

3 SCOPING THE EIS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

1 Consultation is an important part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process; in this context, consultation with statutory agencies, interested parties, the public and public concerned (including landowners) and other representative organisations provides an opportunity to *inter alia*:

- Identify matters regarding the project which inform the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
- Incorporate mitigation measures where possible into the design of the project in early stages (for example, mitigation by avoidance of certain potential impacts), including those local impacts that might be identified during public and landowner consultation and engagement;
- Take into consideration the expertise and knowledge of individuals, landowners, local communities, experts, interest groups and statutory agencies and non-governmental organisations;
- Encourage participation in decisions yet to be made; and
- Ensure submissions and observations are taken into consideration by the competent authority during the decision making process.

2 The extent and nature of public consultation and participation in relation to all stages of the proposed development since 2007 is described in a separate *Public and Landowner Consultation Report* (see **Volume 2B** of the application documentation). This report sets out the objectives of the general consultation strategy, its structure, details of all consultation and engagement activities, feedback received and how such feedback was responded to.

3 This chapter separately outlines the requirements for consultation undertaken and relevant to the EIA process prior to submission of the application for planning approval to An Bord Pleanála (the Board), and specifically considers consultation as eliciting feedback in relation to:

- The matters which were considered by the various bodies, agencies groups and individuals to require evaluation in the EIS and the methods to be used for that evaluation;

- The likely effect of mitigation measures in order to determine the likely acceptability of any residual impacts; and
- The consideration of alternatives in order to ensure that options of interest to all parties are evaluated.

4 It should be noted that, as the EIA process is iterative, consultation and public participation can and will continue right through the development consent process.

5 The chapter also considers the scoping opinion received from the Board.

3.2 BACKGROUND

3.2.1 The Previous Application for Approval

6 As set out in **Chapter 1** of this volume of the EIS, a planning application was made to the Board for development consent in December 2009, which was subsequently withdrawn in June 2010.

7 A considerable body of work was undertaken in respect of the previous application, including the preparation and submission of an EIS and associated technical, environmental and planning documents. In order to ensure that the previous EIS addressed the issues that were likely to be of significance, an associated consultation and informal scoping exercise was carried out. Consultation consisted of interactions with the public concerned (including landowners), interested parties and prescribed bodies, as well as pre-planning consultations with the Board.

8 The EIS (2009) and associated technical, environmental, planning and other documents were also publically available during the period of the previous application for approval and the Board invited submissions from prescribed bodies, other stakeholders, the general public and other parties. Nearly 1,000 written submissions were received in response to this invitation, including from prescribed and non-prescribed authorities and agencies, as well as from the general public and landowners. Much of the content of these written submissions contained material relevant to the EIA of the proposed development.

9 In May 2010, the Board convened an oral hearing in respect of the proposed development. A number of prescribed bodies and a number of members of the public made further oral and written submissions at the oral hearing. This included submissions from certain statutory agencies in Northern Ireland.

10 All written and oral submissions received by the Board during the previous application process has been inputted into the preparation of this EIS (2015). For example, in response to

submissions made in respect of that previous proposal, this EIS includes consideration of agronomy as a topic.

3.2.2 The Re-evaluation Process and Report

- 11 Subsequent to the withdrawal of the previous application for approval, EirGrid undertook a comprehensive re-evaluation of the proposed development. The purpose of the re-evaluation process was to ascertain whether the scope, content, conclusions, and proposal of the previous application remain relevant for the purposes of informing and shaping the new application for approval.
- 12 The re-evaluation process was an important initial step in the public consultation process for the now proposed development as it revisited consideration of technical and route corridor / line route alternatives and involved a high level re-assessment of environmental considerations including likely impacts and mitigation measures.
- 13 The initial findings of the re-evaluation process were published for public consultation in a *Preliminary Re-evaluation Report* in May 2011. A *Final Re-evaluation Report* was subsequently published in April 2013 and it addressed a number of issues raised during, and subsequent to, the consultation process on the *Preliminary Re-evaluation Report*. Refer to **Appendix 1.1** and **Appendix 1.2, Volume 3B Appendices**.
- 14 Appendix A of the *Final Re-evaluation Report* provided a review of the issues raised in written submissions to the Board and a review of presentations at the oral hearing in respect of the previous application for approval. Appendix B provided a response to submissions and other engagement arising during the re-evaluation process. Relevant key issues raised therein have informed the scoping and content of this EIS and are included in **Table 3.4**.

