

Volume 2: Appendices

Appendix A1

Key Personnel

Contents

1.	Appendix A1 – Key personnel expertise	1
----	---------------------------------------	---

Tables

	Table A1.1 List of authors and relevant experience (Replaces Table 1.1 in Appendix 1 of the NIS)	1
--	--	---

1. Appendix A1 – Key personnel expertise

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. Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A.1.2 Consultation Report.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Appendix 1 submitted as part of the 2024 NIS. Any cross reference to a chapter, section, table, image, figure or appendix within this document is to another location within the Addendum to the NIS unless explicitly stated otherwise. Any cross reference to anything included in the 2024 NIS will be clearly labelled as such.

Tables which have been updated from the 2024 NIS, or entirely new tables, have been included in the Addendum to the NIS. These tables can be identified by the “A” prefix in the table caption. Any changes within the updated table, in comparison to tables within the 2024 NIS, are indicated by grey shading in the relevant cell, column or row, as necessary.

The sections relevant to Appendix A1 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 information previously provided in the 2024 NIS to ensure any necessary updates to the relevant documentation are included. This Appendix ensures that the key authors associated with the production of the NIS is captured and therefore remains representative of up to date information.

Table A1.1 List of authors and relevant experience (Replaces Table 1.1 in Appendix 1 of the NIS)

Author	Qualification and experience of authors
Charles Stamp	Charles Stamp is a Senior HRA Consultant at GoBe Consultants with 6 years of ecological consultancy experience. Charles worked at Natural England for three years where he worked on and managed interaction with a variety of projects including NSIPs, residential housing developments, scientific research and use of strategic approaches to carrying out Habitat Regulation Assessments. He has a BSc in Zoology from Bangor University, Wales.
Chris Nikitik	Chris Nikitik (MSc, BSc) is a marine ecologist with over 30 years’ experience in both in the public and private sectors with specific knowledge of benthic community dynamics, sediment chemistry, invertebrate predator/prey relationships and biomagnification. He has been involved in projects related to offshore renewables, onshore power generation, port construction and maintenance, industrial developments and transport infrastructure with findings used to inform Environmental Statements or produced as standalone Environmental Impact Assessments or monitoring reports. Examples of drivers for recent work in which Chris has been involved include the North Irish Sea Array Windfarm, Dublin Array, Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind and Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm.

