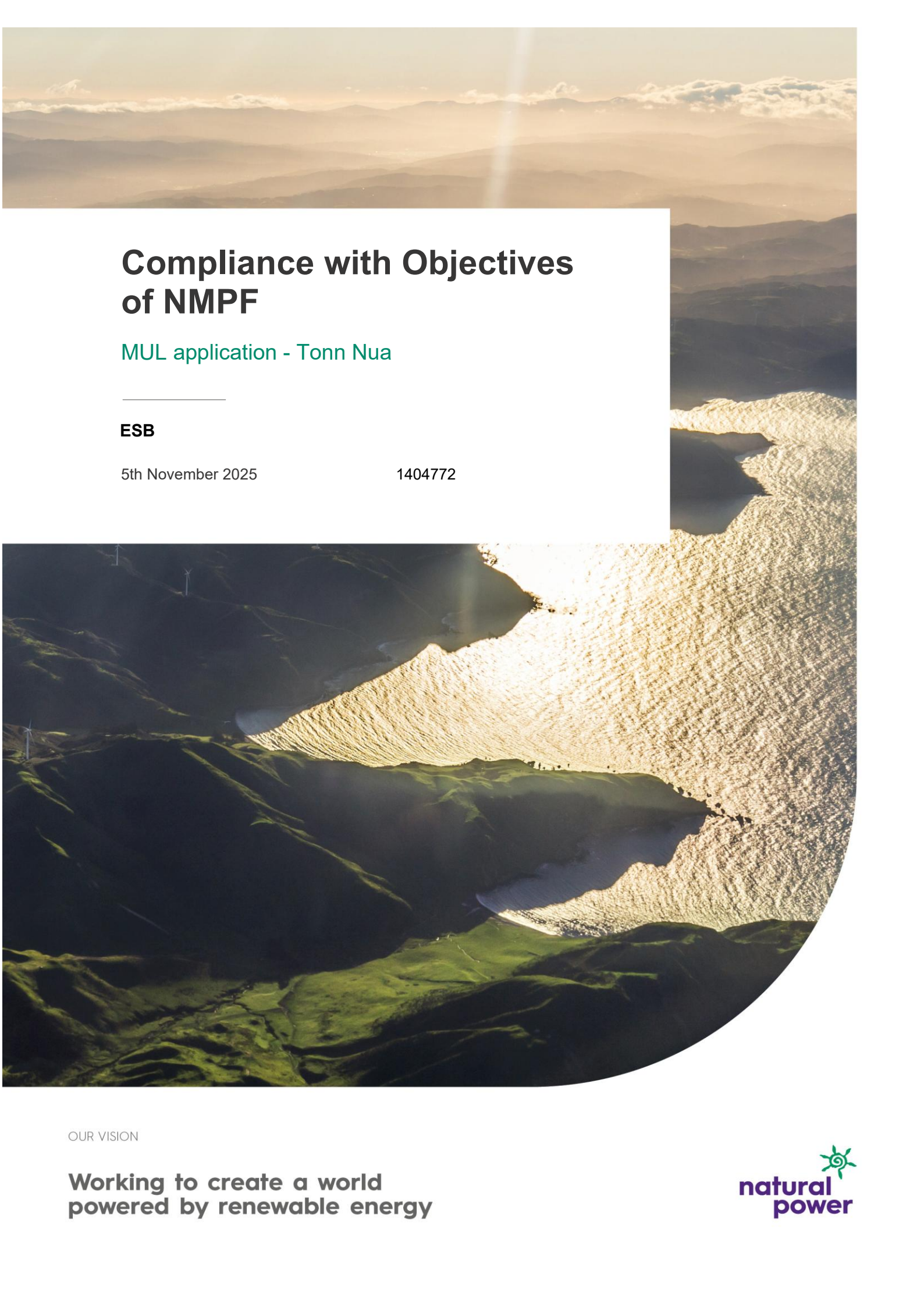




Compliance with Objectives of NMPF

MUL application - Tonn Nua

ESB

5th November 2025

1404772

OUR VISION

**Working to create a world
powered by renewable energy**



Document history

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Issue	Date	Revision Details
Final	05/11/2025	Final draft

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1. Introduction

This attachment sets out how the proposed site investigation (SI) works at the Tonn Nua site are consistent with the objectives and policies of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), in line with Question 4.1 of the MARA Guidance Note for Applicants (August 2025).

The NMPF is Ireland's overarching marine spatial plan. It brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time and sets out the Government's vision, objectives, and planning policies for the sustainable use of the maritime area. The NMPF does not replace or remove existing regulatory regimes or legislative requirements governing marine activities; rather, it provides the overarching framework within which they continue to operate.

Before granting a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL), MARA is required to have regard to the NMPF's environmental, economic, social, and sector-specific objectives and policies. To demonstrate consistency, the relevant policies have been reviewed in full and are grouped under four categories, which structure the remainder of this attachment:

- **Table 4.1-1: Environmental – Ocean Health Policies**
 - Environmental – Ocean Health Policy 1
 - Biodiversity 1–4
 - Protected Marine Sites 1–4
 - Non-indigenous Species 1
 - Water Quality 1–2
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- **Table 4.1-2: Economic – Thriving Maritime Economy Policies**
 - Co-existence 1
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- **Table 4.1-3: Social – Engagement with the Sea Policies**
 - Access 1–2
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 - Seascape and Landscape 1
 - Social Benefits 1–2
 - Transboundary 1
- **Table 4.1-4: Sector-specific – Offshore Renewable Energy Policies**

Where policies require demonstration of how significant adverse impacts are avoided or mitigated, this attachment cross-refers to the suite of embedded mitigation measures described in Section 5 of the Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations document as well as supporting technical reports including:

- Attachment 4.3.1 – Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA)
- Attachment 4.3.2 – Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

- Attachment 4.4 – Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species
- Attachment 4.5 – Compliance with Objectives of Water Framework Directive Assessment

Through this structured approach, the attachment provides a transparent demonstration of how the proposed SI works comply with the requirements of the NMPF.

2. Environmental- Ocean Health Policies

The NMPF sets out a series of environmental objectives designed to safeguard and enhance Ireland's marine environment while enabling the sustainable use of maritime resources. These cover topics such as biodiversity, protected marine sites, non-indigenous species, water quality, sea-floor and water column integrity, marine litter, underwater noise, air quality, and climate change.

For the Tonn Nua SI works, these policies are particularly relevant given the temporary interaction with the marine environment during geophysical, geotechnical, and ecological surveys. Potential environmental effects have been assessed through the SISAA, NIS, Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species, and Compliance with Objectives of Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment, supported by the suite of embedded mitigation measures described in Section 5 of Attachment 4.0 Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations document.

The following table (Table 2-1) sets out the relevant environmental policies, structured under their high-level objectives. For each policy, a summary of the requirement is provided alongside a compliance statement referencing the relevant assessment, and a conclusion on consistency with the NMPF.

Table 2-1: Relevant environmental policies structured under their high level objectives

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
Environmental- Ocean Health	Ocean Health Policy 1: Compliance with NMPF policies relating to: • Biodiversity • Non-Indigenous Species • Water Quality • Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity • Marine Litter	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and designed to gather baseline data to inform offshore renewable energy development. Compliance with NMPF environmental policies has been embedded through SI design and a suite of mitigation measures. Supporting assessments (SISAA, NIS, Annex IV Risk Assessment, and WFD) confirm no significant adverse effects on	The SI works are consistent with Environmental – Ocean Health Policy 1. With embedded mitigation, no significant adverse effects will occur, and compliance with relevant MSFD targets is maintained.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	Underwater Noise Should include demonstration of contribution to the relevant Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) targets identified.	biodiversity, water quality, or marine ecosystem integrity. Biodiversity (MSFD targets 1 & 10): The SISAA and NIS confirm that there will be no adverse effects on site integrity for relevant Natura 2000 sites. Non-indigenous species (MSFD target 2): Vessel biosecurity procedures and adherence to ballast water and hull-fouling management protocols minimise risk of introduction. Water Quality (MSFD targets 3 & 4): Effects on turbidity and potential accidental release are assessed as temporary and reversible. No significant deterioration of water body status is predicted. Seafloor integrity (MSFD target 6): Localised seabed disturbance from sampling is minimal and reversible. No significant alteration of seabed function or habitat integrity will occur. Marine litter (MSFD target 10): Adherence to MARPOL Annex V and project waste procedures ensures no significant litter inputs. Underwater noise (MSFD target 11):	

