codling wind park

Public and Stakeholder Consultation Report


codling
wind park

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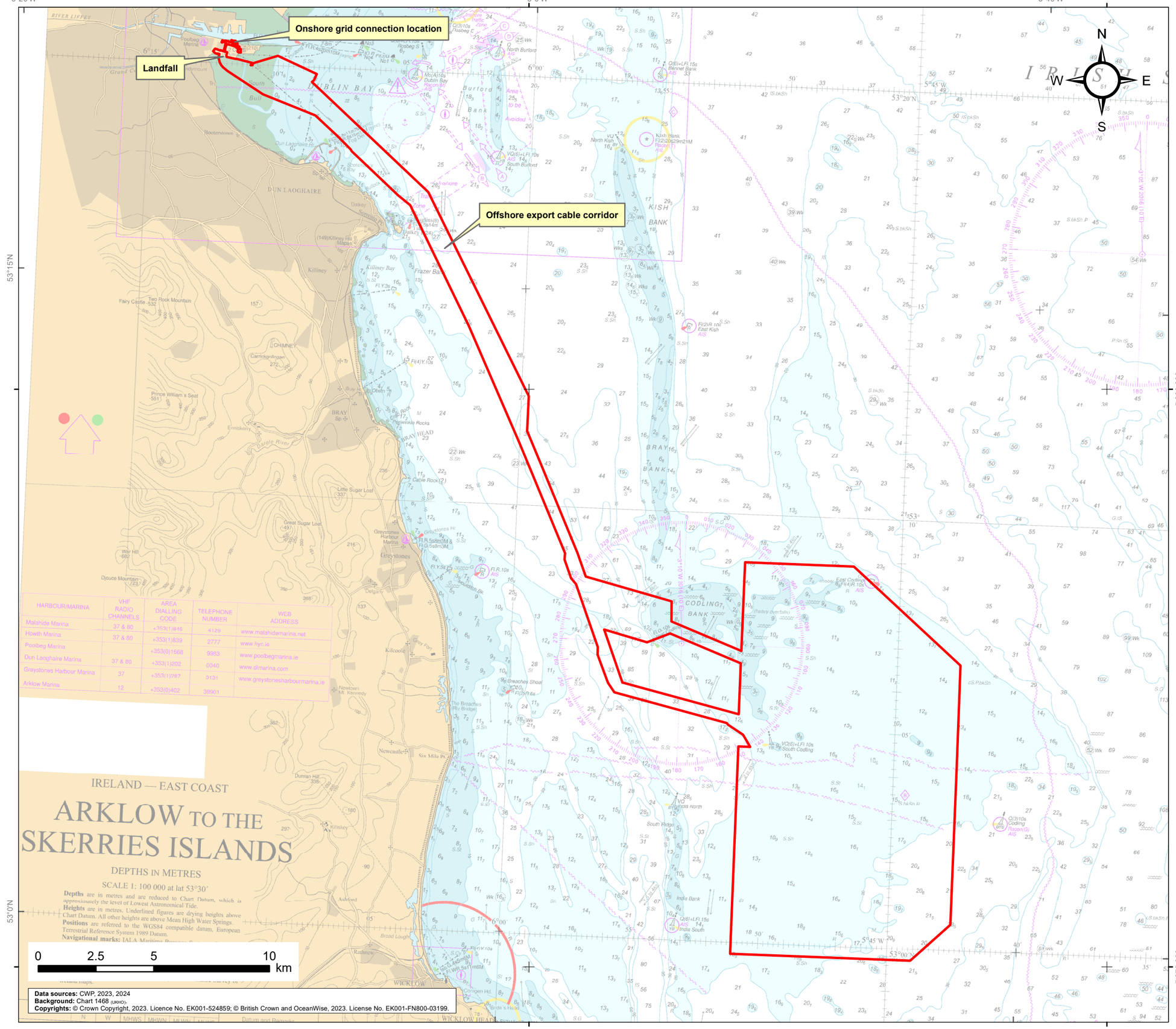
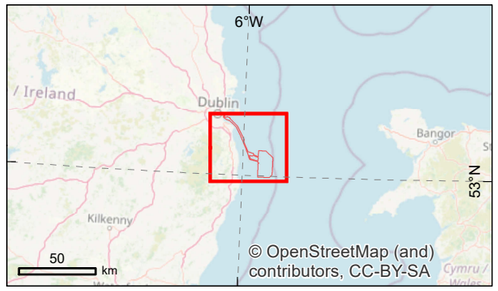
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1. Codling Wind Park (CWP) is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish sea, set in an area called Codling Bank, approximately 13–22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.
2. **Figure 1** illustrates the proposed project site where all permanent infrastructure associated with the wind farm will be located. This includes the offshore wind farm, the offshore export cable corridor and the onshore transmission infrastructure (OTI) at Poolbeg.
3. The proposed project will have a generating capacity to deliver up to 1300 MW of clean energy, enough to power over one million Irish homes. The wind park will comprise either 60 or 75 wind turbines.
4. Crucially, this critical energy infrastructure project will also deliver a quarter of Ireland's 2030 offshore (grid-connected) wind targets. CWP will contribute to Ireland's Climate Action Plan and towards the Government's policy to develop a sustainable indigenous source of energy to future-proof Ireland's socioeconomic needs.
5. When in operation, CWP will also provide a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) of up to €200 million (over 20 years) to share the benefits of offshore renewable energy with local communities.





Legend

Planning application boundary

codling wind park	*Project:* Codling Wind Park	*Contractor:*	*Website:*

Figure 1
Planning application boundary

CWP doc. number: CWP-CWP-ENG-08-01-MAP-1749

Internal descriptive code:	*Size:*	*CRS:*
WE - PAB - - (UKHO.1469..EIAR.Vol.01.FIG.03)	A3 *Scale:* 1:160,000	EPSG 25830

Rev.	*Updates*	*Date*	*By*	*Chk'd*	*App'd*
00	Final for issue	2024/08/15	JM	CD	ES

1.2 Public and stakeholder engagement approach

6. Since the start of this project, the CWP Project Team has been committed to actively informing and engaging with interested groups and the public to facilitate the decision-making process, in line with international best practice for project development.

7. CWP's primary objective has always been to ensure that stakeholder engagement is conducted in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner. A key focus is to provide all stakeholders, including inter alia communities and fishermen, with a clear and authentic representation of the project at each stage of development.

8. CWP established a Framework for Public Participation to guide its processes and ensure an integrated approach to project development whereby public consultation and stakeholder feedback informed the design team. This Framework outlined how stakeholder feedback would be received, considered, and applied to inform the development of the CWP Project.

9. CWP has adopted consultation principles in line with the requirements of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The project team also adheres to industry best practices and aims to create an accessible, meaningful, and accountable approach to communicating and engaging with the public and stakeholders.

10. CWP has established a well-resourced communications and stakeholder engagement team to proactively liaise and engage with communities, fishermen, elected public representatives, community groups, sporting and cultural organisations, media, and all stakeholders with an interest in the project. The team have connected with thousands of local stakeholders, including at meetings and events in communities and schools, published a suite of information materials both online and in print, and have responded to numerous queries. The communications and stakeholder engagement team remains active and committed in all proposed project areas.

11. To date, CWP has undertaken two phases of non-statutory public consultation and one phase of public engagement to communicate the inclusion of public consultation findings in the project. For each stage of public consultation and engagement, steps were taken to ensure that a broad range of stakeholders was kept informed in relation to the specific elements being consulted upon. CWP has provided a range of accessible consultation and engagement methods and has also published a series of consultation and engagement Feedback and Response Reports (see **Appendix A.1**, **A.2** and **A.3**).

1.3 Guiding principles for public consultation and communication

12. The approach to communications and public participation by CWP reflects the above requirements, and is also underpinned by the following guiding principles:

Accessible and Inclusive

- All project materials are written in plain English and in a manner that is easily understood by all audiences.
- Access to information and to the consultation process (including feedback options) is inclusive to ensure broad participation. To date, this has included multiple online and in-person consultation and meeting options to provide all stakeholders with real opportunities to access project information, regardless of where they live, their literacy ability, access to transport, and access to broadband / computers, etc.

Accountable

- Feedback from non-statutory public consultations, prescribed bodies, non-government organisations, and the consenting authority, An Bord Pleanála, was available to inform design decisions.
- All public consultation feedback was analysed and published in two consultation Feedback and Response Reports (**Appendix A.1** and **A.2**).
- Results of the first two consultations were presented back to the communities during the third round of engagement.

Honest

- CWP has provided information, based on the level of detail available at each stage and in good faith, that is accurate and honest, through the provision of project brochures, newsletters, press releases, a website, responses to incoming queries, and discussions at meetings, etc.
- CWP has been transparent in outlining the details of the proposed project, which have included specific aspects of the project under consideration at a particular time.

Transparent

- At each stage of project development and public consultation, CWP set out clear Terms of Reference to inform stakeholders about what elements of the project they can seek to influence.
- During the final feedback engagement phase, CWP highlighted how decisions were reached and how stakeholder feedback was incorporated into the decision-making process. This included the publication of Technical Project Reports and Maps, as well as Feedback and Response Reports (**Appendix A.1**, **A.2** and **A.3**) to showcase the processes undertaken.

1.4 Legislative context of public participation for Codling Wind Park

1.4.1 Planning and Development Act

13. Irish planning regulations require that the planning authority, An Bord Pleanála (APB), holds a statutory public consultation to provide the opportunity for interested parties to make observations or submissions in relation to a planning application.

14. Applications for development consent for offshore renewable energy projects are made under section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (PDA), which includes a section that was inserted into the PDA by the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP Act). Applications are made directly to ABP following pre-application consultations.

15. The process for applying for development consent incorporates the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA Directive) and the Habitats Directive. The public consultation period, undertaken by ABP, is for a minimum of eight weeks, as set out in Section 291(3)(a)(VI) of the PDA, as amended, and commences five working days after the application is submitted to ABP.

16. Statutory Public Consultation on proposals will commence after CWP lodges the application.

1.4.2 Aarhus Convention

17. The application will be informed by CWP's accessible, meaningful, and accountable non-statutory public consultations and communications activities throughout the project development process.

18. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Aarhus Convention sets down basic rules to promote public participation in environmental decision making. It was signed in Aarhus, Denmark in June 1998, the European Union has been subject to it since May 2005, and Ireland ratified the Convention in 2012.

19. The Aarhus Convention has three pillars: 1. Access to Information, 2. Public Participation in Decision-Making and 3. Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

20. The Aarhus Convention states that: "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."

21. The Aarhus Implementation Guide notes that the advisory nature of paragraph 5 is confirmed using the following wording, "should, where appropriate, encourage". The Convention does not require the Member State or the Planning Authority to oblige prospective applicants to take these steps.

22. In line with the spirit of the Aarhus Convention and the principles of best practice in public consultation, CWP is committed to sharing information, providing early opportunities for the public concerned to participate in the decision-making process, and to ensure that all communication and consultation is accessible, meaningful, and accountable.

1.4.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive

23. EIA is required under the terms of European Union (EU) Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the EIA Directive).

24. The purpose of the EIA Directive is to ensure that when an authority giving consent for a particular project makes its decision, it does so in the knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment. An EIA provides for the systematic assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects for consideration by both the public and the relevant competent authority before a planning consent decision is made.

25. The EIA Directive has been updated several times to bring it in line with the EU's international commitments and other legal developments. A number of amendments were introduced to reflect the Aarhus Convention's public participation requirements to ensure that the public is readily informed regarding matters relating to environmental decision-making, and that the relevant information and documents are made available to the public concerned.

26. 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.

1.5 Project engagement objectives

27. Stakeholder engagement objectives for CWP is multi-faceted:

- Involve public and stakeholders in decision-making process;
- Raise awareness of the project;
- Highlight the project's central role in the delivery of Ireland's climate and energy independence targets;
- Build an understanding of the project information, including impacts, need, timeline, and benefits;
- Earn trust and confidence in the project and the project team by providing proactive, open and honest communications, and striving to establish CWP as a trusted partner within local communities. This involves actively engaging with stakeholders, listening to their concerns, and addressing any questions or issues that arise with transparent responses;
- Establish a project team as the true source of accurate information on CWP;
- Secure stakeholder support for CWP by being an honest broker and good neighbour;
- Involve local people in the decision-making process. Local insights and perspectives are highly valued by CWP as they have and will continue to help shape and develop CWP in a manner that aligns with their needs and aspirations as much as possible;
- Be as inclusive as possible, involving all demographics through proactively engaging with youth stakeholders at public engagements. Ensure that venues and locations selected for public engagements are accessible friendly;
- Prioritise sustainability for all engagements and make conscious choices to minimise and eliminate where possible the use of printed materials, plastic, and waste; and
- Lead in approaches to engagement and communication responsibly, setting the benchmark for other ORE projects to follow in Ireland.

28. By setting and achieving these objectives, CWP has sought to establish meaningful and collaborative relationships with local communities, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected throughout the development process.

1.5.1 Listening is key to earning trust and credibility

29. At CWP, great importance is placed on establishing trust and credibility within the neighbouring communities and key stakeholder groups who may be impacted by the project.

30. Proactive engagement with stakeholders is of the upmost importance to CWP as it enables individuals to have a direct impact on decisions that affect their communities. By actively participating in engagement opportunities, it has enabled people to voice their concerns, provide valuable insights, and contribute to the decision-making process. Proactive engagement activities have always promoted CWP's core values of transparency, accessibility, and inclusivity to empower diverse perspectives.

31. CWP has provided opportunities for stakeholders to share their expertise, propose alternative solutions, and highlight potential consequences, leading to more informed and well-rounded decisions.

32. Additionally, through concrete efforts to proactively engage with stakeholders, communities, and individuals, it has encouraged civic participation, empowered individuals to take ownership of issues that matter to them and has fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility in delivering climate action.

2 PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT LANDSCAPE AND TOOLS

2.1 Stakeholder landscape

33. Work on the CWP Project, which is now being brought to planning, has been underway for over 20 years, with the offshore array site being identified as a suitable location for offshore wind farm development in 1999. Details of the site selection and design process are available in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report accompanying the planning application, Volume 2, Chapter 3, Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives.

