPF setting the 20-year spatial vision for where growth should happen and the NDP setting out the funding and investment strategy for delivering the associated infrastructure. The NDP was first published in 2018 and revisions have since been published in 2021 and 2025, and now projects capital investment out to 2035.

The revised NDP commits c. €275 billion to infrastructure delivery between 2026 and 2035, which represents an increase of c. €34 billion on the 2021 revision. The NDP is designed to increase Ireland's annual capital investment in infrastructure from c. 5% of GDP to 6.65% of GDP by 2030. For the 2026–2030 period, the sectoral allocation for climate, environment and energy is €5.6 billion. Additionally, significant funding is also ring-fenced for key infrastructure bodies, including €3.5 billion for ESB and EirGrid to ensure that enhancement and reinforcement works of the electricity network are progressed.

The funding set out in the NDP is intended to support the delivery and achievement of the 10 no. National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs). The NDP identifies 'climate action' as a Strategic Investment Priority and recognises that investment in the delivery of a renewables-focused energy generation system will be crucial in the achievement of the NSOs and, in particular, NSO 8.

The relevant Strategic Investment Priorities are described at **Table 3** below.

National Strategic Outcome	Strategic Investment Priority
NSO 8	Regular Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) auctions will deliver competitive levels of onshore wind and solar electricity generation which indicatively could be up to 2.5 GW of gridscale solar and up to 8 GW of onshore wind by 2030 The RESS will also support the delivery of up to 5 GW of additional offshore renewable electricity generation by 2030

Table 3: Relevant Strategic Investment Priorities

Given the integrated nature of the NDP, NPF and, in particular, the NSOs; it is assessed that the proposed development accords with the guiding funding and investment strategy of the NDP. It is likely that the proposed development will participate in the RESS auctions which are described as a Strategic Investment priority and which will support the development, construction and operation of the proposed development. This investment will, in turn, assist the proposed development in contributing to the achievement of renewable energy generation targets set out in the NPOs within the NPF.

7.3.7 National Energy & Climate Plan 2021-2030

The National Energy and Climate Plan is Ireland's mandatory ten-year plan which sets out how it will contribute to the EU's collective energy and climate targets. The requirement for Member States to produce Energy & Climate Plans derives from the Clean Energy for All Europeans package described above. Ireland's original Plan covering the 2021–2030 period was submitted to the EU in 2019; while an updated final version was submitted in July 2024 to reflect the EU's increased ambitions as set out in the European Green Deal and Fit for 55 packages.

The Plan is structured around five core dimensions which the EU requires every Plan to address:-

- Decarbonisation (greenhouse gas emission reductions and increased renewable energy generation);
- Energy efficiency;
- Energy security;
- Internal energy market; and,
- Research, innovation and competitiveness.

While *Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030* is largely aspirational, the Plan is intended to translate Ireland's binding legal commitments into specific targets and trajectories and, notably, policy measures.

The most far-reaching target for 2030 includes the proposed reduction of Ireland's overall greenhouse gas emissions by 51% compared to 2018 levels. Specifically in terms of renewable energy, the Plan sets an overall target of 43% renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (a slight exceedance of the EU-wide RED III baseline

of 42.5%) which is further broken down into sectoral goals of 80% renewable electricity generation, 29% renewable energy in transport and 15.8% renewable energy in heating. In terms of energy efficiency, the Plan aligns itself with the EU target of at least an 11.7% reduction in final energy consumption by 2030.

Having regard to the objectives of the Plan; specifically in respect of decarbonisation and energy security; the proposed development is assessed to accord fully with the Plan through increasing Ireland's renewable energy generation capacity, the consequential reduction in greenhouse gases from energy production and the provision of energy from an indigenous source.

7.3.8 Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006

The *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006* advise that a reasonable balance must be achieved between meeting Government policy on renewable energy and the proper planning and sustainable development of an area. The document provides guidance on the consideration involved in designing a wind energy development and matters which should be considered as part of the environmental assessment of a project.

The *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006* remain valid and operative; and while draft revised guidelines have been published in 2013 and 2019, updated guidelines have not been adopted.

While the Applicant has had regard to the *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019*, the proposed development has been developed in accordance with the provisions of the *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006*.

7.3.9 Revised Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019

In December 2019, the *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2019* were published which provide updated requirements on a number of key aspects related to wind energy developments, including noise, visual amenity setback, shadow flicker, community consultation obligations, community dividend and grid connection.

Although the *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2019* are not yet the statutory operable guidance, the proposed development has, in accordance with best practice, had regard to a number of the requirements set out therein; particularly in respect of visual amenity, shadow flicker, community consultation and community benefit fund.

7.4 REGIONAL

The proposed development is located within the Northern and Western Region and is located within the area governed by the Northern & Western Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) 2020-2032 which falls under the auspices of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA). The NWRA is one of three Regional Assemblies in Ireland and “works with key stakeholders at EU, national, regional and local level to accelerate and optimise effective regional development”.

7.4.1 Northern & Western Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

The RSES provides a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region which supports the implementation of the NPF and the relevant national

economic policies and objectives of the Government at the regional level. The RSES provides the roadmap for effective regional development and seeks to create healthy places and promote sustainable communities. The RSES provides a long-term strategy to deliver the transformational change that is necessary to achieve the objectives and vision of the Regional Assembly.

The RSES includes a range of regional policy objectives (RPO) which support the development of renewable energy projects, such as the proposed development. Additionally, there are an array of RPOs which, while not specifically related to the delivery of renewable energy developments, are of relevance to the proposed development and are set out at **Table 4** below.

Having regard to the principal objectives and RPOs contained within the RSES; specifically in respect of energy production, greenhouse gas emission reductions and renewable energy generation; the proposed development is assessed to accord fully with policy provisions contained therein and will support the Regional Assembly in achieving same.