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
		Annex IV Risk Assessment confirms risks of injury/disturbance to marine mammals are negligible with mitigation. Taken together, the SISAA, NIS, Annex IV Risk Assessment and supporting mitigation demonstrate that the SI works will avoid or minimise significant adverse effects on biodiversity, water quality, seafloor integrity, and marine fauna. The works are temporary, reversible, and designed with embedded safeguards to ensure no deterioration of environmental status. Accordingly, the SI works are consistent with Ocean Health Policy 1 and will not compromise Ireland's ability to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status under the MSFD.	
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Policy 1: Proposals incorporating features that enhance or facilitate species adaptation or migration, or natural native habitat connectivity will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and designed to collect baseline environmental data. They will not result in permanent habitat loss or barriers to species migration. Compliance with NMPF biodiversity policies has been embedded in SI design, supported by a suite of mitigation measures. The SISAA, NIS and Annex IV Risk Assessment confirm that potential effects on species adaptation, migration and habitat connectivity are avoided or minimised, with residual effects assessed as not significant.	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 1. With embedded mitigation, no significant impacts on species adaptation, migration, or connectivity will occur.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity.	Taken together, the assessments demonstrate that the SI works will avoid or minimise significant adverse impacts on species adaptation, migration, or habitat connectivity, consistent with the requirements of Biodiversity Policy 1.	
	Biodiversity Policy 2: Proposals that protect, maintain, restore and enhance the distribution and net extent of important habitats and distribution of important species will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must avoid significant reduction in the distribution and net extent of important habitats and other habitats that important species depend on, including avoidance of activity that may result in disturbance or displacement of habitats.	The proposed SI works are designed to gather essential baseline data using temporary, small-scale, and reversible survey methods. No permanent infrastructure will be installed, and disturbance to habitats is localised and short-lived. The SISAA, NIS and Annex IV Risk Assessment confirm that net extent of important habitats and distribution of important species will be supported and no significant reduction in the distribution and net extent of important habitats and other habitats that important species depend on. The WFD Assessment concludes that the SI works will not cause deterioration in water body status. No changes to hydromorphology, water quality, or ecological potential are predicted, and the overall outcome is no effect.	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 2. No significant adverse impacts on important habitats or species are predicted, with embedded mitigation ensuring compliance.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	Biodiversity Policy 3: Where marine or coastal natural capital assets are recognised by Government: - Proposals must seek to enhance marine or coastal natural capital assets where possible. - Proposals must demonstrate that they will in order of preference, and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale and investigative in nature, designed to gather environmental and geotechnical baseline data to inform future offshore renewable development. They do not introduce permanent infrastructure or activities that would alter, damage, or displace marine or coastal natural capital assets. The SISAA, NIS and Annex IV Risk Assessment confirm there will not be any significant adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets from the proposed work.	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 3. They avoid or minimise potential impacts and ensure no loss or degradation of marine or coastal natural capital assets.
	Biodiversity Policy 4: Proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant disturbance to, or displacement of, highly mobile species.	The SI works are designed to be temporary and low-impact, with activities limited to vessel-based geophysical, geotechnical, and ecological surveys. Highly mobile species that may occur in the project area include seabirds, marine mammals (cetaceans and seals), and migratory fish. The potential for disturbance or displacement was assessed through the SISAA, NIS, and Annex IV Risk Assessment.	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 4, as they avoid or minimise disturbance to highly mobile species and apply robust mitigation to ensure no significant displacement occurs.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
		In all cases, the project applies the mitigation hierarchy and all assessments conclude that there will be no significant disturbance to or displacement of highly mobile species.	
Protected Marine Sites	Protected Marine Sites Policy 1: Proposals must demonstrate that they can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Where adverse effects from proposals remain following mitigation, in line with Habitats Directive Article 6(3), consent for the proposals cannot be granted unless the prerequisites set by Article 6(4)	The SI works were subject to detailed assessment through the SISAA and NIS. These assessments considered potential impacts on relevant Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects. The assessments demonstrate that the SI works can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of any SAC or SPA, satisfying the requirements of Article 6(3).	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 1. Following embedded mitigation, no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites will occur, ensuring compliance with the Habitats Directive.
	Protected Marine Sites Policy 2: Proposals supporting the objectives of protected marine sites should be supported and: - be informed by appropriate guidance - must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites.	The SI works were subject to detailed assessment through the SISAA and NIS. These assessments considered potential impacts on relevant SACs and SPAs, both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects. The assessments demonstrate that the SI works can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of any SAC or SPA and thus support the	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 2, as they are informed by statutory guidance and legal requirements, and support the objectives of designated sites.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
		conservation objectives of designated SACs and SPAs. All assessments are in accordance with statutory advice, legal requirements, and best available guidance.	
	Protected Marine Sites Policy 3: Proposals that enhance a protected marine site's ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the protected site, should be supported and: • be informed by appropriate guidance • must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites.	The SI works are temporary, small-scale and designed to collect high-quality baseline data, which is essential to inform future offshore renewable energy development. There is no direct overlap with any designated site, and the SISAA and NIS confirm that no adverse effects on site integrity will occur. This ensures that ecological functions underpinning resilience (e.g. bird populations, marine mammal habitat use) remain intact. Furthermore, by improving scientific understanding of species distributions, habitats, and site sensitivities, the surveys contribute directly to strategic planning that will strengthen the ability of SACs and SPAs to adapt to climate change pressures.	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 3, as they safeguard existing ecological resilience and provide data that may enhance future adaptive management of SACs and SPAs in the face of climate change.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	Protected Marine Sites Policy 4: Until the ecological coherence of the network of protected marine sites is examined and understood, proposals should identify, by review of best available evidence (including consultation with the competent authority with responsibility for designating such areas as required), the features, under consideration at the time the application is made, that may be required to develop and further establish the network. Based upon identified features that may be required to develop and further establish the network, proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant impacts on features that may be required to develop and further establish the network, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	The SI works were subject to detailed assessment through the SISAA and NIS. These assessments considered potential impacts on relevant SACs and SPAs, both alone and in-combination with other plans or projects. The assessments demonstrate that the SI works can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of any SAC or SPA and thus support the conservation objectives of designated SACs and SPAs. All assessments are in accordance with statutory advice, legal requirements, and best available guidance. By adopting a precautionary approach and implementing robust mitigation, the SI works protect the ecological features required to support and further establish the coherence of the marine protected sites network.	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 4, as they avoid significant adverse impacts on features important to the development and coherence of the protected sites network.
Non-Indigenous Species	Non-indigenous Species Policy 1: Reducing the risk of the introduction and / or spread of non-indigenous species is a requirement of all	The SI works involve the temporary use of survey vessels and deployment of limited geotechnical and ecological sampling equipment. While these	The SI works are consistent with Non-Indigenous Species Policy 1. Embedded vessel and equipment

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	proposals. Proposals must demonstrate a risk management approach to prevent the introduction of and / or spread of non-indigenous species, particularly when: a) moving equipment, boats or livestock (for example fish or shellfish) from one water body to another, b) introducing structures suitable for settlement of non-indigenous species, or the spread of non-indigenous species known to exist in the area of the proposal.	activities could theoretically pose a risk of introducing or spreading non-indigenous species, robust risk management measures are embedded into SI design: All survey vessels will comply with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) and MARPOL Annex V requirements. Hull-fouling management procedures will be applied to minimise transfer risk between water bodies. All equipment deployed will be cleaned and inspected prior to mobilisation to prevent contamination and transfer of non-indigenous species. Together, these measures demonstrate a clear risk management approach that avoids and minimises the potential for non-indigenous species introduction or spread.	biosecurity measures ensure that risks of introducing or spreading non-indigenous species are effectively managed.
Water Quality	Water Quality Policy 1: Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts upon water quality, including upon habitats and species beneficial to water quality, must demonstrate	The proposed SI works involve short-term, small-scale intrusive and non-intrusive survey activities (e.g. grab sampling, boreholes, vessel-based operations) with potential for temporary, localised effects on water quality through increased turbidity, sediment suspension, or accidental release of	The SI works are consistent with Water Quality Policy 1. Effects are temporary and reversible, and with embedded mitigation and international compliance measures, no significant

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts.	contaminants. Embedded mitigation in the form of adoption of best-practice construction vessel protocols, adherence to MARPOL Annex I and V requirements, pollution-prevention measures, and rapid response procedures for accidental spillages will minimise impacts. The WFD Assessment concludes that the SI works will not cause deterioration in water body status. No changes to hydromorphology, water quality, or ecological potential are predicted, and the overall outcome is no effect. These measures ensure that significant adverse effects on water quality, including on habitats and species beneficial to water quality, are avoided or minimised.	adverse impacts on water quality will occur.
	Water Quality Policy 2: Proposals delivering improvements to water quality, or enhancing habitats and species, which can be of benefit to water quality, should be supported.	The proposed SI works are designed to be temporary, small-scale, and primarily data-gathering in nature. While they do not directly deliver improvements to water quality, embedded mitigation ensures no deterioration occurs. Indirectly, the surveys contribute to longer-term understanding of the marine environment and associated management by providing high-quality baseline data that will inform the design and consenting of offshore renewable energy projects.	The SI works are consistent with Water Quality Policy 2. Although they do not directly enhance water quality, they enable informed decision-making that supports the wider objectives of the NMPF.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity	Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1: Proposals that incorporate measures to support the resilience of marine habitats will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts on marine, particularly deep sea, habitats must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats must set out the reasons for proceeding.	The proposed SI works will involve limited, temporary seabed disturbance from geotechnical sampling, anchor placement, and equipment deployment. These activities are small-scale, highly localised, and reversible, meaning no long-term loss of habitat or function is anticipated. Compliance with this policy has been embedded through SI design and mitigation. The SISA and NIS confirm there will not be any significant adverse impacts on marine habitats from the proposed work. These assessments demonstrate that the SI works avoid significant adverse impacts on seabed habitats and maintain resilience in line with NMPF requirements.	The SI works are consistent with Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1. Temporary seabed disturbance is localised, reversible, and fully mitigated, ensuring no significant adverse impacts on marine habitat
	Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2: Proposals, including those that increase access to the maritime area, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid,	The SI works will temporarily increase access to the maritime area through vessel presence, deployment of survey equipment, and limited sampling activities. These activities have been designed and sequenced to avoid sensitive features where	The SI works are consistent with Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2. Activities are small-scale, temporary, and reversible, with embedded mitigation ensuring no significant

