

Addendum to the
Environmental Impact
Assessment Report

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

Volume 2 - Introductory Chapters

Chapter 1

Introduction



Contents

1.	Introduction	1.1
1.1	Introduction	1.2
1.2	Marine Area Consent and ORESS	1.2
1.3	Overview of the Proposed Development	1.2
1.4	Profile of the Proposed Developer	1.2
1.5	Overview of Statutory Consent Process	1.3
1.6	EIA Portal and Project Website	1.3
1.7	Details of Competent Experts	1.3
1.8	Consultation Undertaken	1.3
1.9	Difficulties Experienced during the preparation of the EIAR	1.3
1.10	Structure of the EIAR	1.3
1.11	Community Benefit Fund	1.3
1.12	References	1.4

Images

Image A1.1	Infrastructure of the proposed development – not to scale (Source: Arup) (Replacing Image 1.1 of the 2024 EIAR)	1.2
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1. Introduction

North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd (NISA, hereafter referred to as ‘the Developer’) has been considering the Request for Further Information (RFI) issued by An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) as well as the third-party submissions received following public consultation. At An Coimisiún Pleanála’s behest, the Developer has also continued to consult with stakeholders in respect of the 2024 planning application throughout 2024-2026. The Developer has refined elements of the design to respond to the third-party submissions, the continued public and stakeholder consultation and the RFI (further details on the design refinements are provided in Appendix A5.1: Design Refinements). Amendments are therefore required to Chapter 1: Introduction of the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2 in the Addendum to the EIAR.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Chapter 1 submitted as part of the 2024 EIAR.

Any cross reference to a chapter, section, table, image, figure or appendix within this document is to another location within the Addendum to the EIAR unless explicitly stated otherwise. Any cross reference to anything included in the 2024 EIAR will be clearly labelled as such.

Text in bold is only used throughout this document to indicate where changes are required, and why they are required. Text in italics is text from a section of the 2024 EIAR which is deleted, or quotations from other documents (as explicitly stated). Replacement text is in normal font.

Tables and images which have been updated from the 2024 EIAR, or entirely new tables or images, have been included in the Addendum to the EIAR. These can be identified by the “A” prefix in the caption. Any changes within the updated table, in comparison to tables within the 2024 EIAR, are indicated by grey shading in the relevant cell, column or row, as necessary. The exception here is where a table has been replaced in its entirety.

The sections relevant to Chapter 1 in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
1 (b)	The scientific information provided as part of the planning application documentation should be based on up-to-date survey reports and data. Accordingly, the applicant is requested to confirm/provide justification/verification that the information submitted in support of the planning application remains relevant and appropriate at the point of submitting further information or to update same as required.	The timeframes associated with the RFI have necessitated a review of the datasets previously used in the 2024 EIAR to ensure any necessary updates to the baseline environment are captured. Therefore, a review has been undertaken to comply with RFI 1 (b). The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Section 1.4.
2 (a)	The Irish Coast Guard (IRCG), through the Department of Transport, has raised concerns in relation to the layout of the proposed development with respect to search-and-rescue (SAR) access. The applicant is requested to consult with the IRCG, in addressing these concerns, and provide further information and clarification on such matters.	The Developer participated in further consultation with the IRCG in 2025 and 2026. Following this consultation, a revised layout has been prepared for Project Option 1 and Project Option 2 which addresses the concerns raised by the IRCG. Further information on this consultation is included in Appendix A1.2.
10 (a)	Having regard to information submitted in the EIAR, the NPWS underwater noise guidelines (NPWS, 2014), the strict protections afforded to marine mammals under the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, in addition to observations from prescribed bodies and observers, the Board requires a comprehensive suite of noise abatement measures to be proposed and assessed in addition to the existing mitigation measures referenced in the planning application documentation.	As a result of RFI Section 10 (a), the design of the wind turbine generator (WTG) and Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) foundations have changed from monopiles or jackets to suction bucket jacket (SBJ) foundations for the WTGs, and SBJ or jacket foundations with drilled pin piles for the OSP (which are detailed in Appendix A5.1 Design Refinements). The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Section 1.3.

1.1 Introduction

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 1.1 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.2 Marine Area Consent and ORESS

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 1.2 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.3 Overview of the Proposed Development

The only change required to Section 1.3 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR is in relation to Image 1.1. The image, which presented wind turbine generators (WTGs) with monopiles, has been updated to show the WTGs with jacket substructures and suction bucket foundation and to remove the previous depiction of an ownership boundary, as this aspect is not relevant to the graphical illustration of the proposed development.

