

Arklow Bank Wind Park
Phase 2

Project Consultation Report

ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE

Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Appendix 3.1: Consultation Report

EOR0765
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FINAL
March 2021

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Contents

Glossary	v
Acronyms.....	vi
Units	vii
1 CONSULTATION REPORT	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background to the Project	1
1.3 Guiding Principles	6
1.3.1 Aarhus Convention.....	7
1.3.2 EIA Directive	8
1.3.3 Irish legal requirements	8
1.3.4 Good practice communications.....	8
1.4 Public engagement campaign lifecycle	9
1.5 Information Provision & Awareness Raising.....	11
1.5.1 Community Engagement Manager.....	11
1.5.2 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)	11
1.5.3 Information service	11
1.5.4 Project website.....	11
1.5.5 Stakeholder engagement.....	12
1.5.6 Pre application consultation	15
1.5.7 Public and stakeholder consultation 2020	16
1.6 Feedback and reporting.....	22
1.6.1 Feedback relating to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure	22
1.6.2 Feedback on Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure	32
1.6.3 Other Project feedback.....	33
1.6.4 How feedback informed the Project	34
1.8 References	36

Tables

Table 1.1: Guiding principles of consultation.....	6
Table 1.2: Details on type and quantity of public consultation feedback.	22
Table 1.3: EIAR chapter reference (in volume II unless otherwise noted) where feedback relating to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure is considered.	34
Table 1.4: EIAR chapter reference (in volume II unless otherwise noted) where feedback relating to relating to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure is considered.	35

Figures

Figure 1.1: Key infrastructure components of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.	3
Figure 1.2: Location of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure.....	4
Figure 1.3: Location of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure.	5
Figure 1.4: A screenshot of the landing page of the project website.....	12
Figure 1.5: Still image of live online event.....	17
Figure 1.6: A selection of images from the four public exhibitions.	18
Figure 1.7: A map identifying the area where the leaflet was delivered.	19
Figure 1.8: Examples of native content posts.	21
Figure 1.9: Examples of sponsored content on LinkedIn.....	22

Appendices

Appendix A Project Brochure, Leaflet and Poster

Appendix B Media Coverage

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Aarhus Convention	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed in Aarhus, Denmark in June 1998 and came into force in October 2001.
Consultation / Public Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based upon a genuine exchange of views, with the clear objective of informing and influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action (Jones et al, 2009).

Acronyms

Term	Meaning
AA	Appropriate Assessment
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
AIS	Automated Identification System
ADD	Acoustic Deterrent Devices
CEM	Community Engagement Manager
CTV	Crew Transfer Vessels
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
IDA	Industrial Developments Authority
NIFF	National Inshore Fisheries Forum
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NTM	Notice To Mariners
PAM	Passive Acoustic Monitors
PAMO	Passive Acoustic Monitor Operatives
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution
RIFF	Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
SID	Strategic Infrastructure Development
SPA	Special Protection Area
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TD	Teachta Dála (Dáil member)
TTS	Temporary Threshold Shift
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VMS	Vessel Monitoring Systems
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Units

Unit	Description
km	Kilometres

1 CONSULTATION REPORT

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This Consultation Report provides a record of stakeholder and public engagement carried out by Sure Partners Ltd (SPL) (the Developer) and the project team on the Arklow Bank Wind Park (Arklow Bank Wind Park) Phase 2 Project.
- 1.1.1.2 This report forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, which support the Project's application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to extend the long stop dates (Application for an Extension) to construct the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure and a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure.
- 1.1.1.3 It should be noted that this report records stakeholder and public engagement feedback up to 28th February 2021 however, engagement with stakeholders and the public will continue as the Project develops.
- 1.1.1.4 SPL's approach to project development sees consultation with stakeholders as central to the Project's decision making process. The feedback gathered during this process is presented in this report under various headings for accessibility and ease of review. All feedback received has been reviewed by the project team to ensure that the feedback has been considered as part of the Project development process.

1.2 Background to the Project

- 1.2.1.1 Arklow Bank Wind Park is an offshore wind farm project situated on and around Arklow Bank in the Irish Sea, approximately 6 to 13 km to the east of Arklow in County Wicklow (see Figure 1.2).
- 1.2.1.2 A Foreshore Lease was granted by the Minister for Marine and Natural Resources for the Offshore Infrastructure of the Arklow Bank Wind Park in 2002. The Foreshore Lease permits the development of the offshore components of the Arklow Bank Wind Park (the 'Offshore Infrastructure') which comprises wind turbines, including foundations and necessary associated works, offshore substations and all offshore export cables associated with the wind park.
- 1.2.1.3 Phase 1 of the Arklow Bank Wind Park, consisting of seven wind turbines, was constructed between 2003 and 2004 and is owned and operated by Arklow Energy Limited. It remains the first and only operational offshore wind farm in Ireland.
- 1.2.1.4 The Arklow Bank Wind Park is being developed by SPL, a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE. SPL is now proposing to develop the remainder of the Arklow Bank Wind Park, Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 (the Project), under the existing Foreshore Lease. This overall Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Project comprises three distinct elements as follows (as illustrated Figure 1.1):
- Offshore Infrastructure (see Figure 1.2):
 - Up to 62 wind turbines, each comprising a foundation, tower, nacelle and rotor assembly;
 - Up to two Offshore Substations Platforms (OSP) and foundation substructures;
 - A network of inter-array cabling; and
 - Two offshore export cables.
 - Onshore Grid Infrastructure (see Figure 1.3):
 - Two underground electricity cables will connect from the landfall to the onshore substation; and

- A new 220 kV onshore substation and connection to the transmission system to distribute the energy across Ireland.
 - Operations and Maintenance Facility:
 - Office, parking and warehousing facilities for staff operatives; and
 - Marine infrastructure, including pontoons and berths for Crew Transfer Vessels (CTV's)
- 1.2.1.5 A new purpose-built Operation and Maintenance Facility at Arklow Harbour's South Dock will be used to service and maintain the wind farm infrastructure once operational. Around 80 full-time local employees will be based out of this location.
- 1.2.1.6 Later in 2021, SPL will submit a planning application to Wicklow County Council and a foreshore lease application to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Operation and Maintenance Facility. Prior to submission, a separate consultation process will be launched and advertised to obtain local feedback and to refine plans ahead of submitting the final applications.

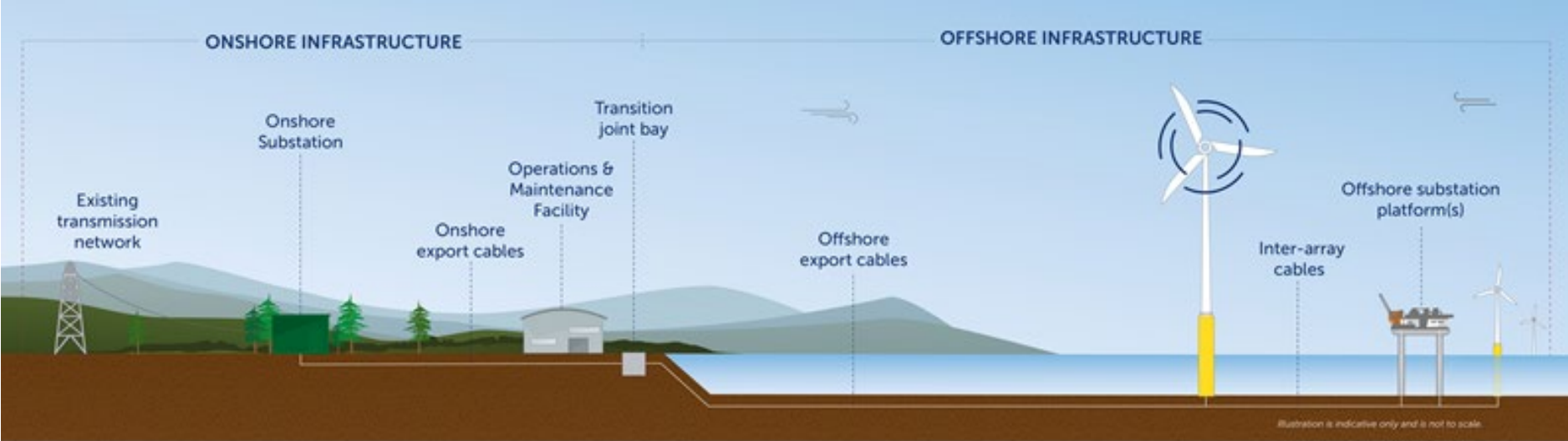


Figure 1.1: Key infrastructure components of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE – EIAR APPENDIX

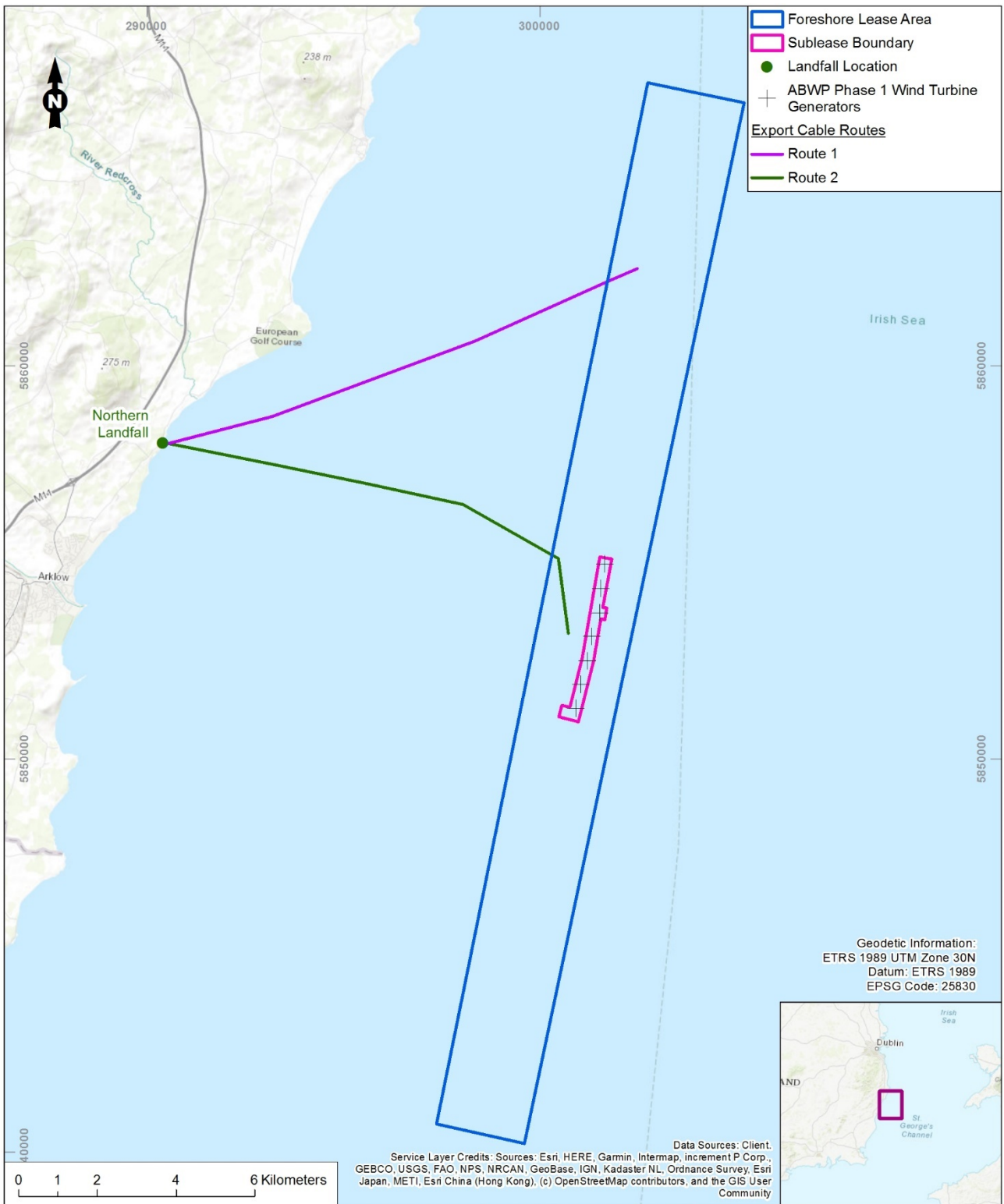



Figure Title: Arklow Bank Wind Park Location Map	Project Number: EOR0765	Drawing No: INT_E002_00	Client: Sure Partners Ltd
	Date: 20/11/2020	Rev: 00	
Project Name: Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2	Scale: 1:150,000 @ A4	Drawn: JA	
		Checked: AB	

Document Name: EOR0765_INT_E002_00_LocationMap_201120

Figure 1.2: Location of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure.

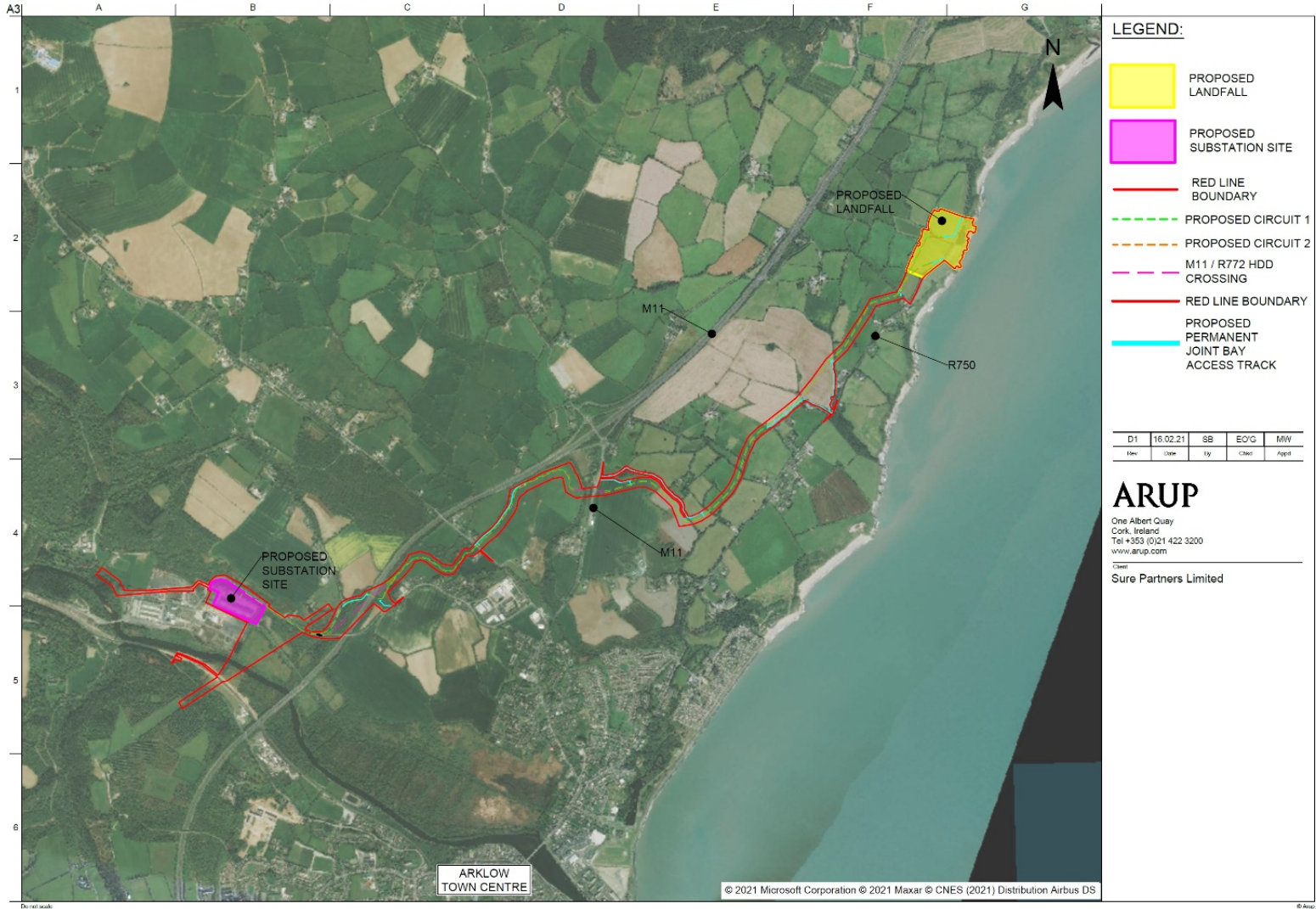


Figure 1.3: Location of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure.

1.3 Guiding Principles

- 1.3.1.1 Public participation is an essential element of the development of any infrastructure project, and SPL is committed to continuous and responsive two-way communication with all stakeholders, at every stage of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Project. Ongoing engagement with stakeholders has taken place since SPL began developing the Project, including a period of public consultation where SPL has sought, and listened to public feedback on the project.
- 1.3.1.2 SPL commits to providing communications and public consultation that is accessible, meaningful, transparent, proportionate and accountable for all stakeholders including those without a technical background. These principles have underpinned the approach SPL has taken to the communications and public consultation for the Project.
- 1.3.1.3 Table 1.1: sets out the guiding principles for communications and public consultation that SPL observes in the development of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

Table 1.1: Guiding principles of consultation.

Principle	Explanation
Accessible	Information should be easy to access, it should be communicated in a manner that is appropriate to the stakeholder group and should avoid the use of industry jargon. The consultation process should be inclusive, and it should be straight forward to participate in the process. This includes making submissions, asking questions and attending events.
Meaningful	Consultation is a two-way process and should be viewed as a genuine opportunity for stakeholders to influence outcomes. The Project Team should be prepared to consider all submissions that are received through the consultation process. Consultation should take place at identified stages in the development process in advance of key decisions being made and feedback should be used to inform those decisions.
Transparent	Core to all engagement and communications on a decision making process is that the process is transparent, that people can understand the process by which decisions were made and how their input was considered. They may not agree with a decision but they should have full access to the fair and objective process by which these decisions were made.
Proportionate	Undertaking communications activities that are appropriate for the specific project and circumstances. Ensuring SPL uses its resources and is flexible in our approach in order to respond to the complexities as the project develops.
Accountable	Accountable project decision making ensures that the project has taken on board relevant feedback, has responded to the feedback provided in a fair and transparent manner and that the project moves forward once feedback has been reported on. Careful record keeping of submissions and the review process are features of this principle.

- 1.3.1.4 Throughout the development of the project, SPL has consulted with members of the public and all interested stakeholders in accordance with the following legislative, planning and best practice requirements, which are further described in sections 1.3.1 to 1.3.4:
 - Aarhus Convention requirements;
 - Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive requirements;
 - Irish legislation requirements; and
 - International best practice.

1.3.1 Aarhus Convention

- 1.3.1.1 The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, commonly referred to as the 'Aarhus Convention', was signed in Aarhus, Denmark in June 1998 and came into force in October 2001.
- 1.3.1.2 The Aarhus Convention sets down basic rules to promote the participation of the public in environmental matters and to improve the enforcement of environmental law. The European Union has been a party to the Aarhus Convention since May 2005 and the Aarhus Convention is now an integral part of the EU legal order. Ireland ratified the Aarhus Convention in June 2012.
- 1.3.1.3 A guide to the requirements of the Convention was published by UNECE in 2000 entitled *The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide*. The second edition of the implementation guide was published in draft versions in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with the final version published in 2014.
- 1.3.1.4 The UNECE documents, *The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide* (2011 and 2014 versions) represent best practice in respect of how to consult with members of the public on major projects.
- 1.3.1.5 The provisions of the Aarhus Convention are divided into three pillars as follows:

Access to information

- 1.3.1.6 The right of members of the public to request environmental information that is held by public bodies and these bodies are obliged to maintain this information. The Access to Information pillar has been implemented in EU Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information and in Ireland by the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2011.

Public participation in environmental decision making

- 1.3.1.7 The right of the public to participate in decision making in environmental matters and for public authorities to enable the public to comment on proposals which affect the environment. Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention establishes the right of “the public concerned” to participate in environmental decision making procedures and sets out detailed rules governing public participation in decision making involving the activities listed in Annex I to the Convention and activities that are not listed in the Annex but may have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.3.1.8 In the European Union, this part of the Aarhus Convention has been implemented by Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation ('the Public Participation Directive'), which is now incorporated into inter alia the Consolidated EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.

Access to justice

- 1.3.1.9 The right of members of the public to review procedures to challenge decisions relating to the environment, made by public bodies or private persons that have been made without regard to the two aforementioned pillars of the Convention. In Ireland, the requirement to provide a mechanism to challenge the substantive and procedural legality of a decision of a public body is ultimately met by way of judicial review.