3.2.3 The Preferred Project Solution Report

- 15 Following on from the *Final Re-evaluation Report*, the *Preferred Project Solution Report* published in July 2013, provided detail as to the preferred line design for the proposed development. Refer to **Appendix 1.3, Volume 3B Appendices**. This preferred line design included identification of feasible locations for, and design of, the infrastructure, such as tower positions, tower types and associated construction related details (e.g. temporary access tracks).
- 16 Chapter 2 (and Appendix C) of the *Preferred Project Solution Report* outlined how submissions on the *Final Re-evaluation Report* were reviewed and considered by the project team. This included *inter alia*:

- Submissions received from prescribed bodies and other stakeholders on issues of relevance, or in response, to the *Final Re-evaluation Report*; and
- Submissions relevant to the prospective EIS.

17 The preferred line design as published in the *Preferred Project Solution Report* provided the focus for on-going landowner engagement, particularly in respect of the specific siting of structures on lands, as well as further environmental survey, design and evaluation, in consultation with prescribed authorities, other stakeholders and members of the public. The *Preferred Project Solution Report* also provided an opportunity to provide feedback on the issues to be addressed in the EIS. In this regard, Chapter 6 of the *Preferred Project Solution Report* provided a general summary of the EIA process and outlined the matters proposed to be addressed in the EIS for the proposed development. The majority of issues raised in subsequent written submissions and during discussions with stakeholders at the consultation events related to the potential impact of the proposed development on the environment which were broadly categorised under the following headings:-

- Agronomy;
- Community and Population & Economic Impact (including proximity to residential receptors);
- Property Devaluation and Loss of Development;
- Cultural Heritage & Archaeology;
- Ecology;
- Health and EMF;
- Landscape & Visual Impact;
- Noise; and
- Cumulative Impacts.

18 Section 4.5.2 of the *Public and Landowner Consultation Report* (see **Volume 2B** of the application documentation) sets out further detail in relation to the feedback received. For convenience, the key issues arising from engagement on the *Final Re-evaluation Report* and *Preferred Project Solution Report* which have informed the content of the EIS are included in **Table 3.4**.

3.3 EIS SCOPING AND ASSOCIATED CONSULTATION

3.3.1 Scoping

19 Scoping is an integral part of the preparation of an EIS. The process of identifying issues to be included in the EIS (or 'scoping') involves appraising the project's possible impacts, considering available alternatives and deciding which impacts are likely to occur and likely to be significant based on the proposed development.

20 A developer can undertake an informal scoping exercise and consult with various parties in relation to this exercise. As noted above, all preceding consultation, including the previous application for approval, the re-evaluation process and the *Preferred Project Solution Report*, sought to inform and elicit opinion from stakeholders on all matters relating to the proposed interconnector. It also sought to ensure that the concerns of stakeholders were considered and addressed during the design process and inputted into the EIA process. Specific consultation was also undertaken with prescribed bodies (see **Section 3.3.3**) and others in respect of matters to be addressed in the EIS. This has informed the scoping and content of this EIS.

3.3.2 Pre-application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála in respect of the Content of the EIS

21 In accordance with section 182(E) of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended) (the 2000 Act), a series of pre-application consultations was held with the Board in respect of the proposed development which forms the subject matter of this application. Information provided by the Board during the course of these discussions and feedback received from the Board also in respect of the pre-application consultations held in respect of the previous application has also informed the EIS.

22 The key issues arising from these meetings relevant to the EIS are summarised in **Table 3.1** and are also included in **Table 3.4**.

Table 3.1: Pre-application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála

Date of Meeting	Key Issues
Previous Application for Statutory Approval	<p>Relevant issues raised during the course of pre-application meetings in respect of the previous application included <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives (including underground (UGC) versus overhead line (OHL); route corridor options – including to the east of Navan); • Transboundary impacts; and • Route selection process in relation to houses, archaeology and cultural heritage.
2 nd December 2010	The purpose of this meeting was to outline activities post withdrawal of the previous application (i.e. the Meath-Tyrone 400 kV Interconnection Development).
31 st July 2013	<p>The focus of this meeting was to update the Board on activities since the previous meeting including <i>inter alia</i> the findings of the Independent Expert Commission Review (on the case for, and cost of, undergrounding all or part of the Meath-Tyrone 400 kV Interconnection Development), the <i>Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure, The Final Re-evaluation Report</i>, and current activities following publication of the <i>Preferred Project Solution Report on 16th July 2013</i>.</p> <p>Issues arising of relevance to the EIS included: the implications (if any) of no longer seeking approval for the substation at Moyhill and whether the line could be located further to the east; the route selection process in relation to houses, ecology and historic landscapes; and tower alternatives.</p>
20 th August 2013	EirGrid requested a scoping opinion from the Board.
15 th October 2013	The focus of this meeting was to update the Board on activities since the publication of the <i>Preferred Project Solution Report</i> , including landowner engagement, modifications to the indicative line design and issues arising. Discussions were also focused on procedures in relation to the potential transboundary environmental impacts of the proposed development on the environment of an area of a Member State.

Date of Meeting	Key Issues
11 th December 2013	The Board issued its scoping opinion on the information to be contained in the EIS.
18 th December 2013	The focus of this meeting was to update the Board on the drafting of the EIS and application particulars and to discuss the Board's scoping opinion. Other relevant matters included transboundary issues and procedures, the <i>Joint Environmental Report</i> and difficulties encountered.
23 rd December 2013	This was a follow up meeting to clarify particular issues arising from the meeting of 18 th December including the level of detail to be included in an outline <i>Construction Environmental Management Plan</i> to be included as an Appendix to the EIS.

3.3.3 Consultation with Prescribed Bodies and Other Interested Parties in respect of the Content of the EIS

- 23 Section 182A(4)(b) of the 2000 Act (as amended) requires that on making an application for strategic transmission infrastructure development, the applicant must also submit the application documentation to the relevant local authorities and certain prescribed authorities. As set out in **Section 3.2.1**, all consultation during the previous application for approval (including submissions made by prescribed authorities and other interested parties prior to and during the oral hearing) has inputted into the process which culminated in the production of this EIS.
- 24 These authorities and other interested parties were issued project material and were specifically invited to make a submission in respect of matters / issues they considered relevant to the project. In addition, meetings (both formal and informal) were held with many parties, including the relevant local authorities.
- 25 As part of the informal scoping process undertaken by EirGrid, local and prescribed authorities and other interested parties have been circulated with project information since the withdrawal of the previous application for approval. Some of these parties are identified in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2: Local and Prescribed Authorities and Interested Bodies Provided with Project Information prior to and since the Withdrawal of the Previous Application

Authority / Body	
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Irish Wildlife Trust
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (including NPWS)	Railway Safety Commission
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Iarnród Éireann
Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (National Monuments Service)	An Taisce
Meath County Council	Geological Survey of Ireland
Border Region Authority	Health Services Executive
Greater Dublin Area Regional Authority	Health and Safety Authority
Cavan County Council	Teagasc
Monaghan County Council	Irish Farmers Association
The National Roads Authority	Commission for Energy Regulation
Fáilte Ireland	Inland and Regional Fisheries Board
The Heritage Council	BirdWatch Ireland
Irish Aviation Authority	Environmental Protection Agency
Údarás na Gaeltachta	

26 Many of the prescribed authorities and interested bodies identified were also contacted by members of the project team with specific focus on informing the content of the EIS and a number of follow up meetings were held; the dates of such meetings are identified in **Table 3.3**.

Table 3.3: Meetings with Prescribed Authorities and Interested Bodies

Local & Prescribed Authorities	Meeting Dates
Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (specifically NPWS)	26 th November 2011 13 th November 2012 18 th December 2012
Meath County Council	3 rd September 2013 23 rd October 2013 5 th November 2013
Cavan County Council	23 rd September 2013 17 th October 2013
Monaghan County Council	5 th June 2013 9 th September 2013 22 nd October 2013
Fáilte Ireland	18 th September 2013
Inland Fisheries Ireland	1 st October 2013

27 Key issues arising from consultation with prescribed authorities and other agencies which informed the content of the subject EIS are included in **Table 3.4**

28 It should be noted that the elected representatives of the relevant local authorities were also consulted during various phases of the project development process. This is detailed in the separate *Public and Landowner Consultation Report* (see **Volume 2B** of the application documentation).

3.3.4 Transboundary Consultation

29 It is also noted that EirGrid consulted with the Department of Environment Northern Ireland with regard to the information to be contained in the EIS. Issues raised were consistent with those identified in its response to the Board's scoping request.