RPO ID	RPO Content
4.16	The NWRA shall co-ordinate the identification of potential renewable energy sites of scale in collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders within 3 years of the adoption of the RSES. The identification of such sites (which may extend to include energy storage solutions) will be based on numerous site selection criteria including environmental matters, and potential grid connections.
4.17	To position the region to avail of the emerging global market in renewable energy by:- • Stimulating the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy systems; • Supporting research and innovation; • Encouraging skills development and transferability; • Raising awareness and public understanding of renewable energy and encourage market opportunities for the renewable energy industry to promote the development and growth of renewable energy businesses; and, • Encourage the development of the transmission and distribution grids to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects and the effective utilisation of the energy generated from renewable sources having regard to the future potential of the region over the lifetime of the Strategy and beyond.
4.18	Support the development of secure, reliable and safe supplies of renewable energy, to maximise their value, maintain the inward investment, support indigenous industry and create jobs.
5.1	The Assembly will support through CARO and Local Authorities the preparation and implementation of Local Climate Strategies which will, inter alia, address vulnerability to climate risks and provide prioritised actions in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework.
5.5	Ensure efficient and sustainable use of all our natural resources, including inland waterways, peatlands, and forests in a manner which ensures a healthy society a clean environment and there is no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development supported in this strategy. Conserve and protect designated areas and natural heritage area. Conserve and protect European sites and their integrity.
5.7	Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the RSES are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate.
8.3	The Assembly support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.
8.18	Ensure the protection and improvement of all waters – rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries (transitional waters), coastal waters and their associated habitats and species throughout the region and implement measures to achieve at least Good Status in all water surface bodies.
9.4(b)	Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy through a presumption against development in areas vulnerable to flooding and rising sea levels, continuing to assess the probability of risk from all sources of flooding, and working with relevant stakeholders in both the assessment and delivery of any mitigation responses required; Furthermore, pursue the generation of renewable energies and their local applications through, for example, green infrastructure planning, innovative design solutions, the promotion of energy-efficient buildings and homes.

Table 4: Northern & Western Regional Assembly RSES Policy Objectives

7.5 LOCAL

Under Section 28 of the *Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)*, when making development plans, planning authorities must have regard to national policy on renewable energy. The development plan is required to indicate how its implementation will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation.

The proposed development site is located within County Roscommon and under the jurisdiction of Roscommon County Council ('the Planning Authority'). Therefore, the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* is the applicable development plan for the proposed development. Additionally, a number of other plans and policy documents for County Roscommon are relevant to the proposed development and are discussed below.

7.5.1 Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028

The *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* ('the Roscommon CDP') was adopted on 10 March 2022 and came into effect in April 2022. It is the statutory 6-year land-use and spatial planning framework for County Roscommon and is required to be consistent with the NPF and the RSES.

Climate action is addressed principally at Chapter 8 (Climate Action and Energy Efficiency) which sets out the county's response to national climate obligations including alignment with the 2021 Climate Act and national sectoral emissions ceilings and integrates a standalone Renewable Energy Strategy (RES). However, policy objectives which are of relevance to the proposed development are included throughout the plan and are discussed at **Table 5** below.

Policy Objective ID	Objective/Policy Content
RD 5.2	Encourage and facilitate agricultural diversification into agri-businesses such as organic foods and rural tourism, as a means of promoting rural diversity and strengthening the local economic base.
ED 6.31	Ensure that development proposals in the vicinity of walking routes and cycleways, including those identified in Table 6.1, do not hinder the use and general amenity value of the routes.
ITC 7.12	Provide a safe and modern road network throughout the county, having regard to national and regional policies and guidelines as well as liaising with national agencies.
ITC 7.14	Maintain and protect the safety, capacity and efficiency of national roads and associated junctions in accordance with the <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)</i> .
ITC 7.15	Protect the national road network from inappropriate new access points and the intensification of existing accesses onto or adjacent to National Roads in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.5 of Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012) in order to maintain traffic capacity, minimise traffic hazard and protect and maximise public investment in such roads.
ITC 7.16	Require all applications for significant development proposals to be accompanied by a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audit (RSA), carried out by suitably competent persons, in accordance with the TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines.
ITC 7.21	To implement the recommendations of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) in relation to urban streets and roads within the 50/60 kph zone.
ITC 7.48	Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans. Furthermore, the Council will undertake its obligations under the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017.
ITC 7.52	Ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for development proposals impacting on flood risk areas, in accordance with the <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management</i> . This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.
ITC 7.58	Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.
ITC 7.59	Facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.
ITC 7.60	Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.
CAEE 8.1	Support European and national objectives for climate action, adaptation and mitigation which address land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage as detailed in the <i>Climate Action Plan (2019)</i> , the <i>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018)</i> and <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009)</i> and any subsequent versions of any of the aforementioned.
CAEE 8.2	Support the National Climate Change Strategy by actively seeking to implement the policy objectives throughout this Plan which contribute to positive climate actions, including those related to renewable energy, sustainable transport, air quality, flooding and the promotion of urban and

	rural green initiatives.
CAEE 8.3	Support developments and actions that assist in achieving the national targets for energy from renewable energy, from renewable resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production.
CAEE 8.4	Encourage and facilitate the various forms of renewable energy development detailed in the <i>Renewable Energy Strategy</i> that accompanies this Plan (as well as any other new forms of renewable energy which may be developed during the lifetime of this Plan), subject to satisfying the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.
CAEE 8.5	Facilitate wind energy developments primarily in areas designated in the <i>Renewable Energy Strategy</i> as "Most Favoured" and secondarily in areas designated as "Less Favoured" in the <i>Renewable Energy Strategy</i> , subject to normal planning criteria and having regard to the <i>Wind Energy Guidelines</i> (DECLG, 2006) and any update to the Guidelines that may issue during the lifetime of this Plan. This will include consideration of carbon benefit analysis, as appropriate.
CAEE 8.7	Ensure that proposals for renewable energy developments are considered in the context of relevant EU and national legislation, including in respect of environmental protection. No renewable energy developments will be considered in designated Natura 2000 sites or their surrounding buffer areas.
CAEE 8.8	Ensure that renewable energy developments do not undermine the preservation and conservation of the natural and built environment and that an appropriate balance is achieved between renewable energy development and preservation of the natural environment.
CAEE 8.12	Facilitate renewable energy proposals that bring about a direct socio-economic benefit to the local community.
CAEE 8.25	Protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of wetlands and other landscape features such as semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams and turloughs which support the ecological network throughout County Roscommon.
CAEE 8.26	Support the preservation and restoration of peatlands in County Roscommon, where appropriate, in order to transition towards a low-carbon county.
CAEE 8.27	Ensure that peatland areas, including those designated or proposed for designation (including NHA, pNHA or Natura 2000 sites), are protected so as to allow their continued role as carbon sinks, which contribute towards reducing CO2 emissions.
BH 9.2	Protect all structures included on the Record of Protected Structures and their settings, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.
NH 10.1	Ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.
NH 10.2	Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan, including no net loss in biodiversity, and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
NH 10.4	Proposals where woodland, tree or hedgerow removal is proposed will be required to demonstrate a sufficient level of protection to Annex IV species, such as Bats and Otter, in accordance with the Habitats Directive.
NH 10.5	Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) will be required for proposed developments likely to significantly impact on natural habitats and/or species, and which are not subject to Environmental Impact Assessment
NH 10.7	Implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