1.3.2 EIA Directive

- 1.3.2.1 A number of amendments have been introduced to the text of the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) to reflect the Aarhus Convention public participation requirements. For example, the definitions of ‘the public’ and the public concerned’ as set out in Articles 2(4) and 2(5) of the Aarhus Convention are incorporated into the Consolidated EIA Directive by Articles 1(2)(d) and (l), respectively. In addition, amendments made to Article 6 of the EIA Directive set out the minimum requirements for effective public participation. The aim of Articles 6(2) and 6(3) of the Consolidated EIA Directive is to ensure that the public shall be informed of matters early in the environmental decision making procedure, and that the relevant information and documents are made available to the public concerned.
- 1.3.2.2 The substantive provisions ensure that the public concerned shall be given “early and effective opportunities to participate” in environmental decision making procedures for consent to projects and, for that purpose, the public concerned is entitled to express comments and opinions when all options are open to the competent authority before the decision on the request for development consent is taken.

1.3.3 Irish legal requirements

- 1.3.3.1 The pre-application consultation procedures for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) with An Bord Pleanála are provided for in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) as inserted by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006.
- 1.3.3.2 Prior to the making of an application to An Bord Pleanála, a ‘prospective applicant’ must enter into consultations with the Board in relation to the proposed development in order that An Bord Pleanála can make a formal determination as to whether the project is SID. A SID application cannot be made without first having received a declaration from An Bord Pleanála that the proposed development does, in fact, constitute SID. SPL has engaged with An Bord Pleanála throughout the development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure. An Bord Pleanála has determined that it is SID.
- 1.3.3.3 SPL continues to engage with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the Application for an Extension of the Foreshore Lease Long Stop Dates for the remaining Offshore Infrastructure of the Project. As outlined above, a Foreshore Lease was granted by the Minister for Marine and Natural Resources for the Offshore Infrastructure of the Arklow Bank Wind Park in 2002.

1.3.4 Good practice communications

- 1.3.4.1 Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Aarhus Convention states that:
- 1.3.4.2 “Each Party should, where appropriate, encourage prospective applicants to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before applying for a permit.”
- 1.3.4.3 The Aarhus Implementation Guide notes the advisory nature of paragraph 5 and that the Convention does not require the Member State or the planning authority to oblige prospective applicants to take these steps. However, in line with the spirit of the Convention and the principles of best practice consultation, SPL committed at the outset of the Project to:
- providing information on the Project;
 - providing early opportunities for the public concerned to participate in the decision making process; and
 - ensuring that all communication, engagement and consultation was accessible, meaningful, transparent, proportionate and accountable.

- 1.3.4.4 The approach to consultation for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 is also compliant with Gunning Principles. These are the principles that are applicable to all public consultations that take place in the UK and are derived from the case R v Brent London Borough Council, ex-parte Gunning (1985) 84 LGR 168.
- 1.3.4.5 The principles include:
- i. Consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
 - ii. The proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response;
 - iii. Adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
 - iv. The product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision.
- 1.3.4.6 SPL has significant in-house expertise in public consultation and project communications and draws from a team with considerable industry experience. The project team is experienced in the development of major infrastructure projects and the associated consultation and engagement elements required to successfully deliver such projects. SPL has put in place a team to ensure that communications on projects such as Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 are consistent and accessible.

1.4 Public engagement campaign lifecycle

- 1.4.1.1 Following the publication of the Climate Action Plan in 2019, and the Government's commitment to the offshore wind, SPL embarked upon its Stakeholder Engagement Campaign. This was delivered in five phases. It must be noted however that no phase was ever concluded, despite the initiation of a subsequent phase. Once a stakeholder was engaged, SPL sought to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with them throughout the project development process and to ensure an opportunity for continuous feedback is maintained.
- 1.4.1.2 **Phase 1 Strategic Engagement:** this included but is not limited to engaging relevant Government Departments, state and semi state bodies, TDs, Senators and County Councillors for Co. Wicklow, and North Wexford, members of the Executive Team in Wicklow and Wexford County Councils.
- 1.4.1.3 **Phase 2 National Engagement:** this phase included engagement with state and semi state bodies, including many deemed as statutory stakeholders. In addition, non-statutory stakeholders with a keen interest in marine activities were engaged.
- 1.4.1.4 **Phase 3 Regional Engagement:** at this point in the engagement process SPL sought to brief regional stakeholders on the Project, and on the benefits of offshore wind, secure feedback. This engagement comprised of outreach to Chambers of Commerce, Regional Assemblies, Municipal District Councils, Town Teams, Public Participation Networks (PPN), local offices for IDA and Enterprise Ireland, etc. At this stage the media were also briefed.
- 1.4.1.5 **Phase 4 Public Information Campaign:** once the above stakeholders were informed, and feedback was secured, SPL progressed to promote the Project locally to the general public, through public meetings, specific fisheries engagement, schools engagement and the development of project materials. During this phase a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) was appointed.

- 1.4.1.6 **Phase 5 Consenting Process:** this represents the process of engagement that has been underway, in the main during 2020. During this phase a Community Engagement Manager (CEM) was appointed. During this phase SPL sought to engage and hear from the widest range of stakeholders, including all those engaged during earlier phases. It should be noted that March 2020 was the point at which the county entered its first lockdown owing to COVID-19, and continues to remain in lockdown to varying degrees. SPL's preference is to engage communities and stakeholders face to face, and in a location that is convenient to them, and local to the project, where relevant. COVID-19 has instead forced communication increasingly online using new methods, as well as traditional written forms. Further information is outlined below.
- 1.4.1.7 As a result of the feedback received during the Public Consultation SPL has learnt a lot about how best to engage with communities and stakeholders on the project.
- 1.4.1.8 While the variety of media available to communities was regarded as positive, it became clear during the phase, that internet access across the targeted region was patchy. In addition, anxiety related to COVID-19 was high, and people were being actively encouraged to stay at home. As a result, delivering information directly to people's doors, through leaflet drop, or through the postal service, became key. This is an engagement tool component of the project that we will retain despite the advances in technology as we continue to incorporate a mix of old and new communication tools and methods to engage with our stakeholders.
- 1.4.1.9 Now that the Public Consultation has concluded, SPL will seek to keep in regular contact with those who have expressed an interest in the project, through a quarterly newsletter providing updates on the project and reminding readers subscribers / stakeholders of the contact details for the CEM and FLO. These newsletters will also be made accessible on the project website and on social media channels.
- 1.4.1.10 In addition to the above, further consultation and engagement was carried out in respect of the foreshore licence application for the offshore ground investigation works in 2020. This discrete process saw the project team engage with key stakeholders on the issues specific to this particular application. The feedback gathered as part of this engagement was reflected in the subsequent application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Department also carried out a period of statutory consultation on the application.
- 1.4.1.11 There will be a separate public consultation period on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Operations and Maintenance Facility in 2021. SPL seeks to engage stakeholders in an accessible, meaningful, transparent, proportionate and accountable manner to ensure better outcomes for the parties involved. All stakeholder engagement activity carried out by SPL is in line with national and European legislation and international best practice.
- 1.4.1.12 Further consultation on the applications for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure and Onshore Grid Infrastructure will be carried out by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and An Bord Pleanála, respectively. These consultation periods will provide stakeholders and members of the public an opportunity to engage directly on the development with the decision making authorities.

1.5 Information Provision & Awareness Raising

1.5.1.1 From the commencement of the development, the project team has sought to provide information to stakeholders and members of the public. Dedicated resources and a suite of information channels have been put in place to ensure that stakeholders have access to information on the Project on an ongoing basis. These are set out below.

1.5.1 Community Engagement Manager

1.5.1.1 A dedicated Community Engagement Manager (CEM) has been appointed to facilitate engagement with the community. The CEM is available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, or alternatively by appointment outside of these hours. The CEM can be reached via mobile phone or email and is the point of contact for the local community.

1.5.1.2 The CEM was appointed to facilitate stakeholders obtaining information on the Project and making a submission to the consultation. The contact details for the CEM are promoted on the project website, at the project exhibition stands, at the online event, in the brochure and leaflet and in all correspondence issued. The tools and channels of the consultation are outlined in section 1.5.7.

1.5.1.3 The locally based CEM is familiar with the community and the various stakeholder and community groups. Prior to formal non-statutory consultation commencing, the CEM carried out engagement with local councillors and organisations, as well as all residents living within 1 km of landfall point and proposed substation location.

1.5.2 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

1.5.2.1 A FLO has been engaged on the Project since January 2019. As a skipper for the RNLI and former fisherman the FLO is well placed to engage with and be the point of contact for the fishers, vessel users and, vessel owners around the Project area.

1.5.3 Information service

1.5.3.1 Stakeholders are invited to contact the CEM via phone call or text message. The phone line was operated from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these times, a messaging service was available, and calls were returned at the earliest opportunity.

1.5.3.2 The project postal address was in place and stakeholders who wished to make submissions as part of the pre application consultation, in hard copy could do so by sending correspondence to the following address:

SSE Renewables, South County Business Park, Red Oak South, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, D18 W688.

1.5.3.3 The email address of the dedicated CEM, has been in place since appointment in February 2020. This email address is widely available via all of SSE's materials and on the project website and will remain so throughout the project lifecycle. Stakeholders are invited to submit correspondence, feedback or seek further information from the CEM, or the project team at this email address.

1.5.4 Project website

1.5.4.1 A dedicated set of project webpages is hosted on the SSE Renewables website and can be found at the following address:

<https://www.sserenewables.com/offshore-wind/projects/arklow-bank/>

1.5.4.2 There is also a redirect in place from: <https://www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank>

1.5.4.3 A screenshot on the top of the homepage can be seen in Figure 1.4.

1.5.4.4 As part of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure, SPL are required to publish a website containing all planning documentation for public access.

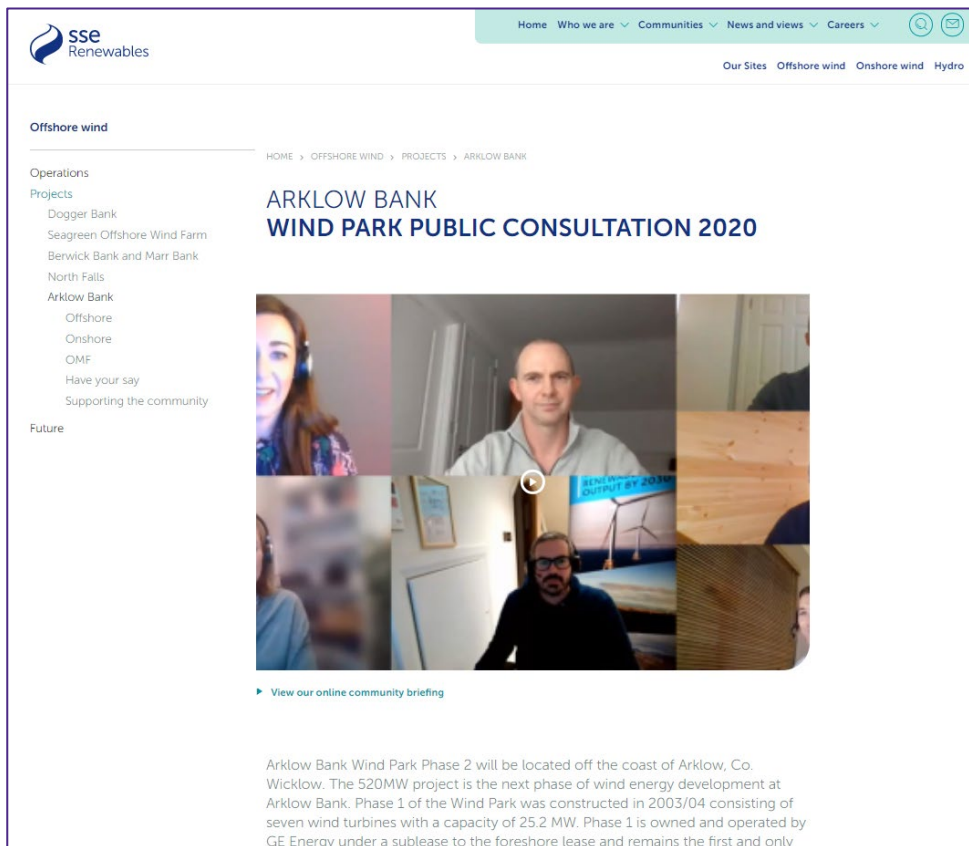


Figure 1.4: A screenshot of the landing page of the project website.

1.5.4.5 The dedicated webpages are up to date with all the relevant project information. The website provides information on the Project; specific details on the offshore and onshore aspects of the Project; details of the Operations and Maintenance Facility; a recording of the online community briefing event (section 1.5.7); the project timeline; a project brochure (section 1.5.7); locations where project information can be read in person (section 1.5.7); and contact details for the Community Engagement Manager.

1.5.5 Stakeholder engagement

1.5.5.1 A thorough process of stakeholder engagement has been carried out by the project team to date. This has included correspondence featuring updates and invitation to engage with the project team. Meetings with key stakeholders were facilitated to ensure that the project team was cognisant of the views of the various organisations and that stakeholders were informed and up to date on the Project’s development.

1.5.5.2 The list of organisations consulted on the EIA scoping for the Offshore Infrastructure included:

- An Bord Pleanála (ABP) – SID Unit
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)
- An Taisce
- Arklow Port
- Birdwatch Ireland
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara
- Carlow County Council
- Casement Military Aerodrome
- CHC Helicopters

- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Commissioners of Irish Lights
- Comreg
- D2 Harbour Belfast
- DAA
- DAFM – Sea Fisheries Protection Agency
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Department of Housing Planning and Local Government
- Dept of Defence – Naval & Aer Corps
- Dept of Transport (Marine Survey Office)
- Dept of Transport (Maritime Services Division))
- Development Applications Unit – (NPWS and NMS)
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Co. – Dun Laoghaire Port
- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Co
- Dublin Port
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
- EirGrid
- Enterprise Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Fáilte Ireland
- Gas Networks Ireland
- Geological Survey of Ireland
- GE
- Harland and Wolfe
- Health and Safety Authority
- Health and Safety Executive
- Heritage Council
- IDA
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Irish Coast Guard
- Irish Mussel Seed Company
- Irish Sailing Association
- Irish Water
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Marine Institute
- Met Eireann
- Office of Public Works
- Port of Cork
- RNLI
- Rosslare Port
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- South East Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Underwater Archaeology Unit
- Weston Aerodrome
- Wexford Co. Co.
- Wicklow Co. Co.
- Wicklow County Council

The list of organisations consulted with on the EIA scoping for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure included:

- Aer Corps
- An Bord Pleanála (SID Unit)
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)
- An Taisce
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Development Applications Unit (The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Monuments Service)
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
- EirGrid
- Enterprise Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- ESB Group
- Fáilte Ireland
- Gas Networks Ireland
- Health and Safety Authority
- Health and Safety Executive
- Heritage Council
- IDA
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Irish Water
- Irish Wildlife Trust
- Marine Institute
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
National Monuments Service
- National Transport Authority
- Office of Public Works
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Wicklow County Council

1.5.5.3 Since 2018 the project team has also engaged via meetings, phone calls and emails with many of the organisations listed above and the following other organisations on the Project:

- Arklow Chamber
- Arklow Maritime Business Group
- Arklow Municipal District
- Arklow RNLI
- Arklow Rowing Club
- Arklow Sailing Club
- Arklow Sea Scouts
- Arklow Town Team
- Belview Port
- Cobra Gym Club
- Echelon
- Elected Representatives
- Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District
- HAS
- Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board
- Irish Maritime Development Office
- Irish Rail
- Irish Water Safety
- Marine Renewables Industry Association
- Maritime Business Development Group (Wicklow County Council)
- Seal Rescue Ireland
- Shelton Abbey
- Smart Grid Ireland
- Southeast Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (RIFF)
- Spectrum Licensing / Ofcom
- Department of International Trade (UK)
- Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club
- Wicklow Chamber of Commerce
- Wicklow IFA
- Wicklow LCDC
- Wicklow Municipal District
- Wicklow PPN
- Wicklow RNLI
- Wicklow Sailing Club
- Wicklow Superintendent (Gardaí)
- Wicklow Sub Aqua Club
- Wicklow Swimming Club
- Wicklow Town Team

1.5.5.4 Furthermore, engagement with fisheries through information events, meetings and circulation of questionnaires was undertaken in 2019 and 2020.

1.5.6 Pre application consultation

1.5.6.1 A pre-application meeting for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure submission was held with An Bord Pleanála on 17 June 2020, and a second subsequent meeting held on the 02 September 2020.

1.5.6.2 Two meetings in relation to the Offshore Infrastructure submission were held with the Department on the 8 July 2020 and 31 July 2020, where the latter focussed on EIA scoping.

1.5.7 Public and stakeholder consultation 2020

Terms of Reference

1.5.7.1 The terms of reference of the consultation sought to gather feedback and local knowledge to inform the Project. The public consultation ran from 14 October to 11 November 2020.

1.5.7.2 The terms of reference of the consultation were set out in the feedback form that the public were encouraged to complete. The following was asked on the feedback form:

- Climate Change
 - Do you believe that we are in the middle of a climate crisis?
 - Are you aware of the targets set out in the 2019 Climate Action Plan and the Programme for Government?
 - Do you believe that offshore wind can play an important role in meeting Ireland’s climate obligations?
- Offshore Infrastructure
 - Based on the information provided in our consultation materials, do you have any comments on the Offshore Infrastructure?
- Onshore Grid Infrastructure
 - Based on the information you have seen in our consultation materials do you have any comments on the emerging preferred cable route?
 - Based on the information you have seen in our consultation materials do you have any comments on the emerging preferred substation location?
 - Based on the information you have seen in our materials, do you have any comment on the consented landfall location?
- Further Feedback or Thoughts
- Public Information
 - How helpful has this exhibition/public information event been in helping you to understand the proposed plans for Arklow Bank Wind Park?
 - Were you able to find enough information about the project?
 - If not, please let us know what additional information you need
- Arklow Bank Wind Park Proposals
 - How supportive are you of the Arklow Bank Wind Park proposals?
- Where is your primary residence? With a choice of: within Arklow Municipal District; within Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District; within Wicklow Municipal District; in wider County Wicklow; other.
- Which do you consider yourself to be? With a choice of: local resident; community representative; local business; political representative; other.

Events

- 1.5.7.3 A public consultation event was held on Wednesday 04 November, at 7pm, hosted via YouTube. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, the event was held online only. A recording of the online event was available on the website afterwards. Figure 1.5 depicts a screenshot of the online event.

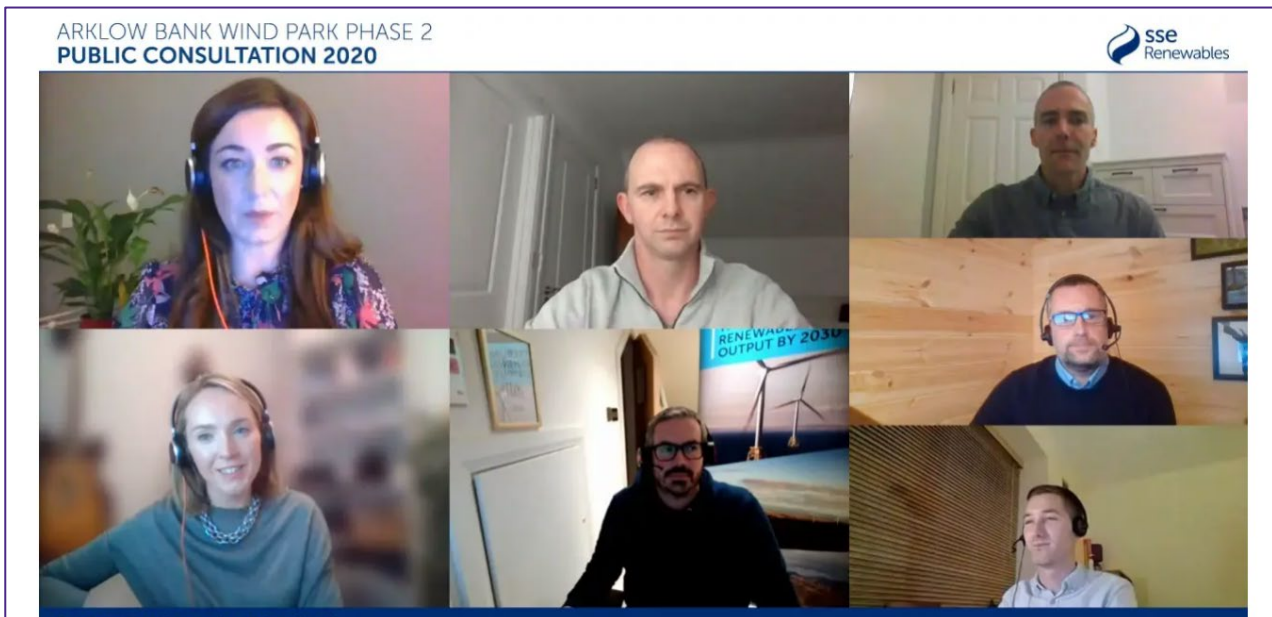


Figure 1.5: Still image of live online event.

