Planning Application Documents

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

3. Planning Application Form Appendices

Appendix 11.4
Dublin Gazette Newspaper Notice

Statkraft
CIP Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners
GoBe APEM Group
ARUP

DublinGazettePlanning DublinGazettePlanning

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála in Respect of an Offshore Wind Energy Project

Fingal County Council, Dublin County Council, Meath County Council and Louth County Council

In accordance with Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the following proposed development:

North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm

The proposed development is the North Irish Sea Array ("NISA") Offshore Wind Farm, located off the east coast of Ireland. The proposed development is comprised of offshore and onshore infrastructure and will have an operational life of 35 years.

The offshore infrastructure of the proposed development is located off the coast of counties Dublin, Meath and Louth.

The onshore infrastructure of the proposed development is located in County Dublin (Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council administrative areas).

The Applicant is the holder of a Maritime Area Consent (ref: 2022-MAC-005), granted for the occupation of the subject maritime area for the permitted maritime usage of the construction and operation of an offshore wind farm and associated infrastructure.

The offshore infrastructure will consist of the following:

• Array area in which the following infrastructure will be located: offshore wind turbine generators, one offshore substationplat form, substructures and associated seabed foundations for the wind turbine generators and the off shore substation platform, and offshore inter-array cables connecting each of the offshore wind turbine generators to the offshore substation platform.

The inter-array cables will have a nominal operating voltage of between 66kV and 132kV and will be buried in a trench in the seabed or laid on the seabed surface with additional cable protection.

• Offshore export cable corridor: two offshore 220kV high voltage alternating current export cable circuits including fibre optic cables will be buried in a trench in the seabed or laid on the seabed surface with additional cable protection and will be routed from the offshore substation platform to the landfall located in the townland of Bremore, Co Dublin.

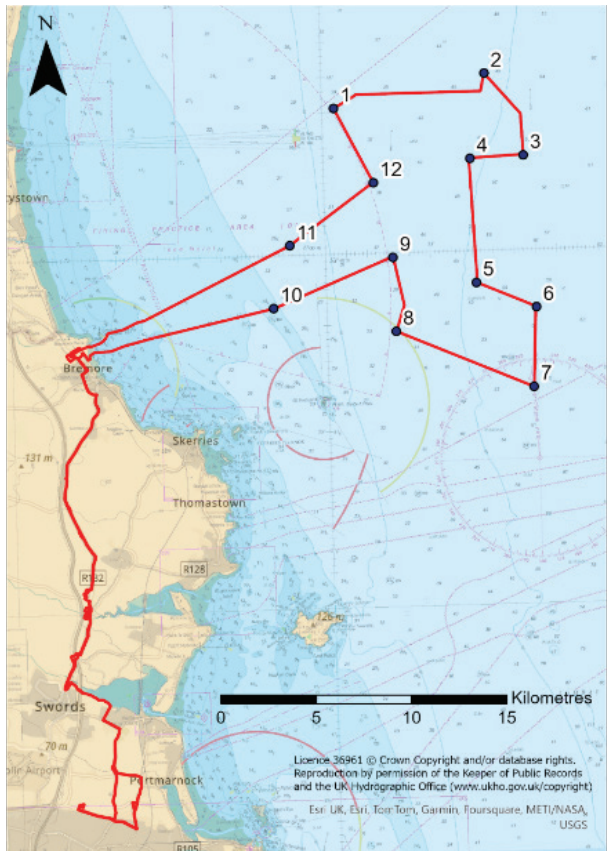
• Two project options are included for consideration in the planning application. These are:

° Project Option 1: 49 number wind turbine generators with a tip height of 290 metres above Lowest Astronomical Tide; and Project Option 2: 35 number wind turbine generators with a tip height of 316 metres above Lowest Astronomical Tide when located outside the Dublin Airport controlled airspace and 311 metres above Lowest Astronomical Tide when located inside the Dublin Airport controlled airspace. 13 of the 35 wind turbine generators for Project Option 2 will have a tip height of 311m, due to being located within the controlled airspace.

Only one project option will be chosen as the preferred option and subsequently constructed.

• At its closest point, the array area will be located approximately 11.3km from land with the closest wind turbine generator situated approximately 12.3km from land. The water depths in the array area range from 30m to 63m below Lowest Astronomical Tide.

The location of the proposed development boundary (shown in red) is illustrated in the below figure.



The coordinates of the proposed development boundary offshore are provided in the table below.