3.3.5 Public Consultation in respect of the Content of the EIS

30 The EIA Directive has been amended, in line with the Aarhus Convention³⁰, to ensure that not only the authorities likely to be concerned by the project are given an opportunity to express their opinion on the information supplied by the developer but that the public (including the public concerned) is given early and effective opportunities to participate in the environmental decision-making procedures.

31 Specific details in relation to the public and landowner consultation process are detailed in the separate *Public and Landowner Consultation Report* (see **Volume 2B** of the application documentation). Issues arising from consultation with the public relevant to informing the content of the subject EIS are included in **Table 3.4**.

3.3.6 Landowner Consultation in respect of the Content of the EIS

32 This section relates to consultation that was carried out with individual landowners along the line route. The purpose of landowner consultation was *inter alia* to ensure that their views could be considered during the design process.

33 Specific details in relation to the landowner consultation strategy and process are detailed in the separate *Public and Landowner Consultation Report* (see **Volume 2B** of the application documentation). Issues arising from consultation with the landowners relevant to informing the content of the subject EIS are included in **Table 3.4**.

3.4 FINDINGS OF THE INFORMAL SCOPING AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

34 As noted, the process of scoping involves an appraisal of the project's possible impacts and the alternatives that should be considered, and deciding which impacts are likely to occur and to be significant.

35 A summary of the key concerns raised to date during all stakeholder consultation and relevant to the informal scoping the EIS is provided in **Table 3.4**.

³⁰ The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Table 3.4: Issues Identified in the Scoping and Consultation Exercises

Topic	Main Issues Raised	Relevant Chapter
Need for the Proposed Development	The all island, national, regional and local purpose of / need for the proposed development should be clearly set out.	Volume 3B, Chpt 2
Description of Development	The full description of the nature, scale and extent of all aspects of the development including <i>inter alia</i> a description of the development within Northern Ireland, works to the existing Oldstreet to Woodland transmission line, substation works, temporary construction access routes, construction methodology etc.	Volume 3B, Chpt 6 and Chpt 7
Alternative Technologies	The potential to underground the proposed development (including partial undergrounding) was one of the main and recurring issues raised during consultations. Other alternatives raised included interconnection / network reinforcement options, the requirement for the inclusion of a substation(s) along the route, AC versus DC technology, subsea cable option and alternative tower designs.	Volume 3B, Chpt 4,
Alternative Routes	Route corridor selection and route alignment considerations during and prior to the selection of the preferred development option were recurring issues raised during consultations. This included the balance and weighting given to sensitive receptors such as residential property and landscape in determining route choice. Other issues included proximity to dwellings.	Volume 3B, Chpt 5
Health	The main issues raised in relation to this topic included potential for adverse impacts on human health arising from EMF during the operational phase and public health and safety during the construction phase of the proposed development.	Volume 3B, Chpt 8 and Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 5
Community and Population & Economic	The effect that the project is having on the people of the local communities and its proximity to community facilities, including children's recreational areas and schools were raised. The potential impact on the business of a local air	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 3

Topic	Main Issues Raised	Relevant Chapter
	ballooning company, bed and breakfast tourist accommodation and a helipad operation business was also raised.	
Flora & Fauna	The main issues of concern raised during consultations include potential impacts on designated sites (cSACs, SPAs and NHAs), species of conservation status, including Whooper Swans - listed under Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive (EU79/409/EEC), fisheries and habitats of high local value within and in the vicinity of the proposed development (including within the aquatic environment). Potential impacts need to consider excavation and construction activities and the long term operational impacts of the development.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 6
Soils & Geology	The main issues raised under this environmental topic which merited detailed examination included areas of sensitivity such as County Geological Site (CGS) – including Altmush Stream and Galtrim Moraine, outcrops of bedrock, areas of karst or other types of highly permeable geology and ground potentially contaminated (physically or chemically) by historical or current activities.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 7
Water	The main issues raised under this topic relate to the potential for water pollution (both surface and groundwater) particularly during the construction stage (including excavation).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 8
Air Quality and Climate	This was not raised as a significant issue.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 10
Noise & Vibration	The main issues raised during consultation relate to the potential for noise from the OHL and vibration during the construction phase.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 9
Landscape & Visual	Given that the project consists of overhead lines supported by steel lattice towers, the main concerns raised in relation to this topic was its visibility and potential to impact the visual amenity of designated landscapes, protected views and other views of significant amenity	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 11