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	b) minimise, or c) mitigate adverse impacts on important habitats and species.	possible, minimise disturbance, and apply mitigation where necessary. Overall, the SI works have been designed and will be managed to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts on important habitats and species, consistent with the policy hierarchy.	adverse impacts on important habitats or species.
	Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3: Proposals that protect, maintain, restore and enhance coastal habitats for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must take account of the space required for coastal habitats, for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, and demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate for net loss of coastal habitat	The SI works will not directly affect coastal habitats, as all activities are limited to offshore geophysical, geotechnical, and ecological surveys. No intertidal or shoreline works are proposed within designated coastal areas, and survey design explicitly avoids sensitive habitats. The SI works avoid impacts on coastal habitats by design, minimise potential indirect effects through embedded mitigation, and therefore comply with the requirement to protect and maintain ecosystem functioning and services.	The SI works are consistent with Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3. Coastal habitats will not be disturbed, and embedded mitigation ensures protection of ecosystem functioning and services.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
Marine Litter	Marine Litter Policy 1: Proposals that facilitate waste re-use or recycling, or that reduce marine and coastal litter will be supported, where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals that could potentially increase the amount of litter that is discharged into the maritime area, either intentionally or accidentally, must include measures (such as development of a waste management plan) to, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate the litter. Demonstration of these measures must provide satisfactory evidence that the proposal is able to manage all waste without creation of litter.	The SI works are temporary, small-scale, and will not generate significant volumes of waste. However, standard controls are embedded to ensure no risk of marine litter introduction. All vessels will operate under project-specific waste management procedures in line with MARPOL Annex V. This includes segregation, storage, and disposal of waste at licensed onshore facilities. Collectively, these measures demonstrate that the project avoids and minimises any potential litter generation, with full mitigation secured through waste management protocols.	The SI works are consistent with Marine Litter Policy 1. With embedded vessel waste management measures, there will be no risk of litter discharge to the marine environment.
Underwater Noise	Underwater Noise Policy 1: Proposals must take account of spatial distribution, temporal extent, and levels of impulsive and / or continuous sound (underwater noise) that may be generated and the potential for significant adverse impacts on marine fauna. Where the potential for significant impact on marine fauna from underwater	The SI works will generate short-term underwater noise from geophysical and geotechnical survey equipment, with potential to affect marine mammals and fish. A precautionary, risk-based approach has been applied, informed by statutory assessments and embedded mitigation measures.	The SI works are consistent with Underwater Noise Policy 1. With mitigation in place, there will be no significant adverse effects on marine fauna from underwater noise.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	noise is identified, a Noise Assessment Statement must be prepared by the proposer of development. The findings of the Noise Assessment Statement should demonstrably inform determination(s) related to the activity proposed and the carrying out of the activity itself. The content of the Noise Assessment Statement should be relevant to the particular circumstances and must include: • Demonstration of compliance with applicable legal requirements, such as necessary assessment of proposals likely to have underwater noise implications, including but not limited to: – Appropriate Assessment (AA); – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); – Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); – Specific response to ‘strict protection’ requirements of Article 12 of the Habitats Directive in relation to certain species listed in Annex IV of the Directive; and – Species protected under the Wildlife Acts.	The SISAA and NIS confirm there will be no adverse effect on site integrity to any designated site from underwater noise. The Annex IV RA provides a detailed evaluation of underwater noise risks to Annex IV species (cetaceans, seals, turtles). Findings confirm: • No potential for lethal effects. • Risk of injury is negligible after mitigation. • Disturbance potential is trivial. The Annex IV RA demonstrates that the SI works fully meet the Article 12 requirements of the Habitats Directive.	

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	- An assessment of the potential impact of the development or use on the affected species in terms of environmental sustainability; - Demonstration that significant adverse impacts on marine fauna resulting from underwater noise will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements be: - avoided, - minimised, or - mitigated, or - if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine fauna, the reasons for proceeding must be set out. This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessments require consideration of underwater noise.		
Air Quality	Air Quality Policy 1: Proposals that support a reduction in air pollution should be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of	The SI works will involve temporary use of survey vessels and associated equipment, which are the only sources of emissions to air. These emissions are limited in scale, short-term, and typical of standard vessel operations already occurring within the maritime area.	The SI works are consistent with Air Quality Policy 1. They will not cause a material increase in air pollution and are aligned with the policy objective of supporting reductions in emissions.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	this NMPF. Proposals must demonstrate consideration of their contribution to air pollution, both direct and cumulative.	Vessels will comply with MARPOL Annex VI requirements, including use of low-sulphur fuels, and follow industry best practice procedures to reduce unnecessary idling and fuel consumption. The contribution of the SI works to regional or national air pollution is therefore insignificant, and the project indirectly supports future reductions in air pollution by enabling renewable energy development.	
	Air Quality Policy 2: Where proposals are likely to result in or facilitate an increase in air pollution, proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference in accordance with legal requirements and standards: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate air pollution.	The only potential source of air pollution from the SI works is emissions associated with the operation of survey vessels. These are unavoidable for marine data collection but will be minimised and mitigated as follows: SI works have been scoped to the minimum area and duration necessary to collect the required SI data, avoiding unnecessary vessel time at sea. All vessels will comply with MARPOL Annex VI requirements, including the use of low-sulphur fuel and well-maintained engines to minimise emissions. Operational procedures include reducing vessel idling, efficient survey planning to avoid redundant transects, and monitoring compliance.	The SI works are consistent with Air Quality Policy 2. Air emissions are temporary, low in magnitude, and effectively minimised and mitigated in line with policy requirements.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
Climate Change	Climate Change Policy 1: Proposals should demonstrate how they: • avoid contribution to adverse changes to physical features of the coast; • enhance, restore or recreate habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem services where possible. Where potential significant adverse impacts upon habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem services are identified, these must be in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoided, b) minimised, c) mitigated, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, the reasons for proceeding must be set out. This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessments are required.	The proposed SI works are short-term, small-scale survey activities that will not alter physical coastal features or habitats that provide flood defence or carbon sequestration services (e.g. saltmarsh, seagrass, intertidal flats). No infrastructure will be installed, and all equipment will be temporary and fully removed on completion.	The SI works are consistent with Climate Change Policy 1. They avoid adverse impacts on coastal features and habitats that support flood defence or carbon sequestration.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	Climate Change Policy 2: For the lifetime of the proposal, the following climate change matters must be demonstrated: • estimation of likely generation of greenhouse gas emissions, both direct and indirect; • measures to support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions where possible; • likely impact of climate change effects upon the proposal from factors including but not limited to: sea level rise, ocean acidification, changing weather patterns; • measures incorporated to enable adaptation climate change effects; • likely impact upon climate change adaptation measures adopted in the coastal area relevant to the proposal and/or adaptation measures adopted by adjacent activities; • where likely impact upon climate change adaptation measures in the coastal area relevant to the proposal and/or adaptation measures adopted by adjacent activities is identified, these impacts must be in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements:	The proposed SI works are short-term, small-scale, and limited to data-gathering activities. They will not result in operational greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction or generation, nor will they introduce permanent infrastructure vulnerable to climate change risks such as sea level rise or ocean acidification. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: • Emissions are limited to vessel use during survey campaigns. • Efficient vessel routing and modern survey equipment reduce fuel use. • Activities are temporary and will not create ongoing emissions sources. Support for National Climate Objectives: • The SI works provide baseline data essential for the delivery of offshore renewable energy projects. • These projects contribute to Ireland's legally binding 2030 targets and the 2050 National Climate Objective of a climate-neutral economy. Adaptation to Climate Change Effects: • No permanent infrastructure is introduced; therefore, risks from sea level rise, ocean acidification, or weather changes are not applicable	The SI works are consistent with Climate Change Policy 2. Emissions are minimal and temporary, climate change risks do not affect the works, and the surveys directly support Ireland's offshore renewable energy programme, which underpins long-term climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	a) avoided, b) minimised, c) mitigated, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, the reasons for proceeding must be set out	to the SI works themselves. • Survey design accounts for weather-related operational constraints (e.g. scheduling outside of severe weather windows, adherence to health and safety protocols). Impact on Coastal Adaptation Measures: • No overlap with existing coastal climate adaptation schemes (e.g. managed realignment, flood defence). • Activities occur offshore and do not interact with habitats providing climate regulation services.	

3. Economic – Thriving Maritime Economy Policies

The NMPF identifies the importance of a thriving maritime economy to Ireland's overall marine planning framework. The economic objectives are designed to ensure that new maritime activities can co-exist with existing uses and that supporting infrastructure is planned and managed in a sustainable way. These policies are particularly relevant to site SI works, which interact with other legitimate sea users (e.g., fishing, navigation, recreation) and may require temporary use of infrastructure or maritime space.

For the Tonn Nua SI works, potential economic interactions have been considered within the SISAA, NIS, and Annex IV Risk Assessment, alongside fisheries liaison, navigation safety measures, and embedded mitigation described in Section 5 of the Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations document.

The following table (Table 3-1) sets out the relevant economic policies, structured under their high-level objectives. For each policy, a summary of the requirement is provided, alongside a compliance statement referencing the relevant assessment or mitigation, and a conclusion on consistency with the NMPF.

Table 3-1: Relevant economic policies structured under their high-level objectives

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
Co-Existence	Co-existence Policy 1: Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate. If proposals cannot avoid significant adverse impacts (including displacement) on other activities they must, in order of preference: a) minimise significant adverse impacts, b) mitigate significant adverse impacts, or	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and designed to gather baseline data to inform future offshore renewable energy development. As such, they have limited spatial and temporal overlap with other marine users. Fisheries and navigation: Embedded measures, including advance Notice to Mariners, and defined survey corridors, will minimise interference with fishing vessels and shipping activity. Any residual risk of	The SI works are consistent with Co-existence Policy 1. Potential interactions with other marine users are temporary, minimal, and effectively managed through standard survey protocols.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	c) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding	displacement is localised, short-term, and reversible. Recreation and tourism: Surveys are offshore and temporary; no material interaction with recreational users or tourism infrastructure is anticipated. Other marine activities: No aquaculture sites, port operations, or energy infrastructure overlap with the survey area. Together, these measures ensure that the works will not result in significant displacement or conflict with other marine users	
Infrastructure	Infrastructure Policy 1: Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported. Proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries should be supported.	The SI works rely on existing port and harbour facilities to support mobilisation and demobilisation of survey vessels. No new land-based infrastructure is required, and the works will not compromise the availability or use of existing infrastructure by other sectors. By facilitating the collection of essential baseline data, the SI works indirectly support the diversification and regeneration of marine industries through the future development of offshore renewable energy.	The SI works are consistent with Infrastructure Policy 1, as they utilise existing infrastructure efficiently and contribute to the long-term development of the offshore renewable sector.

4. Social – Engagement with the Sea Policies

The NMPF emphasises the importance of safeguarding the social and cultural value of Ireland’s maritime area. Social objectives are designed to ensure that communities, heritage, and wider society benefit from the sustainable use of marine resources. These policies cover issues such as public access, employment, cultural heritage, rural and island communities, seascape and landscape, social benefits, and transboundary considerations.

For the Tonn Nua SI works, the social dimension is primarily relevant to temporary interactions with coastal communities, fishing activity, navigation, and heritage assets. The works are of short duration and non-intrusive in nature, and with the application of embedded mitigation (e.g., fisheries liaison, Notices to Mariners, navigational safety measures, and pollution prevention protocols), no significant adverse social or cultural effects are anticipated.

The following table (Table 4-1) sets out the relevant social policies, structured under their high-level objectives. For each policy, a summary of the requirement is provided, alongside a compliance statement referencing the relevant assessment or mitigation, and a conclusion on consistency with the NMPF.

Table 4-1: Relevant social policies structured under their high-level objectives

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
Access	Access Policy 1: Proposals, including in relation to tourism and recreation, should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on public access.	The proposed SI works are temporary, offshore survey activities that will not restrict or prevent public access to the foreshore, coastal paths, or marine areas used for tourism and recreation. Survey vessels will operate under maritime navigation rules (COLREGs), ensuring safe co-existence with other marine users. No exclusion zones or access restrictions beyond standard vessel safety perimeters are required.	The works are consistent with Access Policy 1. No significant adverse impacts on public access are predicted, and compliance with navigation safety requirements ensures co-existence with other sea users.
	Access Policy 2: Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the maritime	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale marine surveys with no onshore infrastructure or facilities. As such, they do not provide new	Not directly applicable. While the SI works will not themselves enhance public access, they do not restrict it

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	area, and that consider the future provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, should be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.	opportunities for enhanced or inclusive public access to the maritime area. However, the works will indirectly support the future development of offshore renewable energy, which is consistent with national policy to deliver long-term social and economic benefits, including potential recreational co-benefits from sustainable marine development.	and remain consistent with the overarching objectives of the NMPF.
Employment	Employment Policy 1: Proposals should demonstrate contribution to a net increase in marine related employment in Ireland, particularly where the proposals are: - in line with the skills available in Irish coastal communities adjacent to the maritime area, - improve the sustainable use of natural resources, - diversify skills to enable employment in emerging industries.	The proposed SI works will generate short-term, specialised employment opportunities within the marine survey sector, including vessel operations, ecological monitoring, and technical data analysis. While the employment generated is temporary, it contributes to sustaining marine-related jobs and diversifies expertise in offshore renewable energy — an emerging industry aligned with Ireland's climate and energy transition objectives. The works also build capacity within Irish supply chains and coastal communities by creating demand for local services such as ports and logistics.	The SI works are consistent with Employment Policy 1 by supporting marine-related employment and contributing to the skills base required for Ireland's offshore renewable energy sector, even though the direct employment benefits are temporary and project-specific.
Heritage Assets	Heritage Assets Policy 1: Proposals that demonstrate they will contribute to enhancing the significance of heritage assets will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and	The proposed SI works have the potential to interact with underwater cultural heritage, including wrecks or submerged archaeological features. A desk-based review and marine geophysical survey will be undertaken to identify any such assets. Embedded mitigation includes:	The SI works are consistent with Heritage Assets Policy 1, as embedded mitigation ensures avoidance of impacts on cultural heritage and provides opportunities to

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals unable to contribute to enhancing the significance of heritage assets will only be supported if they demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: • avoid • minimise or • mitigate harm to the significance of heritage assets and • if it is not possible, to mitigate harm, then the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the harm to the significance of the heritage assets. (see definition of 'Public Benefits' in the Glossary).	• Review of the National Monuments Service (NMS) database and known wreck records. • Implementation of 100m exclusion zones, applicable during intrusive surveys, around any confirmed or potential heritage assets identified during non-intrusive or desktop surveys. • Archaeological reporting in line with guidance from the NMS and National Museum of Ireland. These measures ensure that the significance of heritage assets is not adversely affected and that, where possible, information on cultural heritage is enhanced through survey data.	contribute positively to the knowledge base of Ireland's underwater heritage.
Rural Coastal and Island Communities	Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1: Proposals contributing to access, communications, energy self-sufficiency or sustainability of rural coastal and / or island communities should be supported. Proposals should ideally be inclusive of continual education, skills development and training in marine sectors, thus improving the sustainability, social benefits and economic resilience of rural and island communities.	The proposed SI works are temporary and investigative in nature and do not directly contribute to access, communications, or energy self-sufficiency for rural coastal and island communities. However, they are an essential preparatory step toward the development of offshore renewable energy projects, which will in the longer term:	Although the SI works do not directly engage with Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1, they are a necessary enabling activity for future offshore renewable development that is expected to contribute positively to coastal community resilience and sustainability.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
		- Support national renewable energy targets, indirectly contributing to energy security and sustainability in coastal communities. - Create opportunities for employment, training, and skills development in the offshore wind and marine services sectors, including potential benefits for local supply chains. While the SI works themselves do not deliver direct community benefits, they form part of a wider programme that is anticipated to generate positive outcomes for rural and island communities through increased economic resilience and marine-sector employment.	
Seascape and Landscape	Seascape and Landscape Policy 1: Proposals should demonstrate how the likely significant impacts of a development on the seascape and landscape of an area have been considered. Proposals will only be supported if they demonstrate that they, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on the seascape and landscape of the area	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and primarily involve survey vessels and limited geophysical/ geotechnical sampling activities. No permanent above-water structures are required, and visual presence in the seascape is restricted to standard vessel operations of short duration. The transient presence of vessels will not materially alter seascape character, given the scale and duration of activities.	The SI works are fully consistent with Seascape and Landscape Policy 1, as they will not give rise to significant adverse impacts on seascape or landscape character.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
	d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding. This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments.	No terrestrial works are proposed (other than minor temporary logistical access at ports), and therefore there are no expected impacts on coastal landscapes.	
Social Benefits	Social Benefits Policy 1: Proposals that enhance or promote social benefits should be supported. Proposals unable to enhance or promote social benefits should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: • minimise or • mitigate significant adverse impacts which result in the displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities that generate social benefits	The proposed SI works are temporary and small-scale, with no permanent structures or exclusion zones. They are designed solely to collect baseline environmental and geophysical data. The works indirectly support the advancement of offshore renewable energy development, which will deliver long-term social benefits through decarbonisation and energy security.	The SI works are consistent with Social Benefits Policy 1. They do not adversely impact existing socially beneficial activities and will contribute indirectly to future social benefits associated with renewable energy development.
	Social Benefits Policy 2: Proposals that increase the understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment (including its natural, historic, and social value), or that promote conservation management and increased education and skills, should be supported.	The proposed SI works are technical, small-scale surveys intended to inform future offshore renewable energy development. While the works themselves are not directly designed to promote public enjoyment of the marine environment, they do: Increase understanding: Generate baseline environmental, ecological, and geophysical data that improves knowledge of the	The SI works are consistent with Social Benefits Policy 2. While not directly aimed at recreation or public engagement, they generate valuable environmental data, support conservation management, and contribute to marine sector skills development.

Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
		marine environment, supporting long-term conservation management and planning. Promote conservation management: The outputs from the SISAA, NIS, Annex IV RA, and WFD assessments may contribute to the evidence base used by regulators and stakeholders to protect marine biodiversity and habitats. Education and skills: The works involve the application of advanced survey techniques (geophysical, geotechnical, and ecological monitoring), supporting skill development within the Irish marine and offshore workforce.	
Transboundary	Transboundary Policy 1: Proposals that have transboundary impacts beyond the maritime area, on either the terrestrial environment or neighbouring international jurisdictions, must show evidence of consultation with the relevant public authorities, including terrestrial planning authorities and other country authorities. Proposals should consider transboundary impacts throughout the lifetime of the proposed activity.	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and localised within the Irish maritime area. The SISAA considered potential transboundary pathways for effects on mobile qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites in the UK and France (e.g. harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal). While potential Likely Significant Effects (LSE) were initially identified at screening, the NIS and Annex IV RA confirm that, with mitigation in place, there will be no adverse effect on site integrity or significant impacts to highly mobile species that range internationally.	The SI works are consistent with Transboundary Policy 1. No significant adverse transboundary effects are predicted, and consultation mechanisms exist through the regulatory process to address any potential cross-jurisdictional issues.

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Policy Grouping	Planning Policy	Compliance	Conclusion
		No transboundary effects on the terrestrial environment are anticipated given the marine-only nature of the SI works. Should transboundary consultation be required during the regulatory process, the Competent Authority (MARA) will engage with relevant authorities under established Article 6 consultation procedures.	