NH 10.13	Encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where practically possible. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required.
NH 10.14	Promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species in new developments.
NH 10.15	Ensure that hedgerows that are required to be removed in the interests of traffic safety or where breaches to hedgerows occur in compliance with relevant legislation, are replaced by the applicant/developer with suitable native species to the satisfaction of the Council.
NH 10.16	Protect and enhance the valuable peatland resource in County Roscommon whilst protecting the heritage and environmental value of these peatland areas. The aims of the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the <i>National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022</i> and the Enhanced Decommissioning Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme will be supported.
NH 10.23	Require all development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2015.
NH 10.24	Ensure, where the presence of invasive species is identified on any proposed development site, that robust treatment measures are detailed to demonstrate how these species will be appropriately managed and controlled.
NH 10.25	Minimise visual impacts on areas categorised within the County Roscommon <i>Landscape Character Assessment</i> including "moderate value", "high value", "very high value" and with special emphasis on areas classified as "exceptional value" and where deemed necessary, require the use of Visual Impact Assessment where proposed development may have significant effect on such designated areas.
NH 10.26	Protect important views and prospects in the rural landscape and visual linkage between established landmarks, landscape features and views in urban areas.

Table 5: Roscommon CDP Policy Objectives

The design process and EIAR preparation has been cognisant of the policy objectives contained within the Roscommon CDP and the proposed development has been undertaken in the context of these policy objectives. The proposed development is assessed to be compliant with each of the above policy objectives, each of which have been addressed in the relevant chapters throughout the EIAR. With particular reference to NH 10.16, the proposed development has, by design, sought to minimise the effects on peatland habitats while an extensive set of enhancement measures are proposed to support the restoration of peatland habitats at the proposed development site.

7.5.1.1 Renewable Energy Strategy

This Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) has been developed as a planning framework to support policy objectives of the Roscommon CDP. The primary aim of the RES is to:-

“ensure that the county continues to address climate change through facilitating appropriately located renewable energy developments and through supporting energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy”.

In order to support the primary aim, a total of 12 no. strategic aims are stated and are incorporated, as appropriate, as policy objectives of Chapter 8 of the Roscommon CDP. The strategic aims which are of relevance to the proposed development are set out at **Table 6** below.

RES Aim	Content
RES AIM 1	Provide a framework for renewable energy development within the county through the adoption and implementation of this Strategy.
RES AIM 2	Assist in achieving the national targets for energy from renewable energy, from renewable resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production.
RES AIM 3	Encourage and facilitate the various forms of renewable energy development explored in this Strategy, provided they are in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. Wind energy developments will be permitted in areas designated as "Most Favoured" primarily, subject to normal planning practices.
RES AIM 5	Ensure that renewable energy developments do not undermine the preservation and conservation of the natural and built environment and that an appropriate balance is achieved between development and preservation of the natural environment.
RES AIM 6	Comply with relevant EU and National legislation regarding renewable energy development and environmental protection. No renewable energy developments will be considered on Natura 2000 sites or their surrounding buffer areas.
RES AIM 7	Encourage and facilitate the provision of strategic infrastructure in appropriate areas of the county, in order to facilitate the provision and potential exportation of renewable energy.
RES AIM 8	Work in collaboration with EirGrid and other service providers and statutory bodies to facilitate a modern electricity network within the county, in line with recognised best practice. The Council will require comprehensive studies to be undertaken for all technical and environmental considerations, to inform the assessment of proposed transmission routes.
RES AIM 10	Support the development of facilities within the county dedicated to the exploration and advancement of renewable energy technologies. Such facilities could assist in expanding public awareness of the sustainable benefits of renewable energy, provide training, research and development facilities for renewable energy.
RES AIM 11	Facilitate renewable energy proposals that bring about a direct socio-economic benefit to the local community.

Table 6: RES Aims

The RES recognises that wind energy is one of the most developed forms of renewable energy, both globally and in Ireland, and that Ireland has a significant wind resource. In this context, an evaluation of the county and its sensitivity to potential renewable energy developments was carried out. Renewable energy developments were considered from a planning perspective and this involved the assessment of:-

- Ecological and Natural Heritage;
- Biodiversity;
- Peatlands;
- Water Resources;
- Archaeology and Built Heritage;
- Landscape Value; and,
- Infrastructure Constraints.

Through this assessment, the RES identifies sites of strategic regional and national importance that have the potential to accommodate wind energy development. It classifies areas within the county as being either 'Most Favoured', 'Less Favoured' or 'Not Favoured'. (see **Figure 2** extracted from the RES). The classified areas are defined as follows:-

- Most Favoured: Wind farm development will be considered favourably, subject to compliance with all necessary siting and design standards;
- Less Favoured: Wind farm development will be considered, but the sensitivities revealed in these areas would render exploitation more problematic and therefore these areas are less favoured for wind energy development; and,
- Not Favoured: Wind farm development will not be considered favourably in these areas.

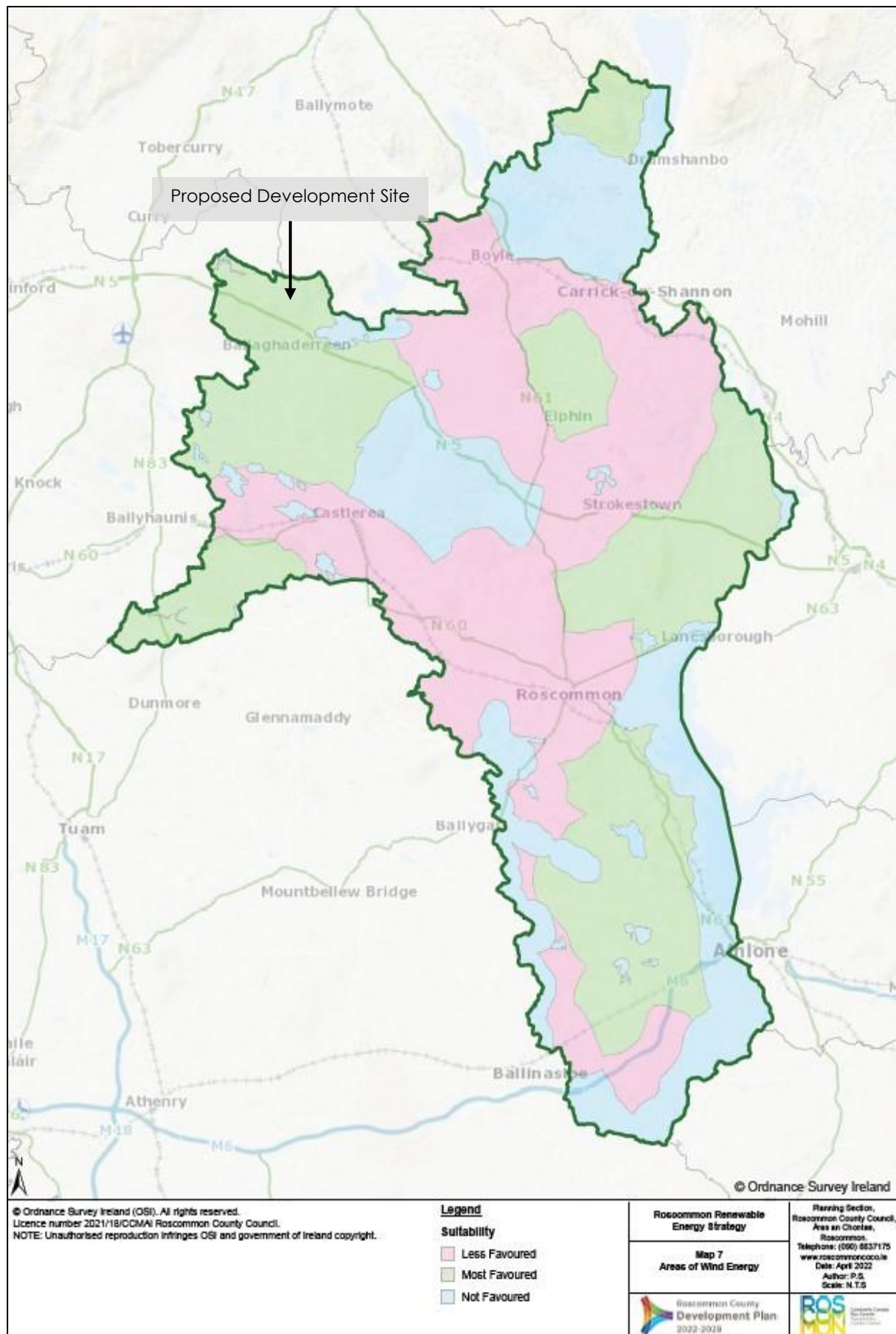


Figure 2: Areas of Wind Energy (Figure 7 of RES)

The site selection, iterative design, environmental scoping and environmental assessment process have each been undertaken having regard to the RES. In particular, we refer to the location of the proposed development site within an area classified as 'Most Favoured' for wind energy development and that the proposed development has been progressed in accordance with the relevant design standards of the *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006*. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the proposed development complies, in full, with the provisions and requirements of the RES.

In summary, therefore, it is evident that the proposed development has been progressed in strict compliance with all relevant planning policies contained within the Roscommon CDP and that the issue of a material contravention with the Roscommon CDP simply does not arise.

7.5.2 County Roscommon Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

The *County Roscommon Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024–2029* was adopted in January 2024 in accordance with the requirement of the 2021 Climate Act mandating each local authority to produce a 5-year plan setting out how it will decarbonise its own operations and build climate resilience across the county. The plan is framed around the national 2050 objective of creating "a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy".

The plan is structured around 5 no. key themes:-

- Governance and Leadership;
- Built Environment and Transport;
- Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure;
- Communities, Resilience and Transition; and,
- Sustainability and Resource Management.

Under each of the themes, a series of lower-order objectives and actions are listed to support County Roscommon's contribution to the national 2050 target.

While the plan does not specifically relate to the development of renewable energy development in a manner comparable to the RES, the proposed development will, through increasing renewable energy generation in the county, support the contribution of the county in achieving county, regional, national and European targets regarding renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

8.0 PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

It is evident from the review of European, national, regional and local planning, climate and energy policy that the development of the Islandmore Wind Farm at the proposed location is compatible with same and supported at all levels.

While policy provisions at the European, national and regional levels are overarching and strategic by nature and, in principle, support all efforts to increase renewable energy generation, it is particularly noteworthy that, at a local level, the proposed development site is located within an area classified as being 'Most Favoured' for wind energy development in the Roscommon CDP. Moreover, given the sieve-analysis undertaken in the identification of such spatial classifications; wherein environmental sensitivities were used to identify suitable locations, the Applicant

submits that the proposed development should therefore be considered to accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations. Such a finding is further supported by the assessments contained within the EIAR and NIS for the proposed development wherein significant effects on the environment are not assessed as likely to occur.

The NPF frames 'sustainability' as being *"at the heart of long term planning and the National Planning Framework seeks to ensure that the decisions we take today, meet our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."* This framing of the term 'sustainability' is similar in content to the definition of sustainability provided by the Brundtland Commission which states that sustainability or sustainable developments represents that which *"meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"*.

Having regard to the Brundtland Commission's *Our Common Future*, it is considered that for a proposed development to be considered 'sustainable development', it must fulfil a positive economic, social and environmental function. These principles are assessed at **Table 7** below.

Principle of Sustainable Development	Contribution of Proposed Development
Economic Role	In addition to the benefits accruing from renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas emission reductions, it is assessed that the proposed development will generate notable economic benefits during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases. During the construction phase, the proposed development is anticipated to involve an €88 million investment by the Applicant. It is further anticipated that approximately 25% of this sum will be invested in the local economy, with the remaining sum invested at a national and European level. Moreover, it is considered that the construction phase will have an additional beneficial effect on the local economy through the creation of employment (directly and indirectly), expenditure in the local economy (supply chain, hospitality, etc.) and investment in local infrastructure (public road upgrades, etc.). Similar economic benefits are likely to be experienced during the decommissioning phase. During the long-term operation phase, the local economy will experience a long-term (40-years) benefit the payment of commercial rates to Roscommon County Council, the proposed development's Community Benefit Scheme (over the course of up to 15-years), expenditure in local supply chains, and the likelihood of increased expenditure by landowners involved in the proposed development benefitting from annual rental income. At a regional and national level, it is assessed that economic benefits will also be experienced through a reduced requirement to import fossil fuels for electricity generation. More notably, the proposed development will assist Ireland in achieving its binding renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas reduction targets. In the short-term, it is likely that Ireland will be required to purchase 'statistical transfers' of renewable energy from Member States with renewable energy surpluses, resulting in substantial financial costs; while the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (July 2026) estimated that a failure to achieve its targets could cost the State up to €13 billion annually by 2050. Therefore, through its contribution to the achievement of these targets, the proposed development will serve a key short and long-term economic role in terms of sustainability.
Social Role	In the short term, onshore wind energy development is widely recognised as the key renewable energy technology in seeking to achieve 2030 energy generation targets. While solar energy and offshore wind is anticipated to play an increasingly important role beyond 2030, onshore wind energy will continue to be central to the energy mix and will contribute to Ireland's low carbon future. The proposed development will contribute to the renewable electricity generation