Author	Qualification and experience of authors
Debbie Nickless	Debbie is a Principal HRA Consultant at GoBe with seven years' experience in environmental consultancy. Debbie was also a case officer at the Marine Management Organisation working on a number of Marine Licence Applications for the offshore wind industry. During her time at GoBe Debbie has worked across a number of offshore wind farms across the UK and Ireland, being the lead author and coordinator for HRA screening reports, Report to Inform Appropriate Assessments and drafting derogation cases.
Emily Muir	Emily is a Senior Consultant with professional experience primarily within the offshore renewable energy sector, alongside a growing portfolio across diverse marine and coastal developments. She has contributed to a wide range of environmental assessments, including numerous Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs), Natura Impact Statements (NIS), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Marine Usage Licence Applications (MULAs), Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessments, and Dumping at Sea Permit Applications. She holds a First-Class Honours BSc in Applied Bioscience and Zoology (with Distinction) from the University of the West of Scotland, and her postgraduate research focused on ecotoxicological assessments of microplastics in lentic ecosystems across Scotland. Emily also holds a Certificate in Marine Pollution Prevention and Management from Lloyd's Maritime Academy and possesses detailed knowledge of international marine pollution conventions, as well as EU and Irish environmental legislation, with particular expertise in the Habitats and Birds Directives.
Glen Gillespie	Glen is an Associate Director and Head of HRA at GoBe Consultants. Glen was at Natural England for a total of thirteen years where he worked across a range of projects which included windfarms, residential housing developments, nuclear new builds, grid infrastructure and tidal lagoons. Following his departure from Natural England in 2016, Glen has worked in environmental consultancy at Senior, Principal and Associate Director levels, across a range of terrestrial and marine projects - including more than ten offshore wind farm projects across the UK and Ireland.
James Miles	James is a Principal Consultant and lead ornithologist at GoBe with expertise in marine ornithology, marine mammal science and freshwater ecology. His main skills are in animal behaviour and technical assessments (e.g. statistical analysis, PVA modelling, collision risk modelling). James has a PhD in Freshwater fish behaviour from the University of Southampton. During his time at GoBe he has managed several large-scale project EIA and HRA workstreams through all stages of pre-consent. His main expertise is in technical assessments and providing strategic advice to developers on all ornithological matters. He has also been involved in HRA derogation and compensation workstreams for many offshore windfarm projects across the UK and Ireland.
Jennifer Gibson	Jennifer Gibson is a Senior HRA Consultant at GoBe Consultants with 5 years' environmental consultancy experience. She gained a Masters in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology from Queens University Belfast. Jennifer had been lead author on a large number of Irish NISs for OWF construction and associated surveys.
John Bleach	John is a Principal Ecological Consultant, programme manager and team leader, with over 20 years' experience in the marine, freshwater and terrestrial field, including marine ecological survey and monitoring, environmental impact assessment and policy. At GoBe John is a technical lead on a number of large-scale offshore wind developments, leading on technical input and review of benthic and fish and shellfish EIA Chapters, technical appendices and associated studies. John has a BSc Marine Biology (2:1 Upper Class) from Plymouth University and a MSc Environmental Monitoring and Earth Observations (Merit) from Nottingham University.
Maeve Maher-McWilliams	Maeve is a Principal Ecologist for Woodrow. Maeve has worked for over ten years on complex environmental impact assessments and mitigation design for development projects across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Maeve has been involved in projects across several sectors such as renewable energy; linear infrastructure; flood relief schemes and port developments; tourism and recreation; residential, pharmaceutical and data centre development. Providing advice and recommendations throughout project lifetime from inception and due diligence, right through the planning process and into post-planning compliance. As a project manager and field ecologist she carries out multidisciplinary surveys, habitat surveys, bat surveys, mammal surveys and specialises in ornithology surveys. She is also a skilled Ecological Clerk of Works. Maeve has been involved in the management of the project, reporting and review of the chapter.
Phil New	<p>Phil is a Principal environmental consultant with over 7 years commercial experience including project management, a background in marine biology and a strong track record in project management and environmental assessments.</p> <p>Phil's experience includes project management of EIA projects, the post-consent compliance for multiple wind farms in the Irish Sea and North Sea, and pre-application surveys alongside responsibility for the delivery of technical and introductory chapters for EIA for offshore wind farms. Phil has been responsible for the drafting of HRA reports for pre-application and post-consent projects, covering topics ranging from marine mammals to intertidal habitats such as Salicornia and ornithological features.</p>

Author	Qualification and experience of authors
	<p>His experience of the production of post-consent compliance documentation includes drafting of pre-construction documents and environmental appraisals of revised construction methods to gain regulatory approval. His day to day responsibilities include client interaction, production of technical reports, liaison with stakeholders and management of subcontractors.</p> <p>Phil has practical experience of field work and statistical analysis of data, ecosystem modelling and seabed video and trawl analysis using GIS as well as having experience of sedimentary and taxonomic analyses. Phil has studied the impacts of a variety of activities on the marine environment including the ecosystem impacts of fisheries at different intensities and the adaptation of species to natural and anthropogenic pressures. Phil has a MSci (Hons) in Marine Biology (2:1 Upper Class) from the University of Southampton.</p>
Simone Pfeifer	<p>Simone is an experienced marine ecologist with specific knowledge of the diversity and structure of subtidal and deep-water benthic habitats and communities. Simone has experience in conducting HRA screening assessments and advising developers on the risk of causing injury or disturbance to marine European Protected Species. She has also been involved in the development of sampling protocols for Annex I habitats, monitoring options for deep-water benthic habitats, and guidelines to assess impacts on features protected in Natura 2000 sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Simone has a PhD in Benthic deep-water ecology from the University of Southampton.</p>
SMRU Consulting	<p>SMRU Consulting is a global leader in marine mammal research and consultancy, delivering innovative, robust and environmentally sound solutions since 2006. We have considerable experience with scoping and consenting offshore wind farm projects and have a solid understanding of the relevant environmental, conservation and legislation as it applies to marine mammal assessments. We work closely with partners to ensure project risks are identified and managed, from pre- consenting through to the post installation monitoring and reporting, ensuring smooth sign-off of licence conditions.</p>