

Addendum to the
Environmental Impact
Assessment Report

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

Volume 9 - Offshore Appendices

Appendix A18.1

Maritime and Aviation Archaeology Baseline





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. Amendments are therefore required to Appendix 18.3: Maritime and Aviation Archaeology Baseline of the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2: Consultation Report.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Appendix 18.3: Maritime and Aviation Archaeology Baseline 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 what is subsequently driving them. 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 which have been updated from the 2024 EIAR, or entirely new tables, have been included in the Addendum to the EIAR. These can be identified by the “A” prefix in the caption. Any changes within an 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 sections relevant to Appendix A18.1: Maritime and Aviation Archaeology 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 of the marine archaeology baseline has been undertaken to comply with RFI 1 (b).
14 (a)	Chapter 18 of the EIAR relates to Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Section 18.3.2.5 states that at the time of writing of the EIAR the results of an additional intertidal and shallow water marine geophysical survey at the nearshore of the ECC was unavailable to determine the AEZ of the recorded wreck of	Further intertidal/nearshore geophysical surveys undertaken in 2023 and geophysical surveys undertaken in the array in 2024 have enabled updated analysis of maritime archaeology receptors, in accordance with RFI 14 (a).



RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
	the Belle Hill which is a national monument located c. 150m north of the EEC. The applicant is requested to submit the results of the referenced geophysical survey and update the chapter and associated analysis accordingly.	



Appendix A18.1: Maritime and Aviation Archaeology Baseline

This section has been updated to incorporate the results of a nearshore geophysical survey (SEP-Hydrographic 2023) and archaeological assessment of the datasets (ADCO 2024). This is to satisfy RFI 1 (b), which states the scientific information provided should be based on up-to-date survey reports and data; and RFI 14 (a) which requested that the results of additional intertidal and shallow water marine geophysical surveys be submitted. Therefore Appendix 18.3 of the 2024 EIAR shall be deleted and replaced with Appendix A18.1.

WA_ID	Classification	ETRS89 UTM30N Easting	ETRS89 UTM30N Northing	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Notes	Anomaly type	Section	External references
WA7000	Recorded Wreck	289332	5946816	-	-	-	The recorded position of the wreck <i>Belle Hill</i> (NMS W00523), a 500-tonne iron barque that was wrecked on rocks in 1875 while carrying a cargo of 11 tonnes of iron, bar iron, and other material. The wreck location was covered by the intertidal and nearshore geophysical survey (ADCO 2024; SEP Hydrographic 2023). No anomalies of archaeological potential were identified however the location has been retained as a precaution as the correct location of the wreck has not been identified. The intertidal and nearshore survey did identify a piece of possible debris (ADCO07) south of the recorded location and a large magnetic anomaly of more than 11,000 nT (M_0142) c. 130 m SSE of this location which may relate to the wreck. A piece of ferrous debris WA7001 , is located approximately 470 m ESE of the wreck position, and may be an associated item of debris but, based on the distance from the recorded position, this is unlikely. The wreck is located approximately 125 m outside of the proposed cable corridor; however, any associated archaeological exclusion zone may impact the corridor.	-	Study Area (within 100 m of ECC)	W00543 (NMS)
WA7001	Debris	289796	5946725	2	2	-	Identified in the MBES data as a mound within a depression at the end of a scar within an area of many scars likely to result from fishing. Associated with a response visible across multiple lines of Mag. data. Observed in the MBBS data as a distinct dark reflector at the end of a scar. This location was not covered by the SSS dataset. The feature is located approximately 470 m	MBES, Mag, MBBS	ECC	B_0001 (N-Sea)



WA_ID	Classification	ETRS89 UTM30N Easting	ETRS89 UTM30N Northing	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Notes	Anomaly type	Section	External references
							ESE of the recorded wreck position of the <i>Belle Hill</i> (WA7000) and may represent an associated item of debris, although this is unlikely given the distance. Has been suggested by ADCO to be either fishing gear or debris linked to <i>Belle Hill</i> , although this cannot be confirmed without further investigation. Interpreted as ferrous debris.			
WA7002	Debris field	297073	5949027	17.8	13.7	-	Identified in the SSS dataset as a debris field with numerous dark reflectors including a large sub-rectangular dark reflector (12.5 x 6.9m) of varying reflectivity and possible structure which has a bright shadow and may be two immediately adjacent objects. On the southern side of the debris field, a second, large dark reflector is visible with internal, linear dark reflectors (4.7 x 3.9m). Interpreted as being within a slight depression, possibly indicating associated scour. Observed in the MBES dataset as an oval depression measuring approximately 35 x 25 m, possibly indicating a scour, surrounding three mounds (measuring approximately 6 x 3 m, 6 x 3 m and 3 x 3 m). Associated with a response on multiple lines of Mag. data, indicating the presence of ferrous material or construction. The feature is located approximately 300 m NW of a linear magnetic trend and therefore there is the possibility of it being associated. Visible in the MBBS data as an indistinct seabed disturbance with a slight shadow. There are no recorded wrecks at or near this position. Interpreted as a ferrous debris field which may represent an unrecorded wreck.	MBES, MBBS, Mag, SSS	ECC	SS6 (ADCO), S_0144, S_0145, S_0184 (N-Sea)
WA7003	Recorded Wreck	297403	5947223	-	-	-	The UKHO recorded position of an unknown large iron barge (69594). Located over 450 m outside offshore development area and any potential AEZ would not extend into it. The wreck was not covered by any of the geophysical sensors and no comment can be made on its current position and condition. The UKHO record describes the wreck as upright and intact, lying adjacent	-	Study Area (more than 100 m from ECC)	69594 (UKHO), W00472 (NMS)



