Addendum to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

NISA

North Irish Sea Array

Volume 2 - Introductory Chapters

Chapter 5
Consideration of Alternatives

Statkraft

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Contents

Images

5. Consideration of Alternatives

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 required to Chapter 5: Consideration of Alternatives of the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to address these design refinements. 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 5 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 5 in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
1 (c)	The applicant is requested to confirm whether any on-going or additional surveying has been carried out since the application was lodged and, if so, the applicant is invited to submit any further survey data results and analysis and update the planning application documentation, as appropriate.	The timeframes associated with the RFI have required a review of the datasets used in the 2024 EIAR to ensure that any necessary updates to the baseline environment relevant to assessment of alternatives are captured, in accordance with RFI Section 1 (c) and where required, these have been captured in this chapter in Section 5.5.
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 consultation meetings with the IRCG throughout 2025 and 2026. Following this consultation, revised layouts were prepared for Project Option 1 and Project Option 2 with the layout evolution process further presented and assessed in Section 5.6 of this chapter. Further information on the layout refinements are shown in Figures A5.1 and A5.2 of Appendix A5.1: Design Refinements and are provided in Chapter 6: Description of the Proposed Development – Offshore.
6	The applicant is requested to review Chapter 5 in relation to site selection and the rationale for choosing this site for development and provide further justification and rationale regarding the suitability of the site for the proposed development. And:	While the proposed development boundary, as shown in Figure 1.1 of Chapter 1 of the 2024 EIAR, remains unchanged the Developer consulted with the NPWS in 2025 and 2026 (see Appendix A1.2 Consultation Report) to discuss the overlap of the proposed development with the NWIS SPA, in relation to potential ornithological displacement effects.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
	The Board notes that a number of observations have raised concerns in relation to the assessment of site alternatives and suitability of the site for development having regard to the location of the site within the recently designated North-west Irish Sea (NWIS) cSPA…	The Developer, on foot of the RFI and discussions with NPWS, refined the WTG layouts for Project Option 1 and Project Option 2 to reduce the spatial extent of offshore infrastructure overlap within the NWIS SPA, compared with 2024 EIAR layouts. The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Section 5.5.9.
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.	RFI Section 10 (a) outlines the concerns raised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in relation to potential underwater noise impacts on marine mammals. As a result, the Developer has proposed an amendment to the design of the foundation types used for the wind turbine generators (WTGs) from monopiles or jackets with pin piles, to only jacket substructures with suction bucket foundations. Following careful examination and assessment by the Developer, this change has been implemented to significantly reduce the level of underwater noise generated by the proposed development by eliminating pile driving noise during construction. Further information on the potential underwater noise impacts of revised WTG foundations is provided in Chapter 14 and Appendix A14.1. The Offshore design evolution process is further presented and assessed in Section 5.6 of this chapter.

5.1 Introduction

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.2 Project Objectives

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.2 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.3 Do-Nothing Alternative

The only change required to Section 5.3 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR is in relation to the updated combined capacity of the Phase 1 projects in light of Sceirde Rocks announcement in 2025 that they shall not be proceeding with their development.

For the purpose of clarity, the following text from Section 5.3 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR is deleted:

"*There are currently six proposed offshore wind farms with a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) enabling them to submit a planning application for development (known as the 'Phase One' projects), which includes the proposed development. However, the combined capacity of all six projects constitutes only 4.3GW of energy from offshore wind. In the event that all Phase One projects (including the proposed development) are completed, additional projects will still be required to meet the 5GW offshore wind target by 2030, so it is essential that the projects are taken forward, in turn ensuring a security of energy to Ireland in addition to supporting the delivery of affordable electricity for the consumer*".