- 1.5.7.4 A link to the recording was also shared directly with those who indicated that they could not attend the live event or who voiced an interest afterwards.
- 1.5.7.5 The online event was accessible via YouTube, its purpose was to brief the community on the proposed plans and to receive feedback on same. The event was chaired by the Community Engagement Manager, supported by key members of the project team who delivered briefings on different aspects of the projects. The team also answered questions submitted both before and during the live session by the public. Questions were received via email and sms text messages. The contact email and phone number was displayed on screen throughout the duration of the webinar. There were 60 live views of the online event and 29 queries submitted (issues raised in these queries are outlined in section 1.6). Since then the video has garnered 263 views (as of 09.02.2021). Following the event, the public were also encouraged to comment on the project via a feedback form which is available on the website. Any questions which were not answered directly during the webinar, were followed up on by the Community Engagement Manager, via the means through which the question was received. In addition the recording of the event was circulated directly by the CEM to any stakeholders unable to attend.
- 1.5.7.6 The recording of the event had a total of 263 views with approximately 10% of viewers watching the entire length of the event recording (1 hour 9 minutes). These figures are correct as of February 2021.

Briefings

- 1.5.7.7 Public exhibitions were erected at four locations in Co Wicklow and Co Wexford. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these exhibitions were unmanned and self-guided. As no public gatherings were permitted, these exhibitions were of even greater importance. The exhibitions were located at:
- Bridgewater Shopping Centre, North Quay, Arklow, Co Wicklow;
 - Arklow Library, Main Street, Arklow, Co Wicklow;

- Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow; and
- Seamount/Main Street, Courtown, Co Wexford.

- 1.5.7.8 The exhibition opening times were in accordance with the opening times of the individual venues. Bridgewater Shopping Centre contains ‘essential shops’ under COVID-19 restrictions and therefore there is a steady footfall through the shopping centre even during the tightest restrictions.
- 1.5.7.9 The CEM also knocked on a number of house doors to ensure the households were aware and had the opportunity to voice their concerns and questions. House visits were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions and were conducted within a 1 km radius of the proposed landfall and substation sites. Letters were left where possible if there was no answer at the house.
- 1.5.7.10 Exhibitions at Arklow Library and Town Hall, Wicklow, became inaccessible during the public consultation phase due to progression of COVID-19 measures from Level 3 to Level 5.
- 1.5.7.11 During the weeks leading up to the launch of the Public Consultation, and during Level 3, per the COVID-19 restrictions, the CEM, conducted a door knock, on homes located within 1 km of the proposed locations for the landfall, and the onshore substation. Feedback was gathered from householders available to engage. In all homes, including those where householders were unavailable, a letter was left behind. This correspondence introduced the Project at a high level, and encouraged contact with the CEM, whose details were also enclosed. The onset of Level 5 restrictions prevented similar outreach to residents living within 2 km of both landfall and substation location.



Figure 1.6: A selection of images from the four public exhibitions.

Online information

1.5.7.12 The dedicated webpages are up to date with all the relevant information. The website provides information on the overall Project; specific details on the offshore and onshore aspects of the Project; details of the Operations and Maintenance Facility; a recording of the online community briefing event; the project timeline; a project brochure; locations where project information can be read in person; and contact details for the Community Engagement Manager.

Project leaflet

1.5.7.13 A leaflet (provided in Appendix A of this report) outlining the project and the consultation phase was delivered to 15,000 homes and businesses across Wicklow and Wexford. The distribution area is shown in Figure 1.7. The headings within the leaflet are:

- About the Project;
- Public Consultation;
- Website;
- For a Better Future;
- Online Community Briefing;
- Public Exhibition Spaces; and
- Our Team.

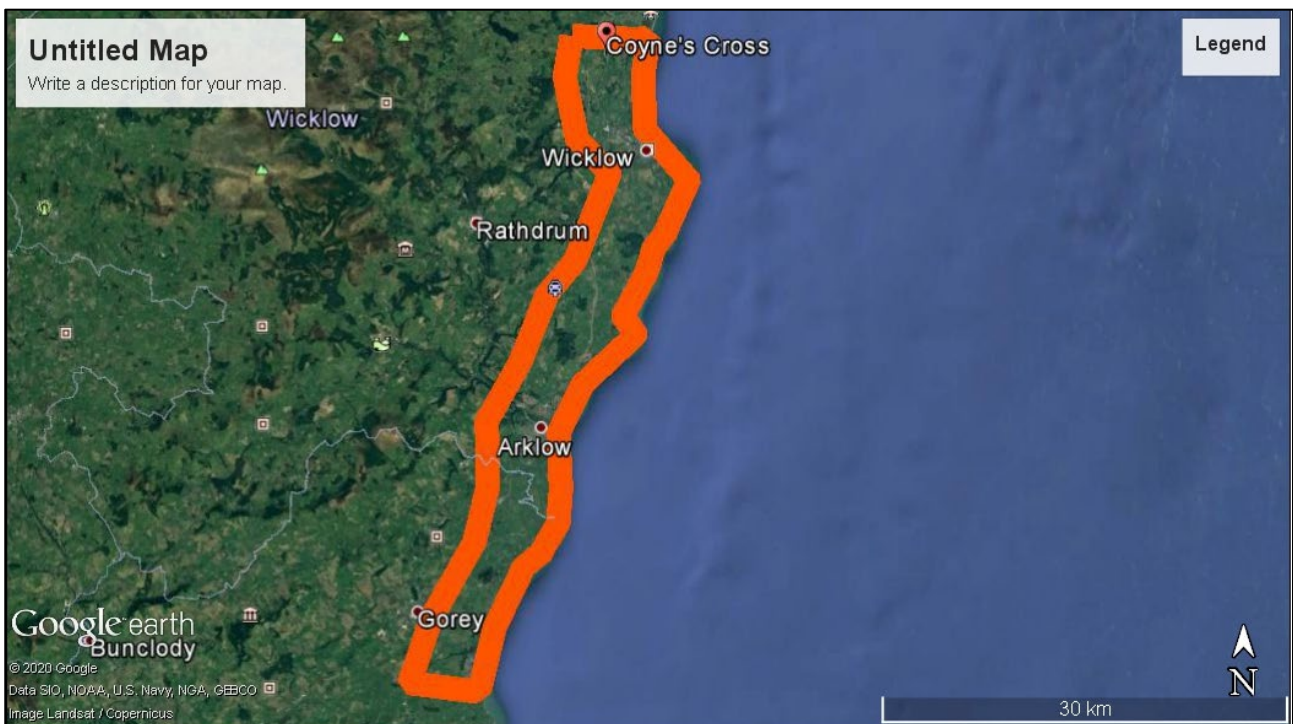


Figure 1.7: A map identifying the area where the leaflet was delivered.

Project brochure

1.5.7.14 The brochure (provided in Appendix A of this report) provides an overview of the Project and includes diagrams and images to aid in explanations. The brochure provides more detail on the project when compared to the leaflet. The headings within the brochure are:

- About SSE Renewables;
- About the Project;
- Public Consultation;
- Project Timeline;
- Environmental Impact Assessments;
- Offshore Grid Infrastructure;
- Onshore Grid Infrastructure;
- Operations and Maintenance Facility;
- Support the Community;
- Your Team; and
- Have Your Say.

1.5.7.15 The project brochure was, and remains, available both digitally and in hard copy from the website and by request in the post. The brochure was also available in hardcopy at one of the unmanned exhibition stands.

Adverts and posters

1.5.7.16 Adverts were featured on the local radio station (East Coast FM) and in local newspapers highlighting the consultation period and how stakeholders could get involved. The adverts ran weekly across East Coast FM and four local papers: Wicklow People, Gorey Guardian, Wicklow Times and Wicklow Voice. The public consultation was also promoted on Wicklownews.net for the duration of the phase.

1.5.7.17 The Project received a high level of media coverage, surrounding the consultation period. A sample of this is included in Appendix B. Although much of the coverage noted co-development with the adjacent data centre, the Project is an independent development by SPL. The project will be directly connecting to the Grid, and as such the green energy generated by the Project will be allocated by the Grid. Posters were erected to draw attention to the consultation period and encourage stakeholders to get involved. The posters were put up at credit unions in Arklow and Wicklow, in the Gorey Shopping Centre, Tesco Arklow and SuperValu Wicklow. Due to COVID-19 many shops were not accepting posters.

Public affairs

1.5.7.18 SPL seeks to maintain close relationships with all elected representatives, and stakeholders, in all of the constituencies within which we have a presence. In relation to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2, SPL has sought to maintain an open dialogue with all elected representatives in Wicklow, and North Wexford. SPL also recognise that public representatives can act as important disseminators of information through their own social media channels and newsletter distribution lists. At key points throughout the lifecycle of the project their views have been sought, and they have been continuously briefed in relation to all important announcements

1.5.7.19 For example, in June 2020, the announcement of Arklow Harbour as the chosen location for the Operations and Maintenance Facility, for the Project, provided an opportunity to re-engage with elected representatives. As a result of the outreach delivered during this phase follow up meetings were requested by some stakeholders. These meetings were delivered incrementally over the course of the remainder of the year.

1.5.7.20 Similarly, the launch of the Public Consultation, in October 2020, provided another opportunity for multiple points of engagement with high level stakeholders. To mark the launch of the campaign, all TD’s, Senators, and Councillors of Wicklow and North Wexford were emailed to advise them of the launch of the consultation and a briefing meeting was requested. Elected representatives were also contacted directly to advise them of the upcoming community webinar.

LinkedIn social media campaign

1.5.7.21 A LinkedIn social media campaign was run throughout the public consultation phase – native/organic and sponsored/paid content were prepared and issued on the SSE Renewables LinkedIn page. For the sponsored content, local businesses and individuals based in Arklow and Wexford were targeted. Examples of the native and sponsored content are in Figure 1.8 and Figure 1.9.

1.5.7.22 The campaign reached 108,624 people (impressions) in total. The engagement across native and sponsored content was consistent, with an engagement rate of 1.65 % for sponsored and 2.29% for native. The sponsored content resulted in 420 clicks on the project webpage.



Figure 1.8: Examples of native content posts.

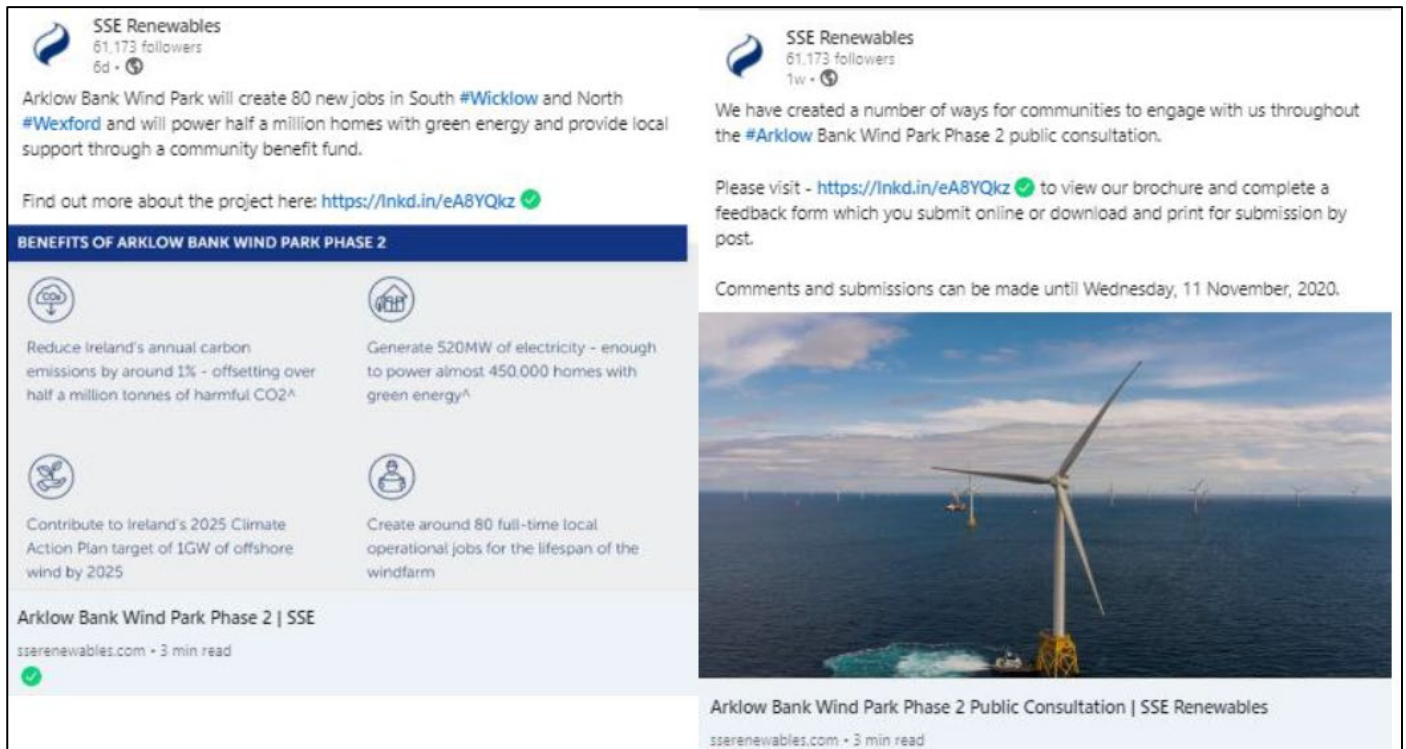


Figure 1.9: Examples of sponsored content on LinkedIn.

1.6 Feedback and reporting

- 1.6.1.1 All feedback provided throughout the consultation was captured by the project team. Feedback was provided by phone, email, post, feedback forms and verbally. The records of all engagements were maintained. This feedback was assessed by the project team and captured in this consultation report.
- 1.6.1.2 Table 1.2: provides a summary of the number and type of feedback received through public consultation. In some cases, individuals may have provided feedback through a number of formats e.g. by telephone and submission of feedback forms.

Table 1.2: Details on type and quantity of public consultation feedback.

Consultation method	Number
Emails	48
Door knock	15
Phone/In Person	23
Post	2
Queries raised at online event	29
Feedback forms received	18

1.6.1 Feedback relating to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure

- 1.6.1.1 All feedback provided to the project team relating to the Offshore Infrastructure is presented below under a number of headings. Feedback was received via several methods: phone, email, post and verbally. Feedback was provided by stakeholders during the public consultation period, as part of EIA Scoping and also prior to these consultation periods and as such the feedback below includes all the feedback gathered by SPL to date.

- 1.6.1.2 For the purposes of this consultation report, all feedback has been anonymised and is presented below without regard to the number of times a particular issue was raised, giving equal status to feedback presented by members of the public and stakeholders.
- 1.6.1.3 The feedback presented below has been generally grouped under headings that relate to the specialist assessments presented in the EIAR or the application process. In some cases the feedback may relate to multiple topics and where relevant it is repeated.
- 1.6.1.4 The specialist environmental assessments included in the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore EIAR (see section 1.6.4) have considered and addressed the relevant topics and issues raised in the feedback outlined in this section 1.6.1.
- 1.6.1.5 The information and views included in the feedback presented represents the view of stakeholders who made submissions during consultation and engagement.

Marine water (Coastal processes) (Accidental release of pollutants)

- 1.6.1.6 It was noted that the Irish Sea has a dynamic seabed, which can change dramatically during north-easterly high tides.
- 1.6.1.7 All spillages and matters arising to the potential contamination of seafood are to be immediately reported to the Howth Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.
- 1.6.1.8 It was stated that a pollution plan must be in place if oil is being used in operations as per the Sea Pollution Acts (1994, 1999 and 2006) as well as an Emergency Plan. Both plans could be agreed with the Irish Coast Guard Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations Manager.
- 1.6.1.9 It was also highlighted that there is no section regarding the impact of chemical use in the offshore construction of the project. It was recommended that the chemicals to be used offshore are identified and quantified, and that potential impacts of discharge and spillage be considered in the EIAR.
- 1.6.1.10 A stakeholder commented on the lack of mention regarding chemical use during construction and the possible discharge and spillage. It was recommended that the chemicals to be used offshore are identified and quantified, and that potential impacts of discharge and spillage be considered in the EIAR.
- 1.6.1.11 Concerns regarding the use of plastics (including polypropylene) for the construction of the project and their accidental introduction into the environment were raised. It was assumed that polypropylene would be involved in mattresses and fronds, which in turn could end up in the sea. It was noted that the impact of polypropylene ropes degrading in the marine environment of the Arklow Bank is likely to be assessed as imperceptible or slight.

Airborne noise

- 1.6.1.12 Noise pollution from the construction of the project was cited as a concern by a number of stakeholders living in the area. Several stakeholders had commented that the construction of Phase 1 was very noisy, and they did not want a repeat of this. One stakeholder expressed a concern regarding night-time noise as it had caused a lot of personal disruption during Phase 1.
- 1.6.1.13 It was requested that residents would be notified in advance of noisy works commencing and plans of works would be disseminated to residents. One stakeholder felt there was not sufficient information on the expected noise levels and would like a noise assessment carried out.

Subsea noise

- 1.6.1.14 It was highlighted that the subsea noise impacts could go much further than the extent of the survey area defined for Arklow. The noise of construction on marine mammals was cited as a concern by many. The impact of noise and vibrations on fish was also raised and the subsequent alteration of migration patterns of fish and sea creatures as well as changes to vegetation.

- 1.6.1.15 Noise modelling specific to the project was strongly suggested where a range of species would be considered.
- 1.6.1.16 Suggestions of noise mitigation models were put forward including Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) and bubble curtains.
- 1.6.1.17 A comment was made on the presentation of the noise assessment.
- 1.6.1.18 A concern raised that the vibrations would be felt on land during the operation of the project.

Climate

- 1.6.1.19 Stakeholders commented on the benefit of the project with regards reducing Ireland's carbon emissions. Some stakeholders noted that this project was not an effective way to lower carbon emissions and offshore wind is a very expensive method for Ireland to lower its emissions.
- 1.6.1.20 Oyster reefs were highlighted due to their mitigation measures. The first is that oyster reefs help reduce carbon emissions and help Ireland to follow through on its national and international climate change commitments including those under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Secondly, it was noted that oyster reefs can mitigate the damage to the sea floor when laying the cable line.

Benthic ecology

- 1.6.1.21 Various aspects of benthic ecology were raised as concerns regarding the project especially with respect to fishing. The primary concerns are the short- and long-term impacts of the works on an established seabed.
- 1.6.1.22 The importance of oyster reefs and was raised because of their many benefits including their ability to mitigate damage to the sea floor when laying cables and allow for best use of space for biodiversity, benthic ecology and aquaculture.
- 1.6.1.23 A stakeholder suggested that at the end of the project, if the foundations were left behind they could become suitable habitats for the local flora and fauna as happened in Britain.
- 1.6.1.24 A query was submitted about the rock used for the construction and protection of the project, if it would be similar in nature to that present naturally in the vicinity, especially if the rock is going to be left permanently in place at the end of the project rather than being removed.
- 1.6.1.25 It was noted that the favoured landfall is proximal to the Buckronee-Brittis Dunes and Fen candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC), colloquially known as Brittis Bay cSAC.

Marine mammals

- 1.6.1.26 The following documents were advised for the project team to review: CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities, COP Resolution 12.14, October, 2017; the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (commonly referred to as the Aarhus Convention) was adopted on 25 June 1998. Ireland ratified the Convention on 20 June 2012; Anon (2017) Guidance on EIS and NIS Preparation for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects. Prepared for the Environmental Working Group of the Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Anon (2018a) Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments & Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects Part 1. Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment 2. April 2018; and Anon (2018b) Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments & Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects Part 2 April 2018.