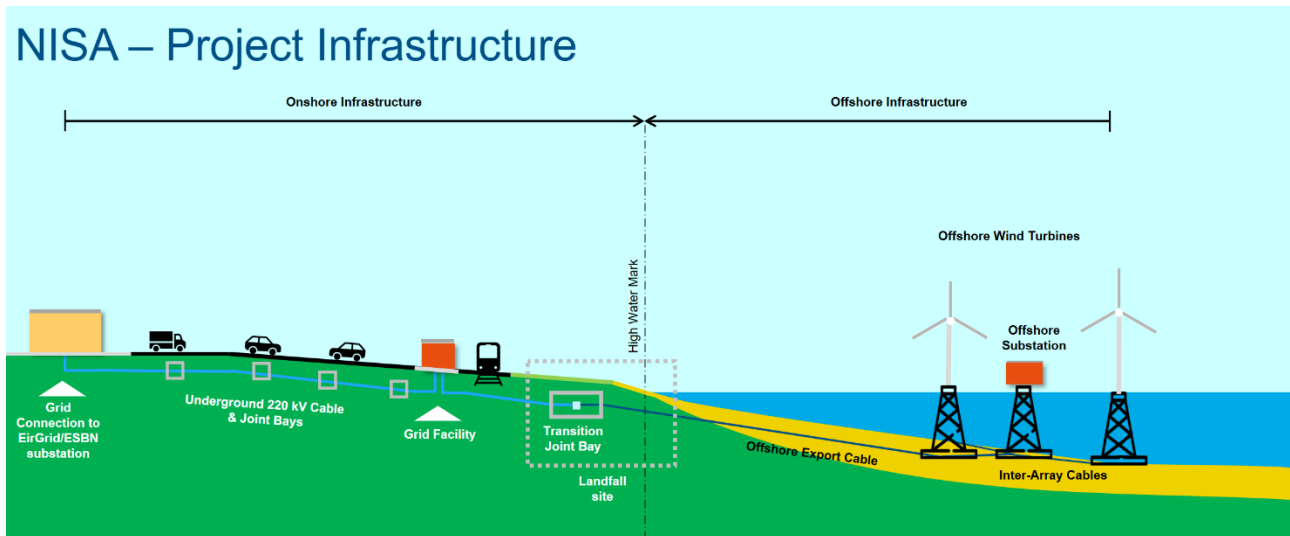


Image A1.1 Infrastructure of the proposed development – not to scale (Source: Arup) (Replacing Image 1.1 of the 2024 EIAR)

There are no other changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.3 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.4 Profile of the Proposed Developer

1.4.1 Introduction

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 1.4.1 of Chapter 1 in the 2024 EIAR.

1.4.2 Statkraft Ireland Ltd

Minor changes to the profile of Statkraft Ireland Ltd have prompted changes to Section 1.4.2 of Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

Therefore, the following text shall be deleted:

“Statkraft is a global company in energy market operations. Statkraft has 5,700 employees in 21 countries.”

And replaced with the following text:

Statkraft is a global company in energy market operations. Statkraft has more than 7,000 employees in over 20 countries.

There are no additional changes required to this section.

1.4.3 Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners P/S

Since the submission of the 2024 EIAR, the profile of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners P/S (CIP) has been updated. Therefore, the entire Section 1.4.3 of Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR shall be deleted and replaced with the text herein.

Founded in 2012, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners P/S (CIP) is a global fund manager and leading investor in energy infrastructure. CIP builds value that matters by developing and constructing critical infrastructure projects that shape the future of energy.

Through its funds, CIP invests in power generation (solar and wind), energy storage, transmission and distribution, advanced bioenergy, low-carbon fuels and carbon capture.

With 15 funds currently under management, CIP is trusted by over 200 of the world's largest and most sophisticated institutions, having raised EUR ~37 billion to date. CIP has projects in more than 30 countries, with presence on the ground through a network of +2,300 professionals.

CIP's project development activities are being led by CIP's development partner, Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP). COP is a leading and experienced provider of project development, construction management, and operational management services to offshore wind projects.

1.4.4 Approach to Sustainability

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 1.4.4 of Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.5 Overview of Statutory Consent Process

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 1.5 of Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.6 EIA Portal and Project Website

The only change to this section is to note that all information in relation to the RFI and observations raised regarding the 2024 planning application are also included on the project website (<https://northirishsearraysid.ie/>). There are no further changes required to this section. Refer to Section 1.6 of Chapter 1 in the 2024 EIAR.

1.7 Details of Competent Experts

The only change to this section is to note that the list of competent experts in Appendix 1.1 of Volume 8 has been updated to reflect where there are changes to the team responsible for the preparation of this Addendum to the EIAR, from that team responsible for the preparation of the 2024 EIAR. There are no further changes required to this section. Refer to Section 1.7 of Chapter 1 in the 2024 EIAR.

1.8 Consultation Undertaken

Following receipt of the RFI, the Developer has engaged further with prescribed bodies at An Bord Pleanála's behest. Details of the consultation undertaken in preparation of this Addendum to the EIAR is provided in Appendix A1.2 in Volume 8 of this EIAR.

There are no other changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.8 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.9 Difficulties Experienced during the preparation of the EIAR

There is no change required to this section. Refer to Section 1.9 of Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.10 Structure of the EIAR

There is no change required to this section. Refer to Section 1.10 of Chapter 1 in the 2024 EIAR.

1.11 Community Benefit Fund

There is no change required to this section. Refer to Section 1.11 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.

1.12 References

There is no change required to this section. Refer to Section 1.12 in Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR.