



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Inspector's Report ABP-315796-23.

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<b>Development</b>	Proposed Arklow Bank Wind Park.
<b>Location</b>	Offshore Wind Park, on and around the Arklow Bank.
<b>Coastal Planning Authority</b>	Wicklow County Council Wexford County Council.
<b>Prospective Applicant</b>	Sure Partners Limited.
<b>Type of Application</b>	Pre-application consultation for Development in the Maritime Area.
<b>Dates of Pre-Application Meetings:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2023, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023, 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 & 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>Date of Site Inspection</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May & 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023.
<b>Inspector</b>	A. Considine.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The Board received a request on 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2022 from prospective applicant, Sure Partners Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Renewables Limited with an address at Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, to enter into pre-application consultations under Section 287 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) in relation to the proposed Arklow Bank Wind Park (ABWP). The applicant has also sought an opinion from the Board as to flexibility with regard to the application for permission under Section 287B of the Act. This request for an opinion will be considered by the Board under ABP Ref. ABP-316331-23.
- 1.2. The ABWP will be located between 6 to 15km of the east coast, and it is proposed that the wind park will have a maximum export capacity of up to 800MW. The applicant is in receipt of a Maritime Area Consent – 2022-MAC-002, which has been granted for the occupation of a maritime site for the purposes of the proposed development and is eligible to apply for permission to carry out the development. The applicant advises their intent to make an application to the Board under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) for such permission.
- 1.3. An Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report which includes information in relation to the proposed development as specified in Schedule 7A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended has been prepared and it is proposed to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will consider the offshore components of the ABWP including the already consented onshore grid infrastructure and the operations and maintenance facility. An Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement will also be prepared for the proposed development which will include an assessment of the in-combination effects of the proposed development in combination with the onshore components of the ABWP and other applicable developments.
- 1.4. An Bord Pleanála sought additional information from the prospective applicant on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 in accordance with Section 288(1)(a) of the Act. A response to the Board's further information request was submitted on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2023

which included details of the permitted infrastructure to support the ABWP, the MAC granted for the occupation of the maritime site and a number of visual aids / photomontages.

- 1.5. The Board's representatives met with the prospective applicant on 4 occasions. The presentations provided by the prospective applicant and written records of those meetings are on file. This report should be read in conjunction with the written records on file of the pre-application consultation meetings held with the prospective applicant. It is not proposed to repeat the contents of those records in detail here.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1. The offshore wind park will be located on and around the Arklow Bank, approximately 6 to 15km from the east coast. The development area will cover an area of the sea bed approximately 27km long and 2.5km wide. It is proposed that the wind park will have a maximum export capacity of up to 800MW. The number of turbines will depend on the capacity of the chosen turbine and was originally expected to be between 32 and 61 structures. In the course of the pre-application consultation process, the prospective applicants refined the proposal which will now comprise either 47 or 52 turbines, with discreet layouts proposed.
- 2.2. The ABWP will transmit power from an offshore substation platform via 2 no. 220kV offshore export cables, laid on the seabed within export cable corridors. The development shall interface with the consented onshore grid infrastructure development (ABP ref: 310090) at a landfall point at Johnstown North, approximately 5km to the north of the town of Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
- 2.3. The proposed Array Area, which will include where the turbine structures, cables and offshore substation platforms will be located, covers a stated area of 63.39km<sup>2</sup>. This area comprises a rectangular block approximately 27 km long and 2.5 km wide. Two offshore export cable corridors are being considered and will extend from the Array Area to the landfall point at Johnstown North.
- 2.4. In terms of the conditions on the bank where the proposed turbines will be located, the water depth is noted to vary between 0.6m and 25m relative to the lowest

astronomical tide (LAT), with shallower areas particularly occurring in the vicinity of the existing 7 turbines on Arklow Bank and water depths in excess of 50m beyond the bank towards the east. The Arklow Bank is subject to strong tidal currents and is sand and gravel dominated with mobile surface sediments with medium sand located at the upper levels.

### **3.0 The Proposed Development**

3.1. Under the transition provisions of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 (as amended) the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications had the responsibility for assessing applications for Marine Area Consents (MACs) from a first group (phase I) of seven offshore renewable energy projects.

