

Onshore EIA Successes: Examples from Renewables



Photo: John Sherry (TOBIN)



Ireland's EIA Conference 2025 – Dr. John Staunton



Overview of TOBIN



Building & Infrastructure

Water & Utilities

Environment & Planning

Roads & Transportation

- 2025** Shortlisted under “Sustainability Natural Environment” Category - Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Awards
- 2024** Environmental Engineering Project of the Year - Engineering Excellence Awards
- 2022** CPD Employer of the Year - Engineers Ireland
Innovation - Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Awards
- 2020** Project Management - Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Awards
- 2019** Design Excellence (Structures) - Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Awards



EIA Scoping

- Early scoping maximises the benefit
- Encourages project design to account for the input of knowledge from all stakeholders
- Particularly important for topics such as:
 - Ecology
 - Telecoms
 - Aviation
 - Archaeology
 - Roads and Transportation
 - Geology
 - Hydrology

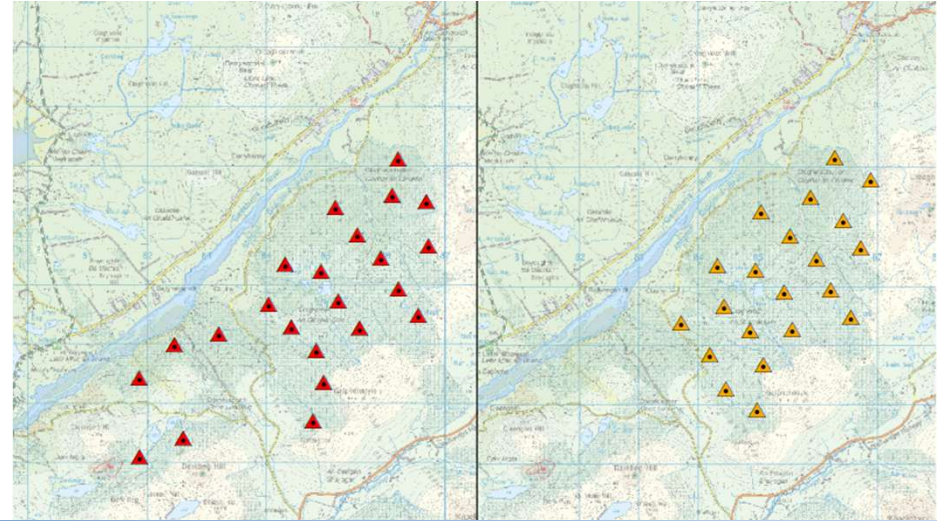


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Consideration of Alternatives

- Do-Nothing
- Technologies
- Site Selection
- Timelines and Construction Method
- Mitigation Measures
- Site Layouts/Design



Photomontages: Macroworks



Public Participation

EIA should act as:

- Source of information for all (via EIAR and the non-technical summary)
- Encouragement for meaningful public engagement and participation

Public engagement allows local communities to highlight local sensitivities to the project team that they may not be aware of



Environmental Enhancement

- EIA highlights any significant issues for which Compensation might be needed
- Use of land management tools and practices as compensation tools



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Solar Farms

- Establishment of grassy verges/margins
- Hedgerow and treeline management
- Installation of bird/bat boxes
- Encourage invertebrates