WA_ID	Classification	ETRS89 UTM30N Easting	ETRS89 UTM30N Northing	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Notes	Anomaly type	Section	External references
							to a similar barge, WA7004 , within a scour hole and in a general depth of 20 m. Dimensions recorded as 32 x 8 x 3 m from a survey in 1999/2005. The wreck is also recorded by the NMS (W00472).			
WA7004	Recorded Wreck	297387	5947239	-	-	-	The UKHO recorded position of an unknown large iron barge (6952). Located over 450 m outside offshore development area and any potential AEZ would not extend into it. The wreck was not covered by any of the geophysical sensors and no comment can be made on its current position and condition. The UKHO record describes the wreck as lying in a general depth of 20 m, intact and standing upright in a scour hole. It is also described as lying next to a second barge, WA7003 . Dimensions recorded as 29.5 x 8 x 1.4 m from a survey in 1999/2005. The wreck is also recorded by the NMS (W00471).	-	Study Area (more than 100 m from ECC)	6952 (UKHO), W00471 (NMS)
WA7005	Recorded Wreck	298783	5947415	-	-	-	The recorded position of an unknown wreck, NMS W00481. identified (INSS No. G 126) during the National Seabed Survey. Located over 500 m outside offshore development area and any potential AEZ would not extend into it. The wreck was not covered by any of the geophysical sensors and no comment can be made on its current position and condition. The NMS record describes the vessel as measuring 16 x 5 x 2 m and lying at a depth of -21 m.	-	Study Area (more than 100 m from ECC)	W00481 (NMS)
WA7006	Debris field	299034	5948785	18.5	10.5	-	Identified in the SSS dataset as a debris field measuring approximately 18.5 x 10.5 m which comprises numerous angular and elongate dark reflectors, many of which have bright shadows indicating height. Observed in the MBES dataset as an oval depression, which may be a scour, measuring approximately 28 m by 15 m, containing several small mounds along the south-eastern side with possible further scouring extending to the north-west by approximately 10 m. Associated with a response on two	MBES, MBBS, Mag, SSS	ECC	SS4 (ADCO), S_0073, S_0212 (N-Sea)



WA_ID	Classification	ETRS89 UTM30N Easting	ETRS89 UTM30N Northing	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Notes	Anomaly type	Section	External references
							lines of Mag. data which lie adjacent to the feature indicating the presence of ferrous material. Visible in the MBBS data as an indistinct seabed disturbance containing a possible dark reflector with a slight shadow. There are no recorded wrecks at or near this position. Interpreted as a ferrous debris field which may represent an unrecorded and broken up wreck.			
WA7007	Mound	302666	5951085	8	7	-	Identified in the SSS dataset as a poorly defined seabed disturbance (approximately 8 x 7 m) with varying reflectivity, considerable height and a bright shadow. A large distinct dark reflector (7.3 x 3.0 m) is visible in the centre. There is a bright reflector on the north-west side (3.0 x 2.5 m) which may represent a scour. Observed in the MBES dataset as a mound within a large oval depression (approximately 200 x 80 m although extents unclear), possibly indicating associated scour. Associated with a response on a line of Mag. data 15 m south of the feature, indicating it may contain ferrous material. Four smaller Mag. anomalies are seen in the area surrounding the feature, within approximately 110 m. These may represent ferrous debris but any association with WA7007 is unknown. Visible in the MBBS data as an indistinct area of variable reflectivity. No wreck or obstruction records are present at this location but WA7013 (UKHO 7057) lies approximately 460 m NE. This is a recorded obstruction first reported in 1977 as a sizable quantity of metal. WA7008 (NMS W00523) lies 510 m NE, uses UKHO wreck data from 1996 as its source, and describes a possible metal vessel. No dimensions are reported so it is not known whether WA7007 is of a similar size. Interpreted as a mound that may contain ferrous material. It is possible the records are badly positioned and are associated with this feature.	MBES, MBBS, Mag, SSS	ECC	SS3 (ADCO), S_0036 (N-Sea), 7057 (UKHO) (Possibly), W00523 (NMS) (Possibly)
WA7008	Recorded Wreck	303126	5951304	-	-	-	The recorded position of an unknown wreck, W00523 (possibly related to WA7013). Identified in the record	-	ECC	W00523 (NMS)



