



# Arklow Bank Wind Park

## Phase I Decommissioning

Statement of Compliance with the National Marine Planning Framework - Appendix to the Planning Report

July 2026



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## ABBREVIATIONS

| Abbreviation  | Term in Full                                                        |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AA</b>     | Appropriate Assessment                                              |
| <b>ABWP</b>   | Arklow Bank Wind Park                                               |
| <b>ACP</b>    | An Coimisiún Pleanála                                               |
| <b>AEL</b>    | Arklow Energy Limited                                               |
| <b>AtoN</b>   | Aid to Navigation                                                   |
| <b>BWM</b>    | Ballast Water Management                                            |
| <b>CEN</b>    | European Committee for Standardization                              |
| <b>CIL</b>    | Commissioners of Irish Lights                                       |
| <b>DaS</b>    | Dumping at Sea                                                      |
| <b>DECC</b>   | Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications           |
| <b>DEMP</b>   | Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan                       |
| <b>DMAP</b>   | Designated Maritime Area Plan                                       |
| <b>EIA</b>    | Environmental Impact Assessment                                     |
| <b>EIAR</b>   | Environmental Impact Assessment Report                              |
| <b>EPA</b>    | Environmental Protection Agency                                     |
| <b>EU</b>     | European Union                                                      |
| <b>FMMS</b>   | Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy                        |
| <b>GES</b>    | Good Environmental Status                                           |
| <b>GHG</b>    | Greenhouse Gas                                                      |
| <b>IMO</b>    | International Maritime Organisation                                 |
| <b>ISO</b>    | International Organization for Standardization                      |
| <b>LAP</b>    | Local Area Plan                                                     |
| <b>MARPOL</b> | International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships |
| <b>MMMP</b>   | Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol                                   |
| <b>MPA</b>    | Marine Protected Area                                               |
| <b>MSO</b>    | Marine Survey Office                                                |
| <b>MSFD</b>   | Marine Strategy Framework Directive                                 |
| <b>NIS</b>    | Natura Impact Statement                                             |
| <b>NMPF</b>   | National Marine Planning Framework                                  |
| <b>NPWS</b>   | National Parks and Wildlife Service                                 |
| <b>ORE</b>    | Offshore Renewable Energy                                           |
| <b>ORED</b>   | Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan                          |
| <b>OWF</b>    | Offshore Wind Farm                                                  |
| <b>PCI</b>    | Project of Common Interest                                          |
| <b>PSR</b>    | Primary Surveillance Radar                                          |
| <b>SAC</b>    | Special Area of Conservation                                        |
| <b>SAR</b>    | Search and Rescue                                                   |
| <b>SEA</b>    | Strategic Environmental Assessment                                  |
| <b>SEL</b>    | Standard Exploration Licence                                        |
| <b>SLO</b>    | Specific Local Objective                                            |
| <b>SPA</b>    | Special Protection Area                                             |
| <b>SSE</b>    | SSE (formerly Scottish and Southern Energy)                         |

| Abbreviation | Term in Full                       |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>SSC</b>   | Suspended Sediment Concentrations  |
| <b>TEN-E</b> | Trans-European Networks for Energy |
| <b>TEN-T</b> | Trans-European Transport Network   |
| <b>WCC</b>   | Wicklow County Council             |
| <b>WFD</b>   | Water Framework Directive          |
| <b>WMP</b>   | Waste Management Plan              |
| <b>WTG</b>   | Wind Turbine Generator             |
| <b>VMS</b>   | Vessel Management Plan             |

## INTRODUCTION

The report has been prepared as an appendix document to the **Planning Report** prepared by MacCabe Durney Barnes. It sets out Arklow Energy Limited's (AEL) response to the policies included in the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) insofar as they apply to the development. This document also provides a reference to the applicant's documentation which provides further details.

The appendix should be read in conjunction with the **Planning Report**, the **Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)**, the **Natura Impact Statement (NIS)** and the suite of documents that accompany the planning application made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)

## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL OCEAN HEALTH

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><i>Environmental – Ocean Health Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>Compliance with NMPF policies relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Non-indigenous species</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Sea-floor and water column integrity</li> <li>• Marine litter</li> <li>• Underwater noise</li> </ul> <p>Should include demonstration of contribution to the relevant Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) targets identified.</p> | <p>As demonstrated in other sections of this report, the Proposed Works are compliant with the NMPF policies on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Non-indigenous species</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Sea-floor and water column integrity</li> <li>• Marine litter</li> <li>• Underwater noise.</li> </ul> <p>The statements in respect of the policies are based on the evidence provided in the EIAR and/or the NIS and other documents provided with the planning application.</p> <p><b>EIAR Volume 2 Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b> and <b>EIAR Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b> consider the impact of the project on the achievement or the maintenance of the GES. Further elaboration on ecosystem services is also provided in the Ecosystem Services Report.</p> <p>On this basis, the project complies with Environmental – Ocean Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b></p> |

## 2. BIODIVERSITY

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p><b>Biodiversity Policy 1</b></p> <p>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 must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity.</p> | <p>As demonstrated in the <b>EIAR</b> and the <b>NIS</b>, AEL has sought to avoid, minimise or mitigate significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration.</p> <p>In particular, the applicant will implement a Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) as seen in <b>EIAR Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b>.</p> <p>The applicant also concluded in <b>EIAR Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b>, that the residual effects would be minor adverse or negligible. The project also does not give rise to significant effects on Annex IV species.</p> <p><b>EIAR Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b> found that the Proposed Works Offshore were not expected to lead to any attributable nor significant change in abundance, population demographic, distribution range/patterns, and habitat extent and condition in respect of the conservation status and long-term viability of species when considering how the development affects MSFD Descriptor D1C5 Habitat.</p> <p>On this basis, it is concluded that the project complies with Biodiversity Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>EIAR Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b></p> <p><b>EIAR Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>EIAR Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Natura Impact Statement</b></p> |
| <p><b>Biodiversity Policy 2</b></p> <p>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</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> and to the <b>Natura Impact Statement</b>.</p> <p>As demonstrated in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 5</b>, considers impact on benthic intertidal habitats and species and considers that the magnitude or temporary</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>Natura Impact Statement</b></p>                                                                                                                                              |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Application Documentation Reference                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>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.</p>     | <p>habitats loss / disturbance is negligible adverse. It acknowledges that the works will result in a temporary habitat loss in the intertidal area surrounding the landfall. But it also considers that this habitat, characterised by rocky shore and which is widespread along the coastline has a high recovery rate from minor disturbance. Similar observations are made in relation to benthic subtidal habitats and species which are considered to recover quickly.</p> <p>The <b>Natura Impact Statement</b> (NIS) concludes that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site with marine qualifying features and the Conservation Objectives.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Biodiversity Policy 2.</p> |                                                                     |
| <p><b>Biodiversity Policy 3</b></p> <p>Where marine or coastal natural capital assets are recognised by Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals must seek to enhance marine or coastal natural capital assets where possible.</li> <li>Proposals must demonstrate that they will in order of preference, and in accordance with legal requirements:</li> </ul> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> | <p>The NMPF fundamentally intertwines the notion of 'natural capital assets' with services that are delivered by assets (section 5.1 / page 36). This planning application considers ecosystems services in <b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment</b>, which concludes that '<i>Overall, the individual receptor assessments detailed in the EIAR and this Stage 2 Ecosystems Services Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Works Offshore are <b>not expected to give rise to adverse effects</b> on any ecosystem services or their ability to function as intended.</i>'</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Biodiversity Policy 3.</p>                                                                       | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Application Documentation Reference                    |
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| <p>significant adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets, or</p> <p>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.</p>                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                        |
| <p><b>Biodiversity Policy 4</b></p> <p>Proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>significant disturbance to, or displacement of, highly mobile species.</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> which considers the impacts of the project on mobile species. It concludes that on foot of mitigation, the Proposed Works will result in minor adverse residual effects. In particular, the EIAR considers the effects of the works on disturbance and / or displacement of birds to be low.</p> <p>In relation to fish and shellfish, the same chapter considers that the Offshore site is limited in size, and that as a result any impacts are unlikely to be measurable at population level, with effects considered to be minor adverse and not significant.</p> <p>The same chapter also considers migratory / diadromous fish species. It considers that the species' sensitivity to suspended sediment C and associated disposition is low, with the residual effects of the Proposed Works considered to be minor adverse.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Biodiversity Policy 4.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> |