5. Sector-Specific Policies

The NMPF sets out a wide range of sectoral policies covering specific maritime activities, including aquaculture, fisheries, ports and shipping, energy, telecommunications, and others. Not all of these policies are relevant to the proposed Tonn Nua SI works. To ensure transparency, this section considers each sector in turn and identifies whether its policies are applicable.

For sectors that are not relevant to the proposed SI works, a short statement is provided to confirm non-applicability. For those sectors that are relevant, a compliance assessment has been undertaken with reference to the supporting environmental reports (e.g. SISAA, NIS, Annex IV RA, WFD Assessment) and the embedded mitigation measures outlined in Section 5 of the Attachment 4.0 Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations document.

Table 5-1 sets out the assessment. To provide clarity, an additional column has been included (“Relevant to Proposed Development?”), distinguishing policies of direct relevance from those that are not applicable at the SI stage.

Table 5-1: Assessment of maritime activities and whether their policies are applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
Aquaculture	Aquaculture Policy 1: Proposals for sustainable development of aquaculture that: - demonstrate use of innovative approaches, and / or - contribute to diversification of species being grown in a given locality, particularly proposals applying a multi-trophic approach, and / or	No	The aquaculture policies are not relevant to the proposed development as the project relates to SI with no aquaculture interaction.	Not applicable.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	enhances resilience to the effects of climate change should be supported			
	Aquaculture Policy 2: Non-aquaculture proposals in aquaculture production areas must demonstrate consideration of, and compatibility with, aquaculture production. Where compatibility is not possible, proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on aquaculture If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts upon aquaculture, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding	No	The aquaculture policies are not relevant to the proposed development as the project relates to SI with no aquaculture interaction.	Not applicable.
	Aquaculture Policy 3: Land-based coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of aquaculture should be supported, in accordance with any legal requirements	No	The aquaculture policies are not relevant to the proposed development as the project relates to offshore SI with no aquaculture interaction.	Not applicable.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	and provided environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes are fully met.			
Defence and Security	Defence and Security Policy 1: Any proposal that has the potential to interfere with the performance by the Defence Forces of their security and non-security related tasks must be subject to consultation with the Defence Organisation. This includes potential interference with: • Safety of navigation and access to naval facilities; • Firing, test or exercise areas; • Communication, and surveillance systems; • Fishery protection functions. Proposals should only be supported where, having consulted with the Defence Organisation, they are satisfied that it will not result in unacceptable interference with the performance by the Defence Forces of their security and non-security related tasks.	No	Defence and security policies are not relevant to the proposed SI works, which will not affect naval operations, military zones, or defence infrastructure.	Not applicable.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Any proposal will be subject to the relevant Environmental Assessments, as set out in the introduction to this NMPF			
Natural Gas Storage	Natural Gas Storage Policy 1: Subject to assessments required for the protection of the environment, and only where in keeping with the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems (which is being carried out by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications), natural gas storage proposals should be supported.	No	The SI works do not involve carbon capture, storage, or hydrogen production and therefore these policies are not relevant.	Not applicable
Energy- Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)	ORE Policy 1: Proposals that assist the State in meeting the Government's offshore renewable energy targets, including the target of achieving 5GW of capacity in offshore wind by 2030 and proposals that maximise the long-term shift from the use of fossil fuels to renewable electricity energy, in line with decarbonisation targets, should be supported. All proposals will be rigorously assessed to ensure compliance with environmental standards and seek to	Yes	The proposed SI works are directly relevant to Ireland's ORE policy framework. They provide essential baseline data to inform the design, consenting, and delivery of offshore wind infrastructure, supporting the Government's 2030 target of 5GW installed capacity. Environmental compliance has been embedded throughout SI design and delivery: SISAA & NIS:	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 1. They contribute directly to national renewable energy targets while ensuring compliance with environmental standards and minimising impacts on the marine environment and other users.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	minimise impacts on the marine environment, marine ecology and other maritime users.		Screening and NIS confirm no adverse effects on site integrity. Annex IV RA: Confirms negligible risk of injury or disturbance to Annex IV species with mitigation. WFD: The WFD Assessment concludes that the SI works will not cause deterioration in water body status. No changes to hydromorphology, water quality, or ecological potential are predicted, and the overall outcome is no effect.	
	ORE Policy 2: Proposals must be consistent with national policy, including the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP) and its successor. Relevant Projects designated pursuant to the Transition Protocol and those projects that can objectively enable delivery on the Government's 2030 targets will be prioritised for assessment under the new consenting regime. Into the future, areas designated for offshore energy	Yes	The proposed SI works are consistent with national offshore renewable energy policy as articulated in the OREDPP and its successor frameworks. The Tonn Nua project is being progressed in line with the Transition Protocol, providing early-stage site data necessary to enable delivery of the Government's 2030 offshore wind target of 5 GW. The SI surveys will inform feasibility, design, and impact assessment of a future	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 2. They are fully aligned with the OREDPP, the Transition Protocol, and the planned consenting regime under the MAP Act, supporting delivery of national offshore wind objectives.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	development, under the Designated Marine Area Plan process set out in the Maritime Area Planning Bill, will underpin a plan-led approach to consenting (or development of our marine resources).		offshore wind development within a plan-led consenting framework under the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act. All supporting environmental assessments (SISAA, NIS, Annex IV RA, and WFD Assessment) confirm that the temporary and localised surveys can proceed without significant adverse environmental effects. Mitigation measures further ensure alignment with the policy requirement to minimise impacts on the marine environment and other maritime users.	
	ORE Policy 3: Any non- ORE proposals that are in or could affect sites held under a permission or that are subject to an ongoing permitting or consenting process for renewable energy generation (wind, wave or tidal should demonstrate that they will order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate	No	This policy applies specifically to non-ORE proposals that may overlap with or affect offshore renewable energy sites. The Tonn Nua project is an ORE proposal (offshore wind) and therefore does not fall within the scope of this policy.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	d) adverse impacts, or e) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding. Applicants for non-ORE proposals in or affecting ORE sites should engage ORE developers in consultation during pre-application processes as appropriate.			
	ORE Policy 4: Decisions on ORE developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.	Yes	The SI works are limited in duration and spatial footprint and do not displace or constrain other activities of national importance (e.g., shipping, fishing, defence, aquaculture). The site selection process in the SC-DMAP and embedded mitigation measures ensure that potential overlaps with other marine users are minimised. Consultation with relevant stakeholders will be ongoing as part of the broader consenting process for offshore renewable energy development.	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 4 as they do not significantly impact the space required for other nationally important marine activities.
	ORE Policy 5: Proposals for activity that may adversely impact ORE test projects by virtue of being within or adjacent to ORE test sites, or	No	The SI works are not located within, adjacent to, or overlapping with any designated ORE test sites, nor do they fall between a test site and its associated landfall. As such, there is no potential for	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	between site and landfall of ORE test projects that may adversely impact ORE test site projects, should demonstrate that they will in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate adverse impacts		adverse interaction with ORE test projects. Furthermore, the proposed location of the work has been specifically designated as an OWF site in the SC-DMAP	
	ORE Policy 6: Proposals for infrastructure enabling local use of excess energy generated from emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) should be supported.	No	The SI works are limited to temporary survey activities and do not involve the development of infrastructure for local energy use or distribution of excess energy from emerging marine technologies.	Not applicable
	ORE Policy 7: Where potential for ports to contribute to ORE is identified, plans and policies related to this port must encourage development in such a way as to facilitate ORE and related supply chain activity.	No	The SI works are limited to offshore geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological surveys. They do not involve port infrastructure development or supply chain facilities.	Not applicable
	ORE Policy 8: Proposals for ORE must demonstrate consideration of existing cables passing through or adjacent to areas for development, making sure ability to repair and carry out cable-related remedial work is not significantly compromised. This consideration should be included as part of	Yes	The proposed SI works include geophysical and geotechnical surveys designed to gather baseline data. Survey design explicitly accounts for known existing subsea cables and there is no known existing subsea cables within the Tonn Nua site.. Cable awareness procedures, consultation with charted data, and	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 8. Existing subsea cables will not be adversely affected, and access for inspection, repair, and maintenance will remain fully protected.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	statutory environmental assessments where such assessments are required.		embedded mitigation (e.g. exclusion buffers during intrusive sampling if required) will ensure no risk of compromising cable function or repair capacity.	
	ORE Policy 9: A permission for ORE must be informed by inclusion of a visualisation assessment that supports conditions on any development in relation to design and layout. Where a development consent is applied for in an area already subject to permission, proposals must include a visualisation assessment to inform design and layout. Visualisation assessments should demonstrate consultation with communities that may be able to view the proposal, in addition to any other ORE development, which had received consent to proceed at a given site at the time the consent application is made, with the aim of minimising impact. Visualisation assessments will be informed by specific emerging guidelines (detailed in the actions set out in Annexes to this NMPF). Prior to specific guidelines being available, policy	No	The proposed SI works are temporary in nature and do not involve construction or operation of visible offshore infrastructure such as turbines, substations, or platforms. Consequently, no visualisation assessment is required.	ORE Policy 9 is not applicable to the proposed SI works, as no permanent or visually intrusive infrastructure is proposed.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	and best practice relating to visualisation assessment should be used. This consideration must be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessment is required.			
	ORE Policy 10: Opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure is critical to and supports development of ORE should be prioritised in plans and policies, where possible.	No	The proposed SI works are offshore-only and temporary, involving geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological surveys. They do not include development, upgrading, or use of land-based or coastal infrastructure.	ORE Policy 10 is not applicable to the proposed SI works, as no land-based or coastal infrastructure is included.
	ORE Policy 11: Where appropriate, proposals that enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains will be supported.	No	The proposed SI works are limited to baseline offshore survey activities (geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological). They do not involve installation, demonstration, or supply chain development for emerging technologies such as wave, tidal, or floating wind at this stage. The works provide data that may inform future offshore renewable development but do not themselves enable emerging technology provision.	ORE Policy 11 is not applicable to the proposed SI works, as no emerging renewable technology or supply chain activity is included.
Energy- Petroleum	Petroleum Policy 1: Proposals in areas where petroleum activities or petroleum production	No	Petroleum exploration and production policies are not relevant to the proposed SI works.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	infrastructure have already been approved, or where applications consistent with the Government's prohibition on new exploration activity are under consideration, should only be authorised where compatibility with the existing, authorised or proposed activity can be satisfactorily demonstrated or the proposal is clearly of strategic or national importance. Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through: a) avoiding, or b) minimising, or c) mitigating adverse impacts. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.			
	Petroleum Policy 2: Proposals potentially affecting future potential activity in areas (blocks) subject to existing petroleum authorisations should avoid sterilisation of that area for future petroleum-related activity consistent with	No	Petroleum exploration and production policies are not relevant to the proposed SI works.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Government policy, and demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid, or b) minimise, or c) mitigate potential adverse impacts on those activities. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.			
Energy- Transmission	Transmission Policy 1: Subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, electricity transmission proposals that maintain or improve the security and diversity of Ireland's energy supply should be supported, including interconnectors, relevant EU Projects of Common Interest (PCIs), and projects in receipt of relevant alternative EU priority energy infrastructure classification provided for by the EU TEN-E regulations. This should include development of the offshore transmission system and connection with the onshore transmission system necessary to meet the Government's target of 5 GW of	No	The proposed SI works are confined to site investigations (geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological surveys) to inform future offshore renewable energy development. They do not involve the design or installation of offshore or onshore transmission infrastructure, nor interconnectors or hybrid projects.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	offshore renewables by 2030, as well as development of associated transmission system / interconnector infrastructure for hybrid offshore projects, connecting offshore renewable energy installations with Ireland and one or more other electricity transmission systems.			
	Transmission Policy 2: Proposals for activities that are in or could affect energy transmission proposals in sites held under a permission or that are subject to an ongoing permitting or consenting process for energy transmission proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works are limited to temporary survey activities within the marine environment to inform offshore renewable energy development. They will not interact with, or adversely affect, existing or permitted energy transmission proposals. No transmission infrastructure is proposed as part of the SI works.	Not applicable
	Transmission Policy 3: Decisions on transmission developments should be informed by consideration of	No	The proposed SI works do not involve transmission development.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.			
	Transmission Policy 4: Where possible, opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports energy transmission should be prioritised in plans and policies. Designation of land-based zones for the purposes of the co-ordination and integration with relevant Marine Plans must be considered, where appropriate.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve land-based or coastal transmission infrastructure. Activities are confined to marine survey operations, and no designation of land-based zones is required.	Not applicable
	Transmission Policy 5: Proposals for construction or operation activities within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines shall be avoided. If construction or operation activities are proposed to take place within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines, the views of Gas Networks Ireland in relation to how such activities could impact the pipelines shall be taken into account and either appropriate	No	The proposed SI works are not located within one nautical mile of the existing natural gas interconnector pipelines. Therefore, no interaction with this infrastructure is expected.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	mitigation measures put in place or the proposed activities altered. If construction or operation activities involve the crossing of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines by other pipelines or cables, the views of Gas Networks Ireland in relation to how such activities could impact the pipelines shall be taken into account and either appropriate mitigation measures be put in place or the proposed activities altered			
	Transmission Policy 6: Subject to required assessments for the protection of the environment, and only where in keeping with the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems (which is being carried out by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications), and not involving the importation of fracked gas, additional proposals for natural gas transmission/ import infrastructure should be supported	No	The proposed SI works are solely for offshore renewable energy development and do not involve natural gas transmission or import infrastructure. No elements of the project include or support natural gas systems, nor is there any link to fracked gas. As such, this policy is not relevant to the proposed development.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
Fisheries	Fisheries Policy 1: Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access for existing fishing activities, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise, or c) mitigate such impacts. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on fishing activity, the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal that outweigh the significant adverse impacts on existing fishing activity must be demonstrated.	'Yes	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale surveys that will not permanently exclude fishing vessels from the area. While survey vessels and equipment may create very localised, short-term restrictions, these are minimal in extent and duration. Engagement with fishers will be undertaken through Notice to Mariners and standard communication protocols to avoid conflict. No significant long-term impacts on access to fishing grounds are anticipated, and mitigation (e.g navigational safety measures) ensures impacts are avoided or minimised.	The SI works are consistent with Fisheries Policy 1. Any short-term interactions with fishing activity will be managed through established mitigation and communication measures, ensuring no significant adverse impacts.
	Fisheries Policy 2: Where significant impact upon fishing activity arising from any proposal is identified, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) should be prepared by the proposer of development or other maritime area use, in consultation with local fishing interests and other interests as appropriate. All efforts should be made to agree the FMMS with those	No	The proposed SI works are short-term survey activities and are not expected to give rise to significant impacts on fishing activity. Consequently, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) is not required at this stage. Nevertheless, the project will engage with local fishing interests through Notice to Mariners, pre-survey liaison, and real-time communication during operations to ensure	The SI works are consistent with Fisheries Policy 2. No significant impacts requiring an FMMS are anticipated, but established engagement protocols ensure compliance with the policy intent.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	interests. Those interests should also undertake to engage with the proposer and provide best available, transparent and accurate information and data in a timely manner to help complete the FMMS. The FMMS should be drawn up as part of readying a proposal prior to submission, with measures identified to be considered in finalising conditions of any authorisations granted. Development of the strategy should be coordinated with other relevant assessments such as EIA where possible. The content of the Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) should be relevant to the particular circumstances and could include: • An assessment of the potential impact of all stages of the development or other suggested use on the affected fishery or fisheries, both in socio-economic terms and in relation to environmental sustainability.		awareness and minimise potential disruption.	