- 1.6.1.27 Much advice was given with respect to the impact of noise of marine mammals. It was advised that predictive noise modelling for piles should be carried out with, and without, the use of noise abatement systems. It was requested that the studies be carried out with areas larger than the baseline data area of 4 km, because it is known that the displacement of harbour porpoise occurs over 20km (and up to 80 km in some cases) from piling without noise abatement systems. Additionally, the study area for baseline data should include areas further from development where no impact as a result of wind farm development can occur. It was noted that the baseline data appears to be principally based on aerial data only and therefore lacks acoustic data which would provide diurnal variation information and can more reliably detect species such as harbour porpoise which can be difficult for observers to see in choppy sea. It was highlighted that mitigation measures should also include Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM), with a minimum of two Passive Acoustic Monitoring Operators (PAMOs).
- 1.6.1.28 It was noted that the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI) guidelines (Anon 2017; 2018) recommend Static Acoustic Monitoring (SAM) for ideally at least two years. Following these guidelines, it was highlighted again that robust data must be captured and not just related to aerial capture.
- 1.6.1.29 Concerns were raised over the quality of aerial data in the identifying of ‘seal species’, ‘cetacean’ or ‘seal/small cetacean’. In the case of difficulty identifying a species it was denoted as the most common type, which is not necessarily true.
- 1.6.1.30 It was pointed out that a reference (Norro et al, 2011) used in the report did not include for the type of turbines this project proposes.
- 1.6.1.31 As a signatory nation, it was stated that the CMS guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment for offshore developments be applied to the project.
- 1.6.1.32 The noise of construction on marine mammals was cited as a concern by many. Noise modelling specific to the project was strongly suggested where a range of species would be considered. Suggestions of noise mitigation models were put forward including Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) and bubble curtains.
- 1.6.1.33 Several consultees stated that they would favour two years’ worth of data to be used in decision making and included in the EIAR. Various sources of information for marine mammals were indicated as well as a variety of guidelines including SEAI and Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS).
- 1.6.1.34 It was noted that humpback whales are returning to Irish shores.
- 1.6.1.35 One consultee stated that determining the cumulative effect of the project on marine mammals is hard to predict.
- 1.6.1.36 One consultee put forward that certain coastal sites as a result of the project could be used to release rehabilitated mammals back into wild.

Fish and shellfish

- 1.6.1.37 The effects of water borne particles and sediment as a result of construction work were highlighted for two reasons. The first regarding the changing nature of the seabed and thus the impact on fish, shellfish, spawning and vegetation growth. The second reason is because cloudy waters deter predatory fish, thus altering the fish population.
- 1.6.1.38 Various concerns and queries regarding fish, including migratory fish, and shellfish were raised. The displacement of fishermen and the subsequent impact on fish and fish stocks was noted as an issue by some.
- 1.6.1.39 Many concerns over the consequences of construction on fish were raised. Stakeholders are concerned that construction noise and vibrations will damage fish. Pile driving and drilling were singled out as the most potential significant impact on fish. Stakeholders stated that the noise and vibration could injure fish, disrupt migration patterns and affect the food-chain.

- 1.6.1.40 Water borne particles and sediment were highlighted. Stakeholders are concerned by the effect of sediment and water borne particles settling on established vegetation, seeds, fish spawn and the seabed; and of clouding the water causing disruption to predatory fish and spawning. Changes to fish environments can cause many ripple effects including an impact on fish stocks. A question was submitted asking that all fish, growth and sea-creatures which are part of the food-chain will not be affected by the disruption caused by surveys, drilling, pile driving, construction, vibration and noise.
- 1.6.1.41 The general impact of the project on shellfish including oysters, whelks and mussels was raised by stakeholders. Specific concerns regarding noise and vibration were also submitted. It was noted that a committee has been set up (unrelated to the project) to attempt to strategically manage bottom mussels on an all island basis.
- 1.6.1.42 The importance of oyster reefs were raised by stakeholders due to their many benefits: they create jobs in the aquaculture sector; aid in Ireland's commitments under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and national climate obligations to reduce carbon emissions; mitigate the damage to the sea floor when laying the cable line; and allow for best use of space as part of the project.
- 1.6.1.43 The issues and cases that have arisen due to impacts to the fishing/shellfish industry as a result of other sea-based projects were highlighted.
- 1.6.1.44 There is a local annual fishery for herring and sprat along the Arklow shoreline. It was highlighted that this fishing period may be temporarily disrupted again due to investigations in the proposed route for landfall. It was noted that currently no classified shellfish production areas for bivalve molluscs are in or adjacent to the proposed areas for site investigations.
- 1.6.1.45 The fishing species (Atlantic salmon, sea trout, brown trout, freshwater crayfish, Lamprey species and eel species) and their respective waterways (Vartry River, River Liffey and its tributaries, and Avoca River) were advised. The importance of these waterways and their respective designations were noted in terms of supporting fish populations and subsequently fish stocks for fishing. The Avoca Estuary has been classified as at 'good ecological status'.
- 1.6.1.46 A stakeholder suggested that at the end of the project, if the foundations were left behind they could become suitable habitats for the local flora and fauna as happened in Britain.

Ornithology

- 1.6.1.47 The most cited ornithological concern is the mortality rate of birds due to collision, especially migratory birds. Terns, kittiwakes and non-seabird migratory species were singled out though most comments referred to birds in the general sense.
- 1.6.1.48 Many consultees noted their contentment with the amount and variety of data used and analysis proposed. Further sources of information for birds were put forward too. One stakeholder queried if non-seabird migratory birds passing at night were included in the surveying and data analysis. A suggestion was received to make the ornithological data available to a wider audience to benefit other studies into the future.
- 1.6.1.49 One consultee was concerned how birds' reactions to this project would also contribute to a wider cumulative risk in-combination with other projects in the Irish Sea.
- 1.6.1.50 As well as possible collisions, one stakeholder cited a concern on the vibration effects of the turbines on bird species
- 1.6.1.51 One consultee noted that the project would not impinge on the mean maximum foraging range of their relevant species especially during breeding seasons.

- 1.6.1.52 It was recommended that in modelling collision risk of birds, estimates derived from both the stochastic version of the Band model (as per McGregor et al 2018) and the standard Band model are presented. Moreover, the recommended avoidance rates should follow Bowgen & Cook (2018) and where possible, estimates of collision mortality during the breeding season should be apportioned to source Special Protection Area (SPA) populations and, outside the breeding season, to contributing biogeographical populations.
- 1.6.1.53 It was recommended that in modelling the collision risk of birds, estimates derived from both the stochastic version of the Band model (as per McGregor et al 2018) and the standard Band model are presented. Moreover, the recommended avoidance rates should follow Bowgen & Cook (2018) and where possible, estimates of collision mortality during the breeding season should be apportioned to source SPA populations and, outside the breeding season, to contributing biogeographical populations.

Commercial fisheries

- 1.6.1.54 Many concerns were raised over the impact the project may have on fishing access and fishing livelihoods during the survey works, construction and while operational. Some stakeholders queried the development of a Fisheries Fund.
- 1.6.1.55 Locally, the displacement of local fishermen to other waters was cited by many as a concern. It was raised that previously displaced fishermen were now in the project area and must also be consulted with. On a national level, space in Irish waters is becoming more of a premium and Brexit is causing additional worries as European fishermen will be moving out of UK waters and into Irish waters. Stakeholders are concerned that the project would further effect the areas where Irish fishermen can fish.
- 1.6.1.56 A query was raised if access was assessed via fishing type and thus would a certain type(s) be discriminated against e.g. trawling. Moreover, if access was determined on fishing equipment.
- 1.6.1.57 Some stakeholders are keen for exclusion zones to be implemented around the project; however many are concerned of the negative impact on fishing if exclusion zones are put in place. It was requested that if exclusion zones were required, fishermen be given ample advance warning. It is feared by some fishermen that agreements made between themselves and SPL regarding exclusion zones would be overridden by the Marine Survey Office.
- 1.6.1.58 Information sources and methods were provided as to how the project can ensure it is engaging with as many relevant fishermen and fisheries as possible. The importance of a FLO was highlighted as well as the need to engage with fishermen early on in the process. National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) and Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (RIFF) were identified as useful spaces to engage with the fishing communities. Concerns were expressed regarding the level of engagement with the fishing community and that there was a desire for further engagement. Feedback was given expressing a view that survey work should not have commenced until fisheries stakeholders were satisfied with the terms.
- 1.6.1.59 Advanced notice of locations where survey work will be carried out was requested so that pots and nets can be managed. Feedback also saw confirmation being sought that no future exclusion from fishing around turbines would occur.
- 1.6.1.60 Concerns were cited around the data being used to plan the development of offshore wind farms and that many smaller vessels, under 15 metres will not have Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) that enable vessel movements to be tracked. On a similar theme, it was put forward that the observation of non-automatic identification system (AIS) traffic was visual and limited to only 21 days, which is a short amount of time given the amount of non-AIS users in the project area.
- 1.6.1.61 Several stakeholders put forward that floating turbines would cause more issues as more cables are required.
- 1.6.1.62 The potential negative impact from electrical cables during the construction and operation phases was raised and a request for proposed mitigation measures.

- 1.6.1.63 Queries were raised over the proposed spacing between turbines and other project parameters.
- 1.6.1.64 It was noted that the applied foreshore area is of minimal concern, however, the impact of the cabling (associated with landfall routes) on the whelk fishery is of higher concern.
- 1.6.1.65 Fishing nets dragging over a cable laid on a hard seabed floor was cited as a concern.
- 1.6.1.66 One stakeholder raised the concern that the turbines might interfere with magnetic compasses.
- 1.6.1.67 One stakeholder said that fishing communities were confused between Codling Wind Park and this project and are concerned about the impact of both projects.
- 1.6.1.68 As well as commercial fishing, the impact on recreational fishing by boat and on shore was pointed out by stakeholders especially during survey and constructions phases, but also during and after the lifetime of the project.
- 1.6.1.69 The locations of the consented landing points were sought as well as information on the impact of the landing point.
- 1.6.1.70 Stakeholders noted that there is an ever-growing amount of fishing charters.
- 1.6.1.71 Several comments were made on the preference or disfavour of floating turbines. Several stakeholders stated that floating turbines could cause more concern for fishermen as more cables would be required.

Shipping and navigation; recreational (sailing)

- 1.6.1.72 The project was noted to have the potential of providing skilled mariners for the provision of services by the RNLI and other rescue missions. It was also highlighted that the project would impact the RNLI and other rescue missions.
- 1.6.1.73 It was advised that data in the Marine Atlas is out of date. However, a digital marine spatial planning tool is being developed between 2019 and 2021. It was highlighted by many that all infrastructure including turbines and cabling must be marked on all appropriate maps and charts.
- 1.6.1.74 The presence of the wind turbines was indicated to help mariners identify the sand bank more easily. Some stakeholders said that the project should act as an aid to navigation and make sailing less treacherous around the banks. Furthermore, stakeholders noted that there may be possible constraints on navigation at the northern end of the project.
- 1.6.1.75 Regular engagement with local and national water users was requested. Many local clubs hold sailing events at frequent intervals during the week especially during summer months, which will be impacted by the project. Boats can be hired for recreational use including fishing in the project area and these pursuits will also be impacted upon by the project.
- 1.6.1.76 Queries were submitted asking if access within the project area would be permitted. Some stakeholders are keen for exclusion zones to be implemented around the project, however many are concerned of the negative impact on fishing if exclusion zones are put in place. One stakeholder noted that if an exclusion zone extends far out to the east then the traffic staying inside of the Arklow Bank will increase dramatically and subsequently impact on sailing events.
- 1.6.1.77 It was stated that much of the traffic to/from the south within the project area is to/from Dublin Port and thus will be affected by the project.
- 1.6.1.78 Stakeholders noted the mention of two Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) off Tuskar and Skerries, but felt it was missing with regards to Dublin Bay.

- 1.6.1.79 Consultees stated that there is a possibility navigable water for deeper drafted vessels on the inner passage, between it and the Horseshoe buoy (south east of Wicklow Head) or the Wicklow Reef SAC would be restricted as the foreshore lease area extends slightly beyond the northern bank/North Arklow buoy into deeper water. Moreover, traffic may be displaced closer to the shore and also prove constricting for any traffic needing to avoid the Wicklow Reef SAC. This would also need to be remembered if any exclusion zones were implemented.
- 1.6.1.80 The North Arklow buoy is a 'general aid to navigation' maintained by Commissioners of Irish Lights. Therefore, for construction the buoy would need to be relocated or the northern limits of the development similarly marked.
- 1.6.1.81 The Consultees said the same considerations also need to be given for traffic that takes the route to the west of the India Bank, especially as the current analysis indicated an already-limited corridor for traffic passing west of the India South buoy and east of the North Arklow buoy.
- 1.6.1.82 It was noted that quantifying the magnitudes due to the presence of the turbines is necessary to assess any potential effects on depth in the navigable channel to the west of Arklow Bank.
- 1.6.1.83 Concerns were cited around the data being used to plan the development of offshore wind farms and that many smaller vessels, under 15 metres will not have Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) that enable vessel movements to be tracked. On a similar theme, it was put forward that the observation of non-automatic identification system (AIS) traffic was visual and limited to only 21 days, which is a short amount of time given the amount of non-AIS users in the project area.
- 1.6.1.84 It was advised that a Notice To Mariners (NTM) should be created prior to commencement of any construction. Each NTM should indicate any restrictions around the area during construction, including a minimum restricted proximity to the site. Ideally a restricted access area should be signalled by the Coast Guard (similar to filming on Skelligs) if this is to be enforceable.
- 1.6.1.85 It was also noted that the offshore cabling and where cables run ashore would need to be marked on appropriate maps and charts.
- 1.6.1.86 The presence of the wind turbines was indicated to help mariners identify the sand bank easier.
- 1.6.1.87 Many consultees raise the importance of safety during the offshore construction – personal locator beacons, lifebuoys, live streaming videos were all included as possible safety measures.

Military and civil aviation and radar

- 1.6.1.88 Substantial information relating to the method and use of lighting for the turbines was provided by several consultees. It was noted that the turbines should be lit for the benefit of aircraft navigation.
- 1.6.1.89 The lighting of the turbines especially with respect to aircraft safety was raised by a number of stakeholders. A suggestion was received for radar activated lighting.
- 1.6.1.90 One stakeholder confirmed that they saw no issues with the Proposed Development from a systems (communications, navigation, surveillance) perspective or flight procedures for Dublin Airport and provided information relating to the notification process in advance of construction.
- 1.6.1.91 It was raised that the moving turbines can affect weather radar data due to a varying Doppler signature. These affects can interfere with accurate weather warnings of severe weather events which is of concern by stakeholders. It was requested that the guidance document on weather radar and wind turbines as prepared by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) be consulted.
- 1.6.1.92 It was noted that the potential impact of the project on Met Éireann weather radars was omitted.

Infrastructure

- 1.6.1.93 It was stated that the project will not affect Irish broadcast or telecoms services. However, it was advised that is a risk of interference to a relatively small number of television viewers along the coast who receive UK free to air services from transmitter sites in Wales (e.g. Arfon, and Blaenplwyf transmitter sites), but alternative free to air service is available for any of these viewers via Freesat.

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts

- 1.6.1.94 The size and scale of the facility was referenced by a number of stakeholders in their submissions. Many stakeholders felt that the project would negatively impact on views and the beauty of the area and noted that the project would be located in an area of outstanding beauty. Stakeholders also commented that the turbines would be placed much closer to the shore compared to standard practice across Europe.
- 1.6.1.95 Several stakeholders requested that a visual assessment be carried out and that more detailed visual representations be shared with the public, in particular views from beaches and iconic/tourist locations. One stakeholder requested SPL consider the visual impacts from existing national roads. Another stakeholder queried the lack of visual representations for many areas in northern Wexford.
- 1.6.1.96 The presence of wind turbines on the coastline was also noted as a potential cause for decreasing tourism and house prices.
- 1.6.1.97 One stakeholder noted incorrect information in the photo-montages regarding the height of the turbines – height from the Lowest Astronomical tide should be of a greater magnitude than from the Mean High Water.

Population (socioeconomics)

- 1.6.1.98 Many stakeholders were supportive of the project and its employment opportunities and community benefit funding.
- 1.6.1.99 Relevant companies and suppliers, including locals, have offered their services to the project.
- 1.6.1.100 There were several queries submitted regarding community investment, funding opportunities and educational supports. The requests mainly centred on education – expansion of the Arklow Maritime Museum, educating school children on renewable energies, sailing initiatives, and building a resource centre. Feedback was also received on how SPL might support the arts as part of the development.
- 1.6.1.101 Numerous submissions were received regarding the upcoming employment opportunities that the project would bring to the area. Many feel the project would bring further investment to the area including a variety of temporary and permanent job opportunities. Stakeholders enquired as to when the tendering process would occur and the outcome known. The impact of the project on fishing livelihoods was cited as a concern.
- 1.6.1.102 Several companies came forward and offered their services (suppliers, operations' services, accommodation) to the project. Some queries asked if SPL will actively promote/hire Irish companies, suppliers and goods.
- 1.6.1.103 The benefit of the project on tourism and development was raised. However, some felt the project would negatively impact tourism and recreational water pursuits due to the visual and physical impact of the project – during surveying, construction and once operational.
- 1.6.1.104 The importance of oyster reefs were raised because of their many benefits; they create jobs in the aquaculture sector; aid in Ireland's commitments under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and National obligations to reduce carbon emissions; mitigate the damage to the sea floor when laying the cable line; and allow for best use of space as part of the project.

1.6.1.105 Questions were submitted regarding the longevity and return on investment of the project.

Archaeology

1.6.1.106 One stakeholder noted that they were satisfied with the assessment approach for marine archaeology.

Wildlife (including bats)

1.6.1.107 It was raised that the impact of similar projects has been noted to impact bats more than originally thought. Most bat species in Ireland are not known to migrate, however one species does. Therefore, it was put forward that this species should be monitored at Phase 1 to help inform this project.

1.6.1.108 The negative impact of the project on wildlife was also cited as a concern.

1.6.1.109 It was put forward that environmental baselines should be determined for flora and fauna in advance of construction work commencing.

Cumulative assessment

1.6.1.110 It was disclosed that some stakeholders are confused between Codling Wind Park and this project and are concerned about the impact of both projects.

1.6.1.111 Guidance was received from many to help prepare the EIAR. It was advised that cumulative impact assessments are carried out for each aspect of the project and reported on in the EIAR. This advice was strongly related to the different aspects that make up the project.

Application

1.6.1.112 Queries were received as to why SPL is not pursuing the new Marine Area and Foreshore Amendment Bill, which replaced the Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended).

1.6.1.113 Stakeholders also suggested that aquaculture could be included in the project and additional licences would need to be sought.

1.6.1.114 One stakeholder is concerned that SPL as a non-Irish entity is not familiar with Irish laws and legislation.

1.6.1.115 It was noted that the Department is to develop two sets of guidelines on offshore wind with a view to publish for consultation by end 2020.

1.6.1.116 Queries were raised over the global energy sector and the status of EirGrid's proposed grid reinforcement works in Ireland.

1.6.1.117 One stakeholder expressed concerns over energy supply with respect to the global market. Stakeholders also provided feedback on the world's reliance on fossil fuels. Another stakeholder queried the status of the grid reinforcement works proposed for the Irish electricity grid.

1.6.1.118 Consultees recommended further groups and individuals to consult with. It was highlighted that the project team should have regular contact with the Irish Maritime Development Office to ensure the latest industry view is included.

1.6.1.119 A consultee advised that an indicative decommissioning plan should be presented at the construction planning stage. This plan would help prepare for what could be expected when the lifetime of the project is reached.

1.6.1.120 Due to the many aspects of the project, it was highlighted that each document/report should reference the other. Moreover, it is necessary to explain the relationship between all aspects.

- 1.6.1.121 Some stakeholders were concerned about the level of public consultation. They asked when everyone in the area would be receiving leaflets and information through the letterbox about the project.
- 1.6.1.122 One stakeholder stated that the online event went well, but it was not a substitute for an in person event.
- 1.6.1.123 Stakeholders commented that previous infrastructure projects by other developers in the area were poorly communicated on.
- 1.6.1.124 There were requests for more detailed maps (in particular OS maps) to be used when indicating the position of infrastructure. This was a frequent request regarding the brochure for public communications. Further details regarding cabling routes and the electric grid were also asked for.

1.6.2 Feedback on Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure

- 1.6.2.1 All feedback provided to the project team relating to the onshore grid infrastructure is presented below under a number of headings. Feedback was received via several methods: phone, email, post and verbally. Feedback was provided by stakeholders during the public consultation period, as part of EIA Scoping and also prior to these consultation periods and as such the feedback below includes all the feedback gathered by SPL to date.
- 1.6.2.2 For the purposes of this consultation report, all feedback has been anonymised and is presented below without regard to the number of times a particular issue was raised, giving equal status to feedback presented by members of the public and stakeholders.
- 1.6.2.3 The feedback presented below has been generally grouped under headings that relate to the topic assessments presented in the EIAR or the infrastructure. In some cases, the feedback may relate to multiple topics and where relevant it is repeated.
- 1.6.2.4 Chapter 3: EIA Methodology and the specialist assessments included in the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure EIAR (see section 1.6.4) has considered and addressed the relevant topics and issues raised in the feedback in sections 1.6.2.
- 1.6.2.5 The information and views included in the feedback presented represents the view of stakeholders who made submissions during consultation and engagement.