34. The current phase of development began in 2020 with the establishment of a full-time project team. At that point, the stakeholder engagement and communications team was established, and the process of wider relationship building, raising awareness, and sharing information began.

35. The first step involved engaging with coastal communities closest to the array site who were therefore more likely to have views of the wind farm upon completion of the project. These communities were principally identified in the towns of Greystones and Wicklow, as well as adjacent areas, bordering the N11.

36. These communities were deemed to be potentially the most impacted by the project as a result of proximity to the site. The project has not strictly limited itself to engagement within the aforementioned areas. Stakeholders and groups beyond these areas have also been consulted (for example, local representatives and groups in the Bray area).

37. It is important to note, for the purpose of administration of the project's Community Benefit Fund (CBF), that the local community shall be defined by an independent administrator and locally based committee, in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the government's CBF Rulebook, which was published in January 2023. Under the terms of the government's CBF rulebook, the identification of the CBF Target Local Community will commence as soon as practicable following the formation of the CBF Committee. The CBF Committee must discuss, identify, and define the CBF Target Local Community and must also ensure that a geographical boundary is clearly defined, limited, and proximate to the Project.

38. In addition, during the following years, the landfall and onshore grid connection areas under consideration were also key locations to be engaged with, namely Poolbeg in Dublin 4, and previously Carrickmines in Dublin 18, and Ballybeg in Co. Wicklow. CWP carried out an initial examination of potential offshore and onshore cable route options, including potential landfall and onshore substation capabilities at each of the aforementioned areas. Following consultation with EirGrid, the operator of the electricity transmission system in Ireland, and the conclusion of a formal grid connection assessment, a grid connection to the Poolbeg 220kV substation was confirmed in 2022. Poolbeg is already a strategic grid connection node for power generation in Dublin and has the necessary development capacity of 1,450MW, identified by EirGrid in its offshore capacity report, and therefore already plays a key part in strategic grid connections. The confirmation of the project's grid connection at Poolbeg means that the project's onshore infrastructure would be developed in this area. Because of this confirmation, the local communities of Ringsend, Irishtown, and Sandymount have also become a focal point for stakeholder engagement.

39. Additional information about the key towns and areas in Wicklow and Dublin in proximity to the project are detailed below.

2.1.1 Greystones

40. Greystones is a coastal town in County Wicklow and is a haven for day-trippers, especially water sports enthusiasts. Having two Blue Flag beaches, the town attracts thousands of visitors and, being just 24 km south of Dublin, Greystones' cultural amenities as a sea-faring town and its sporting connections, especially its relationship to sailing, mean that the town is a priority focus of the CWP for proactive and in-depth community engagement.

41. The town is home to an increasingly growing, youthful, and diverse population. According to the 2022 Census, the LEA area of Greystones had a population of 30,479, making it the second biggest town in County Wicklow, after Bray. The 2022 Census results show that Greystones District has experienced a 15% population increase since 2016[1].

42. Since the 1970s, Greystones' population has been steadily increasing, Construction of many large housing estates, especially on the southern and western fringes of the town, as well as in the harbour area, has seen the population grow exponentially. The main housing schemes include Seagreen and Waverly in Blacklion, Charlesland, Glenheron and the most recent development, Marina Village, at the harbour. There are also multiple other new housing schemes approved or pending planning permission.

43. Along with housing developments, road networks and facilities such as schools, playgrounds, creches, and shopping have been added and / or improved upon to cater for the additional population growth.

2.1.2 Wicklow Town

44. Wicklow Town is the county town for Wicklow and has a population of circa 14,000. Located south of Greystones and east of the M11 between Dublin and Wexford, Wicklow Town has a wealth of historical attractions, including the iconic Wicklow Gaol and the ruins of the Black Castle adjacent to the bustling harbour. The harbour plays an integral role in the commercial life of the town both from a cultural and tourism perspective. North of Wicklow town lies a 15 km-long costal wetland called 'The Murrough'. This popular local amenity is the largest costal wetland on the East coast, a wildlife haven, and a recognised area of outstanding natural beauty.

45. Wicklow town is connected by railway links to Dublin, Wexford, Arklow, and Rosslare Europort. The commuter rail link is due to be upgraded later in the decade, as Irish Rail has commenced the planning and design works for the provision of an electrified service to Wicklow using a battery-electric fleet of carriages.

46. Over the years, Wicklow Town has experienced significant expansion, mirroring the growth in the Irish economy. Residential developments have primarily occurred westwards along Marlton Road (R751), while recent housing projects have been concentrated northwest of the town, extending towards the nearby village of Rathnew.

47. With the completion of the Ashford / Rathnew bypass in 2004, Wicklow Town is now linked to Dublin via a dual carriageway and motorway, extending 42 km to the north. Consequently, Wicklow and its surrounding townlands have witnessed a steady population increase, solidifying its status as a commuter town for Dublin.

[1] Census of Population 2022

2.1.3 Poolbeg and surrounding communities

48. In 2022, following a Grid Connection Assessment, EirGrid confirmed that Poolbeg would be the chosen location for the electricity grid connection for the CWP project.

49. The Poolbeg Peninsula is currently an industrial area lying to the east of Dublin, extending for approximately 2.5 km into Dublin Bay. It is accessed via both the East Link Toll Bridge and the R113 Strand Road. The peninsula includes the southern part of Dublin Port, the Shelley Banks Beach, and historic landmarks, such as the Great South Wall, Poolbeg Lighthouse, and the iconic Poolbeg Chimneys used to supply the city's electricity. The peninsula is bordered by the Ringsend Nature Reserve and the outlying residential communities of Irishtown and Ringsend.

50. The Poolbeg Peninsula is home to several major utilities, including an EirGrid sub-station, the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by Uisce Éireann, the city's waste incinerator, and the ESB Poolbeg Generating Station. Dublin City Council owns a considerable amount of the peninsula's lands. There are also several sports and leisure clubs in the area, including Clanna Gael GAA, Ringsend Sea Scouts, Stella Maris Rowing Club, and the Half Moon Swimming Club. There are currently plans to develop a new urban quarter to include thousands of new high-rise homes on the peninsula, and Dublin Port Company is planning a port redevelopment across the peninsula (their '3FM' plans).

51. As there are presently no residents living directly on the peninsula, the closest populations are in the following communities of Dublin; Irishtown, Ringsend, Merrion, and Sandymount. They are represented by two active and well-established residents' associations: Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA) and Ringsend Irishtown Residents Association.

2.2 Project roadmap

52. Formal public engagement commenced in 2020, alongside environmental studies and design work to develop the project towards the preparation of an application for planning consent.

53. CWP has developed and published a project roadmap to set out both the technical development activities being undertaken, and the associated public consultation and stakeholder engagement opportunities. The purpose of the roadmap is to show the project team, interested stakeholders, and the public how and when stakeholder feedback could inform the progression of the project.