And replaced with the following text:

At the time of submission of the 2024 EIAR, there were six proposed offshore wind farms with a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) enabling them to submit a planning application for development (known as the 'Phase One' projects), which included the proposed development. The combined capacity of all six projects constituted only 4.3GW of energy from offshore wind. In the event that all Phase One projects (including the proposed development) were completed, additional projects would still be required to meet the 5GW offshore wind target by 2030, so it is essential that the projects are taken forward, in turn ensuring a security of energy to Ireland in addition to supporting the delivery of affordable electricity for the consumer,

However, Sceirde Rocks, one of the Phase One projects with a proposed capacity of 450MW, announced in April 2025 that it will not be progressing with the development of its windfarm. This reduces the total Phase One capacity from 4.3GW to approximately 3.8GW, further increasing the shortfall against the 5GW target and highlighting the critical need to advance the remaining Phase One projects to ensure the security of the energy supply to Ireland in addition to supporting the delivery of affordable electricity for the consumer.

Furthermore, there are limited suitable fixed-bottom offshore wind sites available in Irish waters, while a substantial proportion of Ireland's remaining offshore wind potential depends on floating offshore wind technology, which is not yet sufficiently mature or economically proven at commercial scale in Ireland. Accordingly, if the proposed development does not proceed, there is no clear or credible pathway by which Ireland is likely to exceed 5GW of operational offshore wind capacity for more than a decade.

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 5.3 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR.

5.4 Alternative Renewable Energy Technologies

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.4 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5 Site Selection Framework and Evolution

There is no change to the introductory text of this section. Refer to Section 5.5. in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.1 Relevant Project Status

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.2 Grid Connection

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.2 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.3 Site Selection Framework Conclusion

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.3 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.4 Site Selection Process

The only change required to Section 5.5.4 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR is an update to Image 5.1: Site Refinement Process to incorporate the post-submission refinement stages of the planning application.

For the purpose of clarity, Image 5.1 from Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR shall be deleted and replaced with Image A5.1 below.

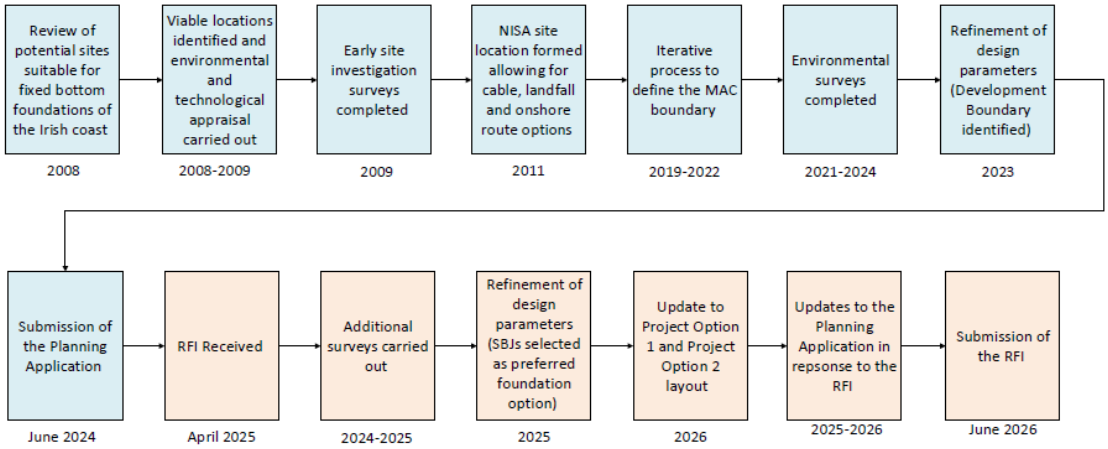

Image A5.1 Site Refinement Process

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.4 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.5 Initial Site Selection Review

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.5 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.5.1 Irish Marine Study Assessment - Gaelectric and University College Cork (2008)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.5.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.5.2 Irish Sea Marine Assessment (2009)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.5.2 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.5.3 IMAR Study (2009)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.5.3 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.6 Environmental and Technical Appraisal

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.6 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.7 Confirmation of the Preferred Array Location

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.6 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.8 Site Surveys

In addition to the surveys identified in Section 5.5.8 of Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR, further site survey work has been undertaken from August 2024 to May 2026 in order to update the baseline data to satisfy RFI Section 1 (c). Therefore, the following information shall also be included in Section 5.5.8:

- 12 months of Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) for ornithology and marine mammals within the North-West Irish Sea SPA (September 2024 to September 2025).
- 12 months seal haul-out survey (June 2025 to May 2026).
- Weekly Autumn Migrating Bird vantage-point survey and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) surveys (August 2025 to December 2025).
- Fortnightly Autumn Migrating Bird vantage-point survey and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) surveys (August 2025 to December 2025).
- Rockabill Offshore Bat Survey (August 2024 to November 2024).
- Subtidal Benthic Ecology Survey (October 2025).
- Additional Geophysical survey of the entire array area (2024).