	targets as set out in the NPF and, therefore, support Ireland's efforts to become low carbon society. During the operation phase, the proposed development will play an important social role particularly through the community funding mechanisms. On an annual basis, it is anticipated that approximately €296,000 will be made available to community projects. This fund will focus on volunteer and not-for-profit organisations and low-carbon initiatives primarily; but also local clubs, societies and other initiatives that support the social aspects and requirements of the local community.
Environmental Role	The environmental effects of the proposed development, both positive and negative, have been fully assessed in the EIAR. Overall, it is assessed that significant positive or negative effects are not likely to arise and that any adverse effects can be appropriately managed and mitigated. The NIS concludes on the best available scientific evidence that it can be demonstrated objectively that the overall project will not result in a significant adverse effect on the integrity or on the Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests of any European designated nature conservation site, either on its own or in-combination with other plans or projects. The proposed development has been assessed as being capable of saving approximately 36,500-tonnes of CO₂-equivalent on an annual basis which represents 1.2% of the total electricity sector carbon budget for 2030. Over the course of the proposed 40-year lifetime of the proposed development, the annual CO₂-equivalent saving is assessed as representing a substantial positive environmental effect and will assist in seeking to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Table 7: Assessment of Sustainable Development

Evidently, based on the above, the proposed development will fulfil a key positive economic, social and environmental role at a local, regional, national and European (International) level. At all levels, the proposed development will contribute to renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas reduction targets; while, at the regional and, in particular, local level, the proposed development will positively contribute to sustaining economic activity and supporting local social and community needs.

The Applicant submits, therefore, that the proposed development accords with the principles of sustainable development and, in consideration of the planning policies discussed in the preceding sections, is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

9.0 COMPLETENESS CHECK

On 6 August 2025, the *European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025* were commenced for the purpose of giving effect to the REDIII Directive. This planning application has been prepared in accordance with these Regulations and, specifically, the Schedule of Information to Inform the Completeness Check provided by An Coimisiún Pleanála at Appendix 2 of the SID determination under ABP-321711-25. The Schedule of Information has been reproduced at **Annex 1** which also provides further details on where each specific matter is addressed within the planning application.

10.0 CONCLUSION

It has been demonstrated, throughout the preceding sections of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement, that renewable energy generation is essential to mitigating climate change and enabling the transition to a carbon-neutral economy and society. The deployment of renewable energy technologies allows

Ireland to pursue a sustainable economic development model which is underpinned by a safe, secure, indigenous and clean energy resources.

Ireland is currently failing to meet its renewable energy and emissions reduction targets and is lagging in its transition away from fossil fuels. The Environmental Protection Agency projects that, under current measures, greenhouse gas emissions will fall by only 23% by 2030, which is far short of the national 51% target.

The proposed development will deliver 53.1MW of domestically generated wind energy. This additional capacity is projected to produce 163GWh annually, making a meaningful contribution toward Ireland's renewable electricity targets and the Government's goal of sourcing 80% of electricity from renewables by 2030. In terms of emissions, the proposed development will save approximately 36,500-tonnes of CO₂-equivalent on an annual basis across its proposed 40-year operational life.

Despite the rapid acceleration of the deployment of renewable technologies in recent years, Ireland remains substantially short of the ambitious targets which have been committed to. Ireland fell short of its 2020 total electricity consumption target from renewables, reaching 13.5% compared to the goal of 16%. In accordance with RED III, the target has been increased to 43% with a clear national mandate to deliver substantial onshore wind capacity over the coming decade. The CAP25 sets a target of 9GW of installed wind capacity by 2030; however, as of December 2024, 4.8GW had been achieved, leaving a 4.2GW shortfall to be closed within five years.

The NPF further emphasises that a shift toward a low-carbon economy and cutting Ireland's carbon footprint is crucial and embeds climate action within the planning system. The RSES for the Northern and Western Region makes it abundantly clear that onshore wind will be central to efforts to decarbonise the economy and society; while the Roscommon CDP cascades the national and regional policy provisions to the local level. With the RES, the proposed development is located within an area classified as being 'Most Favoured' for wind energy development and that, within such areas, wind energy developments will be considered favourably subject to normal planning and environmental considerations.

This Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement demonstrates the proposed development's compliance with international, European, national and regional policy on energy security, emissions reduction and renewable energy generation. The EIAR and NIS prepared to assess the likely effects on the environment as a consequence of the proposed development have found that significant adverse environmental effects are not likely to occur.

Having regard to the above, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála grant planning permission for the proposed development.