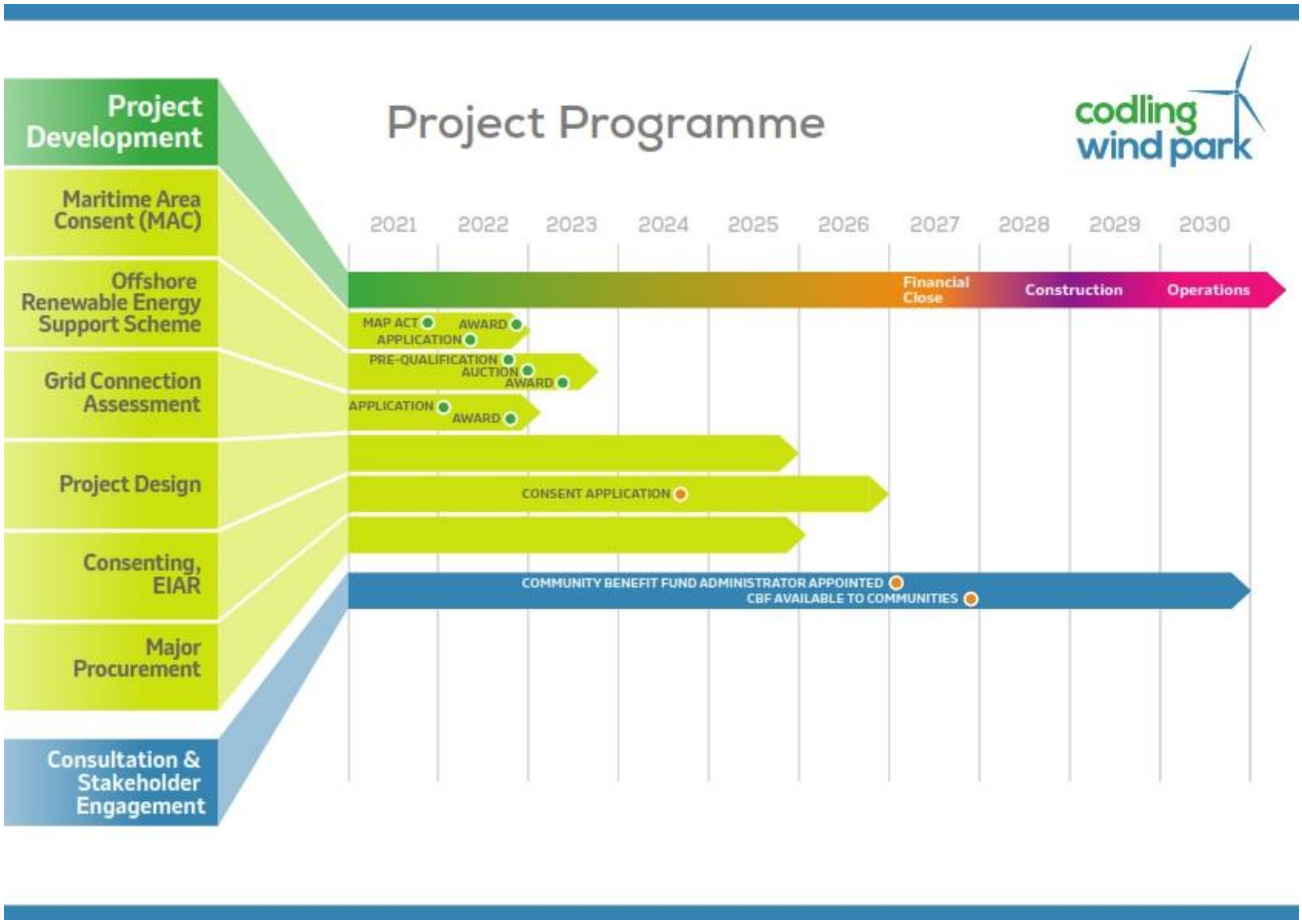


Plate 1 Codling Wind Park project roadmap

2.3 Stakeholder engagement resources

54. In 2020, CWP established a dedicated communications and engagement team to ensure proactive and well-informed stakeholder engagement, including the roles listed below:

- External Affairs Manager (full-time)
- Communications Project Manager (full-time)
- Fisheries Engagement Manager (full-time)
- Community Liaison Officer (full-time)
- GPR Communications Ltd. providing Media Relations advisory and services
- RPS provided project communications advisory and services for Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement.

2.3.1 External Affairs Manager

55. CWP has employed a full-time External Affairs Manager since 2020 to lead stakeholder relations and strategic communications. The External Affairs Manager formulates plans with the objective of

providing key messages and information for all stakeholders, including communities proximate to the project. Their work has included establishing and maintaining dialogue with external parties, identifying stakeholders, and ensuring they are being communicated with in a timely and effective manner. This dialogue aims to develop and maintain strong relationships with these stakeholders, especially those in the local community, to better understand and address their needs and concerns. They also engage with groups and individuals at industry and national levels to ensure that the project aims and contribution to national climate and energy objectives are fully understood at these levels. All feedback, concerns, and information gathered through these engagement processes is then used to inform the project direction and decision making. CWP is dedicated to facilitating the use of effective communications channels and ensuring that the project's activities are aligned with stakeholder interests.

2.3.2 Communications Project Manager

56. CWP has also employed a Communications Project Manager (CPM) since 2020 to lead on critical communications and stakeholder engagement projects. The CPM's work involves managing the execution and planning of External Affairs and developing communication plans for the project, ensuring alignment with project objectives: developing and executing comprehensive project plans for key stakeholder communications, public engagements, and consultations. Actively managing the project's key messaging and content through various communication channels is a key part of the role, including the project website, social media platforms, stakeholder meetings, and newsletters.

2.3.3 Community Liaison Officer

57. CWP appointed a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in 2020 to establish project awareness amongst local communities, build local relationships, share information, and engage proactively throughout the project area.

58. The CLO has been a vital link between the project and local communities, actively engaging with residents, community groups, and organisations. The CLO's role has involved promoting transparency, facilitating dialogue, and addressing community needs and interests; providing updates to elected public representatives; forging links with 100+ organisations; actively encouraging communities and stakeholders to participate in public consultations; and working closely with local schools to contribute to education about renewable energy in the context of Ireland's Climate Action Plan.

2.3.4 Fisheries Engagement Manager

59. CWP has had a dedicated in-house Fisheries Engagement Manager in place since early 2023, supported by a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) since 2021.

60. The over-riding objective for the Fisheries Engagement Manager has been to work with fishermen to ensure co-existence of the wind farm with their activities. CWP has actively listened to fishermen's concerns, which has provided valuable feedback to the project team, and which has informed the design of the project.

2.4 Integrated approach

61. The CWP project team has adopted a proactive and open approach to engaging with and informing all stakeholders, including fishermen, communities, and the public.

62. The approach has always been to ensure that stakeholders and communities:

- Are made fully aware of the project and its timelines;
- Understand CWP's purpose, i.e., to generate clean electricity for the people of Ireland both at home and at work; and
- Have knowledge about the participation and consultation opportunities available to stakeholders in order to inform them about developments within the project.

63. This has been achieved by taking an integrated approach to all communications activities. CWP has employed multiple communication tools to promote public consultations and share project information to reach all interested and relevant stakeholders and communities.