Topic	Main Issues Raised	Relevant Chapter
	along its length including for example Bective Abbey, Donaghpatrick and Teltown. Specific issues raised included the Drumlin landscape of Monaghan and views from individual dwellings.	
Traffic	The main issues raised in relation to traffic relate to the construction phase of the project and the potential for increased construction traffic on roads; the relationship of the proposed development with planned roads (including the Leinster Orbital Route); and construction implications when building across roadways.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 13
Material Assets	The main issues raised were in relation to the potential impact of the proposed development on Trim airfield, existing and proposed windfarms and public utilities. Telecommunications was not raised during consultation and was not considered by the project team to be a significant issue.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 12
Land Use	The main issue raised in relation to this topic was agronomy including potential restrictions on farming, sterilisation of farmland beneath the line and construction access and methods.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 3
Tourism	The main issue raised in relation to this topic was the potential effects on the amenity / tourism value of the area, including designated tourist routes and related business. Examples of such locations included the Boyne Valley, Teltown, Monaghan Way and Trim Castle.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 4
Property	The main issues raised were in relation to the impact on residential properties in the vicinity of the proposed development (visual amenity, noise etc.) and potential property de-evaluation / sterilisation of lands from future development. Issues relating to amenity are addressed by specific environmental topics. Property de-valuation is not considered in this EIS; but is considered elsewhere in the application documentation.	Volumes 3C and 3D – various chapters

Topic	Main Issues Raised	Relevant Chapter
Cultural Heritage	The main issues raised in relation to this topic include potential impacts on archaeological, architectural and other features of cultural heritage importance, arising from the proposed development. This includes the potential visual impact on listed sites and construction related impacts.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 14
Transboundary	Having regard to the linear nature of the project across two jurisdictions the potential for transboundary issues must be considered.	Volumes 3B, Chpt 9
Cumulative impact	The main issues raised in relation to the potential cumulative impacts of the proposal when considered with other existing, proposed developments related to new or proposed development in proximity to the line including wind turbines, other transmission projects and the SONI section of the proposed interconnector.	Volumes 3B, Chpt 10
Interrelationships between Environmental Factors	While almost all environmental aspects are interrelated to some degree, potentially significant interactions have been considered in this EIS.	Volume 3B, Chpt 10

3.5 AN BORD PLEANÁLA – SCOPING OPINION

36 Scoping, as contemplated by section 182E of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended), is carried out by the Board (as competent authority) on receipt of a request from a developer to provide a scoping opinion in writing. In August 2013, EirGrid formally requested the Board to provide a scoping opinion in respect of the proposed development. The Board consulted with various parties (including local and prescribed authorities and certain statutory agencies in Northern Ireland) before providing its scoping opinion on 11th December 2013 (refer to **Appendix 1.4, Volume 3B Appendices**, of the EIS).

37 The scoping opinion confirmed the issues identified during the informal scoping process undertaken by EirGrid as identified in **Table 3.4**. A summary of the Board's scoping opinion is presented in **Table 3.5**.

Table 3.5: Issues Identified in the Board's Scoping Opinion

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter
Alternatives – considered (national, regional and local)	The need to provide an outline of the following alternatives / options considered prior to the selection of the development option: interconnection / network reinforcement options, technologies, corridor options, design & scale of development / structures, inclusion of substation(s) along route and construction methodologies.	Volume 3B, Chpts 4, 5 and 7
Human Beings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential impacts on settlement patterns along the route. The Board specifically requested that existing dwellings, community facilities and public facilities be identified (such as schools and healthcare facilities) including any extant planning permissions. • An assessment of impacts on residential amenities from construction and siting of support structures and OHL. • Identification and assessment of operation impacts and human health including noise and EMF, based on recognised international standards. • Assessment and comparison of the effects of above and below ground development alternatives. • An assessment of the likely impacts on the linguistic or cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht area, or on the promotion of Irish as the community language. • Implications / impacts on the local, regional or national economy. 	Volume 3B, 3C and 3D and other elements of the application documentation
Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data should include an ecological survey of all works sites at an appropriate time of the year. Survey work may also be required outside of the development sites. • Assessment of the impacts of flora, fauna and habitats to have regard to Natura 2000 sites, other (proposed) designated sites, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Acts, Red Data Book species and biodiversity in general. 	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 6