ID	System: WGS 84	
	Latitude (Deg Min Sec)	Longitude (Deg Min Sec)
1	53° 44' 7.093" N	5° 59' 25.321" W
2	53° 44' 59.840" N	5° 52' 12.499" W
3	53° 42' 40.327" N	5° 50' 26.646" W
4	53° 42' 36.594" N	5° 53' 2.805" W
5	53° 39' 4.930" N	5° 52' 48.342" W
6	53° 38' 22.396" N	5° 50' 3.801" W
7	53° 36' 6.166" N	5° 50' 15.269" W
8	53° 37' 46.436" N	5° 56' 43.354" W
9	53° 39' 53.427" N	5° 56' 47.162" W
10	53° 38' 30.691" N	6° 2' 30.316" W
11	53° 40' 16.279" N	6° 1' 42.322" W
12	53° 41' 59.806" N	5° 57' 37.617" W

The onshore infrastructure will consist of the following:

• Landfall and associated infrastructure at Bremore townland, to the north of Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, comprising:

° two offshore 220kV high voltage alternating current offshore export cable circuits, laid underground of the beach at Bremore, by horizontal directional drilling from the High Water Mark to two transition joint bays;

° two permanent underground transition joint bays, one for each offshore export cable circuit, to allow connection between the offshore export cable circuits and the onshore export cable circuits;

° permanent access to the landfall site for maintenance purposes will be from the junction of the R132 road and Bell's Lane - where a bituminous bellmouth will be formed to facilitate safe vehicular access along Bell's Lane - then along Bell's Lane to a point just to the east of the Dublin to Belfast railway line. From this point, permanent access tracks, in crushed stone, approximately 5m wide, will be constructed to the railway horizontal directional drilling entry site and to the landfall transition joint bays;

° two onshore export cable circuits (220kV high voltage alternating current) from the transition joint bays to the proposed grid facility, laid underground, including a crossing of the Dublin-Belfast railway line by horizontal directional drilling;

° fibre optic cables, for operation and control purposes will be laid underground with the onshore export cables;

° temporary horizontal directional drilling compounds and construction compounds, at Bremore as well as temporary access tracks, to facilitate the construction of the landfall infrastructure; and associated ancillary works.

• Grid facility at Bremore townland, to the north of Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, comprising two distinct substations (compensation substation and Bremore substation) each within its own self-contained compound. The onshore export cable circuits will connect to the compensation substation. A connection will then be made between the compensation substation and the Bremore substation via underground cable. Power will leave the Bremore substation via the onshore cable circuits. The compensation and Bremore substations will comprise the following:

° Compensation Substation, within a compound of approximately 100m x 190m, comprising:

▪ 220kV GIS substation building, approximately 49m x 18.5m x 17m in height; plus 3m high lightning rods;
▪ A static VAR compensator building (STATCOM), approximately 23m x 18m x 6.85m in height; housing equipment and control panels with an adjacent compound and 220/66kV transformer;
▪ Two number mechanically switched reactors, combined with the STATCOM, located outdoors within the compensation substation compound;
▪ Two sets of harmonic filters;
▪ A shunt reactor;
▪ Lightning arrestor masts, up to 30m high; and
▪ A standby diesel generator.

° Bremore Substation, within a compound of approximately 50m x 115m, comprising:

▪ 220kV GIS substation building 61m x 18.5m x 17m in height; plus 3m lightning rods;
▪ A shunt reactor provided for each 220kV onshore cable; and
▪ A standby diesel generator.
▪ Ancillary grid facility infrastructure, comprising:
▪ A temporary construction compound to support construction of the grid facility, as detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the planning application;
▪ Site landscaping, as detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the planning application;
▪ Potable water connection via a new watermain connection to the existing watermain within the R132 road; foul wastewater will be collected separately from each compound, stored in underground tanks and removed from site periodically by a licensed service provider; surface water will be collected and discharged to an attenuation basin, via a hydrocarbon interceptor, with discharge from the attenuation basin restricted to greenfield rates; surface water will discharge to an existing ditch in the northwestern part of the site and (for a small part of the site near the entrance to the grid facility) to the existing roadside drainage network;
▪ New telecommunications and electrical connections will be provided from existing utility services adjacent to the site;
▪ An existing ESB overhead medium voltage line which traverses the site will be diverted within the boundary of the grid facility site;
▪ Both substation compounds will be secured around the perimeter with 2.6m high security palisade fencing, with perimeter gates for vehicular and pedestrian access; close circuit TV security measures and site lighting will also be provided;
▪ Access to both substations will be provided from the R132 road, via a new vehicular access road, shared by both substations, with improvements to the existing field access, including a new entrance gate and bituminous bellmouth; car parking will also be provided with 8 car parking spaces provided at the Compensation Substation and 5 spaces provided at the Bremore Substation; and
▪ Associated ancillary infrastructure.