2.5 Project name and logo

64. Identifying a strong need to clearly establish the project and ensure that CWP stands out from the many other renewable energy projects being proposed off Ireland's East Coast is crucial.

65. An impactful and easily recognisable project brand and imagery were developed. These have been applied to all project materials, including branded jackets, to reinforce the company's project visibility and the project team as trusted information sources. CWP's brand goes beyond the logo, in that it also embodies core behaviours and values. Thus, CWP has created a suite of project images that reinforces the project's work, as a project for people, that will benefit businesses and communities. The team has also recently updated and refreshed key brand touchpoints and collateral.

Plate 2 Samples of CWP project imagery

2.6 Project website

66. A comprehensive project website, https://codlingwindpark.ie/, has been available since February 2021, which CWP further updated and revamped in May 2024 to facilitate seamless navigation capabilities. The website is a one-stop shop providing stakeholders and the public with access to project technical reports, statutory notices, public consultation materials, and regular news updates.

67. The website contains information, reports, maps and images, including:

- Contact details and office opening hours. These details are also included on information material circulated as hard copies, such as newsletters.
- Reports such as the Offshore Scoping Report and Onshore Infrastructure Scoping Report, and several other published reports and studies.

- A dedicated section for fishers, including Marine Notices, Fisheries Newsletters, and other information specific to the interests and needs of the fishing community.
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section that aims to provide accurate and helpful information for all stakeholders. These FAQs are reviewed and updated regularly, in line with incoming queries and issues raised at stakeholder meetings / events.
- Dedicated sections for News and Community Newsletters are consistently updated with press releases and circulated newsletters.
- Materials from each of the phases of public consultation, including virtual consultation rooms together with consultation brochures and questionnaires, are updated and distributed.
- Consultation Findings Reports published following each non-statutory public consultation event.
- A supply chain area where local suppliers can register their interest in the project.

2.7 Project newsletters

68. CWP actively shares project information through Community and Fisheries Newsletters at key milestones, such as the start of public consultations, or to announce project initiatives.

69. To date, CWP has published three editions of a project Community Newsletter (2021, 2022, 2023). An additional newsletter is due to be published in 2024. These newsletters provide project progress updates, responses to queries raised by stakeholders, invitations to local organisations to facilitate sponsorship opportunities, and set out details for initiatives such as the Fishers Fund and Community Benefit Fund. Project newsletters are provided in **Appendix B.1–B.3**.

70. CWP published a dedicated Fisheries Newsletter in March 2022 (**Appendix B.4**) to update key stakeholders in the fishing community on project updates. The community Newsletter in May 2023 focused on CWP's Sustainable Fishers Charter (**Appendix B.5**) and ongoing community engagement.

2.8 Social media

71. CWP established a social media presence on relevant channels in 2022 to engage with stakeholders via LinkedIn and YouTube. These platforms are still utilised to share important project information and updates, and to promote events during focused periods of public consultation. CWP also encourages consultees to attend online consultation events / webinars, and to provide feedback via the dedicated social media channels.

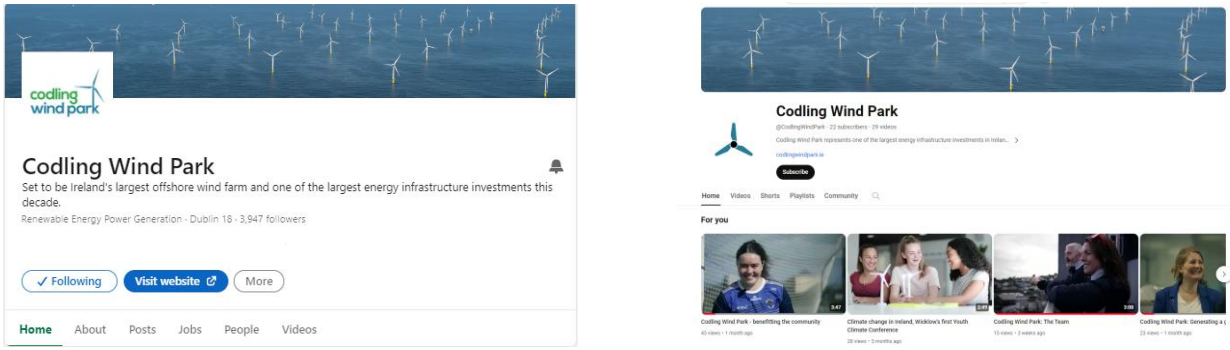


Plate 3 CWP's LinkedIn and YouTube Pages

72. Since launching the LinkedIn platform in February 2021, CWP has gained over 6,000 followers with an average engagement rate of 8.6% (industry standard is 1–5%). In 2023, a transition to accessible video-based information sharing resulted in a doubling of the viewership numbers compared to 2022. Additional information on the type of content shared and the level of engagement is provided in **Appendix C**.

2.9 Media engagement

73. CWP has always recognised the role that local and national media plays in raising awareness and promoting opportunities with stakeholders and the general public.

74. CWP has issued regular press releases to promote project news and milestones to the public through local media. All press releases have also been published on the project website.

2.9.1 Press releases issued

Table 1 CWP Press Releases

Date	Subject
7 July 2020	Webinar - Irish Market Update
10 July 2020	Foreshore Licence Consultation
6 January 2021	Scoping Report published for Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment
1 March 2021	Public Consultation opens on Codling Wind Park
6 March 2021	Valuing the female voice in a male-dominated industry
6 May 2021	Onshore Infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report published
28 September 2021	School children presented with prizes in Codling Wind Park Art Competition
12 November 2021	Codling Wind Park selects Wicklow Port as preferred location for new Operations and Maintenance Base
15 June 2022	School Children Impress in Codling Wind Park Art Competition
27 June 2022	Codling Wind Park submits application for Maritime Area Consent
4 January 2023	Codling Wind Park launches second round of public consultation
11 May 2023	EDF Renewables and Fred Olsen Seawind welcomed Codling Wind Park's success at Ireland's first offshore wind energy auction
30 June 2023	CWP announces Eire Og sponsorship
13 July 2023	Meet the Team' Wicklow speaker on working on the Codling Wind Park Project
18 August 2023	Launch of Codling Wind Park Project Newsletter 2023

Date	Subject
01 November 2023	'Meet the CWP Team'
28 November 2023	Codling Wind Park deliver Wicklow's first youth climate conference
22 February 2024	Codling Wind Park announced as new sponsor of Wicklow Half Marathon & 10K Run
5 April 2024	Community Benefit Fund & Design Announcement
15 April 2024	Codling Wind Park appoints COWI for foundation design of phase one Irish offshore wind project
10 May 2024	Public information events in Greystones, Co Wicklow.

2.9.2 Media coverage

75. Through its proactive approach to media and community engagement, CWP has generated extensive media coverage of the project across print, online, radio, and TV broadcast at both national and local levels.

76. Over the last four years alone, CWP has issued press releases and statements to the media and facilitated numerous articles and broadcast interviews for national and regional media outlets to build awareness of the project and to publicise the many public consultation and information events it has hosted over that timeframe.