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	This assessment should include consideration of any impact upon cultural identity within fishing communities, as well as identifying indirect / in-combination matters. • A recognition that the disruption to existing fishing opportunities / activity should be minimised as far as possible. • Demonstration of the public benefit(s) that outweigh the significant impacts identified. • Reasonable measures to mitigate any constraints which the proposed development or use may place on existing or proposed fishing activity. • Reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts on sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. impacts on spawning grounds or areas of fish or shellfish abundance) and any socio economic impacts.			

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	- Where it does not prove possible to agree the FMMS with all interests: - Divergent views and the reasons for any divergence of views between the parties should be fully explained in the FMMS, and dissenting views should be given a platform within the said FMMS to make their case. - Where divergent views are identified, relevant public authorities should be engaged to identify informal and formal steps designed to enable proposal(s) to progress.			
	Fisheries Policy 3: Proposals that enhance the sustainability of fisheries or support a sustainable fishing industry, including the industry's diversification and or enhanced resilience to the effects of climate change, should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.	No	The proposed SI works are temporary surveys that do not directly enhance the sustainability of fisheries or diversify the fishing industry. However no significant impact on fisheries is predicted.	While the SI works do not actively promote diversification or resilience of the fishing industry, they are consistent with Fisheries Policy 3 as they fully comply with environmental safeguards and do not adversely affect fisheries sustainability.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Fisheries Policy 4: Infrastructural proposals that enable access to fishing activities should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.	No	The proposed SI works do not include any infrastructure that enables access to fishing activities. The works are limited to short-term surveys and therefore have no direct relevance to this policy.	Not applicable
	Fisheries Policy 5: Proposals, regardless of the type of activity they relate to, enhancing essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migratory routes should be supported. If proposals cannot enhance essential fish habitat, they must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise, c) mitigate d) significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migration routes. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat,	Yes	The proposed SI works are temporary and small-scale, designed to collect geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological baseline data. They do not enhance essential fish habitat but have been assessed through the SISAA, NIS, and Annex IV RA to ensure that adverse impacts on spawning, nursery, and feeding grounds, as well as migratory routes, are avoided or minimised. Taken together, the assessments show that the SI works will not significantly adversely impact essential fish habitats or migratory routes, consistent with the requirements of Fisheries Policy 5.	The SI works comply with Fisheries Policy 5. While they do not actively enhance fish habitat, embedded mitigation ensures avoidance of significant adverse impacts on spawning, nursery, feeding grounds, and migratory routes.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.			
	Fisheries Policy 6: Ports and harbours should seek to engage with fishing and other relevant stakeholders at an early stage to discuss any changes in infrastructure that may affect them. Any port or harbour developments should take account of the needs of the dependent fishing fleets with a view to avoiding commercial harm where possible. Where a port or harbour has reached a minimum level of infrastructure required to support a viable fishing fleet, there should be a presumption in favour of maintaining this infrastructure, provided there is an ongoing requirement for it to remain in place and that it continues to be fit for purpose	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the construction, alteration, or use of ports or harbours and therefore have no direct effect on fishing infrastructure or facilities. Engagement with fishing stakeholders has been addressed separately in relation to potential spatial interactions with survey vessels (see Fisheries Policies 1–2), but no changes to port or harbour infrastructure are required for the execution of the works.	Not applicable
Mineral Exploration and Mining	Mineral Exploration and Mining Policy 1: Only proposals which are in line with national policy on mineral exploration and mining should be considered, provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards	No	The proposed SI works are unrelated to mineral exploration or mining activities. No extraction of mineral resources is proposed, and the works are limited to data collection to inform offshore renewable	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	contained within the mineral exploration and mining consent processes.		energy development. Accordingly, this policy does not apply.	
Ports Harbour and Shipping	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1: To provide for shipping activity and freedom of navigation the following factors will be taken into account when reaching decisions regarding development and use: • The extent to which the locational decision interferes with existing or planned routes used by shipping, access to ports and harbours and navigational safety. This includes commercial anchorages and approaches to ports as well as key littoral and offshore routes; • A mandatory Navigation Risk Assessment; • Where interference is likely: whether reasonable alternatives can be identified; and	Yes	The proposed SI works will involve temporary deployment of survey vessels within the maritime area. Activities are small-scale, mobile, and short in duration, and they will not introduce fixed infrastructure that could obstruct shipping or access to ports and harbours. Potential interaction with shipping routes is limited and temporary. Standard maritime procedures, including the issue of Notices to Mariners and adherence to International Maritime Organisation (IMO) standards, will ensure navigation safety and minimise interference.	The SI works are consistent with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1. With embedded navigational protocols and temporary mitigation, no significant interference with shipping or port operations will occur.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Where there are no reasonable alternatives: whether mitigation through measures adopted in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the International Maritime Organisation can be achieved at no significant cost to the shipping or ports sector.			
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2: Proposals that may have a significant impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts, and d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale surveys undertaken to inform future offshore renewable energy development. They do not involve the construction of permanent infrastructure and therefore will not restrict, displace, or prevent the current operation of ports or harbours. Future opportunities for port or harbour expansion are also unaffected, as the works are transient in nature and will not result in any long-term spatial occupation of the maritime area. Coordination with port authorities and publication of Notices to Mariners will ensure continued safe access and minimise disruption to vessel traffic.	The SI works are consistent with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2. No significant adverse impacts on existing port activities or opportunities for expansion will occur.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 3: Proposals that may have a significant impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities must demonstrate consideration of the National Ports Policy, the National Planning Framework, and relevant provisions related to the TEN-T network.	Yes	The proposed SI works are short-term and non-intrusive, involving vessel-based survey activity only. They do not require the use of port infrastructure beyond standard mobilisation and demobilisation of survey vessels, and therefore will not constrain existing port operations or opportunities for expansion. In line with the National Ports Policy, the works do not involve development that could interfere with the role of Tier 1 and Tier 2 ports or their associated hinterland connections. Similarly, no interaction with the National Planning Framework or TEN-T network arises, as no permanent infrastructure or long-term port use is proposed.	The SI works are consistent with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 3. They will not conflict with the objectives of the National Ports Policy, the National Planning Framework, or the TEN-T network.
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4: Proposals within ports limits, beside or in the vicinity of ports, and / or that impact upon the main routes of significance to a port, must demonstrate within applications that they have:	Yes	The proposed SI works will take place offshore and do not fall within port limits or the main navigational routes of significance to Irish ports. Activities are limited to temporary, vessel-based survey operations, which will use standard port facilities only for mobilisation and demobilisation.	The SI works are consistent with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4. They avoid significant impacts on port limits or main routes, with consultation and navigational safeguards addressed through the licensing process.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	• been informed by consultation at pre-application stage or earlier with the relevant port authority; • have carried out a navigational risk assessment including an analysis of maritime traffic in the area; and • have consulted Department of Transport, MSO and Commissioners of Irish Lights. Applicants must continue to engage parties identified in pre-application processes as appropriate during the decision-making process.		While no direct consultation with port authorities or Department of Transport stakeholders is considered necessary for the non-intrusive surveys, statutory procedures (Marine Usage Licence Application) ensure that relevant stakeholders, including the Marine Survey Office (MSO) and Commissioners of Irish Lights, are consulted as part of the application process.	
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 5: Proposals for capital dredging will be supported where it is necessary to safeguard national port capacity and Ireland's international connectivity, and where required compliance assessments associated with authorisations have been carried out and incorporated into subsequent competent authority decision(s).	No	The proposed SI works do not involve capital dredging and therefore do not give rise to issues of port capacity or international connectivity. No dredging activities are required to support survey vessel operations, and compliance assessments associated with dredging are not applicable.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 6: In areas of authorised dredging activity, including those subject to navigational dredging, proposals for other activities will not be supported unless they are compatible with the dredging activity.	No	The proposed SI works do not overlap with any authorised or navigational dredging activity. Survey operations are temporary, small-scale, and mobile in nature, and therefore present no compatibility issues with ongoing or future dredging activities.	Not applicable
