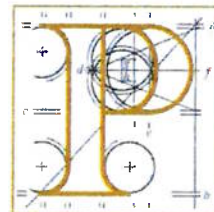


Our Case Number: ABP-319866-24

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Bord
Pleanála

Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community CLG
c/o Sarah Zimmermann
28 Moylaragh Crescent
Balbriggan
K32W449

Date: 15 August 2024

Re: Proposed development known as North Irish Sea Array ("NISA") Offshore Wind Farm
Located off the coast of Counties Dublin, Meath and Louth (www.northirishsearraysid.ie)

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission and fee in relation to the above-mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions/observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Dublin City, Fingal, Meath and Louth County Councils and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to marine infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email marine@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Moss
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737285

OA03

Teil
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Ríomhphost

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Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community CLG
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Co. Dublin
K32W449
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An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

July 31st 2024

Planning Application Case Reference No: 319 866 North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm

Applicant: North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited

Location: North Irish Sea, Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council administrative areas

This submission is made with respect to the likely effects on the environment or any European site of the proposed development, if carried out.

Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community CLG welcomes Ireland's commitment to transition to net zero by 2050, as set out in Ireland's Climate Action Plan.

Given the location of the array within the North-west Irish Sea Special Protection Area (SPA) and close proximity to Rockabill SPA, we recommend that the project option with the least impact on bird populations is selected. We also recommend the application of contrast paint to the rotor blades before construction to reduce the collision risk for birds (May et al. 2020). This contrast-painting approach would inform research on the topic with a view to ensuring that the outcomes are generic at various settings.

Balbriggan has lost kilometers of native hedgerow owing to residential and commercial development. Cable landfall, associated infrastructure and grid facility infrastructure should aim to incorporate existing hedgerows into planning designs and replanting must only use native species and plants grown in Ireland. We welcome the plan to retain and enhance existing hedgerow, woodland and meadows around the Grid Facility as set out in the landscape plan.

Bell's lane is a highly valued habitat area and community amenity, which is heavily used by local walkers. We do not think this lane is suitable for regular access by heavy machinery. As noted in the planning application biodiversity report, the cable landfall area provides important habitat for the Red listed Yellowhammer and vegetation clearance should be avoided.

In relation to the cable route, a cycling lane is currently being installed along the Harry Reynold's road in Balbriggan, which coincides with a section of the proposed cable route from Bremore to Belcamp. Cable laying should focus on the road area rather than the recently installed cycling lanes and paths.

In relation to the ancillary grid facility infrastructure, we recommend that surface water discharge to an existing ditch in the north western part of the site which drains to the existing roadside drainage network is avoided. We recommend that the site is assessed for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) as additional planting may help attenuate pollutants at the site.

Best wishes,

Sarah Zimmermann

Secretary

Reference

May, R., Nygård, T., Falkdalen, U., Åström, J., Hamre, Ø., Stokke, Bård. 2020.

Paint it black: Efficacy of increased wind turbine rotor blade visibility to reduce avian fatalities. Ecology and Evolution, Vol. 10 (1774).