ANNEX 1 - COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST



Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
Plans and Particulars					
Public Notice	Time Period for Consultation and Fee for Submissions	✓			The time period for consultation and fee for submissions has been included in the public notices.
	Standalone Website Address	✓			Reference to the standalone website has been included in the public notices
	EIAR and NIS referenced	✓			Reference to the EIAR and NIS has been included in the public notices.
	Reference to Section 37JA	✓			Reference to Section 37JA has been included in the public notices.
	All townlands within the site boundary to be correctly referenced.	✓			All townlands within the site boundary have been correctly referenced in the public notices and throughout the planning application documentation.
Prescribed Bodies	Notification of All Prescribed Bodies and a copy of the correspondence sent to same.	✓			All of the bodies prescribed by An Coimisiún Pleanála in its Strategic Infrastructure Development determination have been notified in writing of the planning application for the proposed development.
Land Ownership	Interest in land	✓			The Applicant has an agreement with all landowners involved in the proposed development and letters of consent have been provided with the planning application.
	Written consent of all other landowners (<i>Inc. legally binding agreement & land registry map if required</i>)	✓			All necessary letters of consent have been provided with the planning application.
Design Flexibility	Design flexibility not sought.			✓	The proposed development does not seek design flexibility.
Fee	Details of Appropriate Fee	✓			The fee of €100,000 has been paid to An Coimisiún Pleanála.
EIA Portal	Letter from Portal	✓			Confirmation of EIA Portal notification is provided with the planning application.
Planning Statement	Renewable Energy Designation Policy Statement	✓			Please refer to Section 7 of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Statement outlining compliance with all relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan including a justification for material contravention of same if relevant.	✓			Please refer to Section 7.5 of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement.
	Consultation overview	✓			Please refer to Section 5 of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement and Section 1.9 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Community Benefit Fund	✓			Please refer to Section 6 of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement and Section 4.5.2.2 of Chapter 4 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Planning history, including of surrounds and description of Largan Hill (dimensions and operational life).	✓			Please refer to Section 2.1 of this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement.
Drawings	Drawing Schedule	✓			A Drawing Schedule is provided at Annex 1 of the Planning Application Form.
	Site location map	✓			Site Location Map(s) have been provided as part of the Planning Application Drawings.
	Site layout plan (proximity of turbines to Largan Hill turbines to be annotated)	✓			Site Layout Plan(s) have been provided as part of the Planning Application Drawings. A dedicated drawing illustrating the proximity of the proposed development to the Largan Hill Wind Farm turbines is provided at Annex 3 of the Letter to An Coimisiún Pleanála.
	Plans, elevations, sections and cross-sections	✓			Plans, elevations, sections and cross-sections have been provided as part of the Planning Application Drawings as necessary.
	Wayleaves shown	✓			All relevant wayleaves are shown on Site Location Maps.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Grid Connection Route	✓			As planning permission is not being proposed for the proposed development's grid connection, it has not been illustrated in the Planning Application Drawings. Drawings illustrating the grid connection infrastructure are provided at Annexes 3.6 and 3.7 of Volume II of the EIAR.
	Scales appropriate	✓			All scales have been agreed with An Coimisiún Pleanála.
EIAR					
No design Flex	Two turbine types (3no. with a hub height of 104m, a rotor diameter of 162m and an overall tip height of 185m; and 7 no. wind turbines with a hub height of 82m, a rotor diameter of 136m and an overall tip height of 150m). Grid connection to be assessed but does not form part of planning application.			✓	The proposed development does not seek design flexibility.
Non-Technical Summary	Provided as a standalone section.	✓			The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the EIAR has been provided in a standalone document.
Introduction	Legislative Context	✓			The legislative context has been addressed at Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) of the EIAR. Additionally, this Renewable Energy Development Planning Statement assesses the proposed development in the context of international, European, national, regional and local renewable energy and climate change policy.
	Scoping Consultation	✓			Please refer to Section 1.9 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Community Engagement Report	✓			Please refer to Annex 1.5 of Volume II of the EIAR.
	Methodology/methodologies for the assessment of the environmental factors and for the description and	✓			The impact assessment methodology is detailed Section 1.11 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) of the EIAR. Assessment methodologies are also set out in the relevant chapters at Volume I of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	consideration of the significance of effects				
	Study Area(s) and justification for same.	✓			Study areas and the justification for same are detailed in each relevant chapter at Volume I of the EIAR.
	Project Team (Author qualifications, experience and expertise)	✓			Please refer to Section 1.8.2 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the Statement of Authority provided in the relevant chapters at Volume I.
	Technical Difficulties/Limitations	✓			Please refer to Section 1.17 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Description of the Proposed Development	Detailed description (all stages) of the characteristics of the proposed development including use of natural resources, production of waste, emissions & disturbances	✓			Please refer to Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the supporting annexes at Volume II.
	Table of Turbine Location Details	✓			Please refer to Table 3.1 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Construction Environmental Management Plan	✓			Please refer to Annex 3.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Decommissioning Plan	✓			Please refer to Annex 3.9 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Waste & Resource Management Plan	✓			Please refer to Annex 2 of Annex 3.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Consideration of Alternatives	Site selection & design process	✓			Please refer to Sections 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 of Chapter 2 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Reasonable alternatives considered (Layout, scale, technologies, grid connection, turbine delivery, substation infrastructure,	✓			Please refer to Section 2.3 of Chapter 2 (Volume I) of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	construction methodology etc)				
Population and Human Health	Population & Settlement Patterns	✓			Please refer to Sections 4.4.1.1 and 4.4.2.1 of Chapter 4 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Economic Activity & Employment	✓			Please refer to Sections 4.4.1.2, 4.4.1.3 and 4.5 of Chapter 4 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Tourism & Amenities (Inc. recreational trails/waterways)	✓			Please refer to Sections 4.4.1.4, 4.4.2.2 and 4.5 of Chapter 4 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Human Health & Wellbeing (Reference Studies)	✓			Please refer to Sections 4.2.4 and 4.5.2.3 of Chapter 4 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Property Devaluation/House Prices	✓			Please refer to Section 4.5.2.2 of Chapter 4 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Biodiversity	Derogations (Required/Obtained)		✓		No derogations currently required. Subject to the outcome of pre-construction surveys and consultation with the National Parks & Wildlife Service regarding the translocation of turves containing marsh fritillary larval webs, derogations may be required at that time.
	Ecological Impact Assessment	✓			An Ecological Impact Assessment has been conducted within Chapter 5 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Biodiversity Enhancement Areas/Management Plan (<i>Proposed Peat Restoration</i>)	✓			Please refer to Annex 5.3 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Bat Surveys (to include): Preliminary Roost Assessment Surveys,	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3.3 and 5.3.3.4 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.6 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Bat activity transect surveys,	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3.3 and 5.3.3.4 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.6 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Static bat detector deployments,	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3.3 and 5.3.3.4 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.6 (Volume II) of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Emergence/re-entry bat roost,	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3.3 and 5.3.3.4 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.6 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Hibernation	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3.3 and 5.3.3.4 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.6 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Survey data to include a min. of 30 days in each season, in a variety of weather conditions with detectors at different height levels.	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3.3 and 5.3.3.4 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.6 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Invasive Species Management Plan	✓			Please refer to Section 5.6.1.3 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) which provides measures related to the identification, control and management on invasive species. Following the completion of dedicated pre-construction invasive species surveys, a site-specific Invasive Species Management Plan will be prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist detailing the specific measures related to each species recorded during the surveys.