77. From December 2020 to date, CWP's media monitor estimates that there have been approximately 830 stories about CWP or stories in which CWP has been prominently referenced, including print (328), online (431), radio (68), and TV (3) with a combined potential reach of 68.3 million.

78. CWP has also secured several radio interviews with project team members to promote the non-statutory public consultations and announce project news.

2.10 Advertising

79. Advertising is another key communication tool for CWP to promote important messages and enhance engagement opportunities. Advertising has ensured that key project messaging has been distributed accurately, without filters or commentary.

80. Local radio and local newspaper advertising has been utilised extensively to promote each of the three phases of the non-statutory public consultations. This included advertisements (including full-page advertisements) in the following media outlets: Wicklow Times, Wicklow People, Wicklow Voice, Wicklow & Bray People, and the Southside People (see **Appendix D**).

81. Radio advertisements have also been aired on some of the largest radio broadcast stations on the East coast, such as East Coast Radio, Dublin Live FM, East Coast FM, and Ringsend Community Radio. In 2024, CWP sponsored the Declan Meaney show on East Coast FM, which included on-air advertisements of public engagement sessions in Wicklow and Greystones.

82. A LinkedIn advertising campaign was launched to promote the third phase of public engagement commencing in April 2024. The campaign was designed to uniquely target members in the geographical location of the project communities. The results saw a 273% increase in followers of the

CWP account in the 52 days of the campaign. This related to an average engagement rate of 9% (a high engagement rate for the renewable industry averages 5%) with 34,833 video views and 7,307 clicks on the project posts on LinkedIn.

3 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

83. Between 2021 and 2024, CWP has provided extensive consultation and engagement opportunities for all stakeholders. This has served to facilitate public participation at the earliest possible opportunity and to enable all stakeholders to contribute to the project's development and decision-making processes in a meaningful and proactive manner.

84. Throughout this period, the project team has organised multiple meetings and events and has engaged with thousands of stakeholders, landowners, community groups, public representatives, prescribed bodies, and consenting authorities.

85. To date, CWP has undertaken both statutory consultation and three distinct phases of non-statutory public consultation and engagement:

    1. Phase 1 Public Consultation (01 March 2021 to 27 March 2021 inclusive);
    2. Phase 2 Public Consultation (11 January 2023 to 08 February 2023 inclusive); and
    3. Phase 3 Public Engagement and Feedback (15 April to 30 May 2024).

86. These consultations and engagement served as an essential means of engaging with stakeholders, local communities, and interested parties to collate feedback, address concerns, and incorporate valuable insights into the decision-making process. The non-statutory consultations and engagements provided an open forum for dialogue, allowing for the exchange of information and ideas regarding various aspects of the development of the project. Throughout these consultations, CWP has insisted upon transparency, inclusivity, accessibility, and collaboration, ensuring that the project's proposals align with the needs and aspirations of the stakeholders and the broader community.

3.1 First non-statutory consultation - 2021

87. The first phase of the CWP public consultation was held from 1 March 2021 to 27 March 2021 (inclusive).

88. The purpose of this phase of public consultation was to kickstart dialogue with local communities and other stakeholders, which has continued throughout the development of the project. This introductory consultation provided the opportunity to share early design plans for the project with all interested parties and to seek feedback to assist in shaping the future design of the project.

89. A number of advance briefings were held with key local stakeholder groups, including local Teachta Dála (TDs) for County Wicklow and County Councillors from the Greystones and Wicklow Municipal Districts.

90. Due to the government restrictions in place to manage the Covid-19 pandemic, this phase of public consultation had to be held entirely online.

91. CWP organised a virtual consultation room to showcase the proposals.

92. Stakeholders were invited to submit questions and provide feedback through an online feedback survey, via email or by telephone.

93. An online webinar was attended by 80 people, during which 50 individual questions were submitted to the project team. A recording of the webinar and subsequent responses was created and made available on the project's website, so those not in attendance could view the webinar.

94. In total, 26 information clinics (Monday to Saturday) were provided over a two-week period (15–27 March 2021 inclusive) to provide opportunities for all interested individuals and groups to meet with the CWP project team. Six individual groups took advantage of this opportunity:

- Greystones Residents Association:
- 2 Environmental Organisations;
- 1 County Councillor; and
- 2 Local Businesses.

95. Stakeholder briefings were attended by:

- Five Wicklow TDs;
- One MEP (Ireland South);
- Elected Members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council;
- Elected Members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council; and
- Wicklow County Council's Wicklow Town team.

3.1.1 Overview of feedback received

96. Over 200 queries were logged and responded to by the project team during the four-week public consultation. The feedback was categorised into common 'themes' that were identified and published in the '*Phase 1 Consultation, Feedback and Response Report, June 2021*' (**Appendix A.1**)

97. Key themes noted during the consultation process are summarised below:

- Consultation process;
- Climate change;
- Energy security;
- Project need;
- Project location;
- Infrastructure (onshore and offshore):
    - Wind turbine technology and engineering considerations;
    - Onshore and offshore infrastructure;
    - Irish grid capacity and project energy output;
    - Construction;
    - Operation;
    - Decommissioning;
- Environmental considerations:
    - Marine water quality and fish / shellfish ecology;
    - Seascape, landscape and visual impacts;
    - Marine geology / coastal erosion;
    - Ornithology;
    - Marine mammals;
    - Commercial fisheries;
    - Marine leisure and commercial shipping;
- Community benefit;
- Supply chain opportunities; and
- Project development process.

3.2 Second non-statutory public consultation - 2023

98. The second phase of non-statutory public consultation took place in early 2023, from 11 January to 8 February 2023 (inclusive).

99. During this phase of public consultation, Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted, allowing for numerous in-person events and meetings to take place.

100. Acknowledging the ongoing concerns surrounding the pandemic, CWP made alternative arrangements to accommodate stakeholders who were unable / unwilling to attend in-person, providing alternative options, including smaller clinic meetings, virtual meetings or telephone discussions. This flexibility ensured that all stakeholders had the opportunity to engage meaningfully with the project team and learn more about CWP.

101. The second phase of public consultation provided a more in-depth level of detail about the project with stakeholders and the wider public. Feedback was sought on the updated CWP project proposals as was proactive engagement and dialogue with local communities and other stakeholders.

102. Significantly, the second public consultation included a more succinct geographical focus, as the project had more refined parameters at that stage, including:

- Co. Wicklow coastal communities – communities who might visually see the offshore array from the coast or those concerned about the visual impact of the development; and the home base / operating location of many of the key fishery stakeholders with an interest in the area of the offshore array and cable routes; and
- Poolbeg – location for the onshore substation connecting the wind farm to the national grid and landfall point for cables connecting the offshore array to the national grid.

103. Project updates and information were shared on:

- Refined options for the onshore and offshore elements of the project, based on detailed investigative work undertaken and considering feedback received during the first phase of public consultation and from statutory consultees; and
- Community benefit, including outline information on local supply chain development and other local benefits.

3.2.1 Process and participation

104. Both an online virtual public consultation space and in-person open days were provided in the project area.

105. A project brochure and survey questionnaire were available in print and on the project website.

106. 147 people attended across the four in-person open days / public exhibitions held in:

- Greystones, Co. Wicklow;
- Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow;
- Ringsend, Dublin 4; and
- Wicklow Town.