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 5.5.8 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR.

5.5.9 Siting Within the North West Irish Sea cSPA

In Section 6 of the RFI An Coimisiún Pleanála states:

"The Board notes that a number of observations have raised concerns in relation to the assessment of site alternatives and suitability of the site for development having regard to the location of the site within the recently designated North-west Irish Sea (NWIS) cSPA.

Having regard to:

- *the recent designation of the North-west Irish Sea cSPA, with the proposed development site located within the NWIS cSPA site area,*
- *the criteria that avoidance of designated sites is typically an important parameter in a site selection process, as highlighted in Chapter 5 of the EIAR,*

- *the proximity of Rockabill SPA (c.150m from array), in addition to 10 SPAs and 9 SACs in the wider area, which are all within the envelope of the NWIS cSPA and/or are ecologic*ally connected,

the applicant is requested to review Chapter 5 in relation to site selection and the rationale for choosing this site for development and provide further justification and rationale regarding the suitability of the site for the proposed development, in light of the above.

The following paragraph of Section 5.5.9 of Chapter 5 from the 2024 EIAR is deleted:

"*The cSPA overlaps fully with the proposed development's MAC boundary However, the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) that is submitted with this application concludes that the proposed development will not have any adverse effect on the integrity of the cSPA, or any other European Sites, either alone or in combination with any other plan or project. The co-location of the proposed development within the cSPA is therefore mutually compatible (to note in the UK, Gunfleet sands and Kentish Flats offshore wind farms are both located in the Outer Thames Estuary SPA). Further information is included in the NIS and in Chapter 15: Offshore Ornithology (hereafter referred to as the "Offshore Ornithology chapter") of this EIAR*".

And replaced with:

Avoidance of Designated Sites as a Typical Criterion in a Site Selection Process

A site selection process usually has a number of criteria and avoidance of sites designated under the Habitats Directive is typically one of those criteria. The Habitats Directive does not preclude the giving of consent for a project in/on a designated site. Consent may be given for a project in circumstances which meet the requirements of Articles 6(3) or 6(4). In this context, avoidance of designated sites is rarely the only, or even the most important, criterion in a site selection process, with non-compliance with the criterion being a determining factor in the selection of the site. On the contrary, in most cases avoidance of designated sites is a risk reduction mechanism in a site selection process.

In the preliminary, screening stages of a site selection process a developer usually has very limited, if any, site-specific information and is relying on published data. Avoiding designated sites reduces the risk that, when site-specific surveys are undertaken later, special conservation/qualifying interests (habitats or species) of the designated site will be found, on which the project could have an adverse effect. A second reason for the criterion is that to demonstrate to the competent authority that a development in/on a designated site will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site usually requires very extensive surveys and assessments. These could add significantly to the costs and timeline of the consent stage of the project.

On the other hand, if there are several designated sites within the likely zone of influence of a project and the special conservation/qualifying interests of these sites include highly mobile species such as marine mammals or birds, as in the case of the proposed development, the avoidance of a designated site is unlikely to substantially reduce these risks to the project as the very extensive surveys and assessments will still be required.

Other Site Selection Criteria

A site selection process usually has several criteria of varying importance. For example, Section 5.5.6 of Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR lists 13 environmental and technical constraints which were considered in the site selection process for the proposed development. The avoidance of designated sites was just one of 13 criteria.