	Terrestrial Surveys (<i>Habitat & ecology (inc protected flora, extent and quality of protected habitat to be removed to be clarified, invasive plant species, mammals, amphibians and reptiles)</i>)	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.5.4 and 5.5.5 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annexes 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, and 5.10 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Aquatic Surveys (<i>Habitat & ecology (inc river habitat, macroinvertebrate, electro-fishing, fisheries)</i>)	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annexes 5.11 and 5.12 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Ornithology	Surveys (<i>Vantage Point, Breeding & non-breeding, hinterland, Dusk, Walkover, Roost & Winter surveys</i>)	✓			Please refer to Sections 5.2.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.5.4 and 5.5.5 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.7 (Volume II) of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Connectivity with European Sites	✓			Please refer to Section 5.3.2.1 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Collision Risk Model (CRM) Assessment	✓			Please refer to Section 5.5.5.5 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) and Annex 5.9 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Monitoring Programme	✓			Please refer to Section 5.7.3 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Cumulative Assessment	✓			Please refer to Section 5.9.6 of Chapter 5 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Noise and Vibration	Baseline Noise Levels	✓			Please refer to Section 12.4 of Chapter 12 (Volume I) and Annex 12.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Map of all receptors within 4 x Tip of Turbines	✓			Please refer to Annex 2 of the Letter to An Coimisiún Pleanála.
	Predicted Noise Levels	✓			Please refer to Section 12.5.3 of Chapter 12 (Volume I) and Annex 12.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Proposed Noise Limits (cumulative)	✓			Please refer to Section 12.4 of Chapter 12 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Operational Noise Monitoring Proposal	✓			Please refer to Annex 12.6 of Volume II of the EIAR).
	Mitigation Strategy for Operational Amplitude Modulation and Tonal Noises	✓			Please refer to Section 12.6.2.1 of Chapter 12 (Volume I) of the EIAR
	Cumulative Noise Assessment (to include Largan Hill)	✓			Please refer to Section 12.5.5 of Chapter 12 (Volume I) and Annex 12.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Shadow Flicker	Shadow Flicker Analysis	✓			Please refer to Sections 13.5.2 and 13.5.4 of Chapter 13 (Volume I) and Annexes 13.3. and 13.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Wind Turbine Control Measures	✓			Please refer to Section 13.6.2 of Chapter 13 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Air and Climate	Carbon Impact Assessment including Embodied Energy	✓			Please refer to Sections 9.4.1 and 9.4.2 of Chapter 9 (Volume I) of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Assessment and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment				
	Dust Generation/Emissions and Management	✓			Please refer to Sections 8.4.2 and 8.5.1 of Chapter 8 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Vehicle Emissions and Management	✓			Please refer to Sections 9.4.1.1 and 9.5.1 of Chapter 9 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Land, Soils & Geology	Ground Condition Assessment (inc):	✓			Please refer to Chapter 6 (Volume I) and Annex 6.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Ground Investigations Report	✓			Please refer to Annex 6.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Site Investigations Report	✓			Please refer to Appendix E of Annex 6.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	LIDAR Survey	✓			Please refer to Annex 7.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	On site precipitation monitoring and use of climate data	✓			Long term rainfall and evaporation data was sourced from Met Éireann. The 30-year annual average rainfall (AAR; 1981-2010) recorded at Knock Airport located approximately 14km west of the project site, national data provided by Met Éireann for 1991-2020, and synoptic data for Claremorris weather station were each assessed to be representative of precipitation levels at the site and was used as the basis for assessment. On-site precipitation monitoring was not carried out as the publicly available information was determined to be sufficient for this assessment. Please refer to Section 7.3.2 of Chapter 7 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Ground and surface water monitoring and in-situ hydraulic conductivity testing.	✓			Please refer to Annex 6.1 (Volume II) for site investigation data, and Section 7.3.7 of Chapter 7 (Volume I) and Annex 7.3 (Volume II) of the EIAR for surface water monitoring details. Groundwater monitoring was not carried out as groundwater levels in peatland environments are typically shallow all year round due to the poorly draining nature (i.e. low permeability) of the mineral subsoils and bedrock that underlies the peat, such as the geological setting at the proposed development site. For the same reasoning, in-situ hydraulic conductivity testing was not deemed necessary.
	Slope Stability Analysis.	✓			Please refer to Annex 6.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Peat and Spoil Management Plan	✓			Please refer to Annex 6.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Water Quality	Hydrological Assessment	✓			Please refer to Sections 7.3 and 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Hydrogeological Assessment	✓			Please refer to Sections 7.3 and 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Flood Risk Assessment	✓			Please refer to Section 7.3.6 of Chapter 7 (Volume I) and Annex 7.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Surface Water/Drainage Management Plan	✓			Please refer to Annex 3 of Annex 3.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Standalone Water Framework Directive Compliance Report	✓			Please refer to Annex 7.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Emergency Response Plan	✓			Please refer to Annexes 1 and 4 of Annex 3.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Water Quality Management Plan	✓			Please refer to Annex 4 of Annex 3.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Drinking Water Source (UE and GWSS) Assessment	✓			Please refer to Sections 7.3.14 and 7.4 of Chapter 7 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Landscape & Visual	Photomontages	✓			Please refer to Annex 10.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	ZTV Analysis (20km radius from development site)	✓			Please refer to Section 10.3.3.1 of Chapter 10 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Landscape Character Assessment	✓			Please refer to Sections 10.3 and 10.4 of Chapter 10 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Viewpoint Assessment	✓			Please refer to Annex 10.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Analysis of cumulative LVIA with Largan Hill	✓			Please refer to Sections 10.4.5 and 10.4.5.1 of Chapter 10 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
Traffic & Transportation	Turbine Delivery Route & Swept Path Analysis	✓			Please refer to Annex 3.5 (Volume II) of the EIAR.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Haul Route & Swept Path Analysis	✓			Please refer to Section 2.3.6 of Chapter 2 (Volume I) and Annex 2.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Traffic and Transport Assessment	✓			Please refer to Section 14.1.4 of Chapter 14 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Traffic Management Plan (including Construction traffic)	✓			Please refer to Annex 14.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Stage 1 Road Safety Audit	✓			Please refer to Annex 14.1 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Design Report (TII requirements)	✓			Please refer to Section 14.1.4 of Chapter 14 (Volume I) of the EIAR which confirms that no road safety issues were identified as part of the traffic and transport assessment, and the proposed access arrangements comply with the relevant standards.
Material Assets	Gas/ESB networks	✓			Please refer to Sections 14.4.3.2 and 14.4.3.3 of Chapter 14 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Telecommunications Impact Study	✓			Please refer to Section 14.3.4 of Chapter 14 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Aviation Review Statement	✓			Please refer to Section 14.2.4 of Chapter 14 (Volume I) and Annexes 14.4 and 14.5 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Any other relevant material assets identified in consultation process	✓			No other relevant material assets were identified during the consultation process.
Cultural Heritage	Heritage Impact Assessment & a Historic Landscape Character Assessment	✓			Please refer to Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Volume I).
	Archaeological Impact Assessment	✓			Please refer to Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 (Volume I).
Major Accidents and Disasters	Construction Stage	✓			Please refer to Section 4.5.1.2 of Chapter 4 (Volume I).
	Operational Stage	✓			Please refer to Section 4.5.1.2 of Chapter 4 (Volume I).