• Onshore cable and grid connection, which will pass through the townlands of Bremore, Tankardstown, Balbriggan, Clonard or Folkstown Great, Castleland, Glebe North, Stephenstown, Blackhall, Inch, Balrothery, Glebe South, Gibbonsmoor, Knock, Courtlough, Rowans Little, Hedgestown, Jordanstown, Oberstown, Ballough, Regles, Lusk, Newtowncorduff, Dunganstown, Corduff (Hackett), Corduffhall, Corduff, Thomondtown, Coldwinters, Turvey, Staffordstown Turvey, Lanestown, Lissenhall Little, Newtown, Lissenhall Great, Balheary Demesne, Seatown West, Greenfields, Seatown East, Yellow Walls, Malahide Demesne, Mabestown, Auburn, Streamstown, Feltrim, Abbeyville, Kinsaley, Portmarnock, Bohammer, Drumnigh, Saintdoolaghs, Burgage, Clonshagh, Snugborough, Grange, Balgriffin, Balgriffin Park and Belcamp.

• The onshore cable and grid connection will comprise:
° Two 220kV high voltage alternating current onshore cable circuits, laid underground in trenches and by horizontal directional drilling, over a distance of 33 – 35 km between the grid facility and the connection to the Belcamp high voltage transmission substation, Belcamp, Co. Dublin. Two options for the cable route are provided for the final section – one along the R107 road and one via the R124 road, with final cable route length determined by the chosen route;
° Fibre optic cables for operation and control purposes, laid underground with the high voltage alternating current cables between the grid facility and Belcamp substation;
° Underground joint bays at intervals along the cable route;
° Ground level marker posts at intervals along the cable route;
° Temporary cable contractor compounds and horizontal directional drilling compounds as detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the planning application to facilitate construction of the onshore cables;
° Temporary access tracks (approximately 5m wide) in crushed stone, to provide access to the cable route to facilitate construction as detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the planning application; with temporary structures provided at any watercourse/land drain crossings along these access tracks;
° Permanent access tracks, in the locations detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the application, approximately 5m wide, in crushed stone, with entrance gates and bituminous bellmouths, where necessary, at junctions with the public road; and
° Associated ancillary works.

Both an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development.

The EIAR concludes that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on the environment of a Member State of the European Union or a state that is a party to the Transboundary Convention. Notwithstanding this, the relevant authorities in United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Isle of Man have been notified of the application.

The proposed development consists of the carrying out of works to the following protected structures:
- Daws Bridge - Record of Protected Structures ref no. 0906 - in the townland of Coldwinters / Turvey; and
- Abbeyville Bridge – Record of Protected Structures ref no. 0913 – in the townland of Kinsaley.

The planning application, the EIAR and the NIS may be inspected free of charge, or may be purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of eight weeks commencing on 14th of June 2024 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902.
- The Offices of Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F.
- The Offices of Fingal County Council, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y2.
- The Offices of Meath County Council, Planning Department, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291.
- The Offices of Louth County Council, Planning Department, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 KFW6.

The application, the EIAR and the NIS have been published on the website created by North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited for the purpose of the application: **https://northirishseaarraysid.ie/.**

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government EIA portal: **http://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1** provides a link to the application.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 in writing or online on An Bord Pleanála's website www.pleanala.ie during the above-mentioned period of 8 weeks in respect of:

(i) the implications of the proposed development for maritime spatial planning,
(ii) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
(iii) the likely effects on the environment or any European site of the proposed development, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 9th of August 2024. Such submissions/observations must include the following information:

1. The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
2. The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
3. The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 5 of the Planning and Development (Maritime Development) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 100/2023) refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by An Bord Pleanála.

An Bord Pleanála may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application.

An Bord Pleanála may in respect of an application for permission –

(a) grant the permission subject to such modification (if any), to the proposed development as it may specify,
or
(b) grant the permission in respect of part of the proposed development concerned subject to such modifications (if any) to that part as it may specify, and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions,
or
(c) refuse to grant the permission,

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Marine Area Planning Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel, 01 8588100)

Any person may question the validity of any such decision by An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications - Judicial Review Notice on the An Bord Pleanála's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.