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							(giving UKHO wreck data from 1996 as the source) as a possible metal vessel with a lot of metal material on the seabed within the area. Nothing was identified in any of the geophysical datasets at this location. A large ferrous feature (WA7007) was identified in the geophysical data approximately 510 m SW of this location which may represent the same feature although this is not certain.			
WA7009	Wreck	311154	5944559	94.2	24.3	-	Identified in the SSS dataset as a debris field (94.2 x 24.3 m) comprising three main items of debris together with several smaller objects of debris and other dark reflectors, including some approximately 20 m to the north-east. The south-west end of the debris field may extend beyond the data range and the length is likely an underestimate. Near the centre of this feature, two large irregular pieces of debris are visible and measure 17.6 x 6.5 m and 9.3 x 8.5 m. They both have bright shadows indicating height and show some evidence of internal structure. A third large area of debris is located approximately 50 m to the SSW and measures 8.0 x 7.8 m with several smaller pieces of debris adjacent to the larger feature. Observed in the MBES dataset principally as three indistinct mounds with their extents difficult to discern. Areas of disturbed seabed lie to the NE of the largest mound and the NE of the SW mound. Visible in the MBBS data as three distinct irregularly shaped dark reflectors. A possible response, which may be associated, is visible on the closest line of Mag. data, approximately 70 m NE of the NE end of the feature. This may indicate the presence of ferrous material. The feature corresponds with records UKHO 7046 and NMS W01996 for a wreck, possibly that of the steamship Downshire. The NMS record also gives a Geological Survey of Ireland reference (260). The vessel was lost on 21 September 1918, having been captured by UB-64 and sunk by gunfire. The wreck has been surveyed several times and the most recent dimensions (from the UKHO record) are 43.3 x 8.0 m from 2014. The UKHO	MBBS, MBES, SSS, Mag.	Array	7046 (UKHO), W01996 (NMS)



WA_ID	Classification	ETRS89 UTM30N Easting	ETRS89 UTM30N Northing	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Notes	Anomaly type	Section	External references
							reports the wreck to be almost buried and in a general depth of 57 m.			
WA7010	Debris field	299052	5948791	3.0	2.7	-	Identified in the SSS dataset as a distinct irregularly shaped area of variable reflectivity, possibly representing multiple objects close together. Observed in the MBES data as an indistinct depression. Not directly covered by the Mag. data but no response is seen on the closest line 15 m to the north. Not visible in the MBBS data. Located 12 m to the east of debris field WA7006 . Interpreted as debris likely to be associated with debris field and possible wreck WA7006 .	MBES, SSS	ECC	S_0212 (N-Sea)
WA7011	Debris	299029	5948771	1.7	0.5	-	Identified in the SSS dataset as an indistinct dark reflector with an adjacent bright reflector that does not appear to be a shadow. Directly covered by a line of Mag. data but no response seen, likely owing to the presence of the anomaly associated with nearby debris field 7006 which may mask smaller responses. Not visible in the MBES or MBBS datasets. Located 5 m south of WA7006 . Interpreted as debris likely to be associated with debris field and possible wreck WA7006 .	SSS	ECC	-
WA7012	Dark reflector	302665	5951077	0.7	0.6	-	Identified in the SSS data as a small dark reflector with a slight shadow. No response is seen in the Mag. data, likely owing to the presence of the anomaly associated with nearby mound WA7007 , which may mask smaller responses. Not visible in the MBES or MBBS data. Located 7.5m south of mound WA7007 . Interpreted as a possible natural feature or may be possible debris associated with WA7007 .	SSS	ECC	-
WA7013	Recorded Obstruction	303061	5951326	-	-	-	The position of a UKHO recorded obstruction, 7057. First recorded in 1977 as a sizeable quantity of metal with a local name of "Iron Metal", found with DECCA navigator and suggested to have been there a long time. Further recorded to have been shown on Kingfisher trawling plots	-	ECC	7057 (UKHO)



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							in 1983. No survey details given for after this but reported to lie in a general depth of 34 m. Possibly related to WA7008 . A large ferrous feature (WA7007) was identified in the geophysical data approximately 460 m SW of this location which may represent the same feature although this is not certain.			

Reference

ADCO (2024) North Irish Sea Array, Marine Geophysical Survey, Nearshore and Intertidal archaeological interpretation 23D0104, 23R0459.

ADCO (2026) North Irish Sea Array, Marine Geophysical Survey 2024. Archaeological Interpretation 24D0246, 24R0392.

SEP Hydrographic (2023) North Irish Sea Array (NISA). Nearshore and Intertidal Geophysical Survey. Operations & Results Report. Ref; 2023-031