For an offshore wind project, if the metocean, wind, and seabed characteristics, water depth, shipping and navigational features, interaction with civil and military aviation and radar, military danger areas and onshore grid capacity and grid upgrade requirements are not suitable, the project would not be technically or economically feasible, regardless of its siting with respect to designated sites. Alternatively, if all these aspects were suitable, but the site was within a designated site, consent could be given in accordance with Articles 6(3) or 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

Justification for Continued Suitability of the Site of the Proposed Development

As described in Section 5.5 of the 2024 EIAR, the site selection process for a site suitable for an offshore wind project in the Irish Sea, which ultimately became the proposed development, commenced in 2008 and continued to 2022, when the MAC was granted. The avoidance of designated sites was a criterion during this period. All designated sites at that time, including all Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) in the locality, off the east coast of Ireland were mapped. The proposed array area was located to avoid any designated sites.

The surveys and studies undertaken over the 14 years of the site identification process demonstrated that the site met the 13 environmental and technical constraints referred to in Section 5.5.6 of the 2024 EIAR. The site was selected as the preferred location for the proposed development and a MAC was obtained in 2022.

The consideration of the site with respect to only one of the 13 constraints listed in Section 5.5.6 changed in 2023, when the North-west Irish Sea candidate SPA (cSPA), which included the site, was identified. The basis for the Developer's conclusion of the suitability of the site did not change with respect to the other 12 of the 13 environmental and technical constraints listed in Section 5.5.6.

As detailed above, the avoidance of designated sites is a risk reduction strategy, particularly in the early stages of a site selection process. However, by 2023 the Developer had undertaken numerous surveys of the site and surrounding area. The surveys are listed in Section 5.5.8 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR and those relevant specifically to ornithology, benthic habitat and the avoidance of sensitive species and designated sites are listed below:

- 29 months of Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) for ornithology and marine mammals (May 2020 to October 2022).
- Seven vessel based ornithological surveys undertaken between November 2019 and July 2022.
- Four periods of six coastal ornithological vantage-point surveys between September 2019 and May 2021 across two sites.
- 24 months of ornithological landfall surveys (January 2021 to December 2022).
- Benthic ecology surveys to characterise the marine habitats (2022 and 2023).

Further surveys were undertaken during the preparation of the 2024 EIAR and NIS.

Consequently, when the cSPA was announced in 2023, the Developer and its ecological experts had a very considerable body of ecological survey data for the site and surrounding area. These data were the basis for the assessment in the NIS of the potential effects of the project on the cSPA, and other European sites in its zone of influence. The NIS concluded that the proposed development will not have any adverse effect on the integrity of the cSPA, or any other European sites, either alone or in combination with any other plan or project. Further information is included in the NIS and in Chapter 15: Offshore Ornithology (hereafter referred to as the "Offshore Ornithology chapter") of this 2024 EIAR.

Notwithstanding the designation of the cSPA in 2023 and the presence of other designated sites in the vicinity, based on the conclusion of the NIS that the proposed development will not have any adverse effect on the integrity of the cSPA, or any other European sites, either alone or in combination with any other plan or project, the Developer's determination that the site is suitable for the proposed development remains unchanged.

5.6 Design Evolution of the Offshore Infrastructure

There is no change to the introductory text in this section. Refer to Section 5.6 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.1 Offshore Development Area.

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.6.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.1.1 Environmental Considerations

The only change required to Section 5.6.1.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR is an update to Image 5.8 to improve the legibility of the figure. This update includes a change to the name "Infrastructure Boundary" to "Offshore Project Development Boundary" and some additional information including 'Proposed Natural Heritage Areas' and 'Proposed Landfall Area'.

For the purpose of clarity, Image 5.8 from Chapter 5 of the **2024 EIAR shall be deleted and replaced with Image A5.2**

There are no further changes to this section. Refer to Section 5.6.1 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR.

