



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 18th February 2022

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>Oweninny Onshore Windfarm Phase I</i>
Project Number:	<i>2017-0504</i>
Country:	<i>Ireland</i>
Project Description:	Construction and operation of up to 30 turbine onshore wind farm with a total capacity of 89MW in County Mayo, Ireland.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.

The project was implemented as assumed during appraisal. It comprises the development, installation and operation of wind farm with 29 wind turbines with a rotor diameter of 113 m at a hub height of 119 m, the related civil infrastructure, a project internal substation and a transmission line to an existing substation. Different from the initial planning, this transmission line (about 4 km) was realised as underground cable, to limit the visual impact. In addition, the project includes a visitor centre and service building. The project is the first phase of a larger development up to 112 turbines in Mayo County in Northwest Ireland. The power evacuation (line and substation) and part of the civil infrastructure (incl. service building) will be shared with the wind farm phase 2, which is presently under construction.

A wind farm falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) and had been screened in by the competent authorities, requiring a mandatory EIA including public consultations as well as an appropriate assessment regarding the conservation objective of some Natura 2000 sites, in the proximity and partly overlapping with the project area. The wind farm is not expected to have significant negative impact on the integrity of these Natura 2000 sites. The planning permission had been issued for the first and the second phase together and includes several environmental conditions the project has to comply with during the whole project cycle.

Regarding planning and design, the compliance with the specified condition had been confirmed prior to the start of the construction. The project has implemented a detailed construction environmental management plan (CEMP) in accordance with conditions specified in the planning permission and audited by Mayo County Council. As required, noise and shadow flicker monitoring were carried out during the first year of operation. A recent review by the project's ecology team and independent environmental auditors, found out that wildlife has returned to the site to levels equal to or in excess to those prior to construction works.

During construction works, the project has faced a few minor complaints, which were adequately handled and addressed in close cooperation with the local authorities; compliance with the planning permission was investigated and confirmed.

The project was recognised under the Considerate Construction Award Scheme.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on the reporting from the promoter and inputs provided by Lenders' Technical Advisor, that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.