Noise and vibrations

- 1.6.2.6 There was a concern raised that the vibrations from the project could be felt on land.

Visual impact

- 1.6.2.7 Regarding the cabling, positive comments were received regarding the choice of underground cabling as there would be no visual impact.

Biodiversity

- 1.6.2.8 The presence of the SAC to the north of the landfall was highlighted with regard to the cabling. The consultee also noted the reports that would be required – Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening or AA and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). It was recommended to consult with TII and Wicklow County Council Roads Department regarding potential road crossings as soon as possible.
- 1.6.2.9 It was noted that if the project required tree felling or removal of any trees, a felling license must be obtained prior to any felling or removal.
- 1.6.2.10 A consultee inquired if further field work could be carried out on wet grasslands to the north of Arklow as whooper swans and curlews have been recorded there.

- 1.6.2.11 It was remarked that a peregrine falcon is resident in a tower structure on the IFI site.
- 1.6.2.12 It was stated that to protect the fisheries resource, instream works in fisheries waters should only take place during the period July to the end of September to avoid interference with the spawning migration and spawning process and to protect juvenile fish emerging from the gravels. It was also outlined that crossings of watercourses including drainage ditches by trenchless techniques was preferable. The timing constraints do not apply to trenchless techniques which may take place at any time of year subject to agreement with Inland Fisheries Ireland on a method statement and location of the crossing points. The Construction Environmental Management Plan should include a contingency plan to eliminate any adverse effects from the trenchless procedure.

Infrastructure

- 1.6.2.13 Regarding the cabling, positive comments were received regarding the choice of underground cabling as there would be no visual impact. The presence of the SAC to the north of the landfill was highlighted with regard to the cabling. The consultee also noted the reports that would be required – AA screening or AA and NIS. It was recommended to consult with TII and Wicklow County Council Roads Department regarding potential road crossings as soon as possible.
- 1.6.2.14 The emerging preferred cable route options involve the crossing of the M11 for the onshore infrastructure requirements. It was advised that a separate consent is required for such a proposal.
- 1.6.2.15 Queries and ideas regarding community benefit funds were submitted including illuminating a historic fort in the area.
- 1.6.2.16 It was said that access tracks temporary crossing of watercourses and drainage channels to facilitate movement of construction plant should be addressed within the EIAR. It was also noted that appropriate consents will be required for watercourse crossings.
- 1.6.2.17 Various consultees provided feedback on the Onshore Grid Infrastructure design and associated requirements where potential interactions with existing infrastructure were identified. In addition, information was provided on utilities connections for the onshore substation.

1.6.3 Other Project feedback

- 1.6.3.1 Feedback was reported on other elements of the Project and this has been noted below.

Site investigations

- 1.6.3.2 Stakeholders expressed concern regarding the speeds of machinery and asked for care to be taken going forward. This concern was raised after it was highlighted that heavy machinery had damaged a grass verge.

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Operations and Maintenance Facility

- 1.6.3.3 Feedback on Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Operations and Maintenance Facility Stakeholders suggested making the Operations and Maintenance Facility a minimum of three storeys high to reduce the footprint. Moreover, it was requested that a professional landscape architect be employed to ensure that the Operations and Maintenance Facility base was designed to be in keeping with the vision for the South Quay and had a mix of trees creating an urban forest rich in biodiversity.
- 1.6.3.4 It was noted that the chosen location of the Operations and Maintenance Facility in Arklow was in favourably zoned land on a brownfield site. It was stated that the ground conditions (including soils and groundwater) would need to be assessed given the site's previous use and any relevant mitigation measures and practices would need to be proposed and implemented.
- 1.6.3.5 It was stated that a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) would need to be completed for the Operations and Maintenance Facility .

- 1.6.3.6 A consultee recommended liaison with Irish Water especially with regards wastewater outflows and suggested that onsite wastewater treatment may be required given the history of the chosen brownfield site.
- 1.6.3.7 It was raised that the fishermen’s huts, which were to replace the containers on South Quay, may be moved to a different location. The hut may be placed on the tongue, nearer the entrance to the dock. This was raised as it would impact the project due to the narrow entrance at the dock.
- 1.6.3.8 Many stakeholders highlighted the benefit of the Operations and Maintenance Facility base and the project as a whole with respect to job opportunities and financial investment in the area. Stakeholders commented that the project including the chosen location of the Operations and Maintenance Facility would be favourable for the area.

1.6.4 How feedback informed the Project

- 1.6.4.1 All feedback received by SPL has been reviewed by the project team.
- 1.6.4.2 Much of the feedback and issues raised relate to the assessment of the Project and how it may impact on the community and the environment and what measures will be put in place to minimise/avoid impacts. As such the feedback and issues raised have informed decision making by providing knowledge to the project team, which has been used to inform the EIAR and the specialist impact assessments.
- 1.6.4.3 As part of the development process for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure, dialogue and feedback received from local residents allowed the project team to progress and select the emerging preferred cable routes and substation location. An area of approximately 16 km² was assessed from an environmental, engineering and consenting perspective. A series of environmental and technical assessment studies were completed on several potential substation sites and cable routes to determine the option most suited for the infrastructure and to ensure it was designed sympathetically to the local environment and with the least impact on local residents.
- 1.6.4.4 Table 1.3 outlines where the feedback issues relevant to the EIAR and its specialist assessments have been considered in the EIAR for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure.
- 1.6.4.5 Table 1.4 outlines where the feedback issues relevant to the EIAR and its specialist assessments have been considered in the EIAR for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure.

Table 1.3: EIAR chapter reference (in volume II unless otherwise noted) where feedback relating to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Offshore Infrastructure is considered.

Feedback category	EIAR Chapter
Marine water (Coastal processes)	Chapter 6: Coastal Processes
Marine water (Accidental release of pollutants)	Chapter 5: Description of Development Chapter 9: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology
Airborne noise	Chapter 7: Airborne noise
Subsea noise, marine mammals	Chapter 11: Marine Mammals
Climate	Chapter 8: Air Quality and Climate
Benthic ecology	Chapter 9: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology
Fish and shellfish	Chapter 10: Fish, Shellfish and Sea Turtle Ecology
Ornithology	Chapter 12: Offshore Ornithology
Commercial fisheries	Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture
Shipping and navigation; Recreation	Chapter 14: Shipping and Navigation Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Users
Aviation and radar	Chapter 15: Civil and Military Aviation and Radar

Feedback category	EIAR Chapter
Seascape, landscape and visual impacts	Chapter 16: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Population	Chapter 19: Population and Human Health
Archaeology	Chapter 17: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Wildlife	Chapter 9: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology Chapter 10: Fish, Shellfish and Sea Turtle Ecology Chapter 11: Fish, Shellfish and Sea Turtle Ecology Chapter 12: Offshore Ornithology Appendix 12A: Offshore Bats (volume III)
Cumulative Assessment	Chapter 22: Summary of Cumulative Effects

Table 1.4: EIAR chapter reference (in volume II unless otherwise noted) where feedback relating to relating to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure is considered.

Feedback category	EIAR Chapter
Noise and vibrations	Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration
Visual impact	Chapter 14: Landscape and Visual
Biodiversity	Chapter 12: Biodiversity
Infrastructure	Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 5: Description of Development Chapter 6: Construction Strategy Chapter 7: Air Quality Chapter 13: Traffic and Transportation Chapter 18: Population and Human Health Appendix 6.1 Construction Environmental Management Plan (volume III)

1.6.4.6 The EIARs will support the applications to both the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and An Bord Pleanála.

1.8 References

Jones, Rhion and Gammell, Elizabeth (2009). *The Art of Consultation – Public Dialogues in a Noisy World*

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Aarhus Convention (2011 and 2014). *An Implementation Guide*

Appendix A

Project Brochure, Leaflet and Poster

FOR A BETTER WORLD OF ENERGY

ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



FOR A BETTER FUTURE

At SSE Renewables we're for leading Ireland's offshore wind energy ambition. We're for building a cleaner energy future. And - through the development of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 off the coast of County Wicklow - we're for creating new local jobs in Arklow, Wicklow and along the East Coast to drive our green recovery.



ABOUT SSE RENEWABLES

We're SSE Renewables, a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy across Ireland and the UK.

Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, we employ around 1,000 people in Ireland and over 10,000 in the UK, all of whom believe in building a better world of energy. We're the largest owner and operator of renewable energy in Ireland and the UK, and through our sister company SSE Airtricity, the wind energy we produce here supplies more Irish homes and businesses than any other company.

We're the UK's largest developer and operator of offshore wind farms. Now, through our plans to develop the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park, we're leading Ireland's drive to generate the offshore wind energy we need to fight climate change and create local jobs as part of a green recovery.

BENEFITS OF ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2



Reduce Ireland's annual carbon emissions by around 1% - offsetting over half a million tonnes of harmful CO2[^]



Create around 80 full-time local operational jobs for the lifespan of the windfarm



Generate 520MW of electricity - enough to power almost 450,000 homes with green energy[^]



Contribute millions of euro annually in Community Benefit Funding and local commercial rates



Contribute to Ireland's 2025 Climate Action Plan target of 1GW of offshore wind by 2025



Capital investment of between €1bn and €2bn to power our green recovery

We have created a dedicated project website where you can find out more information about our vision for the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park.

www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 will be located off the coast of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The 520MW project is the next phase of wind energy development at Arklow Bank. Phase 1 of the Wind Park was constructed in 2003/04 consisting of seven wind turbines with a capacity of 25.2 MW. Phase 1 is owned and operated by GE Energy under a sublease to the foreshore lease and remains the first and only operational offshore wind farm in Ireland.

Now, SSE Renewables is proposing to invest between €1 billion and €2 billion to develop Arklow Bank Wind Park to its full potential.

We plan to create around 80 full-time jobs to support the operation of the new offshore wind farm. These local jobs will be sustained over the lifespan of the wind farm and will be based out of a new purpose-built Operations Base at Arklow Harbour's South Dock.

During construction and operation, we plan to support local businesses across South Wicklow and North Wexford, including companies in the supply chain in Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour.

The project has a Foreshore Lease and with an export capacity of 520MW the project will power almost 450,000 homes annually and offset over half a million tonnes of carbon emissions each year[^].

The foreshore lease area is situated 6km to 13km off the Co. Wicklow coastline, to the east of Arklow, and covers an area approximately 27km long and 2.5km wide. Arklow Bank is in shallow water in the Irish Sea, making the foreshore lease area ideally suited to the efficient development of offshore energy infrastructure.

The existing foreshore lease provides consent for up to 200 wind turbines. However, advances in turbine technology over the past 15 years mean the anticipated export capacity of the wind farm can be achieved through the development and installation of up to 76 turbines in the same foreshore lease area.

[^] 433,829 homes powered based on projected capacity, typical projected wind load factor of 40%, and typical annual consumption (4,200kWh). Quoted 530,225 tonnes of carbon emissions abated based on projected annual MWh output and latest average CO2 Emissions (0.291t/MWh) in the All-Island Single Electricity Market, and published by the CRU in its Fuel Mix Disclosure and CO2 Emissions for 2018, September 2019.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

During October and early November 2020 we are opening a Public Consultation and inviting members of the public to provide feedback on the offshore infrastructure and onshore grid infrastructure elements of the project (we will launch a separate consultation on the Operations and Maintenance Facility in 2021).

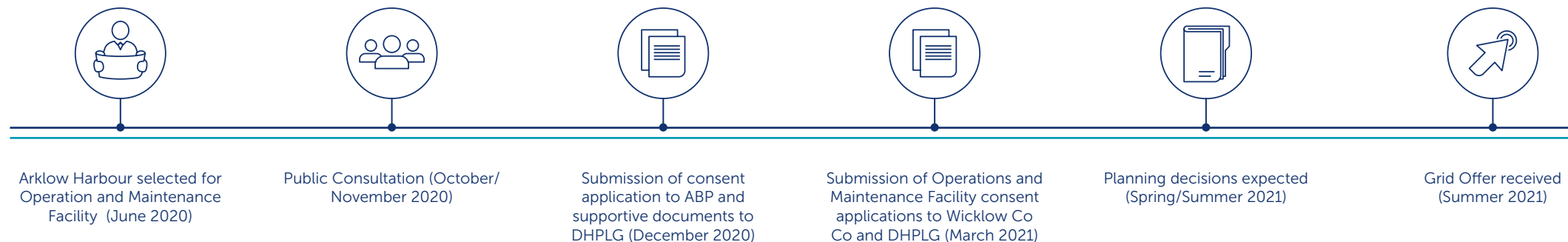
This information booklet is designed to provide you with information about our plans for Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park during this Public Consultation period. We hope that after you read this booklet you will have all the information you need about our plans for Arklow Bank Wind Park, including all the key elements of the project – from the proposed offshore wind farm out at sea, to the Onshore Grid Infrastructure needed to connect the wind farm to the grid, and the creation of our new purpose-built Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) at Arklow Harbour's South Dock which will play home to our 80 full-time employees.

We welcome your feedback during this Consultation process. Your feedback will help inform our plans for the overall project, in particular two separate applications which will allow the project to proceed. The first application will likely be to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and will be for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure required to connect the wind farm to the national grid. The second application is to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), which oversees our foreshore lease and is an application under our foreshore lease requesting permission to construct the Offshore Infrastructure required for the wind farm.



In 2021, we will submit an application to Wicklow County Council for planning permission for the onshore elements, and an application to Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for any marine elements, of our proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility to be developed at Arklow Harbour's South Dock; before we do so, we will advertise and launch a separate consultation process to get local feedback on the proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility and to refine our plans prior to submitting the final planning applications.

PROJECT TIMELINE:



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

We are currently preparing two Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR) to accompany the separate onshore grid infrastructure planning application to An Bord Pleanála and the application to DHPLG to permit construction of the offshore infrastructure for the wind farm. In preparation for each of the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, we have published individual scoping documents which set out the information that will be contained in the Reports, and the methods that will be used to gather and assess that required information. If you would like to identify issues and environmental topics that you feel should be addressed during this process please contact us.

You can view the individual onshore grid infrastructure and offshore infrastructure EIA Scoping Reports at: www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

Each onshore and offshore EIA Scoping Reports includes:

- A description of the proposed project to inform the public and stakeholders
- Clarification of what issues and topics the EIAR should consider when assessing the project
- Identification of potential direct and indirect impacts that the EIAR will examine
- Identification of the method and the criteria to be used in predicting and evaluating any potential impacts
- Identification of available information and data to inform what additional environmental or other investigations will be required
- Mitigation measures to be considered for the project

The Offshore EIA Report will consider:

- Coastal Processes
- Airborne Noise
- Air Quality & Climate
- Benthic Ecology
- Fish, Shellfish and Sea Turtle Ecology
- Marine Mammals
- Offshore Ornithology
- Commercial Fisheries
- Shipping and Navigation
- Civil and Military Aviation
- Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact
- Marine Archaeology
- Infrastructure and Other Users
- Population and Human Health
- Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

The Onshore EIA Report will consider:

- Air Quality
- Climate
- Land and Soils
- Water
- Noise and Vibration
- Biodiversity
- Traffic and Transportation
- Landscape and Visual
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Resource and Waste Management
- Material Assets
- Population and Human Health
- Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements (if required) will be submitted with the application for planning approval for the onshore grid infrastructure, likely to An Bord Pleanála, and in relation to the application to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to allow construction of the offshore wind farm infrastructure.



Secure Government support scheme via Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) (Winter 2021)



Financial Close/Greenlight to Proceed (Spring 2023)



Appoint Contractors & hold Meet the Buyer Events (2023)

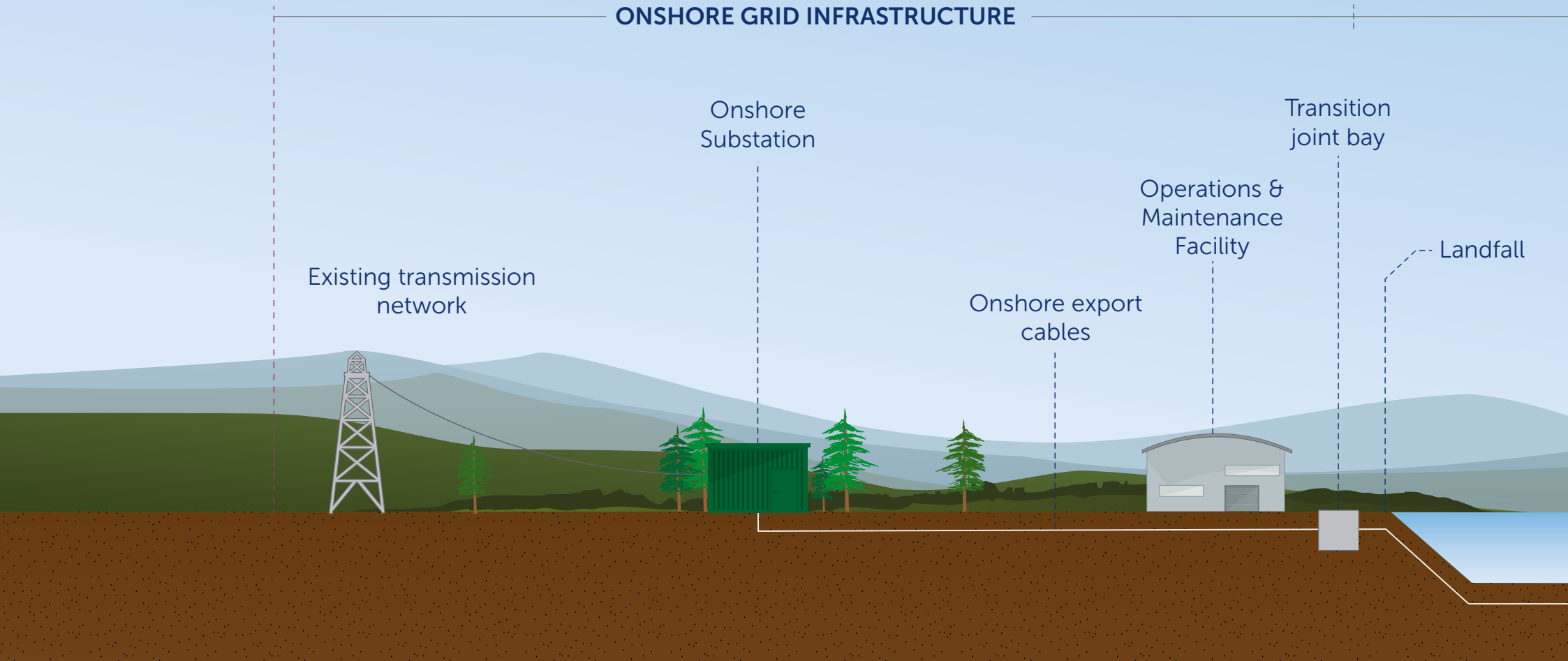


Construction (2023/2024/2025)



Project Completion (2025)

ONSHORE GRID INFRASTRUCTURE



There are three major components of this project:

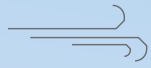
1. OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Up to 76 wind turbines, each comprising a foundation, tower, nacelle and rotor assembly.
- Up to two Offshore Substations Platforms (OSP) and foundation substructures.
- A network of inter-array cabling; and
- Two offshore export cables.

2. ONSHORE GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

- Two underground electricity cables will connect from the landfall to the onshore substation
- A new 220kV onshore substation and connection to the transmission system to distribute the energy across Ireland.

OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE



Offshore export
cables

Inter-array cables

Offshore substation
platform(s)

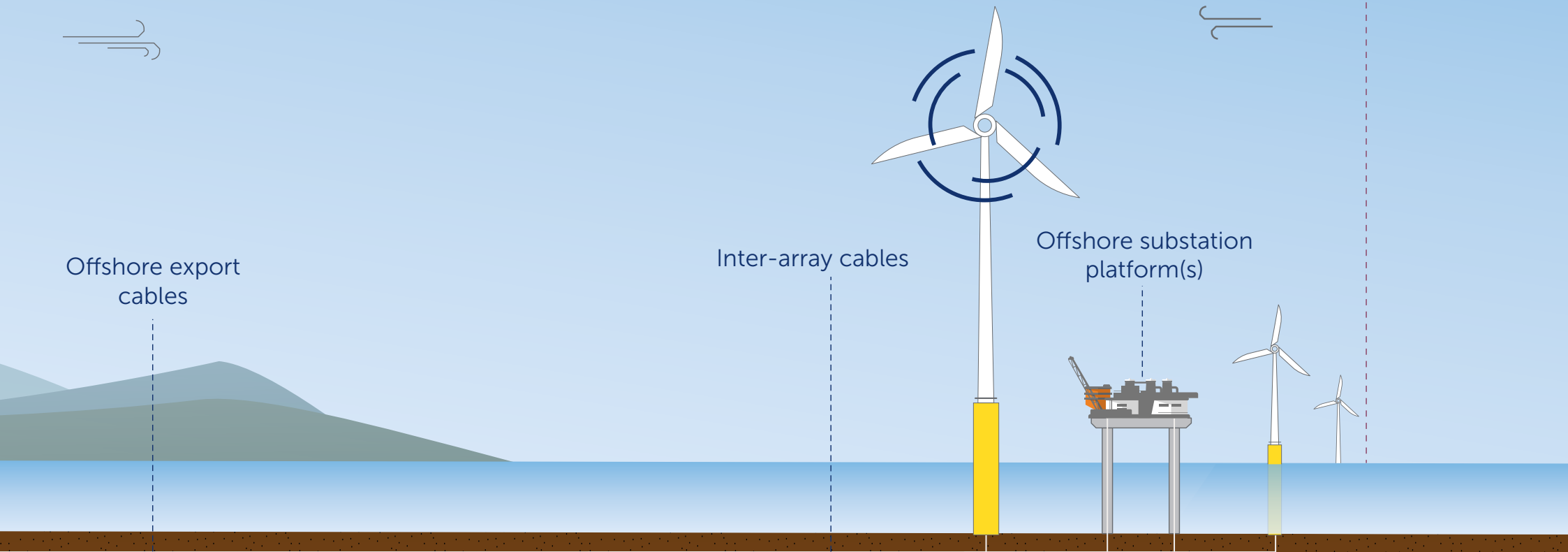


Illustration is indicative only and is not to scale.

3. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY (OMF)

A new purpose-built maintenance base at Arklow Harbour's South Dock will be used to service and maintain the windfarm infrastructure once operational. Around 80 full-time local employees will be based out of this location. The OMF will consist of:

- a. Office, parking and warehousing facilities for staff operatives
- b. Marine infrastructure, including pontoons and berths for Crew Transfer Vessels (CTV's)

OFFSHORE GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park will be located on and around the Arklow Bank, approximately 6 to 13 km from the shore. The foreshore lease area for the wind farm covers an area of seabed approximately 27 km long and 2.5 km wide. We are exploring a number of different turbine models and layouts with a maximum number of 76 turbines and a maximum tip height of 197m. An indicative turbine layout is shown in Figure 1.

Up to two offshore substation platforms will be installed and two subsea cables will be laid in the seabed to connect the wind farm to the shore.

Environmental Impact Assessment

We are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for submission to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government. In preparation, we have published a scoping document which sets out the information that will be contained in the Report, and the methods that will be used to gather and assess that required information.

You can view the individual offshore EIA Scoping Report at:
www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank



Figure 1.

A number of topics have been identified in the offshore EIA Scoping Report for inclusion in the EIAR including:

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact

These will be assessed in the EIAR and will consider the potential effects the project could have during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning (when the wind park ceases operation). Visualisations from various viewpoints along the coastline from areas around Wicklow, Arklow and Courtown have been prepared and can be viewed on the project website at www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

Marine Ecology

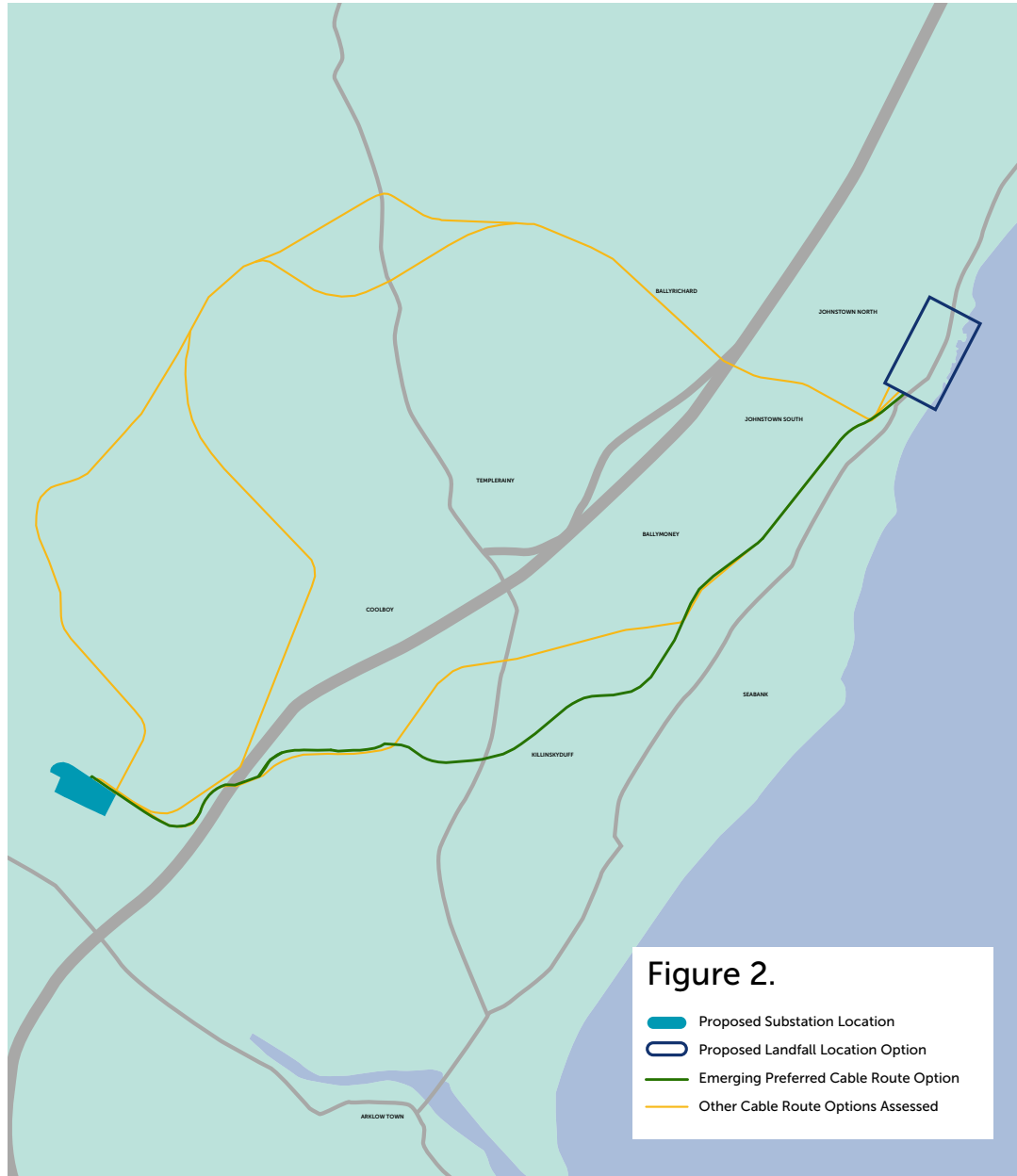
A number of aspects of marine ecology will be assessed in the EIAR. These include the benthic or sea-bed ecology; fish, shellfish and sea turtle ecology; marine mammals; and offshore ornithology (birds).

Other Topics

A number of other topics will be assessed in the EIAR. These include Coastal Processes, Population and Human Health, Air Quality and Climate, Commercial Fisheries, Airborne Noise, Shipping and Navigation, Civil and Military Aviation, Marine Archaeology, and Infrastructure and Other Users.



ONSHORE GRID INFRASTRUCTURE



Public update, as of 1 November 2020: The map above accurately indicates all cable route options. This map replaces a map previously published in October 2020 which incorrectly indicated one of the cable route options. "

Site selection process:

As part of the development process, a series of environmental and technical assessment studies were completed on several potential substation sites and cable routes to determine the option most suited for the proposed development and to ensure it was designed sympathetically to the local environment and with the least impact.

Landfall

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 has consent in the foreshore lease for two landfall locations for the export cable coming ashore from the offshore wind farm. The Northern landfall location is at Johnstown North, approximately 5km northeast of Arklow town, close to Ennereilly Beach. The Southern landfall location is at Arklow Harbour, adjacent to the site of the proposed Irish Water Treatment Plant.

These options were reviewed and assessed as part of a feasibility assessment. Following the options assessment, the northern landfall at Johnstown North was identified as the preferred landfall location. The residential and civic environment surrounding the southern landfall, as well as other technical aspects, informed this decision.

Our preferred approach to installing the cable at landfall is to use a specialist cable burial method called horizontal directional drilling (HDD). This approach enables us to install the cables underground while minimising disturbance to the land above.

Underground Cable Route

A cable route assessment has been conducted identifying and recommending an emerging preferred underground route from landfall to the preferred substation location, to be brought forward as part of the consenting process, likely with An Bord Pleanála.

An area of approximately 16km² was assessed from an environmental, engineering and consenting perspective.

These assessments sought to determine the emerging preferred route between the landfall and the preferred substation location, with the least impact on environment, archaeology, land use and residents. The emerging preferred route is outlined in Figure 2 and we are currently progressing engagement with all landowners along this route. The route itself is approximately 5km in length and the cables will be buried underground. They will primarily be buried in a trench through agricultural fields however at certain constraint locations such as road and stream crossings it will be necessary to use specialist cable burying technology such as a Horizontal Directional Drill, to minimise disturbance to the land above.

Substation

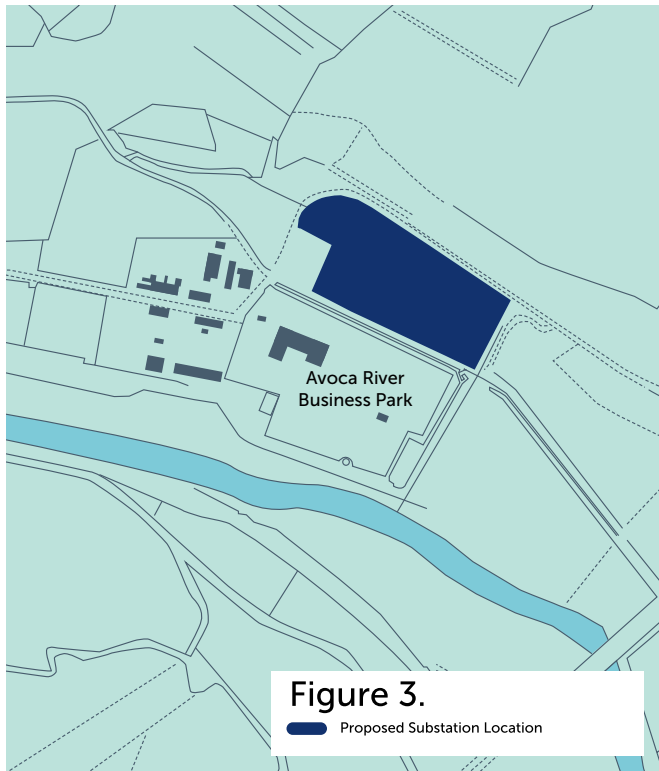


Figure 3.

Proposed Substation Location

We have identified and evaluated a number of potential sites for the proposed substation in the Arklow area. This included assessments of various constraints including potential environmentally protected and sensitive sites, biodiversity considerations such as habitats and flora and fauna, zoning objectives and site history, visual impact, noise impact (both during construction and operation), archaeology and cultural heritage, proximity to residential and other sensitive locations, proximity to other planned developments and water quality. Other constraints such as public rights of way, proximity to national grid infrastructure, transport and access routes, ground conditions and flood risk were also considered.

The preferred site location for the proposed 220kV substation is at the Avoca River Business Park near Shelton Abbey. This site was selected based on its accessibility, industrial history, and services and utilities available on site. The site is zoned for employment and is in close proximity to the existing 220kV overhead electricity line.

A Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) was chosen for the site, as it has a smaller footprint, reduced visual impact and less maintenance requirements during operation. The substation consists of various components. These include two GIS building, transformers, harmonic filters, ancillary plant and a control building.

We have been actively engaging with a number of landowners and the emerging preferred substation location is outlined in Figure 3.

Landscape and Visual

A landscape and visual assessment has been carried out to determine the impact the proposed development will have from a visual perspective.

Visualisations of the substation from various viewpoints have been prepared. The viewpoints selected have been taken from carefully selected vantage points and are available on www.sserenewables/arklowbank

There is the potential for visual impact during construction along the cable route and at the landfall location, result of vegetation clearance, and trenching activities. Any impact is predicted to be minor and temporary, as land and vegetation will be reinstated.

Onshore Ecology

Ecology surveys have been carried out and the data will be assessed to ensure that the final onshore elements of the proposal are designed sympathetically to the local environment and wildlife.

These surveys covered the landfall site, the cable route, the substation location and connection to the national grid network.

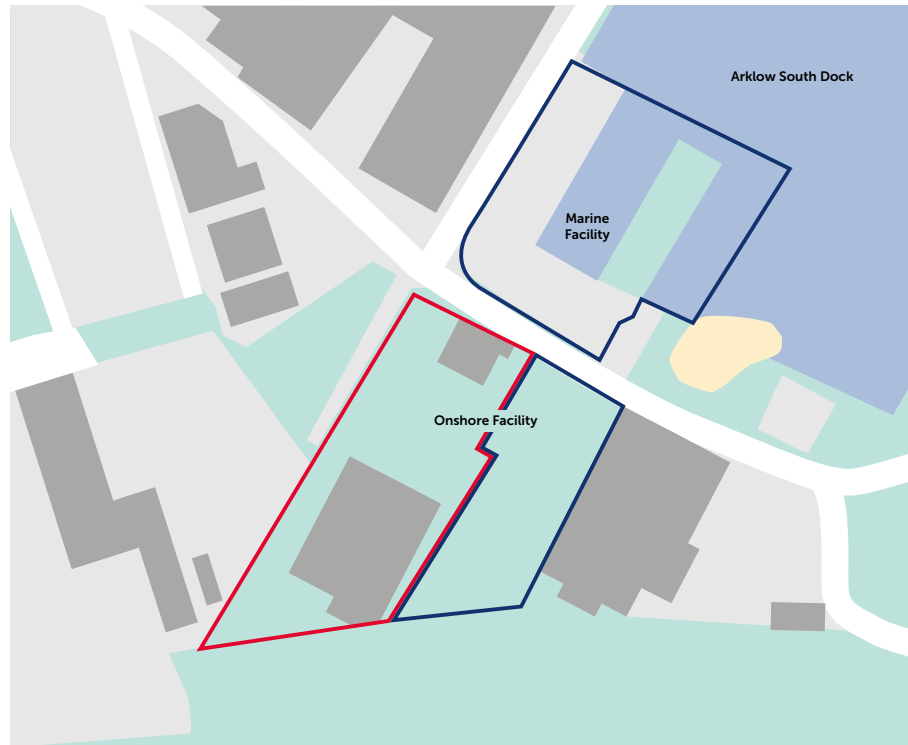
As well as birds and wildlife, these assessments also include bats, badgers, otters, fish stock and amphibians.. Consideration will be given to local vegetation, including hedgerows, trees and important habitats. The results of the surveys will be used to avoid, reduce and offset any impacts on biodiversity through sensitive design and mitigation measures as required.

Noise

The proposed underground cable route passes through predominately rural areas. The substation is located in an industrial setting adjacent to the M11 motorway, both of which have existing background noise levels.

The construction at the landfall, cable route, and the substation has the potential to give rise to temporary noise. During operation, there will only be noise from the electrical and mechanical plant of the substation, most of which will be located indoors in the GIS building which will be located in an already industrial setting. Background noise monitoring will be undertaken at the preferred substation location, along the cable route and also at the landfall location. Noise modelling will be completed to inform the EIAR and to ensure noise emissions from both the construction and operational aspects of the developments will fall within acceptable limits.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY (OMF)



In June 2020, after detailed engineering analysis and engagement with local stakeholders, Arklow Harbour was identified as the preferred location for the wind farm's Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF).

The OMF will act as the support base for both the onshore and offshore elements of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2. The base will be used to control, operate and maintain the wind farm its operational lifetime.

The OMF is made up of two primary components which will service the project on a daily basis:

- Onshore facility: building with offices for 80 employees, meeting rooms, warehousing, welfare facilities and associated car parking
- Marine facility: berthing for the Crew Transfer Vessels used to service the wind farm

We have secured an option to purchase an industrial yard (shown in red on this figure) and a separate option to step into an existing lease on adjacent lands owned by Wicklow County Council. Both sites are collectively known locally as "The Old Shipyard". A third option agreement has been secured to step into another existing Lease with Wicklow County Council for an area of quayside in the dock, to facilitate future berthing and pontoons.

WHAT IT SAYS IN THE PAPERS

We have been actively developing our plans for the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park over the last two years. Our project plans and our community sponsorships have been making positive headlines locally and nationally.



Arklow Harbour will be future base for SSE offshore wind farm

Arklow Harbour will be the future base for the SSE offshore wind farm, according to a report in the Wicklow People newspaper. The report states that the harbour is the ideal location for the wind farm's operations and maintenance facility (OMF). The OMF will be used to control, operate and maintain the wind farm throughout its operational lifetime. The harbour is also a popular location for sailing and other water sports, which adds to its appeal as a location for the wind farm.



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

SSE Renewables is Ireland's largest generator of wind power and provides voluntary community funding to community groups near each of our wind farms across the country. Since we first began community funding in Ireland in 2002, we have awarded over €10 million from our operational wind farms supporting more than 4,000 local projects. Annually we share approximately €2 million with local community projects across the island.

We are committed to providing a Community Fund for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2, once it enters operation. Our intention is that this Fund would support communities all along the coastline from Wicklow Town to Arklow and on to Courtown.

In order to progress Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park SSE Renewables must secure the support of the Government, through the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), in 2021. As part of this process Government will determine the parameters for a Community Fund for offshore wind. We look forward to working with the Government as these parameters are developed.

Our support for the community doesn't wait until the wind farm commences operation. During the development phases of our projects we sponsor many local community groups, projects and organisations, especially those with a marine focus. In the last two years we have been pleased to support Seal Rescue Ireland's education programme, Wicklow Rowing Club's boat restoration project, Meals on Wheels Arklow and Wicklow as part of their Covid-19 response and Arklow RNLI's Maritime Festival. If you would like to find out more about how we can help your group or organisation, please contact our dedicated Community Engagement Manager, Deborah Coleman, on 087 1457603, or by email at Deborah.coleman2@sse.com (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).



Wicklow Rowing Club



Arklow RNLI

YOUR TEAM



Barry Kilcline
Director of Development
Ireland



James O'Hara
Project Manager



Jason Cooke
Head of Communications
and Brand



Kaj Christiansen
Development Package
Manager



Louise Glennon
Public Affairs Manager



Deborah Coleman
Community Engagement
Manager



Brendan Dillon
Fisheries Liaison Officer

HAVE YOUR SAY

We have been engaging with local stakeholders in relation to the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 for a number of years.

We are committed to working with local communities and stakeholders to gather feedback and local information that will inform the project on an ongoing basis. Local knowledge is key to us so that we understand the issues that are important to the community and can refine our plans accordingly.

We commit to keep you informed as the project develops and will endeavour to seek your feedback in relation to key project activities, where possible.

We welcome your feedback during this consultation process and throughout the project lifecycle.

Find out more

We have created a dedicated project website where you can find out more information about our vision for the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park. www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

There you will find out more information on all of the different elements of the project, including:

- The offshore infrastructure – including the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
- The onshore Grid Infrastructure – including the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
- Our plans for our new purpose-built Operations and Maintenance Facility

You will also find the feedback form which you can complete and submit online or download and print for submission by post. We will gratefully accept comments and submissions until Wednesday 11, November, 2020.

Join us for an Online Community Briefing

Ordinarily we would like to hold a public event in a local hotel or town hall, to brief you on this project in person. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are not permitted to hold such public events.

As a result we are hosting a live Online Community Briefing event on Wednesday, 4 November, at 7pm via www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank, where key members of the team will provide a project briefing. You will be able to meet the team, hear more about the project and ask any questions that you might have about the project.

Call, text, or email our Community Engagement Manager:

Deborah Coleman is our dedicated Community Engagement Manager for Arklow Bank Wind Park. Locally-based, Deborah is available Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm, or alternatively by appointment outside of these hours.

Deborah is contactable on **087 1457603**, or by email at Deborah.coleman2@sse.com

Public Exhibition Spaces

Members of the public can find out more about our plans for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 by visiting our public exhibitions at:

- Bridgewater Shopping Centre, North Quay, Arklow
- Arklow Library, Main Street, Arklow
- Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town
- Seamount/Main Street, Courtown

Write to us! If you would like to send us a letter or post your feedback form to us. Mark the envelope for the attention of Deborah Coleman, Arklow Bank Wind Park, and send it to:

SSE Renewables,
South County Business Park,
Red Oak South,
Leopardstown,
Dublin 18,
D18 W688.

^Exhibitions are unmanned due to Covid-19 restrictions.

