

Addendum to the
Environmental Impact
Assessment Report

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

Volume 2 - Introductory Chapters

Chapter 2

EIA and Methodology for the preparation of an EIAR



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2. EIA and Methodology for the preparation of an EIAR

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 2: EIA and the Methodology for the Preparation of an EIAR of the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Chapter 2 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 2.3.
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. The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Section 2.7.2.
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	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

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
	proposed and assessed in addition to the existing mitigation measures referenced in the planning application documentation.	the OSP (which are detailed in Appendix A5.1 Design Refinements). The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Section 2.7.2.

2.1 Introduction

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.1 of Chapter 2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.2 EIA Legislation and Guidance

2.2.1 EIA Legislation

While it is noted that new planning legislation has been commenced recently (including the Planning and Development Act 2024), the EIAR has been prepared in full accordance with the planning legislation in place at the time of the planning application submission. It is also noted that, while new planning legislation has been commenced in the intervening period, there have been no relevant changes in terms of the legislative requirements for the preparation of EIARs. Therefore, there are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.2.1 of Chapter 2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.2.2 Statutory Requirement for EIA

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.2.2 of Chapter 2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.2.3 Guidance

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.2.3 of Chapter 2 of the 2024 EIAR.

2.3 EIA Process

Following the enactment of Part 17 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (S.I. No. 256/2025), from 18 June 2025, An Bord Pleanála officially changed its name to An Coimisiún Pleanála. For the avoidance of doubt and purpose of clarity, any reference to An Bord Pleanála or the Board in this EIAR shall be read as An Coimisiún Pleanála.

There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.3 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR

2.4 Consideration of the EIAR Scope

There is no change required to this section. Refer to Section 2.4 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.5 Structure of EIAR

The layout of the 2024 EIAR remains unchanged. Therefore, there are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.5 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.6 Assessment of Effects

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.6 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.7 Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála and Design Flexibility

2.7.1 Pre-application Consultation under Section 287

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.7.1 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.7.2 Pre-application Consultation under Section 287A

To account for the updated layout of the wind turbine generators (WTGs) and the change in substructure and foundation types (further information is provided in Chapter 6: Description of the Proposed Development – Offshore), the following text shall be included at the end of Section 2.7.2 of Chapter 2:

Following submission of the Developer’s planning application on 7 June 2024, submissions were made on the application by members of the public and prescribed bodies (the ‘Submissions’) and the Developer received an RFI in respect of the application on 10 April 2025. The Developer has been considering the RFI and the Submissions and continued to consult with stakeholders in respect of the planning application throughout 2024-2026. On foot of the Submissions, this continued public consultation and the RFI, clarifications and amendments are required to Chapter 6 (Description of the Proposed Development - Offshore) of the 2024 EIAR. Specifically, changes to the offshore elements of the proposed development which reduces environmental impacts.

As a result of the concerns raised by the Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) on the offshore layout of the proposed development (Section 2 (a), RFI) and by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in relation to offshore noise abatement measures (Section 10 (a), RFI), the Developer has proposed clarifications and amendments to the offshore elements of the proposed development which addresses these concerns and reduces environmental impacts. Namely, the layout of the WTGs has been updated, and the foundation types have changed from monopiles or jackets with pin piles to only jacket substructures with suction bucket foundations. Further information is provided in Chapter 6.

The clarifications and amendments required to the offshore elements of the proposed development to address stakeholders’ concerns and reduce overall environmental impacts, remains in accordance with the DF Opinion. As noted above, the DF Opinion confirms the details of the proposed development for which design flexibility has been accepted by An Coimisiún Pleanála, details of which may be confirmed after the Developer’s proposed application under section 291 has been made. The Developer’s planning application was made under section 291 to An Coimisiún Pleanála on 7 June 2024 and in doing so, the Developer complied with its undertaking under Section 287A of the Planning Acts to submit its planning application in alignment with the DF Opinion.

The planning application was made and remains in accordance with the DF Opinion. The subsequent alterations required to the offshore elements of the proposed development to address stakeholder concerns and reduce environmental impacts in response to the RFI are made after the Developer’s application under section 291 was made.

There are no other changes required for this section. Refer to Section 2.7.2 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.8 Approach to Design Flexibility in the EIAR

2.8.1 Unconfirmed Details

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.8.1 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.8.2 Guidance on environmental assessment of a flexible design

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.8.2 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.8.2.1 Environmental Protection Agency guidance

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.8.2.1 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.8.2.2 Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment (DCCA) guidance

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.8.2.2 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.8.3 Assessment approach – greatest potential for likely significant effects

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.8.3 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.9 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.9 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.10 Transboundary Effects

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.10 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.11 Cumulative and Inter-Related Effects

2.11.1 Cumulative Effects

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.11.1 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.11.2 Inter-related Effects

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.11.2 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.12 Appropriate Assessment

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.12 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.

2.13 References

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 2.13 of Chapter 2 in the 2024 EIAR.