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 7: Proposals for maintenance dredging activity will be supported where: - relevant decisions by competent authorities incorporate the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes, as well as necessary compliance assessments associated with authorisations, including in relation to the planning process; - there will be no significant adverse impact on marine activities or uses or the maritime area. Any potential adverse impact will be, in order of preference, avoided, minimised or mitigated;	No	The proposed SI works do not include, require, or overlap with any maintenance dredging activities. No dredged material will be generated, and therefore no disposal at sea or interaction with disposal sites will occur. As such, the requirements relating to environmental assessment, waste management, or the use of disposal sites are not applicable.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	- dredged waste is managed in accordance with internationally agreed hierarchy of waste management options for sea disposal; - if disposing of dredged material at sea, existing registered disposal sites are used, in preference to new disposal sites; and - where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.			
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 8: Proposals that cause significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal areas should not be supported. Proposals that cannot avoid such impact must, in order of preference: - minimise, - mitigate, or - if it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works will not generate dredged material or interact with licensed disposal areas. No activity is planned that could cause disturbance, loss of capacity, or conflict with existing licensed disposal activities. Therefore, the policy requirement to avoid, minimise, or mitigate impacts on licensed disposal areas does not apply in this case.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 9: Proposals for the management of dredged material must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy (see Glossary).	No	The proposed SI works do not involve dredging or the generation of dredged material; therefore, no management or disposal is required. As such, the requirement to demonstrate assessment of dredged material against the waste hierarchy does not apply.	Not applicable
	Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 10: Proposals identifying new dredge disposal sites which are subject to best practice and guidance from previous studies should be supported where: - competent authority decisions incorporate necessary compliance assessments associated with authorisations; and - they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must include an adequate characterisation study, be assessed against the waste hierarchy and must be informed by consultation with all relevant stakeholders.	No	The SI works do not involve the identification of new dredge disposal sites. No disposal of material at sea is proposed, and therefore no characterisation studies or stakeholder consultation on disposal sites are required.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
Safety at Sea	Safety at Sea Policy 1: Proposals for installation, operation, and decommissioning of Offshore Wind Farms must demonstrate how they will: • Minimise navigational risk between commercial vessels arising from an increase in the density of vessels in maritime space as a result of wind farm layout; and • Allow for recreational vessels within the Offshore Wind Farm (including consideration of turbine height) or redirect recreational vessels, minimising navigational risk arising between recreational and commercial vessels	Yes	The proposed SI works are temporary in nature and limited to survey operations; no turbines or permanent structures will be installed at this stage and will be subject to additional consents. Therefore, there is no increase in navigational risk associated with wind farm layout or turbine placement. Vessel movements during surveys will be limited, localised, and of short duration. Standard maritime safety procedures will be implemented, including: • Issuing Notices to Mariners prior to commencement of works. • Ensuring all vessels comply with COLREGS (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea). • Maintaining radio communication with nearby commercial and recreational vessels. These measures minimise any potential navigational risk for both commercial and recreational vessels.	The policy is not directly applicable to the SI works, as no wind farm infrastructure is being installed. However, navigation safety is fully addressed through embedded procedures, ensuring no significant impact on commercial or recreational vessel movements.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Safety at Sea Policy 2: Proposals for infrastructure that have the potential to significantly reduce under-keel clearance must demonstrate how they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The proposed SI works involve geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological surveys, which do not introduce any permanent or temporary infrastructure into the marine environment that could reduce under-keel clearance. The only in-water presence is survey vessels and small-scale sampling equipment deployed for short durations, all of which will be retrieved at the end of operations. As such, there is no potential for the works to significantly reduce navigational draft or obstruct vessel movement. Standard safety measures, including Notices to Mariners and communication protocols, will ensure safe navigation throughout the survey period.	No infrastructure will be installed that could permanently reduce under-keel clearance.
	Safety at Sea Policy 3: All proposals for temporary or permanent fixed infrastructure in the maritime area must ensure navigational marking in accordance with appropriate international standards and ensure inclusion in relevant charts where applicable.	No	The proposed SI works will not introduce any temporary or permanent fixed infrastructure into the maritime area. Activities are limited to survey vessels and the deployment of small-scale sampling equipment, which is fully retrieved after use. As no fixed infrastructure is involved, requirements for navigational marking or	The SI works is compliant with Safety at Sea Policy 3.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
			charting are not applicable, however it should be noted that any deployed sampling equipment (e.g. metocean equipment) will be marked and lighted in accordance with relevant standards.	
	Safety at Sea Policy 4: Establishing, changing or disestablishing Aids to Navigation (AtoN) must be sanctioned, in advance of works, by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the establishment, alteration, or removal of any Aids to Navigation (AtoN). Survey activities will be undertaken using standard marine vessels operating under existing navigational requirements. No new AtoN are required for the scope of works.	Not applicable
	Safety at Sea Policy 5: Proposals must identify their potential impact, if any, on Maritime Emergency Response (Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Casualty and Pollution Response) operations. Where a proposal may have a significant impact on these operations it must demonstrate how it will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or	Yes	The proposed SI works are short-term, small-scale survey activities that will be conducted using standard offshore vessels in compliance with maritime safety regulations. The works will not introduce permanent infrastructure, nor will they restrict access for Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Casualty, or Pollution Response operations. Communication protocols and adherence to Notice to Mariners procedures will ensure awareness of survey activities.	The SI works will not adversely impact Maritime Emergency Response operations. This policy is satisfied.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.			
Sport and Recreation	Sport and Recreation Policy 1: Proposals that promote sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation, while enhancing community health, wellbeing and quality of life, should be supported, provided that due consideration is given to environmental carrying capacities and tourism pressures.	No	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale survey activities with no recreational component. They do not promote or develop water-based sports or marine recreation, but nor do they create restrictions on such activities beyond very localised, short-term vessel presence during surveys. All survey operations will comply with maritime navigation requirements and be communicated through Notices to Mariners, ensuring continued safe access for recreational users.	Not applicable
	Sport and Recreation Policy 2: Proposals should demonstrate the following in relation to potential impact on recreation and tourism: The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact sports clubs and other recreational users, including the extent to which proposals may interfere with	Yes	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale and limited to marine geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and ecological surveys. These activities will not interfere with existing recreational facilities, infrastructure, or access to the shoreline. Vessel presence will be short-term and localised, with survey footprints moving as works progress. Access to and along the	The SI works are consistent with Sport and Recreation Policy 2. No significant adverse impacts on recreational users, facilities, access, or the natural environment are expected.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	facilities or other physical infrastructure. - The extent to which any proposal interferes with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety. - The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.		shore for recreational and tourism purposes will not be restricted, and navigational safety will be maintained through consultation with the relevant authorities and the issuing of Notices to Mariners.	
	Sport and Recreation Policy 3: Opportunities to promote inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation should be supported, where appropriate and at the applicable scale, with a focus on facilities for people with disabilities.	No	The proposed SI works are technical survey activities only and will not create facilities for water-based sports or marine recreation. As such, there is no direct opportunity to promote inclusive recreational development, including facilities for people with disabilities. Importantly, the works are temporary, small-scale, and will not result in restrictions to existing recreation or tourism use of the maritime area.	Not applicable
	Sport and Recreation Policy 4:	No	The proposed SI works are technical, small-scale survey activities with no direct role in improving access to marine or	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Proposals that improve access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities, and sport and recreation should be supported, where appropriate, at the applicable scale and aligned with existing development plans.		coastal resources for tourism, sport, or recreation. The works are temporary in nature, limited to data collection, and will not alter existing access arrangements or create new facilities.	
	Sport and Recreation Policy 5: Proposals should seek to enhance water safety through provision of appropriate International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and European Committee for Standardization (CEN) compliant safety signage. In general, the safety of persons should be a key consideration for planners and due consideration should be given to best practice guidance for marine and coastal recreation areas endorsed by the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group.	No	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale survey activities and do not involve the creation of recreational or tourism facilities where ISO/CEN compliant safety signage would be relevant. Safety management for the works is focused on operational procedures for vessels and equipment, in line with statutory maritime and health and safety requirements, rather than public-facing signage.	Not applicable
Telecommunications	Telecommunications Policy 1: Proposals that guarantee existing and future international telecommunications connectivity which is critically important to support the future needs of society, Government, the provision of Public	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the development, operation, or alteration of international telecommunications infrastructure. However, surveys have been designed to avoid interference with existing subsea telecommunications cables by	While the SI works do not provide or expand telecommunications infrastructure, they will not adversely affect existing connectivity and therefore remain