^ Exhibition opening times are in line with venue opening hours. For latest information including details of opening hours, visit www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

^ Exhibitions subject to prevailing Covid-19 restrictions. Check website for latest updates.





FOR A BETTER FUTURE

At SSE Renewables we're for leading Ireland's offshore wind energy ambition. We're for building a cleaner energy future to combat climate change. And we're for creating new local jobs in County Wicklow and along the East Coast to drive our green recovery.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION SPACES

Members of the public can find out more about our plans for Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 by visiting our public exhibitions at:

- Bridgewater Shopping Centre, North Quay, Arklow
- Arklow Library, Main Street, Arklow
- Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town
- Seamount/Main Street, Courtown

Exhibitions are unmanned due to Covid-19 restrictions[^]. Exhibition opening times are in line with venue opening hours. For latest information including details of opening hours, visit www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

FOR A BETTER WORLD OF ENERGY

ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

OUR TEAM



Barry Kilcline
Director of Development Ireland



James O'Hara
Project Manager



Jason Cooke
Head of Communications and Brand



Louise Glennon
Public Affairs Manager



Kaj Christiansen
Development Package Manager



Brendan Dillon
Fisheries Liaison Officer



CONTACT

Deborah Coleman, Community Engagement Manager on Arklow Bank Wind Park

Phone: 087 1457603
Email: Deborah.coleman2@sse.com

Post: SSE Renewables, Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18



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We're SSE Renewables, a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy across Ireland and the UK. Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, we believe in building a better world of energy. We employ 1,000 people in Ireland and 10,000+ in the UK. Through our sister company SSE Airtricity, the wind energy we produce here supplies more Irish homes and businesses than any other company. We're one of the leading developers and operators of offshore wind farms. And now we're planning the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park to generate the offshore wind energy we need to fight climate change and create local jobs as part of a green recovery.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 will be located off the coast of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The project is the next phase of wind energy development at Arklow Bank, where Phase 1 is owned and operated by GE Energy.

We plan to create around 80 full-time jobs to support the operation of the new offshore wind farm. These local jobs will be sustained over the lifespan of the wind farm and will be based out of a new purpose-built Operations Base at Arklow Harbour's South Dock.

During construction and operation, we plan to support local businesses across South Wicklow and North Wexford, including companies in the supply chain in Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour. Arklow Bank Wind Park has a foreshore lease with an export capacity of 520MW, enough to power almost 450,000 homes annually and offset over half a million tonnes of carbon emissions each year[^]. The lease area is situated 6 to 13km off the Co. Wicklow coastline, to the east of Arklow, and covers an area approximately 27km long and 2.5km wide.

BENEFITS OF ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2



Reduce Ireland's annual carbon emissions by around 1% - offsetting over half a million tonnes of harmful CO2[^]



Create around 80 full-time local operational jobs for the lifespan of the windfarm



Generate 520MW of electricity - enough to power almost 450,000 homes with green energy[^]



Contribute millions of euro annually in Community Benefit Funding and local commercial rates



Contribute to Ireland's 2025 Climate Action Plan target of 1GW of offshore wind by 2025



Capital investment of between €1bn and €2bn to power our green recovery

[^] For calculation of homes powered and CO2 emissions abated visit www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

We are committed to working with local communities and stakeholders, to gather feedback and local information that will inform the project. Local knowledge is key to us so we understand the issues that are important to the community and can refine our plans accordingly.

We are currently consulting on the offshore infrastructure and onshore grid infrastructure elements of the project (we will launch a separate consultation on the Operations and Maintenance Facility in 2021). We welcome your feedback during this consultation process (open until 11 November 2020) and throughout the project lifecycle. Ordinarily we would like to hold a public event in a local hotel or town hall, to brief you on this project in person. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 restrictions we are not permitted to hold such public events. This leaflet includes information on the different ways that you can find out more about the project, ask questions and provide feedback. You can also view details at Public Exhibition Spaces (see overleaf).

WEBSITE

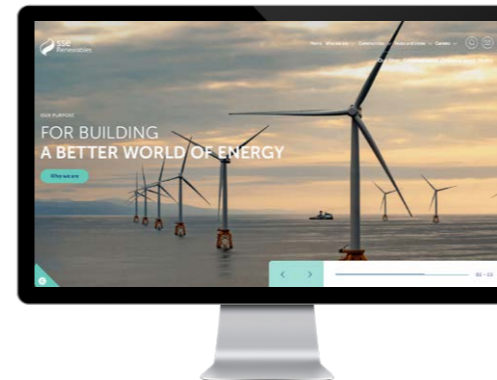
We have created a dedicated project website where you can find out more information about our vision for the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park.

www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

On this webpage you will find out more information on all of the different elements of the project, including:

- **The offshore wind farm** – including the offshore infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
- **The onshore grid infrastructure required** – including the onshore grid infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
- **Our plans for our new purpose-built Operations and Maintenance Base**

You will also find a feedback form which you can complete and submit online or download and print for submission by post. Comments and submissions can be made until Wednesday, 11 November, 2020.



ONLINE COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Join us for a live online project briefing on Wednesday, 4 November, at 7.00pm via www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank Here you will be able to meet the team, hear more about the project and ask any questions that you might have on the project.

CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL our Community Engagement Manager



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Deborah is contactable on **087 1457603** or by email at Deborah.coleman2@sse.com

ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOW OPEN
14 OCTOBER – 11 NOVEMBER, 2020

Have your say on the proposed development of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

We want to hear your thoughts.

For more information, or to submit feedback log on to:
www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

Or contact Deborah Coleman, Community Engagement Manager

Phone: 087 1457603

Email: Deborah.coleman2@sse.com

Post: SSE Renewables,
Red Oak South, South County Business Park,
Leopardstown, Dublin 18

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Appendix B

Media Coverage

Media Clippings

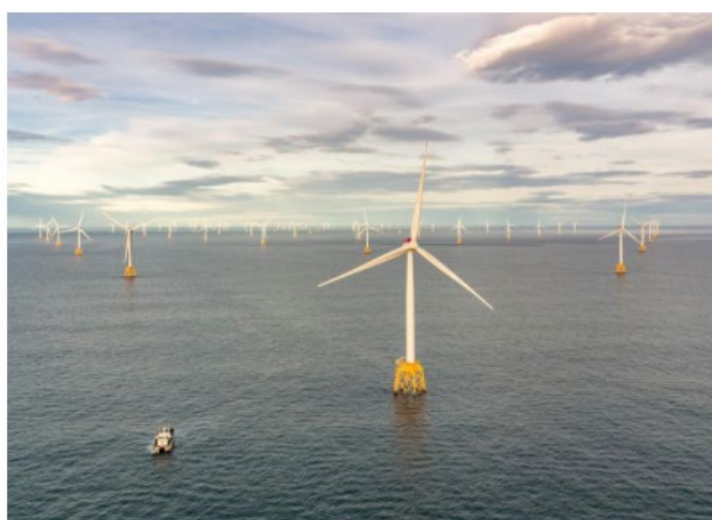
This appendix depicts the media coverage (alphabetically) on the Project from June to November 2020.

1.1 Bray People

1.1.1 31 October 2020

BRAY PEOPLE ePaper News Sport Entertainment Lifestyle Local

Arklow Bank wind farm public consultation opens



The Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm.

October 31 2020 12:00 AM



.....

A virtual public consultation on the proposed expansion of the Arklow Bank wind farm has opened and people living in County Wicklow are being asked to contribute their views.

1.2 East Coast FM

1.2.1 19 October 2020 - broadcast

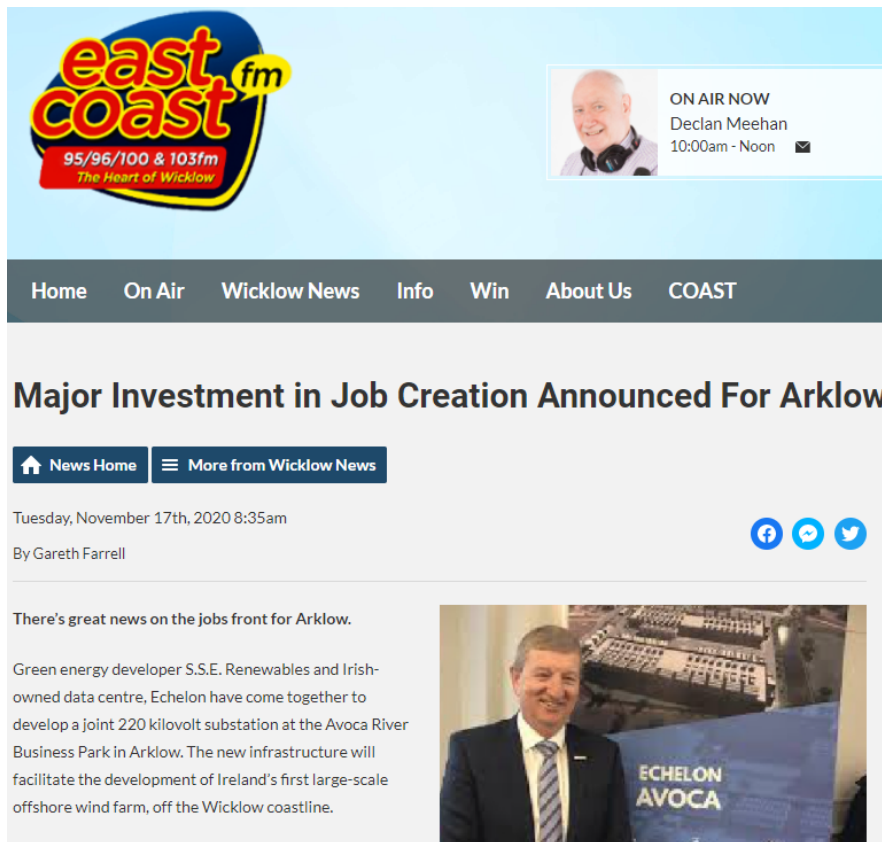
Radio interview with James O'Hara urging public to engage during consultation phase.

1.2.2 17 November 2020 – broadcast

Radio interview with Senator Pat Casey regarding 250 new jobs in Arklow area between SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres.

1.2.3 17 November 2020 – online

<https://www.eastcoast.fm/news/wicklow-news/major-investment-in-job-creation-announced-for-arklow/>



The screenshot shows the East Coast FM website interface. At the top left is the station logo with the text "east coast fm" and "95/96/100 & 103fm The Heart of Wicklow". To the right is a "ON AIR NOW" banner for Declan Meehan, with a photo and the text "10:00am - Noon". Below this is a dark navigation bar with links: Home, On Air, Wicklow News, Info, Win, About Us, and COAST. The main headline is "Major Investment in Job Creation Announced For Arklow". Below the headline are navigation buttons for "News Home" and "More from Wicklow News". The article is dated "Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 8:35am" and written by "Gareth Farrell". There are social media icons for Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. The article text begins with "There's great news on the jobs front for Arklow." and describes a joint venture between S.S.E. Renewables and Echelon to develop a 220 kilovolt substation at the Avoca River Business Park in Arklow. A photo of a man in a suit standing next to a banner that says "ECHELON AVOCA" is visible on the right side of the article.

east coast fm
95/96/100 & 103fm
The Heart of Wicklow

ON AIR NOW
Declan Meehan
10:00am - Noon

Home On Air Wicklow News Info Win About Us COAST

Major Investment in Job Creation Announced For Arklow

News Home More from Wicklow News

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 8:35am

By Gareth Farrell

There's great news on the jobs front for Arklow.

Green energy developer S.S.E. Renewables and Irish-owned data centre, Echelon have come together to develop a joint 220 kilovolt substation at the Avoca River Business Park in Arklow. The new infrastructure will facilitate the development of Ireland's first large-scale offshore wind farm, off the Wicklow coastline.

ECHELON AVOCA

1.3 Gorey Guardian

1.3.1 24 October 2020

GOREY GUARDIAN ePaper News Sport Out & About Lifestyle L

Public consultation begins for phase two of the Arklow Bank Wind Park



The proposed development will comprise 76 offshore wind turbines. FILE PHOTO

October 24 2020 12:00 AM



People living in north Wexford are being urged to have their say on the proposed Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 as public consultation on the project gets under way.

1.4 Irish Independent

1.4.1 9 June 2020

Arklow Harbour will be future base for SSE offshore wind farm

Shawn Pogatchnik

ARKLOW Harbour has beaten Wicklow to become the future operations and maintenance base for SSE Renewables' planned expansion of Ireland's first operating wind farm.

An industry source said that Arklow had won out chiefly because it was closer to the site than Wicklow Port, while Belfast Port was the most likely construction hub for the project, the source added.

to be the construction hub, although a final decision will be made nearer the planned start of construction in 2023.

Once the turbines become operational, Arklow will be the

primary operations base.

SSE said the south dock facility would include new purpose-built offices, warehouses for storing turbine parts and other stock for repairs, and quayside berthing for up to four crew transfer vessels.

The facility also will be a

acquire part of the south dock quayside for vessel berthing and pontoons.

When complete, SSE said Arklow Bank would be able to

power 500,000 homes and offset 600,000 tonnes of carbon gases – representing 1pc of the State's annual emissions.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Irene Winters, said the expanded Arklow Bank would promote Wicklow "as a centre of excellence for the offshore renewa-


1.5 Irish Tech News

1.5.1 8 June 2020

<https://irishtechnews.ie/arklow-harbour-selected-as-operations-base-for-arklow-bank-wind-park/>

IRISH TECH NEWS

COVID-19 TECH NEWS BUSINESS SHOWCASE FINTECH IOT



ARKLOW HARBOUR SELECTED AS OPERATIONS BASE FOR ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK

IRISH TECH NEWS • JUNE 8, 2020

BUSINESS ENERGY IRELAND RENEWABLES WICKLOW

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0:00 / 4:57 1X

Arklow Harbour on Ireland's East Coast has been selected by SSE Renewables as the preferred location for the Operations and Maintenance Base for its planned 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 offshore wind farm. The decision was announced today by the leading renewable energy firm at a virtual meeting with members of Wicklow County Council.

1.6 Irish Times

1.6.1 17 June 2020

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/increase-in-offshore-wind-energy-targets-in-government-programme-welcomed-by-sector-1.4281389>

THE IRISH TIMES

Increase in offshore wind energy targets in government programme welcomed by sector

Arklow plan could be delivered by 2025, helping to reach climate plan's 1GW target of offshore wind in same year

© Wed, Jun 17, 2020, 11:36 | Updated: Wed, Jun 17, 2020, 11:42

Tim O'Brien



Off-shore wind turbines. File photograph: Jasper Juinen/Bloomberg



Plans to increase offshore wind energy targets in the programme for government from 3.5GW to 5GW have been welcomed by the industry.



The 5GW target, the energy equivalent of power for about 5 million homes, is to be phased in by 2030, with the first auction of quota to potential developers by next year.



1.6.2 17 November 2020

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/energy-and-resources/sse-renewables-and-echelon-data-centres-team-up-for-substation-1.4411455>

THE IRISH TIMES

NEWS

SPORT

BUSINESS

OPINION

LIFE & STYLE

CULTURE

Companies > Energy & Resources | Financial Services | Agribusiness & Food | Health &

SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres team up for substation




Companies to jointly develop substation in Co Wicklow for wind farm and data centre

© Tue, Nov 17, 2020, 09:57

Charlie Taylor



Echelon secured planning permission for a data centre in Co Wicklow last year

-  Green energy developer SSE Renewables and Irish-owned Echelon Data Centres are to jointly develop a 220KW substation at the Avoca River Business Park in Arklow, Co Wicklow.
-  Business Park in Arklow, Co Wicklow.
-  The new infrastructure is intended facilitate the development of SSE's large-scale 520MW offshore wind and Echelon's new €500 million 100MW data centre, for which planning permission was granted in July 2019.

1.7 offshoreWIND.biz

1.7.1 8 June 2020

<https://www.offshorewind.biz/2020/06/08/sse-chooses-arklow-harbour-for-520-mw-irish-owf/>

SSE Chooses Arklow Harbour for 520 MW Irish OWF

June 8, 2020, by [Adrijana Buljan](#)

SSE Renewables has selected Arklow Harbour as the preferred location for the operations and maintenance (O&M) base for the second phase of the Arklow Bank offshore wind farm.

The developer has been [assessing](#) the Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour as possible locations for the project's O&M base since early 2019.

Related news



1.7.2 20 October 2020

<https://www.offshorewind.biz/2020/10/20/sse-holding-consultations-for-arklow-bank-2/>

SSE Holding Consultations for Arklow Bank 2

October 20, 2020, by [Nadja Skopljak](#)

SSE Renewables is holding public consultations in the South Wicklow and North Wexford areas in Ireland for the Arklow Bank Phase 2 offshore wind project.

During the consultations held from 14 October to 11 November, the public will be able to provide feedback on the offshore infrastructure and onshore grid infrastructure elements of the project.

1.7.3 17 November 2020

<https://www.offshorewind.biz/2020/11/17/irish-wind-farm-to-share-onshore-substation-with-data-centre/>

Irish Wind Farm to Share Onshore Substation with Data Centre

GRID CONNECTION

November 17, 2020, by Adnan Durakovic

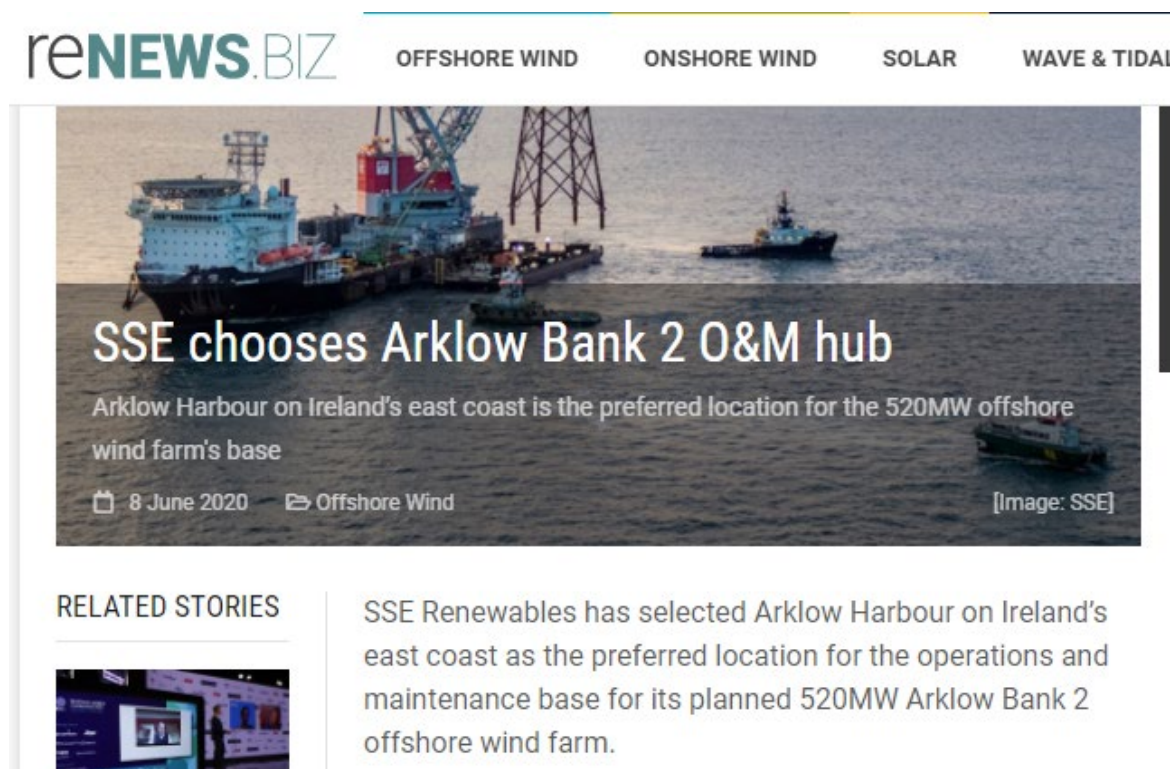
SSE Renewables and Irish-owned data centre owner and operator, Echelon Data Centres have agreed to develop a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park in Arklow, Ireland.

The new infrastructure will facilitate the development of Ireland's first large-scale offshore wind farm, [Arklow Bank](#), off the coast of Co. Wicklow with an export capacity of 520 MW, and Echelon's DUB20 (Arklow) 100 MW data centre.