3.2. In terms of the provisions of the Act, and further to the above, the applicant has submitted the following details pertaining to the proposed project:

- Details of the Maritime Area Consent received from the Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, MAC No. 2022-MAC-002.
- The Design Team to be the team used to complete the EIAR and associated consent documentation, includes the following:
  - GoBe APEM Group
  - Aona Environmental Consulting Ltd
  - Subacoustech Environmental Limited
  - MacArthur Green Consultants
  - Poseidon Consultants
  - Anatec Limited
  - Coleman Aviation Limited
  - Macroworks Limited
  - ADCO Limited

- Woodrow
- The prospective applicant also advised that Section 287A consultations would be sought with regard to seeking an opinion as to flexibility with regard to the application for permission (ABP-316331-23 refers). It was submitted that flexibility will be sought in relation to a number of elements, initially intended to include:
  - Wind Turbine Generator (WTGs) layouts
  - Number and heights of WTGs
  - WTG substructure design
  - Number of Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) and associated locations
  - Export Cable Routes.

287A material for formal consultation was submitted to the Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023 and the request for flexibility include as follows:

- To construct one of two Wind Turbine Generator options with flexibility in terms of
  - Turbine model
  - Tip height
  - Hub height
  - Rotor diameter
  - Layout

Chord width, Revolutions Per Minute and noise characteristics will vary slightly across the two turbine models.

- Anticipated timelines are detailed in the applicants documentation at Section 1.4 of the Pre-Application – Additional Information document.

3.3. The proposed development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park was initially proposed to comprise all development that is seaward of the High-Water Mark, including the following<sup>1</sup>:

- Between 32 and 61 wind turbine foundations (monopiles or jackets) attached to the seabed, plus ancillary equipment such as J-tubes, platforms, Davit cranes and access facilities;
- Between 32 and 61 wind turbines (each comprising a tower section, nacelle and three rotor blades);
- Up to two Offshore Substation Platform's (OSP's) housing electrical infrastructure to facilitate transmission of generated electricity from the Wind Turbine Generator's (WTG's) onto the transmission network with associated substructures which may comprise monopile or jacket foundations;
- A network of inter-array cabling which shall be used to transmit power from the WTG's to the OSP(s);
- Interconnector cabling between the OSPs;
- Two offshore export cables utilising the offshore export cable corridors which shall make a landfall at Johnstown North c. 5km north of Arklow town;
- Scour protection and cable protection.

3.4. By the conclusion of the pre-application consultation process, the number of options to be considered was reduced to two with either Option 1 – 56 turbines, or Option 2 – 47 turbines, to include all relevant associated parameters for each option, to be considered as part of any future planning application, depending on the Boards opinion on flexibility.

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<sup>1</sup> Number of options reduced to 2 to include 47 or 56 turbines, two OSPs and monopile foundations.

## 3.5. Onshore Development

3.5.1. The onshore elements of the proposed ABWP have already been consented. The relevant planning history pertaining to the proposed development is summarised as follows:

3.5.2. **ABP ref: ABP-310090-21:** Permission granted for the provision of onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works.

The substation is permitted within the Avoca River Business Park at Shelton Abbey, approximately 2.1km to the north west of Arklow. The permission also provides for an underground cable route through a number of townlands in County Wicklow to connect to the substation at the landfall point at Johnstown North, approximately 5km to the north of Arklow Harbour. The proposed offshore export cables proposed as part of the Arklow Bank Wind Park will connect at this point.

3.5.3. **PA ref: 21/1316:** Wicklow County Council granted planning permission in June 2022 to SSE Renewables Limited, through Sure Partners Limited, to develop an operations and maintenance facility at South Dock, Arklow Harbour.

This permitted infrastructure, including the building, associated pontoon and ancillary infrastructure, will act as the support base for ABWP throughout its operational lifetime. It is noted that the permitted facility will also incorporate a Sustainable Education Centre.