107. Several people from a range of organisations were welcomed to the two stakeholder briefings in Wicklow and Sandymount (Dublin 4) with several public representatives:

- Wicklow TDs;
- Elected Members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council;
- Elected Members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council;
- Wicklow County Council's Wicklow Town team;

- Wicklow County Council's Greystones Town Team;
- Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club;
- SAMRA;
- Dublin Port; and
- Dublin City Council.

108. Again, appointments were offered to meet with the CWP project team directly at dedicated information clinics to discuss the project at specified times and dates, either online or in-person. During the public consultation, 10 hours of appointments were made available to the public, on 26 and 31 January, and 1 and 4 February.

109. The project's telephone and email services were also promoted as an effective method to raise questions or make submissions (orally and in writing).

110. The project team held a workshop with transition-year students from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole on 22 February 2023. During this workshop, the team delivered a presentation on the CWP project and had an open discussion between the students and project team about the project.

3.2.2 Overview of feedback received

111. Over 40 submissions were received at this public consultation via an online survey, email, post, and orally in conversations at briefings and public information events.

112. As per public consultation 1, the feedback was categorised into common 'themes' that were identified and published, and are available on the project website and in **Appendix A.2**.

113. Following a detailed review, the feedback has been categorised into the common 'themes' identified below:

- Environment;
- Community;
- Visual impact;
- Education & training ;
- Economy;
- Fisheries;
- Consultation; and
- Construction.

114. A summary of the activities and feedback from the Phase 2 public consultation is illustrated in **Plate 4** and **Plate 5**.

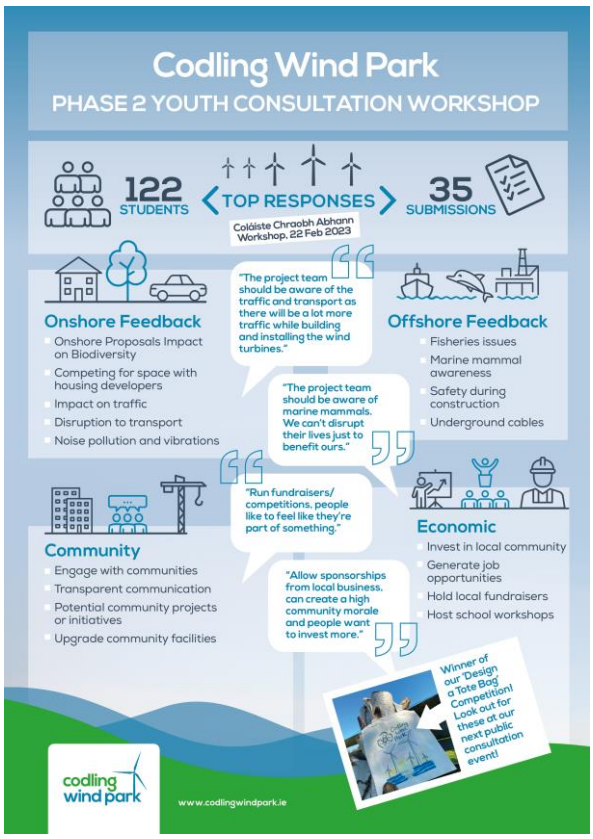


Plate 4 Summary infographic of Phase 2 Youth Consultation workshop.

Plate 5 Summary infographic of Phase 2 Public Consultation activities and feedback.

3.3 Third non-statutory public engagement - 2024

115. In April and May 2024, CWP held further non-statutory public engagement and information feedback sessions to provide updates on the project in advance of submitting the planning application. The purpose of the public consultation was to show the final designs of the offshore wind park, including wind turbine numbers and layout.

116. Open days were held in Wicklow, Sandymount, and Greystones where members of the public, invited stakeholders, and local schools could visit the exhibition and meet with members of the CWP team to discuss project updates and ask questions.

117. Extensive information was made available, including printed maps, a series of videos on key elements of the project, including the environment, wind farm design and construction, and community benefit. A state-of-the-art virtual reality presentation was available whereby people could wear headsets to visualise the project from multiple viewpoints along the east coast, and experience the project by visiting the wind park and seeing inside a wind turbine.

Plate 6 Phase 3 public engagement and feedback events, April and May 2024

3.3.1 Process and participation

118. A total of 248 people were directly engaged with during the third phase of public engagement.

119. The project team hosted three full days and one evening event in Wicklow Library on 16–18 April 2024. Several people from a range of organisations were welcomed to the engagement and information sessions including:

- Elected Members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Elected Members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Wicklow County Council's Wicklow Town Team
- Wicklow County Council's Greystones Town Team
- Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce
- Wicklow Sustainable Energy Community
- CWP Wicklow sponsorship recipients

120. In total, 125 people attended the Wicklow Library event to find out how the project has progressed in advance of submitting the planning application.

121. The CWP team held a similar event for one full day and evening in Sandymount Community Centre on 1 May 2024. Several stakeholders from a range of local organisations were welcomed including:

- Dublin Bay South TDs
- Elected Members of Dublin City Council from local municipal districts
- Dublin Port Company
- Dublin City Council
- SAMRA – Sandymount and Merrion Residence Association

- SAMSEC - Sandymount and Merrion Sustainable Energy Community.
- ESB.
- Uisce Éireann.
- Eirgrid.
- Ringsend Irishtown Sustainable Energy Community.
- Local CWP sponsorship recipients.
- Local schools.
- BirdWatch Ireland.
- Maritime Survey Office.
- Commissioners for Irish Lights.

122. A total of 74 people attended the engagement session in Sandymount Community Centre, plus 30 students from a local primary school.

123. A pop-up retail space was leased by the project in Greystones to have a longer-term presence for engagement and information sharing in May 2024. The project was available from 15 May for two days per week, finishing on Thursday 30 May.

124. During the 6 days, 49 people visited the exhibition and engaged with project team members.

3.3.1 Feedback received

125. Feedback was gathered via a questionnaire available digitally using a QR code, and on hard copy at each location. The CWP team also listened to and noted all feedback, questions, and queries received.

126. Following a detailed review, the feedback has been categorised into the common 'themes' identified below.

- Project benefits
    - Community Benefit Fund;
    - Job creation, upskilling, training and apprenticeships; and
    - Economic benefits
- Visual impact
    - Cumulative impact with other offshore projects
- Project delivery timelines
- Construction
    - Onshore site location and cable routes; and
    - Impacts of onshore construction on local residents
- Environmental and ecology, including birds and marine mammals
- Fisheries
- Format of Engagement

127. At all locations there was a high level of interest and support for moving the project forward to delivery. The need to meet our Climate Action Plan targets was very well understood, as was the opportunity that offshore wind can deliver for energy security and independence. The level of engagement and transparency, with positive reference to the use of VR technology for visualisations of the wind farm was well received at all events.