### 3. PROTECTED MARINE SITES

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Application Documentation Reference |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Protected Marine Sites Policy 1</b></p> <p>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) are met.</p> | <p>Reference is made to the <b>NIS</b>, which concludes that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site with marine qualifying features and their conservation objectives.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Protected Marine Sites Policy 1.</p>                   | <b>Natura Impact Statement</b>      |
| <p><b>Protected Marine Sites Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals supporting the objectives of protected marine sites should be supported and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be informed by appropriate guidance</li> <li>• must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites.</li> </ul>                                         | <p>The <b>NIS</b> has been informed by appropriate guidance as evidenced in Section 6.2 of the NIS. The methodology section of the NIS demonstrates that it has been carried out in accordance with legal requirements.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Protected Marine Sites Policy 2.</p> | <b>Natura Impact Statement</b>      |
| <p><b>Protected Marine Sites Policy 3</b></p> <p>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:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>This does not apply to the Proposed Works.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                     |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Application Documentation Reference                    |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be informed by appropriate guidance</li> <li>must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                        |
| <p><b>Protected Marine Sites Policy 4</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>significant impacts on features that may be required to develop and further establish the network, or</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> considers the findings of Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of the Western Irish Sea and those of the Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of the Celtic Sea which carried out a sensitivity analysis with a view to inform ongoing work by the Government on the expansion of Ireland's network of marine protected area (MPA). Both analyses identified areas of comparatively higher ecological priority from which suitable areas for future MPAs could be selected, with network solutions to be further refined through the forthcoming legislative process. This includes a small area that may overlap or be located within close proximity to the offshore export cable route near its landfall, however, this is identified as low suitability in comparison to other areas identified.</p> <p>On this basis, it considered that the Proposed Works Offshore complies with Protected Marine Sites Policy 4.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> |

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding. |                               |                                     |

## 4. NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                               |
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| <p><b><i>Non-indigenous Species Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>Reducing the risk of the introduction and / or spread of non-indigenous species is a requirement of all proposals. Proposals must demonstrate a risk management approach to prevent the introduction of and / or spread of non-indigenous species, particularly when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) moving equipment, boats or livestock (for example fish or shellfish) from one water body to another,</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> considers the invasive and non-native species. It notes that all project vessels will adhere to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer or invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines 2011) and the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention).</p> <p>Reference is also made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.5: Outline Vessel Management Plan (VMS)</b> which identifies the control measures that will be put in place to avoid introducing non-indigenous species.</p> <p>As the Proposed Works regard decommissioning, it will not introduce structures suitable for settlement of non-indigenous species.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Non-indigenous Species Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.5: Outline Vessel Management Plan (VMS)</b></p> |

## 5. WATER QUALITY POLICY

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p><b>Water Quality Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts upon water quality, including upon habitats and species beneficial to water quality, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>significant adverse impacts.</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b> which particularly considers the impact to water quality arising from increased Suspended Sediment Concentrations (SSC). It concludes that the residual effect of increased SSC from the Proposed Works Offshore is considered to be minor and not significant in EIA term.</p> <p>The chapter also considers impacts to water quality resulting from disturbance / remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants. In particular, it considers the ability to achieve the GES, Water Framework Directive designations, and designated bathing waters within the Study Area. It found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>'The water quality receptor sensitivity relating to the achievement of GES is <b>medium</b> and the magnitude of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants is <b>negligible</b>. Therefore, the effect of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants from Proposed Works Offshore is considered to be <b>Negligible or Minor</b>, which is not significant in EIA terms.</i></li> <li>• <i>The water quality receptor sensitivity relating to WFD designations is <b>high</b> and the magnitude of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants is <b>negligible</b>. Therefore, the effect of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants from Proposed Works Offshore is considered to be <b>Minor</b>, which is not significant in EIA terms.</i></li> <li>• <i>The water quality receptor sensitivity relating to bathing waters designations is <b>high</b> and the magnitude of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants is <b>no change</b>. Therefore, the effect of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants from Proposed Works Offshore is considered to be <b>Neutral</b>, which is not significant in EIA terms.'</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.4: Sediment Sampling Result</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.2: Coastal Processes Modelling</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.5: Water Framework Directive Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                       | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Application Documentation Reference |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>This assessment is supported by <b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.4: Sediment Sampling Result</b> and <b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.2: Coastal Processes Modelling</b>.</p> <p>It concludes that additional mitigation is not required, with the residual effect of disturbance/remobilisation of sediment bound contaminants to be at most minor.</p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b> concludes that the Proposed Works does not inhibit the GES or contribute to an exceedance of MSFD thresholds, where these have been established, in any significant or attributable way.</p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.5: Water Framework Directive Assessment</b> establishes that the Proposed Works Offshore are compliant with WFD for any designated water bodies within the WFD Assessment Area.</p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> concludes that no significant effects on fish and shellfish would arise.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Water Quality Policy 1.</p> |                                     |
| <p><b>Water Quality Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals delivering improvements to water quality, or enhancing habitats and species, which can be of benefit to water quality, should be supported.</p> | <p>The primary aim of the Proposed Works Offshore are not strictly aimed at the improvements or enhancement of water quality or habitats and species. The EIAR and the NIS demonstrates how the Proposed Works Offshore would not give rise to significant effects on either water quality, or species or habitats.</p> <p>On this basis, it considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Water Quality Policy 2.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     |

## 6. SEA-FLOOR AND WATER COLUMN INTEGRITY

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><b><i>Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>significant adverse impacts on marine habitats,</p> <p>or</p> <p>d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats must set out the reasons for proceeding.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b> is supported by <b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.1: Seabed Mobility Assessment</b>, <b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.2: Coastal Processes Modelling</b> and <b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.3: Scour Assessment</b>. These numerical modelling exercises and specific technical assessments, which inform the understanding of seabed processes, sediment behaviour and water column dynamics in respect of the Proposed Works offshore. The EIAR concludes that impacts to the Arklow Bank morphology are minor and not significant and do not require additional mitigation.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.2: Sediment Plume Modelling</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.5: MSFD Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 4.6: Water Framework Directive Assessment</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>adverse impacts on important habitats and species.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Reference is made to the <b>NIS</b>, which concludes that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site with marine qualifying features and their conservation objectives.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>Natura Impact Statement</b></p>                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise , or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>for net loss of coastal habitat.</p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Screening</b> considers how the Proposed Works offshore will affect ecosystem services. Table 4.1 of the Screening identifies the ecosystem services that are screened in and provides reference to the relevant EIAR Chapters. It concludes that '<i>the individual receptor assessments detailed in the EIAR and [this] Stage 2 Ecosystems Services Assessment demonstrates that the Proposed Works are <b>not expected to give rise to adverse effects</b> on any ecosystem services or their ability to function as intended.</i>'</p> <p>This screening relies, inter alia, on the assessment carried out as part of <b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b> which particularly considers the following services:</p> <p><u>Provisioning services:</u> water for non-drinking purposes</p> <p><u>Regulating and Maintenance Services:</u> waste services, coastal defence, lifecycle habitat services, climate regulation</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3.</p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Screening</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b></p> |