3.5.4. **ABP ref: ABP-303938-19 (PA ref: 18/940):** Permission granted for a Data Storage Facility at the Avoca River Park, Shelton Abbey & Kilbride, Arklow, Co. Wicklow

3.5.5. **ABP ref: ABP-309252-21:** Permission granted for a two storey 110kV GIS substation with all associated site works and ancillary works at the Avoca River Park, Shelton Abbey & Kilbride, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

## 4.0 Consultations

4.1. With regard to consultations, Section 6 of the applicants submission of the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, sets out the stakeholder engagement campaign since 2018, when it was decided to progress the proposed development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2. There have been five phases of stakeholder engagement as follows:

- Phase 1 Strategic Engagement - with relevant Government Departments, state and semi-state bodies and local authorities.
- Phase 2 National Engagement - with state and semi-state bodies, including those deemed as statutory stakeholders and non-statutory stakeholders with an interest in marine activities.
- Phase 3 Regional Engagement - comprised outreach to Chambers of Commerce, Regional Assemblies, Municipal District Councils, Town teams, PPNs, IDA and Enterprise Ireland etc. This Phase also included media briefings.
- Phase 4 Public Information Campaign - Public meetings, fisheries engagement, schools' engagement and the development of project materials. During this period a Fisheries Liaison Officer was appointed.
- Phase 5 Consent Process - this stage has been underway since 2020 and during this phase a Community Engagement Manager was appointed. Due to Covid, the applicant was forced to communicate increasingly online as well as written communication. Once restrictions were lifted, the applicant recommenced face-to-face engagements with communities and stakeholders.

4.2. The applicant has a dedicated Community Engagement Manager and a Fisheries Liaison Officer in place who are contactable during working hours with a messaging service, with a call back at the earliest opportunity, available for out of hours periods. A project website is in place, having been set up in 2019, and is updated regularly. In addition, project newsletters have been issued on a frequent basis since 2021 and leaflets/brochures have been used to support public consultation phases. Other



public media, radio and newspapers, are also used, as well as social media platforms. There was also extensive consultation when the application for the Onshore Facilities and Maintenance building was being proposed and considered.

- 4.3. In terms of consultations in 2023, a project virtual showroom which features an overview of the project and will give the public an opportunity to share their views and feedback was launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March [Arklow Bank Wind Park | SSE Renewables](#). The offshore infrastructure is the focus of this public consultation and a number of in-person events were scheduled for March, as well as an on-line webinar.

## 5.0 Policy Context

The following policy documents are of relevance but, it should be noted, do not comprise an exhaustive list:

- EU Strategy for Offshore Renewable Energy 2020
- REPower EU 2022
- National Marine Planning Framework – Project Ireland 2040, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage May 2021
- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP), DoECC, 2014
- Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan 2023
- Marine Planning Policy Statement 2019
- Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework 2040 & National Development Plan 2018-2027
- Climate Action Plan 2024
- Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern & Midland Region 2019
- Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region 2020
- Wicklow County Development Plan, 2022-2028:
- Wexford County Development Plan, 2022-2028:

## 6.0 Legislative Context

6.1. S. 287(1) states that a person who proposes to make an application for permission under s.291 shall consult with the Board. S.287(2) states that the Board may provide its opinion regarding the making of the application and in particular, as respects:

- (a) the procedures to be followed by the prospective applicant when making the application and by the Board when considering the application,
- (b) the documents required to accompany the application,
- (c) the need for the prospective applicant to create an internet website for the purpose of publishing the application and all documentation accompanying the application,
- (d) the publication of notices in accordance with this Act, the furnishing of documentation to persons referred to in subsection (3) of section 291 and the making of submissions and observations in relation to an application under that section,
- (e) such persons as may be prescribed for the purposes of this Chapter,
- (f) some or all of the matters that the Board is likely to take into consideration relating to—
  - (i) the National Marine Planning Framework,
  - (ii) objectives of maritime spatial planning,
  - (iii) principles of proper planning and sustainable development, and
  - (iv) the environment or any European site,when making a decision under section 293 in relation to the application,
- (g) the fees payable to the Board in relation to the making of the application, and
- (h) compliance by the prospective applicant with any direction of the Board under subsection (3) of section 291.

6.2. Of note, under S.287(3) the Board may at any time conclude a consultation under this section where it considers it appropriate to do so.

- 6.3. The application for an opinion under S.287A is addressed in Board report, ABP-316331-23.

## 7.0 Meetings Held

- 7.1. Three meetings were held with the prospective applicant's representatives on the following dates:
- 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023
  - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023
  - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- 7.2. Presentations were provided at the first three meetings which are included in the file together with other information provided to the Board in respect of same. The record of each meeting is also contained on the file.
- 7.3. A final Procedures meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- 7.4. Issues raised at the meetings are identified and discussed in Section 9 below.