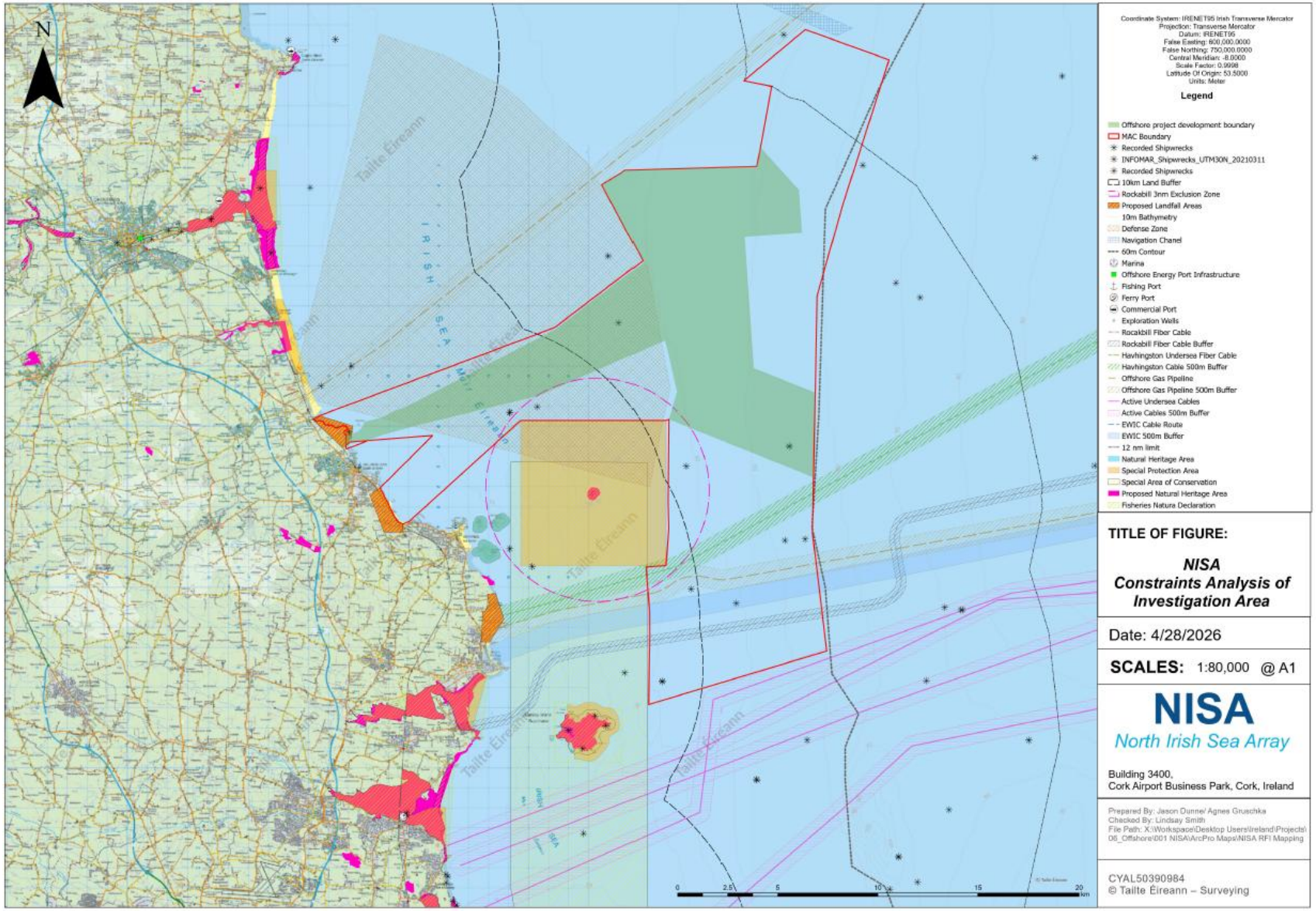

Image A5.2 Offshore Development Area and associated constraints

5.6.2 WTG Layout Refinement

There is no change to the introductory text in this section. Refer to Section 5.6.2 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.2.1 Pod Layout

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.6.2.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.2.2 Grid Layout

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.6.2.2 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.2.3 Project Options 1 & 2

As noted at the outset of this Chapter, key matters in the RFI have resulted in refinements to the offshore infrastructure of the proposed development (see Appendix A5.1: Design Refinements). The only change to Section 5.6.2.3, is to add the following paragraph at the beginning of Section 5.6.2.3:

As detailed in Table A5.1, key matters raised in the RFI have resulted in refinements to the offshore infrastructure of the proposed development. To address these matters, the Developer engaged with the submission authors and stakeholders. Further to this engagement, the Developer undertook further work to address the matters and now proposes changes on the foot of the design work and engagement undertaken. These changes reduce the impacts of the Project, particularly in relation to underwater noise and marine mammals, shipping and navigational safety and ornithology. For the avoidance of doubt, whilst the proposed development boundary remains the same, refinements to the design have led to an update to Project Options 1 and 2 layouts. Further detail and images on these design refinements, including how they accord with the Design Flexibility (DF) opinion can be found in Appendix A5.1: Design Refinements.

5.6.3 Offshore Infrastructure Refinement

There is no change to the introductory text of this section. Refer to Section 5.6.3 in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.

5.6.3.1 WTG Dimensions

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.6.3.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.3.2 WTG Foundations

Subsequent to the submission of the 2024 EIAR, due consideration was given to RFI Section 10 (a) of the RFI where it cites concerns raised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) regarding potential underwater noise impacts. The decision that was taken to change the foundation installation methodology used for the WTG from monopiles or jackets with pin piles, to only jacket substructures with suction bucket foundations supports the response to this RFI. In addition, in response to RFI Section 2 (a), the Developer participated in consultation with the IRCG, and following this, revised layouts were prepared for Project Option 1 and Project Option 2. The design changes as result of these RFIs, and those outlined in Appendix A5.1, subsequently informed the WTG layout refinements for Project Options 1 and 2.

For the purpose of clarity, the following text from Section 5.6.3.2 of Chapter 5 in the 2024 EIAR is deleted:

"Whilst technically viable in discrete areas of the array area, jacket foundations on suction caissons were discounted as a possible foundation type due to the seabed and sub-seabed conditions identified during the geophysical and geotechnical survey campaigns. Suction caisson foundations are still in their infancy in offshore wind development, and the footprint and penetration of the caissons required were deemed to be a precluding factor from a manufacturing and installation perspective and as such were not deemed a viable alternative.

As such, the current foundation options being proposed include both monopiles and jackets on pin-piles. Both foundation types have been widely used in offshore wind, and in the case of jackets, long established track record exists for their use in the oil and gas industry globally in multiple water depths.

Monopiles remain the predominant foundation type for offshore wind due to their structural efficiency. Monopiles essentially provide an extension of the WTG tower in which the sub-structure element (i.e. portion of the foundation that is exposed above the seabed in the water column) and the pile (i.e. embedded portion that penetrates into competent soil stratum), are provided in one, singular structural element. This has proven to be an optimal concept for design, manufacturing, and installation, yet minimising the size, footprint and intrusiveness of the foundation. Design development has allowed the length and diameter of monopiles to increase such that they can be scaled up as appropriate for ever increasing WTG sizes.

Jackets are a stiffer structure in that they comprise of a series of welded braces, and their footprint and complexity can be scaled up to account for the higher loads of larger WTGs and water depths. The jacket design concept requires a separate pile element to be installed into the seabed first, onto which the sub-structure element of the jacket itself must be fixed. As jackets are multi-leg, this requires three or four piles to be installed, each of which necessitates strict tolerances. This involves pre-piling (whereby a template is required to be temporarily placed on the seabed) or post-piling (whereby the jacket is lowered to the seabed with a pre-installed frame to guide the piles).

Due to appraisals conducted to date on the ground and oceanographic conditions across the array area, coupled with conceptual design work to date, both monopile and jacket design solutions have been developed for the project, but it cannot yet be determined which are the most viable given the uncertainty on WTG type, further investigation of ground conditions, supply chain considerations etc.

Project Option 1 proposes monopiles only whilst Project Option 2 considers both monopiles and jackets on pin piles".