## 7. MARINE LITTER

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p><b>Marine Litter Policy 1</b></p> <p>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:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>the litter. Demonstration of these measures must provide satisfactory evidence that the proposal is able to manage all waste without creation of litter.</p> | <p>The Proposed Works Offshore consists essentially of the removal of WTGs and associated infrastructure. The components which will be removed or partially removed, as the case may be, will be recycled as much as possible. Reference is made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore Waste Management Plan (WMP)</b>, in particular table 2.2 which sets out the quantities of waste for the materials. It shows a high estimated recycle rate, with all materials achieving a rate of over 50% minimum, and most achieving rates of over 90%.</p> <p>The decommissioning project will subject of a detailed Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), an outline of which can be found in <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.4: Outline Offshore DEMP</b>.</p> <p>Table 1.3 Environmental factors, subtopics and potential impacts (or headings) to be scoped out of the EIAR of <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b> considers the sandbags used for scour protection that may remain on the seabed following the completion of the project. It notes:</p> <p><i>'These materials are localised, inert, and confined to the Sub Lease Area, and do not constitute a dispersed or accumulating source of marine litter.</i></p> <p><i>In the context of MSFD Descriptor 10, the relevant assessment criterion (D10C1) relates to the composition, quantity, and spatial distribution of litter and whether these result in harm to the marine environment. The residual sandbags are not expected to result in ingestion, entanglement, or other adverse biological interactions, nor do they contribute to widespread litter distribution. Furthermore, these materials are already present as part of the baseline conditions associated with the operational phase of ABWP Phase I. The Proposed Works Offshore will therefore not result in any measurable increase in marine litter or deterioration in environmental status. On this basis,</i></p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore Waste Management Plan</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.4: Outline Offshore DEMP</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> |

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|  | <p><i>the presence of residual sandbags is not considered to result in harm to marine ecosystems, and therefore the effect is considered negligible and compliant with the requirements of MSFD Descriptor 10, and scoped out from this assessment'.</i></p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Marine Litter Policy 1.</p> |  |
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## 8. UNDERWATER NOISE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p><i>Underwater Noise Policy 1</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Where the potential for significant impact on marine fauna from underwater 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.</p> <p>The content of the Noise Assessment Statement should be relevant to the particular circumstances and must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration of compliance with applicable legal requirements, such as necessary assessment of proposals likely to have underwater noise implications, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Appropriate Assessment (AA);</li> <li>➤ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>In order to respond to this policy, several documents should be cross-referenced: <b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity, Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Underwater Noise Modelling</b> and <b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b>.</p> <p>The <b>MSFD Assessment</b> considers Descriptor 11 Underwater Noise, specifically D11C1 Anthropogenic impulsive sound and D11C2 Anthropogenic continuous low-frequency sound.</p> <p>The assessment concluded that the Proposed Works Offshore would not significantly contribute to the thresholds in relation to the GES and not considered to undermine the current GES status nor inhibit the achievement of targets for Descriptor 11 in Ireland.</p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> is informed by <b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Underwater Sound Modelling Report</b>. Under Section 5.6.7 on injury and / or disturbance from underwater noise, impacts to fish, shellfish and marine mammals are considered.</p> <p>The effect of injury and / or disturbance to fish and shellfish from underwater noise is considered to be negligible and not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>The effect of injury and / or disturbance to marine mammals shellfish from underwater noise is considered to be minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms. The applicant has applied guidance from the NPWS on minimising the risks of injury to marine mammals and refers to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b>.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works comply with Underwater Noise Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.4: MSFD Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Underwater Sound Modelling Report</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);</li> <li>➤ 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</li> <li>➤ Species protected under the Wildlife Acts.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment of the potential impact of the development or use on the affected species in terms of environmental sustainability;</li> <li>• Demonstration that significant adverse impacts on marine fauna resulting from underwater noise will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements be:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoided,</li> <li>b) minimised, or</li> <li>c) mitigated, or</li> <li>d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine fauna, the reasons for proceeding must be set out.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such</p> |                               |                                     |

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| assessments require consideration of underwater noise. |                               |                                     |

## 9. AIR QUALITY

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Application Documentation Reference      |
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| <p><b>Air Quality Policy 1</b></p> <p>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 this NMPF. Proposals must demonstrate consideration of their contribution to air pollution, both direct and cumulative.</p> | <p>The Proposed Works offshore regard the decommissioning of an offshore wind farm (OWF). Over its lifetime, the OWF generated 1.23 GW which were fed to the national grid. By way of comparison, Eirgrid considers that 1 GW of electricity would power around 500,000 customers<sup>1</sup>. This would translate to 615,000 customers over the lifetime of ABWP Phase I.</p> <p>Although ABWP Phase I is now being decommissioned, it played a part in supporting a reduction in air pollution and therefore should be considered to comply with Air Quality Policy 1.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                          |
| <p><b>Air Quality Policy 2</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate air pollution.</li> </ul>                                                   | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically to <i>Table 1.3: Environmental factors, subtopics and potential impacts (or headings) to be scoped out of the EIAR</i>.</p> <p>The table states:</p> <p><i>'Given the Onshore and Offshore Sites are located within a coastal and marine environment, baseline conditions indicate generally good air quality with pollutant levels below relevant ambient standards and no significant local sources of emissions. The Proposed Works Offshore will involve a number of vessels and machinery that will lead to temporary emissions to the atmosphere, however these will be limited and of short-term nature and any emissions offshore will rapidly disperse over open water and unlikely to reach sensitive receptors located onshore. The Offshore DEMP will include standard industry practice and requirements related to offshore emissions, such as adherence to MARPOL requirements. Significant changes to air quality associated with Proposed Works Offshore are considered unlikely'.</i></p> | <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b> |

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eirgrid.ie/news/ireland-reaches-1-gw-grid-scale-solar-peak-eirgrid-progresses-electricity-infrastructure>

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| Planning Policy Description | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Application Documentation Reference |
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|                             | <p>This means that air quality was scoped out of the EIAR as effects on air quality were considered unlikely.</p> <p>On this basis, the Proposed Works Offshore are not considered to result in or facilitate an increase in air pollution, meaning that Air Quality Policy 2 does not apply.</p> |                                     |

## 10. CLIMATE CHANGE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Application Documentation Reference                                              |
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| <p><b><i>Climate Change Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>Proposals should demonstrate how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid contribution to adverse changes to physical features of the coast;</li> <li>• Enhance, restore or recreate habits that provided a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem services where possible.</li> </ul> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Avoided,</li> <li>b) Minimised;</li> <li>c) Mitigated,</li> <li>d) It not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, the reasons for proceeding must be set out.</li> </ol> <p>This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessment where such assessments are required.</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b>, particularly section 4.7.4 which considers impacts to the morphology and stability of Arklow Bank and to the coastline (including coastline profile change and beach erosion) due to changes in seabed morphology. The EIAR concludes that the Proposed Works Offshore would not give rise to significant effects.</p> <p>On this basis, it is concluded that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Climate Change Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Coastal Processes, Water and Sediment Quality</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference             |
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| <p><b>Climate Change Policy 2</b></p> <p>For the lifetime of the proposal, the following climate change matters must be demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• estimation of likely generation of greenhouse gas emissions, both direct and indirect;</li> <li>• measures to support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions where possible;</li> <li>• likely impact of climate change effects upon the proposal from factors including but not limited to: sea level rise, ocean acidification, changing weather patterns;</li> <li>• measures incorporated to enable adaptation climate change effects;</li> <li>• likely impact upon climate change adaptation measures adopted in the coastal area relevant to the proposal and/or adaptation measures adopted by adjacent activities;</li> <li>• 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:</li> </ul> | <p>The project has generated around 1.23 GW of electricity over its lifetime. Further to this reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically to <i>Table 1.3: Environmental factors, subtopics and potential impacts (or headings) to be scoped out of the EIAR</i>.</p> <p>In relation to climate change, the following statement is made:</p> <p><i>'ABWP Phase I has been operating for over 20 years, generating renewable energy that has contributed to regional and national climate goals. Atmospheric emissions, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change, generated during Proposed Works Offshore and Onshore, are anticipated to be negligible within the context of regional and national emissions given the scale and temporary nature of Proposed Works. The release of embodied carbon (GHG emissions associated with a material across its lifecycle) associated with components to be decommissioned will be minimised by applying the waste hierarchy as part of the Offshore and Onshore WMPs, which will prioritise reuse and recycling when this is considered technically and economically feasible.</i></p> <p><i>Overall, a significant contribution to climate change from the Proposed Works is considered unlikely, and therefore this heading has been scoped out of the EIAR'.</i></p> <p>This means that climate change was scoped out of the EIAR as effects on climate change were considered unlikely.</p> <p>On this basis, the Proposed Works Offshore are not considered to result in or facilitate an increase in air pollution, meaning that Climate Change Policy 2 does not apply.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> |