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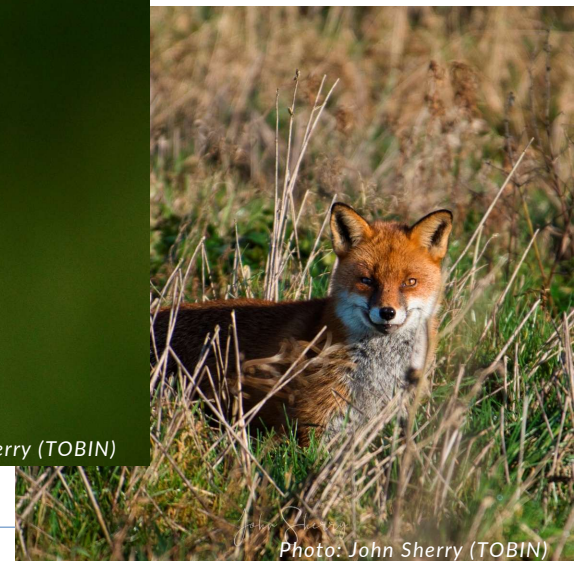
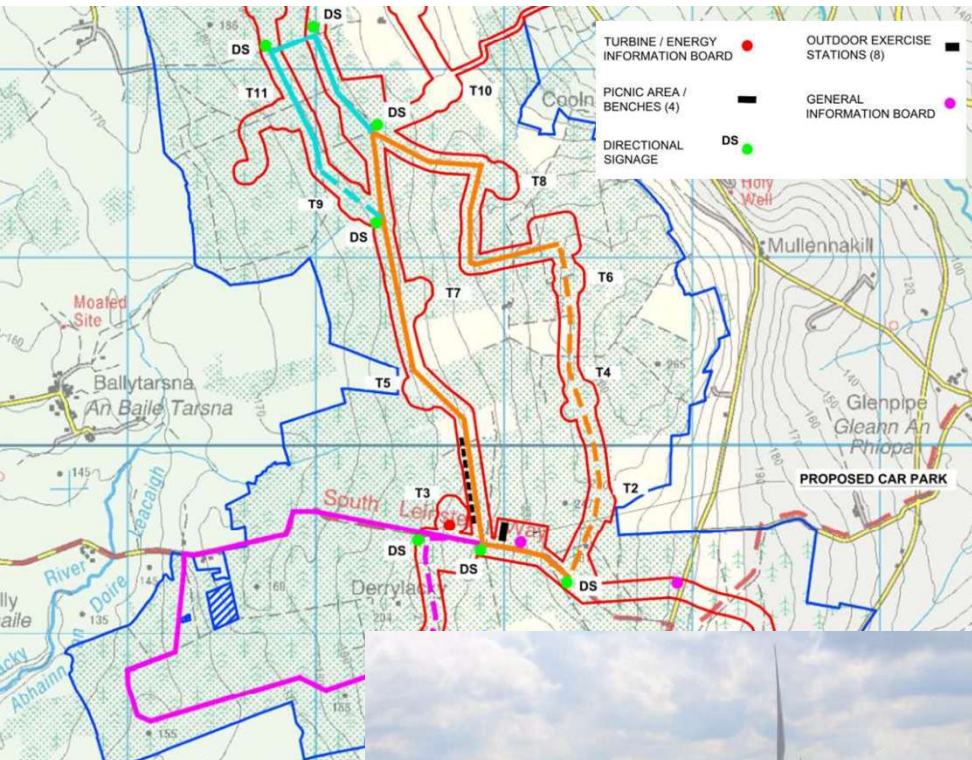


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Community Enhancement

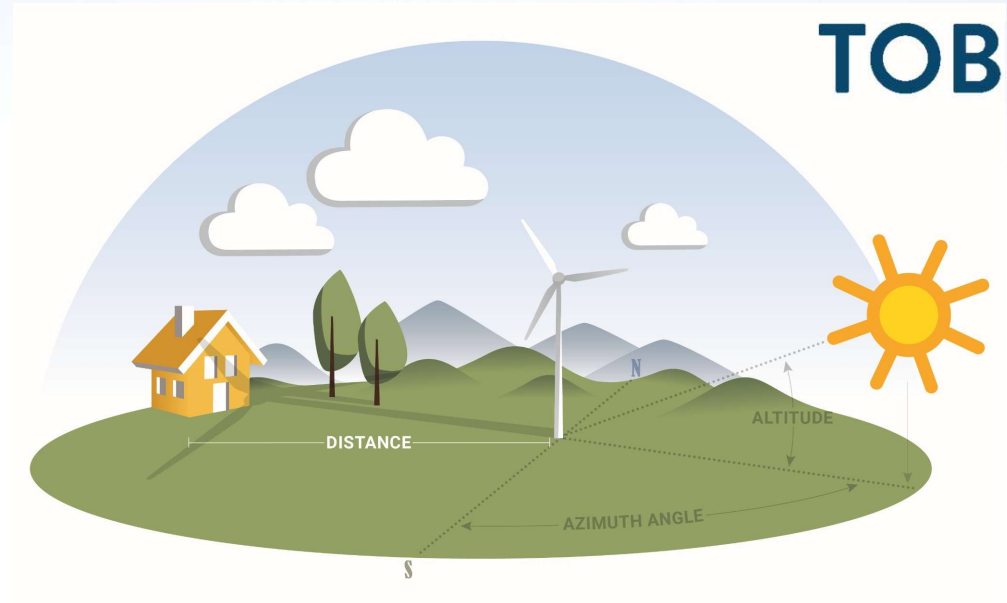
- EIA process encourages positive effects locally
- Builds projects with better local support
- Ultimately beneficial to the industry in the long term



Residential Amenity

Factors include:

- Noise
- Vibration
- Shadow Flicker
- Landscape and Visual
- Traffic and Transport





TOBIN

Thank you!

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