And is replaced by:

The preliminary geophysical and geotechnical campaigns carried out prior to the submission of the 2024 EIAR showed that jacket foundations on suction buckets were technically viable only in discrete regions of the array area. However, this foundation option was discounted because suitable seabed and sub-seabed conditions were not identified in all parts of the array area during these initial surveys. Consequently, monopiles were selected as the WTG foundation type for Project Option 1. Monopiles and jackets on pin piles were also selected as the WTG foundation types for Project Option 2 and these are the options described in Chapter 6 of the 2024 EIAR.

Further geophysical survey work carried out in 2024 identified additional areas where jacket foundations on suction buckets are viable. Further analysis was then carried out by the Developer to reduce the risks posed by opting for jackets on suction buckets foundations from a manufacturing and installation perspective.

Jackets on suction buckets significantly reduce the noise impact of the foundation installation when compared to driven monopiles, therefore addressing concerns raised by the NPWS in Section 10(a) of the RFI. Based on the additional surveys and analyses, jackets on suction buckets are now the only foundation type proposed for the WTG in both Project Options 1 and 2. Image A5.3 in Appendix A5.1 illustrates a jacket foundation with a suction bucket.

5.6.4 Offshore Substation Platform (OSP)

Subsequent to the submission of the 2024 EIAR, consideration was given to Section 10 (a) of the RFI which cites concerns raised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) regarding potential underwater noise impacts. The decision was taken to change the foundation types used for the OSP from monopiles or jackets with pin piles, to only jacket substructures with either suction bucket foundations or drilled pin piles.

Therefore, the following paragraph in Section 5.6.4 of Chapter 5 will be deleted:

"The selection of the foundation types for the OSP was driven by feasibility considerations as per the reasons detailed above for the foundations of the WTGs. It was considered that either monopiles or jackets on pin-piles would be the most suitable foundation type for the seabed conditions within the array area, rather than other alternatives such as suction caissons and gravity base foundations which were ruled out for the same reasons as detailed in Section 5.6.3.2 for WTG foundations".

And replaced with the following text:

The selection of the foundation types for the OSP was driven by feasibility considerations as per the reasons detailed in Section 5.6.3.2 for the selection of the foundation types for the WTGs. It was considered that jackets on drilled pin-piles or jackets on suction buckets would be the most suitable foundation type for the seabed conditions within the array area.

5.6.5 Offshore Export Cable Corridor Evolution

There are no changes are proposed for this section. Refer to Section 5.6.5 of Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.6.5.1 Export Cable Routing Alternatives - Environmental Considerations

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.6.5.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7 Alternatives Considered for the Onshore Infrastructure

5.7.1 Introduction

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.2 Landfall Site Selection

There is no change to this section, or Sections 5.7.2.1 to 5.7.2.4. Refer to Section 5.7.2 and Sections 5.7.2.1 to 5.7.2.4 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.3 Grid Facility Site Selection

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.3 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.3.1 Grid Facility - Basis of Design

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.3.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4 Onshore Cable Routing

5.7.4.1 Introduction

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.1 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.2 Basis of Design

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.2 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.3 Study Area

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.3 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.4 Description of onshore cable route options Z1-Z4 (Section ZA Landfall/Grid facility to Node 1)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.4 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.5 Description of Onshore Cable Route Options Z5-Z7 (Section ZB: Node 1 to Belcamp substation)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.5 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.6 Assessment of Onshore Cable Route Options

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.6 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.7 Emerging Preferred Route at Conclusion of Cable Route Options Assessment

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.7 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.8 Cable Route Options – Study Area ZA (utilising R132)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.8 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.9 Route Options around Balbriggan

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.9 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.10 Route Options (south of Malahide Estuary)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.10 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.11 Malahide Community Forum

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.11 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.12 Addition of Alternative Route Option along L2100 (Chapel Road) and R124 (Drumnigh Road) and L2145 (Hole in the Wall Road)

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.12 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.7.4.13 Final Cable Route from Grid Facility to Belcamp Substation

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.7.4.13 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.8 Conclusions

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.8 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.

5.9 References

There is no change to this section. Refer to Section 5.9 in Chapter 5 of the 2024 EIAR.