## 8.0 Relevant Cases

- 8.1. The following comprise recent marine related pre-application consultations or applications which are considered of note.
- 8.2. **S287A / 287B Design Option Request - Concurrent**
- **ABP-316331-23:** The **Arklow Bank** offshore windfarm project S287A/287B Design Option request for an Opinion of Flexibility from the Board.
- 8.3. **Pre-Application Consultations - Other**
- **ABP-315801-23:** The **North Irish Sea Array** offshore windfarm project would have a maximum of 49 turbines located c.13km off the coast of Louth, Meath and Dublin. The turbines would have a stated maximum export power of

700MW. There would be 1 x offshore substation and 2 x export cables to a landfall site at Bremore, County Dublin. Design option pre-application consultation under ABP-316332-23.

- **ABP-315803-23:** The **Oriel** offshore windfarm project would have a maximum of 25 turbines located c.5km off the coast of Louth and Meath. The turbines would have a stated maximum blade height of 270m and a stated maximum export power of 375MW. There would be 1 x offshore substation and 1 x export cable to either of 2 landfall sites. Design option pre-application consultation under ABP-318274-23.
- **ABP-315800-23:** The **Dublin Array** offshore windfarm project would have between 39 and 50 turbines (depending on type) located c.10km off the coast of Dublin and Wicklow. The turbines would have a stated maximum blade height of c.309m and a stated maximum export power of between 700 to 850MW. There would be 1 x offshore substation and 2 x export cables to a landfall site at Shanganagh Cliff, Co. Dublin. Design option pre-application consultation under ABP-318552-23.
- **ABP-315809-23:** The **Codling** offshore windfarm project would have between 60 and 75 turbines located c.13km to c.22km off the County Wicklow coast. The turbines would have a stated maximum blade height of 314m and a stated maximum export power of up to 1450MW. There would be 3 x offshore substations and 3 x export cables to a landfall site at Poolbeg. Design option pre-application consultation under ABP-318588-23.
- **ABP-317409-23:** The **Sceirde Rocks** offshore windfarm project would have a maximum of 26 turbines located c.5km to 11.5km off the Connemara Coast, at Sceirde Rocks, Co. Galway. The turbines would have a stated maximum blade height of 325m and a stated maximum export power of up to 450MW. There would be 1 x offshore substation and 1 x export cable to a landfall site at a location c.3.5km northwest of Doonbeg, Co. Clare.

## 9.0 Matters Arising

### 9.1. Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

The matters arising include inter alia:

- National Marine Planning Framework and presentation of data to show compliance with all 92 policies contained therein.
- Policy context surrounding the proposal ranging from strategic to local.
- Public consultation process and stakeholder engagement undertaken.
- Noted that the on-land infrastructural elements of the proposed project have secured consent, ABP-310090-21 refers.
- Route to market has been secured through a private party.
- Issues discussed:
  - Identification of Coastal Planning Authorities and Transboundary consultees including why they were considered appropriate to include on list. The primary CPA was identified as Wicklow County Council. In the context of the proposed development, I recommend that Wexford County Council also be included as a CPA. While the tie in works from the offshore elements of the development lie solely within the Wicklow CC jurisdiction, I note that throughout the stakeholder consultation to date, Wexford CC have also been included.
  - Given the proximity of the proposed site to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, this Planning Authority is to be included as a Prescribed Body for the purposes of this application.
  - The prospective applicant undertook transboundary consultation as part of the screening process and details are included in section 9.5 of this report.
  - Visual amenity of infrastructural elements.
  - Potential impact on cultural heritage and biodiversity in the marine environment.
  - Potential impact on coastal processes
  - Impact on fisheries.

- Impact on shipping & navigation and other commercial operations in the marine environment.
- Potential impacts on the existing Arklow Bank 1 turbines which will be surrounded by the proposed project in terms of:
  - Future plans for the existing infrastructure.
  - Access to the turbines for maintenance.
  - Access for decommissioning / replacement.
  - Efficiency of existing turbines in terms of potential interference with wind-take etc
  - Combined impacts on bird and bat species to be fully addressed.

## 9.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

9.2.1. It is proposed to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Report with the proposed Application for Development in the Marine Area. The prospective applicant provided an updated EIAR Assessment Methodology Note at the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, setting out the assessment approach. The following include matters which were outlined during the course of the consultation meetings.

- Formal EIA Scoping was not undertaken by the prospective applicant.
- Consideration of options in terms of the S287A opinion.
  - Each detail or group of details, will be described and assessed fully in terms of the range of potential impacts or effects that could arise within the EIAR and having regard to the National Marine Planning Framework on which the proposed application may be made or decided.
  - Where modelling is required for the parameters where flexibility is being sought, a full set of options will be modelled.
- Consideration of Alternatives to be clearly presented.
- Environmental factors including but not limited to:
  - Major Accidents & Disasters.
  - Air Quality & Climate,

- Marine hydrology (Oceanography – including the mechanisms of the water column and coastal processes (currents, waves & tides), seabed and coastal processes),
  - Benthic and Marine Ecology,
  - Marine Biodiversity,
  - Offshore Ornithology and Bat Activity,
  - Noise & Vibration,
  - Visual Amenity Seascape and Landscape,
  - Shipping & Navigation, Fishers and other Water Based Enterprise,
  - Aviation,
  - Marine Archaeology & Cultural Heritage,
  - Population and Human Health,
  - Range of Material Assets including existing infrastructure at Arklow Bank.
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
  - Construction Impacts
    - It is accepted that construction methodologies and details will be intrinsically and inherently linked to the flexibility sought under S287A of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, as amended, in terms of the development layout, turbine numbers and types, cable arrays and layouts etc.
    - All methods to be potentially used to be included and assessed in the EIAR.
    - All impacts in the marine and coastal environments to be addressed.
  - Format of the EIAR.
  - Consideration of cumulative impacts and Transboundary effects.
  - Peer reviewed analysis of monitoring data from operational offshore windfarms for marine mammals and birds.

### 9.3. Appropriate Assessment

9.3.1. It is proposed to submit a Natura Impact Assessment Report with the proposed Application for Development in the Marine Area. The following include matters which were discussed during the consultation meetings.

- Likely Zone of Impact of all elements of the proposal.
- Natura 2000 sites within likely zone of impact and proximity to QI's/SCI's.
- Potential mitigation measures
- In-combination Effects.

### 9.4. Procedures

9.4.1. At the final pre-application consultation relating to procedures, held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, the prospective applicant requested that the Board address the following queries:

1. Is an Application Form template available at this time? And if so, can this be provided?
2. Can ABP confirm the No. of hard copies of the application documents required to be submitted?
3. Can ABP confirm online requirements for the application:
  - a. When does the Applicant website need to be live and what duration should it remain live for?
  - b. The Applicant needs to submit a digital copy of application documents to ABP. What format is required – e.g. CD Rom, USB? What number of copies are required in digital format?
4. The Act requires the Notice to be published in one National Paper and such other newspapers (if any) as the Board may specify. Have ABP decided which newspapers to include at this stage?
5. Are ABP in a position to advise of the List of Prescribed Bodies? Should the Applicant contact the Prescribed Bodies to confirm requirements for the



application documents (electronic or hard copy, how many copies i.e., hard copy and electronic copy)?

6. Have ABP determined the extent of transboundary consultation? Are there any specific requirements for the Applicant?
7. Are ABP in a position to confirm the application fee and pre-application fee and how these fees can be paid i.e., cheque / electronic transfer? Also, is there a fee associated with the Section 287b process?
8. Should the Applicant submit suggested wording for a condition to permit necessary flexibility (Accords with Section 293 (4a) of the Act)?
9. Do ABP have any further update on the Transitional arrangements relating to new Legislation/procedures/guidelines?
  - a. Have the Guidelines under Section 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, been published?
10. The Applicant notes that the Act specifies that compliance by the prospective application with any directions of the Board under subsection (3)(b), (c) and (d) of Section 291 of the Act:
  - a. How or when would the Board make a Direction to the Applicant relating to circulation of the application?

9.4.2. At this meeting, the Board representatives provided the prospective applicant with a document containing all of the procedures required for the making of an application, and full details of the meeting are included in the record on file. In addition, the Board representatives advised the prospective applicant that in its preliminary opinion the relevant Coastal Planning Authorities are Wicklow County Council and Wexford County Council are the, and that Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is a prescribed body for the purposes of this application.

9.4.3. In the course of the pre-app meetings, I note that the prospective applicant has identified a number of topics for consideration in terms of transboundary assessments. I refer the Board to section 9.5 of this report for further commentary on this issue.

- 9.4.4. I recommend that the Board consider that the persons listed in Appendix A to this report, be served with the application and accompanying documents. In forming the list, regard was had to, inter alia, the requirement under Schedule 1 of the Planning and Development (Maritime Development) Regulations 2023. Regard was also had, in drawing up the list below, to the provisions of S.291(3)(b) and S.291(3)(d) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- 9.4.5. The prospective applicant should send a copy of the application, accompanying documents and a copy of the public notice to the Prescribed Bodies listed in attached Appendix A.
- 9.4.6. The Board may wish to review that list and satisfy itself that it is sufficient, and the applicant may wish to consider other bodies they consider relevant.

## 9.5. **Transboundary Consultation**

- 9.5.1. Having regard to their common relationship with the Irish Sea and their proximity to the proposed development, the possibility of significant adverse impacts cannot be ruled out at this stage of the process with regard to the following states, particularly in relation to the likelihood of potential effects on migratory and/or mobile species that are qualifying interests for further afield SPAs and SACs (incl. birds, marine mammals & fish).
- Northern Ireland
  - England
  - Scotland
  - Wales
  - Isle of Man
- 9.5.2. The Board will note that the prospective applicants advised that transboundary screening was undertaken with the relevant jurisdictions as part of the July 2023 Scoping process, and the Scoping Report was issued to the following:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Ministry / Representative</b>
Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Environmental Agency</li> <li>• Department for Infrastructure</li> <li>• Maritime and Coastguard Agency</li> </ul>
England, Wales and Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</li> <li>• Marine Management Organisation</li> <li>• Marine Scotland</li> <li>• Natural Resources Wales</li> <li>• The Environment Agency</li> <li>• Scottish Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science</li> <li>• Maritime and Coastguard Agency</li> <li>• Joint Nature Conservation Committee</li> <li>• Natural England</li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage/NatureScot</li> </ul>
Isle of Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture</li> <li>• Department of Infrastructure</li> <li>• Cefas</li> </ul>
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministère des Affaires étrangères</li> <li>• Armateurs de France</li> <li>• Préfecture Maritime de la Manche et de la Mer du Nord</li> <li>• Secrétariat Général de la Mer</li> <li>• CRPMEM Nord</li> <li>• Fédération Nationale de la Pêche</li> <li>• FROM Nord</li> <li>• CME Organisation de Producteur</li> </ul>

9.5.3. The Transboundary Screening concluded that a number of topics should be considered in the transboundary assessments of the EIAR including as follows:

- Air quality and climate;
- Fish, shellfish and sea turtle ecology;

- Marine mammals;
- Offshore ornithology;
- Commercial fisheries;
- Shipping and navigation; and
- Population and human health.

9.5.4. I recommend that the States identified in Section 9.5.1 above be included as prescribed bodies for the purposes of consultation.

## 10.0 Conclusion

10.1. Following the completion of the final pre-application meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, I am of the opinion that the process should be concluded, and the Board should notify the prospective applicant that the process is closed and include the attached list of bodies that the applicant is requested to send copies of the application to in accordance with S291(3)(b) and S291(3)(d).

## 11.0 Professional Declaration

I confirm that this report represents my professional planning assessment, judgement and opinion on the matter assigned to me and that no person has influenced or sought to influence, directly or indirectly, the exercise of my professional judgement in an improper or inappropriate way.



A. Considine  
Planning Inspector  
09<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Prescribed Bodies**

1. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2. Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
3. Minister for Transport
4. Minister for Defence
5. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
6. Environmental Protection Agency
7. Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
8. Minister for Rural and Community Development
9. Marine Institute
10. Inland Fisheries Ireland
11. Health and Safety Authority
12. Commission for Regulation of Utilities
13. Fáilte Ireland
14. An Taisce
15. Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
16. Southern Regional Assembly
17. National Transport Authority
18. Irish Aviation Authority
19. Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
20. Eirgrid
21. Commissioner of Irish Lights

22. Irish Coastguard

23. Coastal Planning Authorities (Wicklow & Wexford County Councils)

24. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

25. The Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development, Loughs Agency and  
the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

26. Northern Ireland

27. England

28. Scotland

29. Wales

30. Isle of Man