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| a) avoided,<br>b) minimised,<br>c) mitigated,<br>d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, the reasons for proceeding must be set out. |                               |                                     |

## 11. CO-EXISTENCE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p><b>Co-Existence Policy 1</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>If proposals cannot avoid significant adverse impacts (including displacement) on other activities they must, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) minimise significant adverse impacts,</li> <li>b) mitigate significant adverse impacts, or</li> <li>c) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</li> </ul> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries</b> and <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS)</b>.</p> <p>As stated in the <b>FMMS</b>, AEL recognises that '<i>effective liaison with the fishing industry is fundamental to facilitating coexistence between the Proposed Works Offshore and commercial fisheries</i>'.</p> <p>The FMMS envisaged that the continued presence of the Proposed Works Offshore activities and commercial fishing within and around the offshore site.</p> <p>It is important to note that <b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries</b> concludes that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effect of displacement of fishing activity from Proposed Works Offshore on the potting fisheries is considered to be minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms;</li> <li>• It would be negligible adverse and not significant in EIA terms on mussel seed fisheries and other fisheries.</li> </ul> <p>It also assessed interference with fishing activities. It concludes that the magnitude of impacts for potting fishing, mussel seed fisheries and other fisheries is minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>The EIAR also considers risks of increased fishing gear snagging, noting that the effects for the aforementioned receptors would all be minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS)</b></p> <p><b>Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Application Documentation Reference |
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|                             | <p>The applicant has opted to submit the <b>FMMS</b> as it is considered good practice, although as demonstrated in the EIAR, there will be no significant adverse effects arising from the Proposed Work Offshore.</p> <p>Lastly, AEL would like to bring the Commission's attention to section 5.1 of the <b>Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report</b> which notes that the OWF has coexisted for 21 years with local fishers and aquaculture, with no direct or indirect disturbance to fishing activity.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore complies with Co-existence Policy 1.</p> |                                     |

## 12. INFRASTRUCTURE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                            | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p><b><i>Infrastructure Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an OWF. This policy is not considered to have a bearing on the project.</p> |                                     |

## 13. ACCESS

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Access Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals, including in relation to tourism and recreation, should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid;</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>significant adverse impacts on public access.</p>                                                                                                                                      | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b> which notes that the majority of vessels actively avoid Arklow Bank due to limited water depth and associated grounding risk. Therefore, any established routing into ports will not be affected by the Proposed Works Offshore.</p> <p>Reference is also made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5 Ecosystem Services Assessment</b> which consider recreational services. It notes that the Proposed Works Offshore may result in temporary access restrictions within the Offshore Site, particularly along the export cable corridor. It also considers that sailing activities may require minor, temporary adjustments to routes or race marks. Marine Notices will be issued to inform users of the location, nature and timing of the works, allowing recreational activities to be planned.</p> <p>It is important to emphasise that by nature, the proposed offshore works are localised and temporary and therefore are considered to be minor.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore complies with Access Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment</b></p> |
| <p><b>Access Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the maritime 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.</p> | <p>As stated above, due to the morphological characteristics of the site, there is by nature, limited access to the offshore site.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the applicant has prepared <b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b> to documents the navigational risks associated with the project and post-completion of the Proposed Works Offshore. It considers that the hazards frequencies are low due to the existing ship traffic patterns.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b></p>                                                  |

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|                             | In this respect, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore align with Access Policy 2, insofar as it does not reduce the possible access to the site as a result of the decommissioning. |                                     |

## 14. EMPLOYMENT

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Employment Policy 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals should demonstrate contribution to a net increase in marine related employment in Ireland,</li> <li>in line with the skills available in Irish coastal communities adjacent to the maritime area,</li> <li>improve the sustainable use of natural resources,</li> <li>diversify skills to enable employment in emerging industries.</li> </ul> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically table 1.3. It notes that the <i>'Proposed Works will be temporary, localised and limited in scale, and are not expected to generate substantial employment nor place notable demand on local services. Therefore, significant effects are not anticipated, and this heading has been scoped out of the EIAR'</i>.</p> <p>The applicant is mindful of the wording which requires demonstration i.e possibly a quantification of the level of employment expected to be generated by the works. While these have not been quantified as part of the EIAR as the environmental factor 'Population and Human Health' (and all associated sub-topics) was scoped out, reference is made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment</b> which shows that scientific and educational services have been screened in.</p> <p>As stated in table 1.3:</p> <p><i>'Additionally, the Proposed Works Offshore represent the first large scale monopile offshore wind decommissioning project in Europe. As such, it will provide important technical, environmental and regulatory learning that will help inform best practice and decision making for future offshore wind decommissioning projects.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, the Proposed Works Offshore are expected to result in a positive contribution to scientific and educational ecosystem services through the generation of updated marine data and will generate valuable learning to inform future offshore wind decommissioning activities.</i></p> <p><i>Overall, the Proposed Works Offshore are <b>not expected to give rise to adverse effects</b>, but instead a <b>beneficial effect</b>, on scientific and educational services'.</i></p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment</b></p> |

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| Planning Policy Description | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                       | Application Documentation Reference |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                             | On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore complies with Employment Policy 1. |                                     |

## 15. HERITAGE ASSETS

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><i>Heritage Assets Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>harm to the significance of heritage assets, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) 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.</li> </ul> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 8: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b> which considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Works Offshore on marine archaeology sensitive receptors. Subject to the mitigation measures identified in the chapter, the impacts would not be considered significant. On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Heritage Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 8: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b></p> |

## 16. RURAL COASTAL AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b><i>Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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 ec</p> | <p>The proposal regards the decommissioning of an existing OWF, so this policy is not considered relevant to the application. Notwithstanding this, as can be seen in the <b>Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Report</b> and <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.6: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy</b>, the applicant has developed a relationship with active fisheries in the area and is committed to continue same during the duration of the Proposed Works Offshore.</p> | <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Report</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.6: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy</b></p> |

## 17. SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Application Documentation Reference             |
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| <p><b><i>Seascape and Landscape Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>significant adverse impacts on the seascape and landscape of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.</li> </ul> <p>This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments.</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, in particular table 1.3 which discussed seascape and landscape. It is important to reiterate the nature of the Proposed Works. The project consists of the decommissioning of an end-of-life OWF. This means that it involves the removal of existing infrastructure using vessels, already characteristic of the area. No new permanent or visible offshore elements will be introduced. In effect, visually, once the project is complete, the seascape will revert to pre-construction baseline conditions. The works are also temporary and of relatively small scale and therefore would give rise to significant changes to the seascape.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore complies with Seascape and Landscape Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> |

## 18. SOCIAL BENEFITS

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Reference                                                               | Documentation |
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| <p><b><i>Social Benefits Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) minimise, or</li> <li>b) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>significant adverse impacts which result in the displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities that generate social benefits.</p> | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. There are two aspects to take into account:</p> <p>First, reference is made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment</b>. As stated in other parts of this report, the assessment considers the beneficial effects on scientific and educational services to be accrued from the project.</p> <p>Secondly, although not strictly related to the marine environment itself, the removal and reinstatement of the onshore substation should be noted. The existing substation predates Wicklow County Council's proposals for the general area of north Quay. As stated in the <b>Planning Report</b>, North Quay is earmarked under Specific Local Objective 1 Northern Waterfront Zone. The Arklow Local Area Plan notes that the area naturally lends itself to leisure and residential uses due to its proximity to existing amenities. Under SLO 1, the Council has planned further marine-based commercial and / or leisure activities, which will benefit both the employment-base of Arklow and the resident base. The substation is not part of any of the sites identified in the SLO1 Concept Plan, but forms part of the broader fabric of the area. The removal of the substation will work toward ensuring that Wicklow County Council can avail of the full potential of the lands without the constraints of the substation.</p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.5: Ecosystem Services Assessment Planning Report</b></p> |               |

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Application Reference | Documentation |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore complies with Social Benefits Policy 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                       |               |
| <p><b><i>Social Benefits Policy 2</i></b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p>This report has discussed in relation to other policies, how the decommissioning project will not impede on enjoyment of marine environment as the works are temporary and limited in scale.</p> <p>It has also discussed the benefits to be accrued in relation to scientific and educational services ecosystem services.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Social Benefits Policy 2.</p> |                       |               |

## 19. TRANSBOUNDARY

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Application Documentation Reference                           |
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| <p><b><i>Transboundary Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Reference to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.3: Transboundary Screening</b> which concludes that '<i>due to the temporary nature, relatively small scale and location of Proposed Works in relation to other states, there are no identified pathways through which either direct or indirect impacts from Proposed Works could result in significant transboundary effects</i>'.</p> <p>On this basis, consultation as required by Transboundary Policy 1 is not considered necessary.</p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 1.3: Transboundary Screening</b></p> |

## 20. AQUACULTURE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>Aquaculture Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals for sustainable development of aquaculture that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>enhances resilience to the effects of climate change should be supported.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              | <p>The project regards the decommissioning of an offshore wind farm, therefore Aquaculture Policy 1 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Aquaculture Policy 2</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid;</li> <li>minimise;</li> <li>mitigate significant adverse impacts on aquaculture.</li> <li>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts upon aquaculture, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture</b> identifies one aquaculture site off the coast of Arklow, c. 4.5k from the closest point of the offshore export cable. The location of the site is shown in figure 4.1 of <b>Volume 3, Appendix 6.1: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Report</b>.</p> <p>The EIAR considers potential impacts in respect of commercially exploited species such as mussel, which is cultivated in the aquaculture site. It concludes that the effects would be considered to be minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms, with no additional mitigation measures required.</p> <p>On this basis, the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Aquaculture Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 6.1: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Report</b></p> |

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                    | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <b><i>Aquaculture Policy 3</i></b><br><br>Land-based coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of aquaculture should be supported, in accordance with any legal requirements and provided environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes are fully met. | The project regards the decommissioning of an offshore wind farm, therefore Aquaculture Policy 3 does not apply. |                                     |

## 21. DEFENCE AND SECURITY

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Application Reference                                                                                                                                                   | Documentation |
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| <p><b>Defence and Security Policy 1</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safety of navigation and access to naval facilities; firing, test or exercise areas;</li> <li>• Communication, and surveillance systems;</li> <li>• Fisheries protection functions.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>Any proposal will be subject to the relevant environmental assessments, as set out in the introduction to this NMPF.</p> | <p>The project consists of the decommissioning of an existing OWF. As noted in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, the Proposed Works Offshore will not introduce any new above surface structures that could interact with radars' areas of influence, with re-construction baseline conditions being reinstated for civil and military aviation receptors following the completion of Proposed Works Offshore. The Chapter further states: <i>'Given the nature and scale of Proposed Works Offshore, significant impacts associated with interference with PSR systems are considered unlikely and therefore this heading has been scoped out of the EIA'</i>.</p> <p>Furthermore, as can be seen in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b>, vessel traffic data was assessed. This data includes military vessel traffic. The same chapter discusses safety of navigation to vessels. Overall, it concludes that the Proposed Works Offshore would not give rise to significant effects.</p> <p>It is therefore not expected that the Proposed Works Offshore would interfere with safety of navigation, communication or surveillance. There are no naval facilities, or firing or test or exercise areas.</p> <p>Reference is made to the <b>Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report</b> which shows in section 4.5 that the Scoping Presentation prepared by the applicants was shared with the Minister for Defence. At time of lodging this application, no response was received.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b></p> |               |

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| Planning Policy Description | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                               | Application Reference | Documentation |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                             | On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Defence and Security Policy 1. |                       |               |

## 22. ENERGY – OFFSHORE RENEWABLE

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Application Documentation Reference              |
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| <p><b>ORE Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals that assist the State in meeting the Government's offshore renewable energy targets, including the target of achieving 5 GW of capacity in offshore wind by 2030 and proposals that maximise the long-term shift from use of fossil fuels to renewable electricity energy, in line with decarbonization targets, should be supported. All proposals will be rigorously assessed to ensure compliance with environmental standards and seek to minimize impacts on the marine environment, marine ecology and other maritime users.</p> | <p>This proposal is not for a project that will contribute to the 5 GW target. ABWP Phase I was the first project of its kind in Ireland. Over its lifetime, it contributed to the production of 1.23 GW of clean, green renewable energy.</p> <p>The <b>Planning Report</b> and the <b>EIAR</b> have both considered and demonstrated why the project was the only feasible option. The Applicant would add that the Government has already earmarked the projects which could contribute to the energy targets. These are the Phase 1. Some or all of these that will be successful in getting planning permission and the project that will be delivered under Tonn Nua as part of the South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP) will deliver on these targets. The achievement of the 5GW target does not rely on the operation of ABWP Phase I.</p> <p>The application before the Commission has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Directive and the Habitats and Bird Directives. These assessments also consider the results of the assessment against the relevant standards of other environmental directives, namely MSFD and WFD. The applicant has sought to minimise impacts on the marine environment, marine ecology and other maritime users.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with ORE Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Planning Report</b></p> <p><b>EIAR</b></p> |
| <p><b>ORE Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals must be consistent with national policy, including the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) and its successor. Relevant Projects designated pursuant to the Transition Protocol and</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>As demonstrated in the <b>Planning Report</b>, the proposed works offshore is consistent with national policy, including the OREDPA. The project is not a relevant project. Neither is it a new project for a new OWF, as it predates much of the policy and legislative framework in place.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with ORE Policy 2.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                  |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Application Documentation Reference                                                                              |
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| 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 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) (Note – see Appendix D on Spatial Designation Process).                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>ORE Policy 3</b></p> <p>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 in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise,</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>adverse impacts, or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</li> </ul> | <p>The planning application regards the decommissioning of an existing OWF, so this policy does not strictly apply. Notwithstanding this, the project is cognisant of the proposed cable layout for option 1 of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase II, which crosses ABPW Phase I's export cable. As can be seen in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1 Introduction</b> and <b>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Summary of Cumulative Effects</b>, the proposed project was considered as part of the cumulative assessment carried out as part of this planning application. The applicant also refers to statements made by SSE, the promoters of Arklow Band Wind Park Phase II in <b>Volume II, Chapter 19, Infrastructure and Other Users</b><sup>2</sup>, particularly table 19.12 – Factored Measures, which notes ongoing consultation between the developers.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1 Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Summary of Cumulative Effects</b></p> |

<sup>2</sup> [Volume II, Chapter 19, Infrastructure and Other Users](#), (SSE, 2024)

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Application Documentation Reference |
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| Applicants for non-ORE proposals in or affecting ORE sites should engage ORE developers in consultation during the pre-application processes as appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                     |
| <b>ORE Policy 4</b><br><br>Decisions on ORE developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.                                                                                                                                                                                        | The planning application regards the removal of existing structures and not the introduction of new structures. It is considered that this policy does not apply.                                                                                                    |                                     |
| <b>ORE Policy 5</b><br><br>Proposals for activity that may adversely impact ORE test projects by virtue of being within or adjacent to ORE test sites, or 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. | The proposal is located far away from any existing test sites. A review of the Marine Atlas shows that the test sites are located on the west coast in Galway Bay and Mayo. There is also a test facility in Cork. It is considered that this policy does not apply. |                                     |
| <b>ORE Policy 6</b><br><br>Proposals for infrastructure enabling local use of excess energy generated from emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) should be supported.                                                                                                                                                                                | The planning application regards the removal of existing structures and will not generate energy. It is considered that this policy does not apply.                                                                                                                  |                                     |
| <b>ORE Policy 7</b><br><br>Where potential for ports to contribute to ORE is identified, plans and policies related to this port must encourage development in                                                                                                                                                                                                           | This policy does not apply as this planning application regards the decommissioning of an existing OWF and not port development.                                                                                                                                     |                                     |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Application Documentation Reference                          |
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| such a way as to facilitate ORE and related supply chain activity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                              |
| <p><b>ORE Policy 8</b></p> <p>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 statutory environmental assessments where such assessments are required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>The proposed offshore works regards the decommissioning of an existing OWF. The works proposed to existing cables are detailed in <b>Volume 2 Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description</b>. At present, the project does not interact with other existing cables.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that ORE Policy 8 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Volume 2 Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description</b></p> |
| <p><b>ORE Policy 9</b></p> <p>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 visualization 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 minimizing impact. Visualisation assessments will be informed by specific</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically table 1.2, which noted that in essence, given that no new permanent or visible offshore elements will be introduced, the area will revert back to pre-construction baseline conditions from a visual perspective. It further considers that given the scale and temporary nature of the works, significant changes are considered unlikely and therefore the topic was scoped out.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that ORE Policy 9 does not apply.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p>              |

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Application Documentation Reference |
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| emerging guidelines (detailed in the actions set out in Annexes to this NMPPF). Prior to specific guidelines being available, policy 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. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                     |
| <p><b>ORE Policy 10</b></p> <p>Opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of ORE should be prioritised in plans and policies, where possible.</p>                                                                                                                          | <p>The Proposed Works Onshore will comprise the removal of the existing onshore substation and associated infrastructure. The site will be reinstated and given back to Wicklow County Council. The Council will be able to use it in line with the uses considered under SLO 1 Northern Waterfront of the Arklow Local Area Plan, which broadly considers that the area would be appropriate for recreational and marine uses.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Onshore positively benefit ORE Policy 10.</p> |                                     |
| <p><b>ORE Policy 11</b></p> <p>Where appropriate, proposals that enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains will be supported.</p>                                                                                                                                               | <p>The Proposed Works Offshore are not for emerging renewable energy technology. Nonetheless, the novelty of the project should be highlighted. This is the first of its kind in Ireland, in a marine context. It will bring hugely beneficial learnings to the emerging ORE industry and will positively contribute to the upskilling of the supply chain.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore will positively contribute to ORE Policy 11.</p>                                                         |                                     |

## 23. ENERGY – PETROLEUM

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p><b>Petroleum Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals in areas where petroleum activities or petroleum production 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.</p> <p>Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoiding, or</li> <li>b) minimising, or</li> <li>c) mitigating adverse impacts.</li> <li>d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</li> </ul> | <p>The closest exploration licence for petroleum is (SEL) 2/11 for an offshore oil and gas prospect located off the Coast of Cork. The licence expired in August 2020<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>In February 2021, DECC announced that it would no longer accept new applications for natural gas or oil in line with government policy. There has been no announcement reversing this decision to date, therefore it is considered that Petroleum Policy 1 does not apply.</p> |                                     |
| <p><b>Petroleum Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals potentially affecting future potential activity in areas (blocks) subject to existing petroleum</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>See above in relation to Petroleum Policy 2.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                     |

<sup>3</sup> DECC, 2020, [Petroleum Exploration and Development in Ireland – Report Covering Period 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2020](#)

**Statement of Compliance with the National Marine Planning Framework -  
Appendix to the Planning Report**

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p>authorisations should avoid sterilization of that area for future petroleum-related activity consistent with Government policy, and demonstrate how they, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid, or</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>potential adverse impacts on those activities.</p> <p>d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</p> |                               |                                     |

## 24. ENERGY – TRANSMISSION

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Application Documentation Reference                                                                               |
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| <p><b>Transmission Policy 1</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 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</p> | <p>This project regards the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Transmission Policy 1 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Transmission Policy 2</b></p> <p>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:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>The planning application regards the decommissioning of an existing OWF, so this policy does not strictly apply. Notwithstanding this, the project is cognisant of the proposed cable layout for option 1 of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase II, which crosses ABPW Phase I's export cable. As can be seen in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1 Introduction</b> and <b>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Summary of Cumulative Effects</b>, the proposed project was considered as part of the cumulative assessment carried out as part of this planning application. The applicant also refers to statements made by SSE, the promoters of Arklow Band Wind Park Phase II in</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Summary of Cumulative Effects</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p>a) avoiding, or</p> <p>b) minimising, or</p> <p>c) mitigating adverse impacts.</p> <p>d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</p>                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Volume II, Chapter 19, Infrastructure and Other Users<sup>4</sup></b>, particularly table 19.12 – Factored Measures, which notes ongoing consultation between the developers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     |
| <p><b>Transmission Policy 3</b></p> <p>Decisions on transmission developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.</p>                                                                                                                                                            | <p>See Transmission Policy 2 above.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     |
| <p><b>Transmission Policy 4</b></p> <p>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 co-ordination and integration with relevant Marine Plans must be considered, where appropriate.</p> | <p>The Proposed Works Onshore will comprise the removal of the existing onshore substation and associated infrastructure. The site will be reinstated and given back to Wicklow County Council. The Council will be able to use it in line with the uses considered under SLO 1 Northern Waterfront of the draft Arklow Local Area Plan, which broadly considers that the area would be appropriate for recreational and marine uses.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Onshore positively benefit Transmission Policy 4.</p> |                                     |
| <p><b>Transmission Policy 5</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The closest natural gas interconnector is located to the North of Dublin. The policy does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                     |

<sup>4</sup> [Volume II, Chapter 19, Infrastructure and Other Users](#), (SSE, 2024)

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p>Proposals for construction or operation activities within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines shall be avoided.</p> <p>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 mitigation measures put in place or the proposed activities altered.</p> <p>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.</p> |                               |                                     |
| <p><b>Transmission Policy 6</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | This policy does not apply.   |                                     |

## 25. FISHERIES

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b>Fisheries Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access for existing fishing activities, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise, or</li> <li>c) mitigate such impacts.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>                                               | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>. The EIAR has identified moderate adverse effects, on whelk potting fisheries, which are considered significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.6: FMMS</b>, the effects would be minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the applicant has sufficiently mitigated impacts and that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Fisheries Policy 1.</p>                                 | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy</b></p> |
| <p><b>Fisheries Policy 2</b></p> <p>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 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</p> | <p>As stated in response to Fisheries Policy 1, the applicant has included <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.6: FMMS</b> as part of the planning application.</p> <p>The FMMS includes an assessment of the potential impacts of all stages of development and recognises potential disruption. It includes mitigation measures which will lessen the impact on affected fisheries.</p> <p>The applicant would welcome a condition to the effect that the FMMS will be detailed and agreed with the affected parties prior to carrying out the activities detailed in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 3: Description of Works</b>.</p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 3: Description of Works</b></p>                 |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                  | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. This assessment should include consideration of any impact upon cultural identity within fishing communities, as well as identifying indirect / in-combination matters.</li> <li>• A recognition that the disruption to existing fishing opportunities / activity should be minimised as far as possible.</li> <li>• Demonstration of the public benefit(s) that outweigh the significant impacts identified.</li> <li>• Reasonable measures to mitigate any constraints which the proposed development or use may place on existing or proposed fishing activity.</li> <li>• Reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts on sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. impacts on</li> </ul> | <p>On this basis, it is considered that the FMMS submitted as part of this planning application sufficiently addressed Fisheries Policy 2.</p> |                                     |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                        |
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| <p>spawning grounds or areas of fish or shellfish abundance) and any socio-economic impacts.</p> <p>Where it does not prove possible to agree the FMMS with all interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Where divergent views are identified, relevant public authorities should be engaged to identify informal and formal steps designed to enable proposal(s) to progress.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Fisheries Policy 3</b></p> <p>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</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Impacts associated with fisheries are presented in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>. The chapter shows that subject to mitigation, including the use of the FMMS, the Proposed Works Offshore will not have a detrimental long-term effect on fisheries active in the area.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore is aligned with Fisheries Policy 3.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy</b></p> |
| <p><b>Fisheries Policy 4</b></p> <p>Infrastructural proposals that enable access to fishing activities should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Fisheries Policy 4 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                            |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Application Documentation Reference                                                          |
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| <p><b>Fisheries Policy 5</b></p> <p>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:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise,</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migration routes.</p> <p>d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b> which considers habitat loss. It particularly considers that temporary and minor habitat loss is expected to occur within spawning grounds for demersal fish which overlap with the Offshore Site. It further considers that given that the fish habitat present covers a large area compared to the extent of the Offshore Site, the impacts are unlikely to be measurable at a population level. It is therefore considered that with impacts that are short-term and temporary, the effects of the Proposed Works Offshore are minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms. No additional mitigation measures are proposed.</p> <p>As discussed in the <b>Natura Impact Statement</b>, there are no designated sites overlapping with the Offshore Site.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Fisheries Policy 5.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 5: Marine Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>Natura Impact Statement</b></p> |
| <p><b>Fisheries Policy 6</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>                                                                                                                                       | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Fisheries Policy 6 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                              |

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| this infrastructure, provided there is an ongoing requirement for it to remain in place and that it continues to be fit for purpose. |                               |                                     |

## 26. PORTS, HARBOURS AND SHIPPING

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                            |
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| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1</b></p> <p>To provide for shipping activity and freedom of navigation the following factors will be taken into account when reaching decisions regarding development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• A mandatory Navigation Risk Assessment;</li> <li>• Where interference is likely: whether reasonable alternatives can be identified; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> | <p>At the outset, the applicant would note that no locational decision is being taken as the project regards an existing OWF.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, <b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b> considers the impacts of the four phases of the Proposed Works Offshore on shipping activities defined for the purposes of assessing potential impacts on shipping and navigation. It particularly considers increased collision risk (vessel-to-vessel) and increased allision risk (vessel-to-structure).</p> <p>To support its conclusion, the EIAR uses the findings of <b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b>. In respect of increased collision, the EIAR concludes that the significance of the potential effects under the most likely scenarios, in all phases, to be broadly acceptable and not significant in EIA terms. The same conclusion is drawn in the respect of the worst-case scenario.</p> <p>In relation to Increased Allision, the EIAR concludes that the risk is negligible – moderate and broadly acceptable in EIA terms in both the likely scenario and the worst-case scenario.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore are aligned with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7 – Shipping and Navigation</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b></p> |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals that may have a significant impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The proposed works are not of a scale that would significantly impact on the current activity of the Port of Arklow or any other port. <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Outline Onshore Decommissioning Environmental</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Outline Onshore Demolition and Environmental Management Plan</b></p>                             |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Application Documentation Reference                          |
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| <p>of port and harbour activities should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise, or</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>significant adverse impacts, and</p> <p>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.</p> | <p><b>Management Plan</b> states that the duration of the Proposed Works Onshore would be 30 days. The works are therefore temporary and carried out over a very short period, unlikely to significantly impact on the current activities of the port.</p> <p>Furthermore, it regards the decommissioning of existing facilities, with the site reverted back to hard core and handed over the Council, with all onshore activities associated with ABWP Phase I permanently ceasing with no potential to cause disruptions to future plans for expansion for the port.</p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b> considers potential port access restrictions as a result of Proposed Works Offshore. It was scoped out from further assessment, as it is not considered that potential impacts would be significant.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that the Proposed Works Onshore and Offshore do not impact on the current activity or future opportunity for expansion of the Port of Arklow and comply with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2.</p> |                                                              |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 3</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                     | <p>See above in respect of Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                              |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4</b></p> <p>Proposals within ports limits, beside or in the vicinity of ports, and / or that impact upon the main routes of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>The Proposed Works Onshore would be carried out on North Quay in the Port of Arklow. The Port is managed by Wicklow County Council. The applicant has engaged with the Council as evidenced in the <b>Stakeholder</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report</b></p> |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                       |
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| <p>significance to a port, must demonstrate within applications that they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• been informed by consultation at pre-application stage or earlier with the relevant port authority;</li> <li>• have carried out a navigational risk assessment including an analysis of maritime traffic in the area; and</li> <li>• have consulted Department of Transport, MSO and Commissioners of Irish Lights.</li> </ul> <p>Applicants must continue to engage parties identified in pre-application processes as appropriate during the decision-making process.</p> | <p><b>Consultation and Engagement Report</b> and the <b>Schedule of Pre-Application Consultation</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant has also carried out a Navigational Risk Assessment, which is submitted under a separate cover under <b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b>.</p> <p>As part of the non-statutory scoping exercise, the Applicant circulated information to the Minister for Transport, the Marine Survey Office and the Commissioners of Irish Lights. Details can be found in the <b>Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report</b>.</p> | <p><b>Schedule of Pre-Application Consultation</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b></p> |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 5</b></p> <p>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).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>As the policy relates to capital dredging for port, it is not considered to be relevant to the decommissioning of an existing OWF.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 6</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>The Proposed Works Offshore are not located in an area of authorised dredging activity, therefore it is not considered that this policy applies.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                           |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 7</b></p> <p>Proposals for maintenance dredging activity will be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• dredged waste is managed in accordance with internationally agreed hierarchy of waste management options for sea disposal;</li> <li>• if disposing of dredged material at sea, existing registered disposal sites are used, in preference to new disposal sites; and</li> <li>• where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPP.</li> </ul> | <p>As the policy relates to maintenance dredging, it is not considered to be relevant to the decommissioning of an existing OWF.</p>                                                                         |                                     |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 8</b></p> <p>Proposals that cause significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal areas should not be supported.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Three inactive licences areas were identified, all held by the Arklow Harbour Commissioners. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit no. 33, expired on the 30/09/1984.</li> </ul> |                                     |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Application Documentation Reference                                          |
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| <p>Proposals that cannot avoid such impact must, in order of preference"</p> <p>a) minimise,</p> <p>b) mitigate, or</p> <p>c) if it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding</p>                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit no. 114, expired on 31/12/1990</li> <li>Permit no. S0002-01, expired on the 01/04/2015.</li> </ul> <p>There is no active dump site. On this basis, it is considered that Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 8 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                              |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 9</b></p> <p>Proposals for the management of dredged material must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy (see Glossary).</p>                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>This policy relates to dredge material in the context of Ports, Harbours and Shipping and therefore is not considered to apply here.</p> <p>Nonetheless, reference is made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore Waste Management Plan</b> which considers potential waste arisings expected as a result of the Proposed Works Offshore.</p> <p>The proposed dredging works will be subject of a separate Dumping-at-Sea (DaS) permit to be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).</p> | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore Waste Management Plan</b></p> |
| <p><b>Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 10</b></p> <p>Proposals identifying new dredge disposal sites which are subject to best practice and guidance from previous studies should be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>competent authority decisions incorporate necessary compliance assessments associated with authorisations; and</li> </ul> | <p>This policy relates to dredge material in the context of Ports, Harbours and Shipping and therefore is not considered to apply here.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the proposed dredging works will be subject of a separate Dumping-at-Sea (DaS) permit to be obtained from the EPA as discussed in <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore Waste Management Plan.</b></p>                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore Waste Management Plan</b></p> |

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.</li></ul> <p>Proposals must include an adequate characterisation study, be assessed against the waste hierarchy and must be informed by consultation with all relevant stakeholders.</p> |                               |                                     |

## 27. SAFETY AT SEA

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Safety at Sea Policy 1</b></p> <p>Proposals for installation, operation, and decommissioning of Offshore Wind Farms must demonstrate how they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> | <p>Safety-at-sea was an overarching consideration of the applicant's decision on the decommissioning of the various offshore components of ABWP Phase I.</p> <p>As discussed in the <b>Planning Report</b>, the Applicant carried out a comparative assessment. The assessment was based on international guidance criteria, the findings of which can be viewed in <b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Comparative Assessment Report</b>. This informed the description of Proposed Works Offshore as set out under <b>Volume 2, Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description</b>.</p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b> is informed by <b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b> and concludes that no significant effects are likely to arise.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Proposed Works Offshore are aligned with Safety at Sea Policy 1.</p> | <p><b>Planning Report</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Comparative Assessment Report</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</b></p> |
| <p><b>Safety at Sea Policy 2</b></p> <p>Proposals for infrastructure that have the potential to significantly reduce under-keel clearance must demonstrate how they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise,</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>adverse impacts, or</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>As noted in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b>, the Proposed Works Offshore will not reduce the existing under-keel clearance. Therefore, it is considered that this policy does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Application Documentation Reference                              |
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| d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                  |
| <p><b>Safety at Sea Policy 3</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Outline Lighting and Marking Plan</b> which provides details on the applicant's proposals in respect of lighting and marking. The proposals are in line with the requirements of the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) and other applicable standards.</p> <p>On this basis, the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Safety at Sea Policy 3.</p> | <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Outline Lighting and Marking Plan</b> |
| <p><b>Safety at Sea Policy 4</b></p> <p>Establishing, changing or disestablishing Aids to Navigation (AtoN) must be sanctioned, in advance of works, by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>See above in respect of Safety at Sea Policy 3. The applicant will accept a condition to the effect that they must engage with CIL ahead of carrying out the works.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Outline Lighting and Marking Plan</b> |
| <p><b>Safety at Sea Policy 5</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid,</li> <li>b) minimise,</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>adverse impacts, or</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically table 1.2, which notes that it is unlikely that the Proposed Works Offshore would significantly impact the local emergency response capability.</p> <p>On this basis, the Proposed Works Offshore comply with Safety at Sea Policy 5.</p>                                                                              | <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>                         |

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| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                               | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding, supported by parties responsible for maritime SAR. |                               |                                     |

## 28. SPORTS AND RECREATION

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Application Documentation Reference             |
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| <p><b><i>Sports and Recreation Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Given the scope of the Proposed Works Onshore and Offshore, it is not considered that Sports and Recreation Policy 1 applies.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                 |
| <p><b><i>Sports and Recreation Policy 2</i></b></p> <p>Proposals should demonstrate the following in relation to potential impact on recreation and tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 facilities or other physical infrastructure.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.</li> </ul> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically table 1.2, which notes that the Proposed Works are not anticipated to interfere with recreational facilities, tourism and / or attractions. The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF, with all works, onshore and offshore, being temporary and short term in nature.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that the Proposed Works Onshore and Offshore are in line with Sports and Recreation Policy 2.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> |
| <p><b><i>Sports and Recreation Policy 3</i></b></p> <p>Opportunities to promote inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation should be supported,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Sports and Recreation Policy 3 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                 |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Application Documentation Reference                      |
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| where appropriate and at the applicable scale, with a focus on facilities for people with disabilities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                          |
| <p><b><i>Sports and Recreation Policy 4</i></b></p> <p>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</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Proposed Works Onshore will comprise the removal of the onshore substation, with the site returned to WCC. As noted in the <b>Planning Report</b> and in response to other policies in this report, the Council will have the opportunity to use the site in line with SLO 1 of the Arklow LAP, which envisages marine and recreational activities for the area. | <b>Planning Report</b>                                   |
| <p><b><i>Sports and Recreation Policy 5</i></b></p> <p>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</p> | Please refer to <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Lighting and Marking Plan.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Lighting and Marking Plan</b> |

## 29. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p><b>Telecommunications Policy 1</b></p> <p>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 Services and enterprise in Ireland, should be supported.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>There are no known telecommunication cables with the offshore site boundary. It is therefore considered that Telecommunications Policy 1 does not apply.</p> |                                     |
| <p><b>Telecommunications Policy 2</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoiding, or</li> <li>b) minimising, or</li> <li>c) mitigating adverse impacts, or</li> <li>d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.</li> </ul> | <p>The project comprises the decommissioning of an offshore wind farm, it is therefore considered that Telecommunications Policy 1 does not apply.</p>          |                                     |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                               |
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| <p><b>Telecommunication Policy 3</b></p> <p>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</p> | <p>The project regards the decommissioning of an offshore wind farm and associated cables and not of telecommunication cables. Notwithstanding this, the proposals detailed in <b>Volume 2, Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description</b> have been informed by <b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Comparative Assessment Report</b> which uses risk-based criteria as part of the methodology. Telecommunication Policy 3 is not considered to apply to the Proposed Works Offshore.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Comparative Assessment Report</b></p> |
| <p><b>Telecommunications Policy 4</b></p> <p>Proposals that ensure and enhance connectivity of Ireland's rural and island communities to high quality telecommunications networks should be supported.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Telecommunications Policy 4 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                   |

## 30. TOURISM

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Application Documentation Reference                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Tourism Policy 1</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Tourism Policy 1 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Tourism Policy 2</b></p> <p>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 proposals are not outweighed by potential negative impacts</p> | <p>Reference is made to <b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b>, specifically table 1.2, which notes that the Proposed Works are not anticipated to interfere with recreational facilities, tourism and / or attractions. The works, both onshore and offshore, will be temporary and short term. As noted in table 7.4 of <b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b> and <b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.4: Offshore DEMP</b>, marine notices will be published notifying vessels of planned activities.</p> | <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Volume 2, Chapter 7: Shipping and Navigation</b></p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 3.4: Offshore DEMP</b></p> |
| <p><b>Tourism Policy 3</b></p> <p>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</p>                                                           | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Tourism Policy 3 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                |

## 31. WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ABWP Phase I Project Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <p><b><i>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 1</i></b></p> <p>Proposals by Irish Water related to the treatment and disposal of wastewater that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) service the social and economic development of the country under the National Planning Framework;</li> <li>ii) resolve environmental issues at priority areas identified by the EPA;</li> <li>iii) contribute to the realisation of the objectives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland's River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021</li> <li>• The Water Services Policy Statement 2018 – 2025</li> <li>• Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2012 - 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>should be supported, provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within relevant authorisation processes.</p> | <p>The project is for the decommissioning of an existing OWF. It is considered that Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 1 does not apply.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                     |
| <p><b><i>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 2</i></b></p> <p>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:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The applicant has engaged with Uisce Éireann in relation to their assets in Arklow, namely the wastewater treatment plant and associated outfall to sea pipe. There is no overlap between the offshore export cable corridor of ABWP Phase I and the outfall pipe. Uisce Éireann was satisfied that no further action was required and that there would be no interactions between the two projects.</p> |                                     |

| Planning Policy Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ABWP Phase I Project Response | Application Documentation Reference |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compatibility with the existing, authorised, proposed or otherwise identified in consultations with Irish Water activity, can be satisfactorily demonstrated;</li> <li>• the proposal is clearly of strategic or national importance.</li> </ul> <p>Where possible, proposals that may affect Irish Water activities or plans should engage with Irish Water at the earliest available opportunity.</p> <p>Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through:</p> <p>a) avoiding adverse impacts on those activities;<br/>and / or</p> <p>b) minimising impacts where they cannot be avoided;<br/>and / or</p> <p>c) mitigating impacts where they cannot be minimised.</p> |                               |                                     |





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