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Impact of Climate Change	✓			Please refer to Section 9.4.2 of Chapter 9 (Volume I).
Cumulative Assessment	Projects considered should be clearly identified and the location of the cumulative assessment clearly labelled within each Chapter as relevant.	✓			The projects considered as part of the cumulative impact assessment are set out at Section 1.10 of Chapter 1 (Volume I). The cumulative assessment section of each relevant chapter is clearly referenced therein.
Interactions of the Foregoing	Description of interactions between factors.	✓			Please refer to Chapter 14 (Volume I).
Compendium of Mitigation Measures	Intent expressed for the implementation of mitigation measures to be clearly set out as – 'shall'. Commitments need to be expressed clearly and be specific.	✓			Please refer to Annex 1.7 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Compendium of Significant Effects	Chapter detailing all the pre-mitigation and post mitigation (residual) significant effects and magnitude/duration	✓			Please refer to Annex 1.8 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Appendices	All appendices and sub appendices to be submitted in hard and soft copy. To include: Glossary of Terms	✓			All terms, definitions and acronyms are defined with the Glossary of Terms enclosed within the EIAR and within each relevant chapter.
	Noise Survey Results & Calibration Certificates	✓			Please refer to Annex 12.2 and Annex 12.3 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Material Volume Calculations	✓			Please refer to Chapter 3 (Volume I) and Annex 6.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Statement of Competency	✓			A statement of competency of the project team (including qualifications) is included at Section 1.8.2 of Chapter 1 (Volume I) and within the specific chapters thereafter.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Other relevant documents	✓			All relevant documents have been included with the planning application.
AA Screening report	Author qualifications, experience and expertise	✓			Please refer to Section 1.5 of the Appropriate Assessment Screening.
	Methodology	✓			Please refer to Section 3 of the Appropriate Assessment Screening.
	Zone of Influence (ZOI) and identification of relevant European Sites to be based on a Source-Pathway-Receptor Model using the precautionary principle	✓			Please refer to Sections 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 and Table 4 of the Appropriate Assessment Screening.
	Must include consideration of: River Moy SAC 002298 and Lough Gara Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code: 004048).	✓			Please refer to Section 4.4 of the Appropriate Assessment Screening which identifies Natura 2000 sites potentially at risk of experiencing impacts and effects as a consequence of the proposed development, including River Moy SAC and Lough Gara SPA.
NIS	Author qualifications, experience and expertise	✓			Please refer to Section 1.5 of the Natura Impact Statement.
	Methodology	✓			Please refer to Section 3 of the Natura Impact Statement.
	Collision Risk Modelling (CRM)	✓			Please refer to Section 6.1.2 and Appendix E of the Natura Impact Statement.
	Biodiversity & Ornithology Surveys for QI & SCI species and habitats in accordance with Best Practice	✓			Please refer to Section 5.2 and Appendix D of the Natura Impact Statement.
	Consideration of relevant Land, soils & geology reports/assessments*	✓			The findings of assessments carried out in respect of land, soil, and geology have informed the assessment carried out at Section 6 of the Natura Impact Statement.
	Consideration of relevant Hydrological,	✓			The findings of assessments carried out in respect of the hydrological, hydrogeological and water environment have informed the assessment carried out at Section 6 of the Natura Impact Statement.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	hydrogeological & water reports/assessments*				
	Compendium of Mitigation Measures (<i>Intent expressed for implementation of mitigation measures – 'shall'</i>) * As stipulated above for EIAR.	✓			The mitigation measures proposed as part of the Natura Impact Statement are set out at Section 6.3 thereof. For ease of reference and completeness, these measures are also included within the Schedule of Mitigation Measures at Annex 1.7 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
Appendices	All appendices and sub appendices to be submitted in hard and soft copy.	✓			All supporting appendices and sub-appendices have been provided in hard and soft copy.
Other Documents (To include):					
Civil Engineering Report	Site Entrances	✓			Please refer to Sections 3.4.4 and 3.6.2 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the relevant Planning Application Drawings.
	Access Tracks	✓			Please refer to Sections 3.4.4 and 3.6.3 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the relevant Planning Application Drawings.
	Wind turbines	✓			Please refer to Section 3.4.1 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the relevant Planning Application Drawings.
	Cable routes & connections	✓			Please refer to Section 3.4.5 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the relevant Planning Application Drawings.
	Substation (Compound & Buildings)	✓			Please refer to Section 3.5.3 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) and Annex 3.7 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Meteorological Mast			✓	The proposed development does not include a meteorological mast.
	Temporary construction compounds	✓			Please refer to Sections 3.4.6 and 3.6.4 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR and the relevant Planning Application Drawings.
	Borrow Pits & Deposition Areas	✓			Please refer to Section 3.4.7 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) and Annex 6.2 (Volume II) of the EIAR and the relevant Planning Application Drawings.

Requirement		Yes	No	N/A	Note
	Haul Route	✓			Please refer to Sections 2.3.6 of Chapter 2 and 3.6.8 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) and Annex 2.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Turbine Delivery Route	✓			Please refer to Annex 3.5 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Surface Water Design	✓			Please refer to Annex 3 of Annex 3.4 (Volume II) of the EIAR.
	Wastewater	✓			Please refer to Section 3.5.3.2 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Potable Water	✓			Please refer to Section 3.4.6 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) of the EIAR.
	Decommissioning & Restoration	✓			Please refer to Section 3.8 of Chapter 3 (Volume I) and Annex 3.9 (Volume II) of the EIAR.



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