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment should include indirect effects of construction activities and access, as well as long term impacts of fragmentation and severance. • Assessment of potential impacts on the aquatic environment during construction and operation. • EIS should address invasive alien plant and animal species and methods to ensure they are not introduced or spread. • Assessment of the extent and impact of hedgerow removal or linear woodland loss along the route. • Identification of any requirement for licenses or derogations. 	
Soils and Geology	The main items raised were: the inclusion of an assessment of potential soil erosion, the submission of a construction method statement (to include peat mitigation) and identification and assessment of potential impacts on sites of geological heritage interest (including Altmush Stream and Galtrim Moraine).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 7
Water	The main items raised were: the identification and assessment of the potential water quality impacts of excavation / construction activities proximate to water courses, assessment of potential hydrogeological impacts and submission of a construction method statement and management plan (including measures to protect water quality when diverting field drains / pumping groundwater).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 8
Air and Climate / Noise	Air and Climate were identified as minor issues not requiring significant studies. In terms of noise the Board requested a description and assessment of the noise environment at construction and operational phases (clearly measurable against the existing ambient noise environment).	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 10

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter
Landscape	<p>The Board requested the following: an overview of defined landscape character areas affected, identification of the area of visual influence of the development; an assessment of the impacts on landscape character and visual amenity including designated landscapes and views of amenity value; consideration of the impacts of the development on the character and setting of sites of cultural and historical interest and on historic landscapes, and identification of historic demesne landscapes along the route. Visual impacts of the development should be demonstrated by a series of scaled / accurate photomontages to include impacts on protected views / scenic routes. In addition the Board require consideration of the potential for alternative routing or partial undergrounding in sensitive landscape areas, or where separation between towers is reduced below average with resulting visual impacts. The rationale for the route / design approach adopted should be identified and the cumulative visual and landscape impacts of the development with the existing and proposed 110 kV and 220 kV network should be considered.</p>	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 11
Material Assets	<p>In terms of material assets the Board require: the identification of the enhancement of existing electrical network infrastructure, the identification and assessment of public road crossings (including construction methodology); information on the likely effects on public utilities and services; submission of a construction management plan (addressing stringing options, road closures, detours, and impacts on railway infrastructure, access for construction, on-going maintenance and treatment of new / widened construction entrances). In addition the likely impact / restrictions for agriculture or commercial forestry and the assessment of the effects on the amenity / tourism value of the area including designated tourism routes (the Monaghan way) and impacts on fishing and fisheries tourism, the potential future use of disused railways and impacts on aviation transport (including Trim airfield).</p>	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpts 4, 12 and 13

Topic	Specific Issue Raised	Relevant Chapter
Cultural Heritage	The Board has requested the following information in relation to cultural heritage - identification and assessment of: archaeological heritage (including impacts on the character and setting of features of interest) as well as relationships between sites; and areas of social, cultural and historic interest (including Bective Abbey, Donaghpatrick, Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity and Muff Crossroads). The Board also requested the identification of any pre-application archaeological excavation or site investigation undertaken; any heritage in the vicinity of the route corridor; indirect effects of construction activity including access / routes on structures and buildings; and the impact on longer views from sites of national importance and significance.	Volumes 3C and 3D, Chpt 14
Transboundary Effects	The Board requested that a <i>Joint Environmental Report</i> be prepared. The joint report should ensure the implementation of a common approach and methodology for the identification and assessment of impacts arising across the overall project. The prospective applicants are advised to consult with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland with regard to the information to be contained in the EIS.	Volume 4 of the application documentation

38 The scoping opinion also referred to the inclusion of a schedule of mitigation measures and a *Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)* in the EIS. A schedule of mitigation measures is included as **Chapter 11** of this volume of the EIS and an outline CEMP is provided in **Appendix 7.1, Volume 3B Appendices**, of the EIS.

3.6 CONCLUSION

39 Having ascertained which environmental topics are of most significance and in particular the content of the Board's scoping opinion in relation to the proposed development, this EIS has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation and having regard to *inter alia* the following documents:

- European Commission, *Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions* (May 1999);
- European Commission, *Guidance on EIA Screening* (June 2001);

- European Commission, *Guidance on EIA Scoping* (June 2001);
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (March 2002);
- EPA, *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (September 2003) and, in particular, guidelines given for Type 20 projects outlined in that document;
- European Commission, *Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects* (May 2013); and
- European Commission, *Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment* (April 2013).