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Services and enterprise in Ireland, should be supported.		incorporating consultation with relevant stakeholders and adherence to cable protection measures. There are currently no known telecoms infrastructure, within the MUL boundary and would apply such procedures should such infrastructure be discovered. This ensures that international telecommunications connectivity will not be compromised by the proposed works.	consistent with the intent of Telecommunications Policy 1.
	Telecommunications Policy 2: Preference should be given to proposals where evidence is provided of an integrated approach to development and activity, such as the bundling of cables (electricity and communications) where suitable, as well as pipelines for multiple activities, to minimise impacts on the marine environment, infrastructures and other users. Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through: a) avoiding, or b) minimising, or c) mitigating adverse impacts, or	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the installation of telecommunications or electricity cables, nor do they propose bundling of infrastructure. However, the works have been designed to avoid conflict with existing subsea cables and pipelines, and consultation with relevant operators will ensure compatibility with current and future uses and there is no known existing subsea cables within the Tonn Nua site. The project therefore minimises potential impacts on marine infrastructure and other users.	While the SI works will not deliver integrated infrastructure such as bundled cables, they avoid interference with existing assets and remain consistent with the intent of Telecommunications Policy 2.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding			
	Telecommunications Policy 3: Preference should be given to proposals that protect submarine cables whilst achieving successful seabed user coexistence, such as the bundling of cables (electricity and communications) as well as pipelines for multiple activities where suitable. Proposals should specify if separate access to cables for the purposes of repair and maintenance is required. With regard to decommissioning redundant submarine cables, a risk-based approach should be applied with consideration given to cables being left in situ where this would minimise significant impacts on the physical, natural, societal, historic, and economic value of the area.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the installation, operation, or decommissioning of submarine telecommunications cables. Nonetheless, survey planning includes recognition of existing cable corridors and ensures that no activities will compromise cable integrity or maintenance access. In line with policy intent, no risk to cable protection or coexistence with other seabed users is anticipated.	The SI works avoid interference with submarine cables and are therefore consistent with Telecommunications Policy 3.
	Telecommunications Policy 4: Proposals that ensure and enhance connectivity of Ireland's rural and island communities to high quality	No	The proposed SI works are temporary and do not involve the provision of telecommunications infrastructure. As such, they will not directly contribute to enhancing rural or island community connectivity.	While the SI works do not provide telecommunications connectivity, they are consistent with Telecommunications Policy 4 as

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	telecommunications networks should be supported.		However, by enabling the assessment and consenting of offshore renewable energy projects, the SI works indirectly support national infrastructure development, which complements the wider objectives of improved connectivity and resilience for remote communities.	they present no risk to the achievement of its objectives.
Tourism	Tourism Policy 1: Where appropriate, proposals enabling, promoting or facilitating sustainable tourism and recreation activities, particularly where this creates diversification or additional utilisation of related facilities beyond typical usage patterns, should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and scientific in nature, focused solely on data collection to inform future offshore renewable energy development. They do not involve tourism or recreation infrastructure and will not enable or promote direct tourism opportunities. Importantly, they will not restrict or conflict with existing tourism-related marine or coastal activities.	The SI works do not enable or promote tourism but are consistent with Tourism Policy 1 as they create no adverse effects on sustainable tourism activities.
	Tourism Policy 2: Proposals must identify possible impacts on tourism. Where a potential significant impact upon tourism is identified it should be demonstrated how the potential negative consequences to tourism in communities will be minimised. This must include assessment of how the benefits of	Yes	Potential impacts on tourism primarily relate to short-term, localised vessel presence during survey campaigns. No long-term restriction of coastal access, views, or recreational waters is expected. As the works are temporary they will not generate significant adverse effects that could negatively impact tourism.	The SI works are consistent with Tourism Policy 2. They will not result in significant adverse impacts on tourism, and their temporary nature ensures no long-term consequences for coastal communities.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	proposals are not outweighed by potential negative impacts.			
	Tourism Policy 3: Proposals for tourism development should seek to optimise facilities and use of space by taking a cross sectoral development approach that provides for multiple activities, whilst minimising the extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.	No	The SI works do not propose new tourism development or facilities, nor do they compete with or displace space used for tourism. The activities are spatially limited, temporary, and designed to avoid disturbance of the natural environment, ensuring compatibility with the wider objectives of sustainable marine space use.	The SI works do not constitute tourism development but are consistent with Tourism Policy 3 as they will not adversely impact the natural environment or limit tourism potential.
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 1: Proposals by Irish Water related to the treatment and disposal of wastewater that: i) service the social and economic development of the country under the National Planning Framework; ii) resolve environmental issues at priority areas identified by the EPA; iii) contribute to the realisation of the objectives of: • Ireland's River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021	No	The proposed SI works are temporary, small-scale, and unrelated to wastewater treatment or disposal infrastructure. They do not involve construction, operation, or modification of wastewater facilities, nor do they interact with Irish Water's remit under the National Planning Framework, River Basin Management Plan, Water Services Policy Statement, or Marine Strategy Framework Directive.	Not applicable.

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	- The Water Services Policy Statement 2018 – 2025 - Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2012 – 2020 should be supported, provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within relevant authorisation processes.			
	Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 2: Proposals that have the potential to significantly adversely affect existing and planned wastewater management and treatment infrastructure where a consent or authorisation or lease has been granted or formally applied for by Irish Water should not be authorised unless: - compatibility with the existing, authorised, proposed or otherwise identified in consultations with Irish Water activity, can be satisfactorily demonstrated; - the proposal is clearly of strategic or national importance.	No	The SI works will not generate or interact with wastewater treatment or disposal infrastructure. No activities are planned that could interfere with existing or planned Irish Water assets or operations. Engagement with Irish Water is not required as the works do not overlap with wastewater functions.	Not applicable

Sector	Planning Policy	Relevant to Proposed Development?	Compliance	Conclusion
	Where possible, proposals that may affect Irish Water activities or plans should engage with Irish Water at the earliest available opportunity. Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through: a) avoiding adverse impacts on those activities; and / or b) minimising impacts where they cannot be avoided; and / or c) mitigating impacts where they cannot be minimised.			



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