1.8 reNEWS.biz

1.8.1 8 June 2020

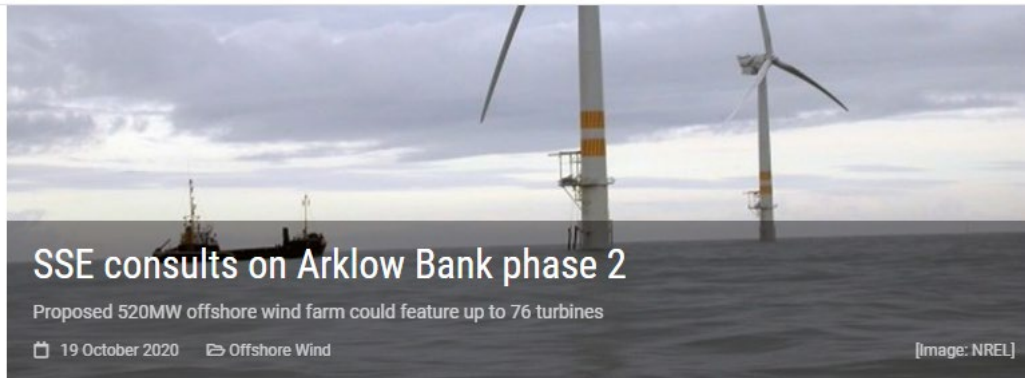
<https://renews.biz/60808/sse-chooses-arklow-bank-2-om-hub/>



The screenshot shows the reNEWS.BIZ website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for OFFSHORE WIND, ONSHORE WIND, SOLAR, and WAVE & TIDAL. The main content area features a large image of an offshore wind farm under construction with the headline "SSE chooses Arklow Bank 2 O&M hub". Below the headline, it states "Arklow Harbour on Ireland's east coast is the preferred location for the 520MW offshore wind farm's base". The article is dated "8 June 2020" and categorized under "Offshore Wind". A small thumbnail image is visible in the "RELATED STORIES" section on the left.

1.8.2 19 October 2020

<https://renews.biz/63843/sse-consults-on-arklow-bank-phase-2/>



SSE consults on Arklow Bank phase 2

Proposed 520MW offshore wind farm could feature up to 76 turbines

19 October 2020 Offshore Wind

[Image: NREL]

RELATED STORIES

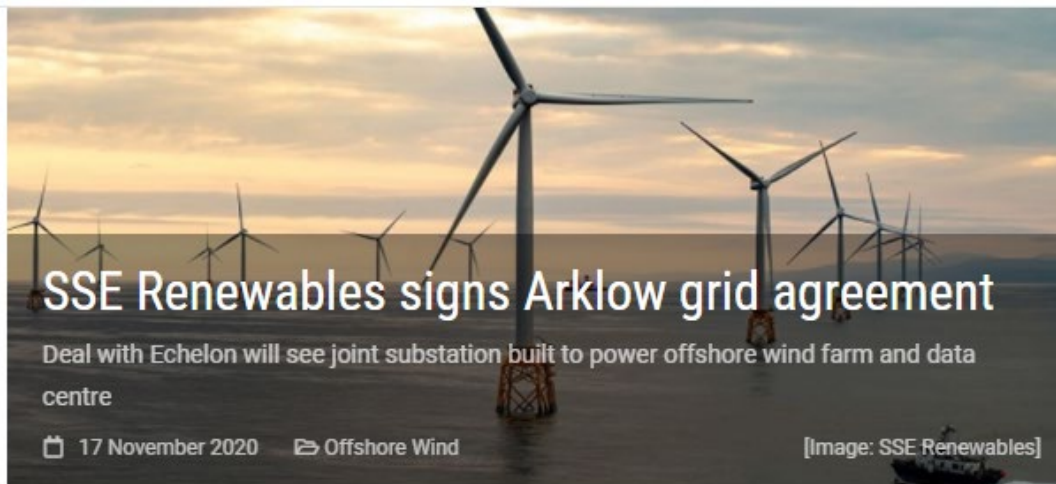


Public consultation has kicked off for SSE Renewables proposed 520MW Arklow Bank phase 2 offshore wind farm off County Wicklow, Ireland.

Members of the public in County Wicklow and North County Wexford are being encouraged to have their say on what could be Ireland's first large scale offshore wind project, with up to 76 turbines.

1.8.3 17 November 2020

<https://renews.biz/64492/irish-project-fuses-offshore-wind-and-data-centre-grid/>



SSE Renewables signs Arklow grid agreement

Deal with Echelon will see joint substation built to power offshore wind farm and data centre

17 November 2020 Offshore Wind

[Image: SSE Renewables]

RELATED STORIES



SSE Renewables seeks Seagreen 1A

SSE Renewables has signed an agreement to develop a joint substation in Ireland that will serve a 520MW offshore wind farm and meet the power needs of a data centre.

The developer signed an agreement with Irish-owned Echelon Data Centres to develop a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park, in Arklow.

1.9 RTÉ

1.9.1 17 November 2020

<https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2020/1117/1178606-echelon-data-centre-arklow/#:~:text=Wind%20farm%20data%20centre%20tie%20up%20deal%20to%20create%20new%20Arklow%20jobs&text=Up%20to%20250%20jobs%20are,and%20operator%2C%20Echelon%20Data%20Centres.>

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Wind farm data centre tie up deal to create new Arklow jobs

Updated / Tuesday, 17 Nov 2020 08:54



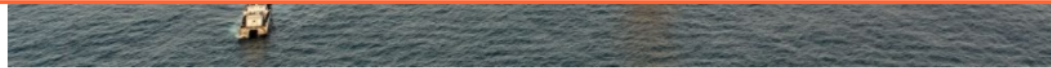
Green energy company SSE Renewables and Irish-owned data centre owner and operator Echelon Data Centres have agreed a new deal

Up to 250 jobs are expected to be created in Arklow in the coming years with the development of a joint initiative between green energy company SSE Renewables and Irish-owned data centre owner and operator, Echelon Data Centres.

1.10 Silicon Republic

1.10.1 8 June 2020

<https://www.siliconrepublic.com/jobs/sse-renewables-arklow-wicklow-jobs>



J O B S | SSE Beatrice offshore windfarm in Scotland. Image: SSE

SSE Renewables will hire 80 for new Arklow Harbour windfarm base

by Lisa Ardill 8 JUN 2020 2.32K VIEWS

The renewable energy firm is creating a new operations and maintenance base at Arklow's 'old shipyard'.

Today (8 June), SSE Renewables announced that Arklow Harbour in Co Wicklow has been chosen as the location for a new operations and maintenance base for phase two of its planned 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Park project.

Check out life at some of the top sci-tech companies

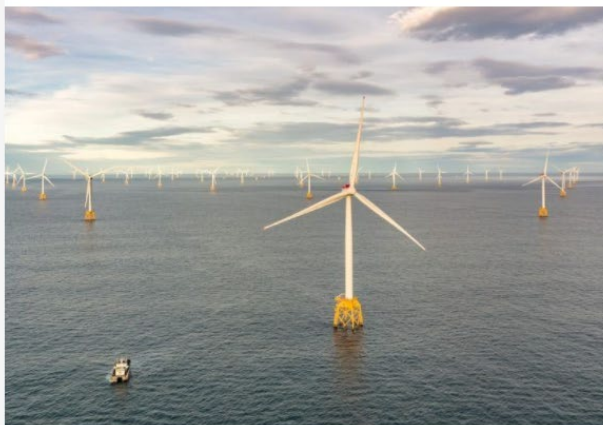
1.10.2 17 November 2020

<https://www.siliconrepublic.com/machines/sse-renewables-echelon-data-centres-arklow-substation>

SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres to build €50m Arklow substation

by Colm Gorey

17 NOV 2020 598 VIEWS



The Beatrice windfarm off the Scottish coast. Image: SSE Renewables/Beatrice Offshore Windfarm



A deal between SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres will see the construction of a new substation in Arklow linking a windfarm and a data centre.

A new deal has been signed between SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres, which will see the construction of a new substation in

LATEST NEWS



Moderna and IBM team up on Covid-19 vaccine tracking

2 HOURS AGO



Growing Kilkenny start-up seeks 10 new hires

2 HOURS AGO



These could be the 5 hottest engineering roles this year

3 HOURS AGO



It's time for Dublin to ride the wave of mobility as a service

3 HOURS AGO



1.11 WicklowNews.net

1.11.1 8 June 2020

<https://wicklownews.net/2020/06/arklow-harbour-selected-as-operations-base-for-arklow-wind-bank-park/>



Arklow Harbour selected as operations base for Arklow Wind Bank Park



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By: WicklowNews
June 8, 2020 12:14 pm

Arklow Harbour on Ireland's East Coast has been selected by SSE Renewables as the preferred location for the Operations and Maintenance Base for its planned 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 offshore wind farm. The decision was announced today by the leading renewable energy firm at a virtual meeting with members of Wicklow County Council.

1.11.2 17 November 2020

<https://wicklownews.net/2020/11/250-jobs-for-arklow-in-joint-initiative-by-sse-and-echelon/>

250 jobs for Arklow in joint initiative by SSE and Echelon



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By: WicklowNews

November 17, 2020 12:23 am

Irish-owned data centre owner and operator, Echelon Data Centres and green energy developer SSE Renewables have announced an agreement to develop a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park, Arklow, Ireland.

1.12 Wicklow People

1.12.1 10 June 2020



Wind farm hub to create 80 jobs

By EIMEAR DODD

ARKLOW received a welcome jobs boost this week as SSE Renewables confirmed it would locate its Wind farm onshore hub in the town.

The company made the announcement on Monday during a

virtual meeting with members of Wicklow County Council after a year-long assessment. Up to 80 full-time jobs will also be created to service and maintain the Arklow Bank offshore wind farm. SSE Renewables said it expects the second phase of the project to be delivered by 2025.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District said 'it is great to get some positive news in what has been a difficult period for many'.

Cllr Fear Leonard said she welcomed 'this fantastic decision' and the 'very exciting times ahead for

Arklow'.

Harry Kildine, Director of Development at SSE Renewables, said the new base 'will play a vital role in the day-to-day running of the planned offshore wind farm'.

SEE PAGES 8 & 9

1.12.2 10 June 2020

Move means 'exciting times for Arklow'

By EIMEAR DODD

THERE has been a hugely positive reaction to SSE Renewables's announcement that it plans to locate the onshore service hub for its Arklow Bank wind farm in Arklow Harbour.

Councillor Pat Fitzgerald (FF), Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, said 'it is great to get some positive news in what has been a difficult period for many. I very much welcome the announcement today and I must welcome also confirmation that when complete the wind farm is expected to power around a half a million homes each year with green energy offsetting around 600,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.'

Cllr Pat Kennedy (FF) said it was 'a great announcement for Wicklow and in particular for the Arklow area.'

ensuring that real economic and social benefits flow into the local community through their investments in new energy infrastructure and aim to support local employment and a local supply chain when developing, constructing and operating the Arklow Bank Wind Park. Overall, the investment will provide a huge economic boost for County Wicklow as a whole.'

Wicklow Fine Gael TD and Minister for Health Simon Harris said, 'Not only is this a significant step forward for Ireland's emerging offshore wind energy sector, it is a massive investment in the future of the Wicklow economy. The development of a new service base in Arklow and the associated infrastructure will create long term sustainable jobs in Arklow.'

'The Arklow Bank Wind Park is uniquely placed to meet Ireland's power demand. When the Arklow Bank Wind Park is completed in

1.12.3 10 June 2020

Wind farm hub to create 80 jobs

By EIMEAR DODD

ARKLOW received a welcome jobs boost this week as SSE Renewables confirmed it would locate its wind farm onshore hub in the town.

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1.12.4 24 June 2020

€10,000 to help out Meals on Wheels

By EIMEAR DODD

SSE Renewables, developer of the next phase of the Arklow Bank offshore wind farm, has made a donation to support Meals on Wheels groups in Arklow and Wicklow Town.

A donation of €5,000 was presented by SSE Renewables to each of the volunteer-led groups which ramped up their services during the period of lockdown to support regular service users and members of the community who were cocooning.

Meals on Wheels was selected to receive the donation by the project team at SSE Renewables working on Arklow Bank Wind Park because of the role it has played for communities in Arklow and Wicklow during the restrictions.

Arklow Bank Project Manager James O'Hara said, 'Community and voluntary groups such as Meals on Wheels have been at the heart of communi- ties responding to the needs of



Wicklow Meals on Wheels chef Alan Cronin.

Meals on Wheels said, 'We are delighted to receive this funding which makes a huge difference to our weekly service which has increased to seven days during the Covid-19 emergency. It is vital that the most vulnerable in our society are supported during this difficult and worrying time and support for our service translates to support for our valued service users.'

Rose Behan, Wicklow Meals on Wheels said, 'Donations such as this from SSE Renewables are vital for our service which has increased in response to Covid-19. They enable us to continue to provide free meals to service users which we have pledged to do from May 1 to September 1, 2020.'

SSE Renewables is currently developing the second phase of the Arklow Bank wind farm project and has indicated it expects to invest up to €1 billion in the project.

1.12.5 8 July 2020

Potential for Arklow to be a key player

By EIMEAR DODD

Arklow has the potential to be a key player in marine activity and opportunities for the town 'must be grasped firmly with both hands', according to Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore.

that this project develops Arklow Port which is currently underutilised. Potentially, the new facility could attract local firms to contribute to SSE's supply chain, specialists in ship repairs and site surveying, fuel supply, hospitality, logistics and stevedoring. SSE Renewables informed me that they will have a public consultation on

County from this project.

'The possibilities are endless, but we need to make sure that we seize on those opportunities and that SSE Renewables and all stakeholders continue to have conversations around how this project could positively impact on business development in the area.'

1.12.6 21 October 2020

Community urged to share feedback

By EIMEAR DODD

A Wicklow TD is encouraging local communities to have their say about the proposed Arklow Bank wind farm.

SSE Renewables launched the public consultation on the offshore wind energy project this week.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said, 'it is vitally important that communities



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore.

can benefit from energy initiatives or any community benefits associated with the project, as SSE Renewables will be obliged to coordinate a 'community fund' for this purpose,' Deputy Whitmore said.

The Social Democrats TD also welcomed the initiatives put in place by SSE Renewables during the consultation process including public information exhibitions and a website.

1.12.7 4 November 2020

Closing date for wind farm public consultation coming to an end

SSE Renewables is looking for potential suppliers that may be interested in carrying out work on the Arklow Bank Wind Farm.

The company released two periodic indicative notices recently last.

1.12.8 11 November 2020

Wind farm has exciting potential for Arklow and Wicklow areas

By EIMEAR DODD

Clr Miriam Murphy (Ind) said the wind farm project provided a 'very exciting' opportunity for Arklow. She asked for further information about the criteria for community grants and the consultation process.

James O'Hara, project manager with SSE Renewables said the pre-submission consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessments was in process, and this phase would close on November 11. Once the application is made to An Bord Pleanála and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, further submissions would be sought during this formal process.

for Arklow and Wicklow.

Clr Pat Fitzgerald (FF) expressed a hope that the project would remain on schedule. 'I think there is huge anticipation in the town. It will be good for Arklow and surrounding areas.'

Clr Peir Leonard (Ind) asked about the potential for investment in apprenticeships.

Barry Killeine, Director of Development Ireland, said meetings had taken place with the Kildare and Wicklow Educational Training Board.

'There will be a significant requirement for maintenance personnel for the turbines in Arklow during the operational stage. That's probably the key area for any sort of apprenticeships programme,' he added.

Clr Gail Dunne (FF) asked if some of the

1.12.9 18 November 2020

SUBSTATION DEAL TO BRING UP TO 80 JOBS

By EIMEAR DODD

ARKLOW received another boost yesterday (Tuesday) as SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres announced plans to jointly develop a 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park.

The companies plan to invest around €50 million in the project, which is subject to planning permission, but could create up to 80 jobs during its construction phase.

The new substation would connect both Echelon's 100MW data centre in the Avoca River Park and the 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Farm Phase 2 to the national grid.

Senator Pat Casey described the deal as 'another landmark for Arklow, for Irish wind power generation and for the Irish economy as a whole.'



An artist's impression of the Echelon Data Centre.

1.12.10 21 November 2020

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklowpeople/news/landmark-50-million-deal-to-create-new-jobs-39758577.html>

'Landmark' €50 million deal to create new jobs

'This announcement is a welcome boost for Arklow: it not only provides new job opportunities, it also places Arklow at the heart of the Green Tech sector'



Artist's impression of the data centre at Avoca River Park. Echelon and SSE Renewables plan to build a 220kV substation in the business park

November 21 2020 12:00 AM



Arklow received another boost this week with the announcement yesterday (Tuesday) that SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres plan to jointly develop a 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park.



1.13 Wicklow Times

1.13.1 30 June 2020

SSE Renewables backs Meals on Wheels Covid response in Arklow and Wicklow

SSE Renewables, the energy company which is developing the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park off the Wicklow coast, has supported the county's Covid-19 response by donating €10,000 to Meals on Wheels groups in Arklow and Wicklow Town.

A much-needed donation of €5,000 has been presented by SSE Renewables to each of the volunteer-led groups, in support of their increased service provision during the lockdown restrictions. Meals on Wheels groups in Arklow and Wicklow Town have seen a significant increase in demand for the delivery of freshly-cooked meals by their volunteers to the homes of their regular service users as well as new users who are experiencing...

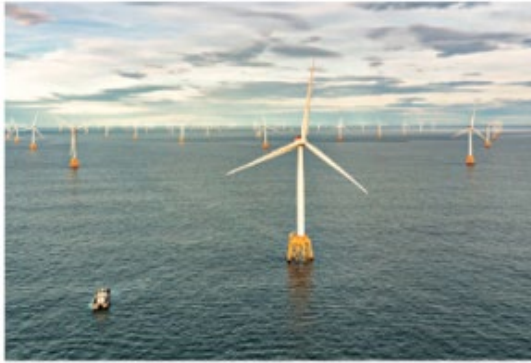
1.13.2 20 October 2020

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ARKLOW WIND PARK page 3 ENERGY AMING KITS page 4 A MEDAL FROM RUSSIA page 12

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Tuesday 20th October 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinborough Road, Bray, A96 R607. Tel: 01-284-9011 E-mail: ad@wexfordtimes.ie www.wexfordtimes.ie



Progress on new water treatments for Arklow and Avoca

Progress is being made in providing water treatment plants for both Arklow and Avoca.

Irish Water has confirmed in Wicklow, land has been acquired and planning permission has been granted for the new treatment plant in Arklow.

Works for the new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will begin next year subject to Ministerial Consent.

It is expected that works will take at least three years to complete.

Plans to construct the Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant are also progressing.

When these works are complete this will bring to an end the historic discharge of raw sewage into the Avoca River.

Together, these modern wastewater treatment plants will be able to treat wastewater for 37,100 people allowing for economic and social growth in

the area, as well as safeguarding our water for the future.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "Having a water treatment plant for Arklow is absolutely vital for the town's ability to grow and prosper."

"It has been sorely needed for a number of years as it has really held back the town's ability to grow."

"However, it has faced a series of frustrating delays which is why it is such welcome news to have official confirmation of real progress being made."

"Similarly, preventing the dumping of raw sewage into the Avoca River is an absolute priority as it is simply not acceptable our rivers are allowed to be destroyed by pollution."

"Restoring adequate waste water services to the county has been a major priority for me."

"I will be giving both projects my complete backing and making sure they have every support they need so they are delivered as quickly as poss-

1.14 Windtech International

1.14.1 17 November 2020

<https://www.windtech-international.com/projects-and-contracts/sse-renewables-and-echelon-data-centres-to-develop-a-joint-220kv-substation>



SSE Renewables and Echelon Data Centres to develop a joint 220kV substation

Published: 17 November 2020

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SSE Renewables and Irish-owned data centre owner and operator, Echelon Data Centres have announced an agreement to develop a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park, Arklow, Ireland.

The new infrastructure will facilitate the development of Ireland's first large-scale offshore wind farm, off the coast of Co. Wicklow with an export capacity of 520MW, and Echelon's DUB20 (Arklow) 100MW data centre.

1.15 4C Offshore

1.15.1 8 June 2020

<https://www.4coffshore.com/news/arklow-harbour-to-host-sse27s-offshore-wind-base-nid17522.html>



Arklow Harbour to host SSE's offshore wind base



By: Tom Russell In: [Windfarms](#) © 08/06/2020 ↗ SSE Renewables



Image source: Ian Greenwood

SSE Renewables has selected Arklow Harbour as the preferred location to host the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base for its planned 520 MW [Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2](#) offshore wind farm.

1.15.2 19 October 2020

<https://www.4coffshore.com/news/sse-renewables-launches-arklow-bank-consultation-nid19344.html>



SSE Renewables launches Arklow Bank consultation



By: Tom Russell In: [Windfarms](#) © 19/10/2020 ↗ SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables has kicked off a public consultation process in the South Wicklow and North Wexford areas for the [Arklow Bank Phase 2](#) offshore wind farm.

The aim of consultation is to collect feedback on the offshore infrastructure and onshore grid infrastructure elements of the project. Having started on 14th October, the consultation runs until 11th November.