4 ONGOING PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

4.1 The approach

128. In addition to the three phases of public and stakeholder consultation and engagement, the project continues to engage with communities, businesses, representative organisations, elected public representatives, and other key stakeholders in the project. The approach to continuous engagement includes project briefings and presentations, sponsorship and donations, attendance at events, and a series of youth engagement initiatives. The objective of all engagements is to ensure that information on the project is accessible and inclusive, to ensure that the project is accountable, and listening to feedback from stakeholders, as well as providing honest and transparent information on the project.

4.1.1 Summary of engagement activities

129. To this end, CWP's dedicated engagement and communications team has undertaken extensive proactive and meaningful stakeholder engagement over the past 3.5+ years, including:

- Proactively providing project updates by email, through newsletters, media, and on CWP's website;
- Answering questions and responding to incoming requests from the public and stakeholders on the project's dedicated telephone and email service;
- Meeting stakeholders online and in-person with a wide range of interests, including individuals, community groups, and special-interest groups, such as environmental, educational, business, political, sporting, cultural, and residents' groups;
- Prioritising fishers with regular letters and updates to fishermen advising them of project news / developments, invitations to follow-up quayside meetings to discuss the issues raised, and group meetings as required with fishermen in Arklow, Wicklow, and Dun Laoghaire;
- Providing regular updates on the CWP website: www.codlingwindpark.ie;
- Posting regularly on CWP's LinkedIn page, which has reached over 6,000 followers since the dedicated page was launched in February 2021: https://www.linkedin.com/company/codling-wind-park;
- Publishing and circulating Project Newsletters online and to all registered contacts;
- Providing email updates to those who have registered;
- Participating in regional and national conferences and other large events, through presentations, Q&A sessions, and panel discussions, as well as through exhibitor stands; and
- Delivering Wicklow's first youth climate conference by working with transition-year students from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole to promote youth engagement and climate change awareness.

4.2 Elected Public Representatives

130. CWP has consistently interacted with local Elected Public Representatives at all levels, including Local Authority and Oireachtas representatives.

4.2.1 Local Authority Elected Members

131. Since early 2021, three comprehensive briefings have been held for all Elected Members of the relevant Municipal Districts (MD): Wicklow MD, Greystones MD, and Bray MD. The initial meetings

took place in January and February 2021, with subsequent briefings ahead of the second non-statutory public consultation in November and December 2022. Further briefings and project updates also took place involving all members of Wicklow County Council in 2021 and again in December 2023. The team provided updates on the progress of the project, commitments, and the Community Benefit Fund. The presentation was well received with active feedback and interaction from the members.

132. A briefing was conducted for the Southeast Area Committee of Dublin City Council in September 2022, which was attended by three Committee Members.

133. The External Affairs Manager has maintained ongoing and regular contact with County Councillors, keeping them informed of project developments and addressing their queries in a timely manner.

134. The project provided a briefing to the Dublin City Climate Action, Environment and Energy Strategic Policy Committee on 29 March 2023. At the meeting, details about the trajectory of the project and the project's engagement with local stakeholders, statutory bodies, and proposals for onshore works on the Poolbeg peninsula were shared.

4.2.2 Oireachtas Members

135. The CWP team has held regular meetings (face-to-face and online) with all six of the Oireachtas Members representing County Wicklow.

136. Email communications with all four Dublin Oireachtas Members, who represent the Dublin Bay South electoral area, have continued, particularly when nearshore survey activities were undertaken in the Poolbeg area.

137. In addition, constructive meetings have been held with six other national elected representatives, including two Ministers, two TDs, and one Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

4.3 Public and semi-state organisations

138. CWP has also proactively reached out to and briefed Local Authority Officials in Dublin City Council, Wicklow County Council, and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

139. These engagements have taken place at various levels, including inter alia between senior project management to chief executives of the local authorities, senior planners, engineers, harbour officials, and cultural and climate officials. The project team has used these various bilateral engagements to provide project briefings, updates on progress, updates on design, delivery timelines, and briefings on other matters relevant to local communities, including the Community Benefit Fund.

140. This engagement has also taken place through multiple bilateral engagements with relevant officials / senior management in key public / semi-state organisations, including EirGrid and Harbour Masters, as well as the relevant stakeholders operating and owning land on the Poolbeg Peninsula in Dublin, and has been actively pursued and undertaken.

141. The project has met with a range of public and semi-state bodies, including but not limited to:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
- Wicklow County Council
- Dublin City Council
- Covanta
- Dublin Port
- EirGrid
- ESB

- Uisce Éireann
- CRU
- Harbour Masters
- TII
- NTA
- Irish Rail
- MARA

4.4 Engagement with potentially impacted properties

142. CWP has proactively sought to inform and engage with potentially impacted property owners / occupiers where land-based infrastructures will be located, namely the electricity sub-station and associated cabling onshore, and the landfall site for the offshore cables. This engagement commenced in 2020 in order to generate awareness of what is planned to inform the site selection and design of the project.

4.5 Engagement with fishers and the marine community

143. From being appointed in May 2020, the consultant Fishers Liaison Officer (FLO) immediately began on-the-ground engagement with fishermen in Wicklow Town, Arklow, Greystones, and Dún Laoghaire. The FLO is supported by the Stakeholder Engagement Manager, who has sent regular correspondence to the fishermen, advising them of activities and / or inviting them to briefings / meetings on the quayside.

144. In addition, group briefing events were held for fishermen in November 2022, as follows:

- Wicklow Town (Beehive Car Park) – April 2021. This was attended by a large group of fishermen (up to 20) and was held outdoors to discuss proposed offshore geotechnical and geophysical surveys;
- Arklow Bay Hotel – 23 November 2021, attended by eight fishermen;
- Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town – 22 November 2021, attended by five fishermen; and
- Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire – 24 November 2021, attended by one fisherman and one representative from Bord Bia.

145. The first dedicated newsletter for fishermen was issued in March 2022, with subsequent follow-up editions.

146. In 2023, a dedicated in-house Fisheries Engagement Manager was appointed.

147. A Sustainable Fishers Charter was published in 2023, along with the announcement of details of a Fishers Fund to reinforce recognition of the important custodial and leadership role that CWP will have in Codling Bank. The Fisheries Charter is the first code of its type between an offshore wind developer and fishermen in Ireland, and it commits CWP to a range of sustainable development practices and responsible stewardship of the waters and seabed within the project area.

148. CWP has actively participated in the Seafood / ORE Forum, established by the government in 2023 and independently chaired.

149. Additional fisheries information exchange sessions were held in April 2024 where CWP presented baseline data used to inform the EIA, updates on the layout of the site and how fisheries had been taken into account, mitigations CWP are putting in place and gave an overview of the maritime usage licence application (MULA). As a result of this session, a small working group has been established which will continue to meet at regular intervals to discuss fisheries related issues.

4.6 Business & industry

150. Collaborating with industry stakeholders ensures that the consultation process is well-informed, considering the technical intricacies, economic considerations, and operational feasibility associated with the proposed project.

151. CWP is an active member of both Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) and NOW Ireland. Codling team members sit on a wide range of WEI committees and working groups, seeking to contribute to the development of the industry in Ireland, providing input on policy consultations, sharing insights, and providing expert knowledge.

152. As well as these immediately relevant industry bodies, CWP has engaged with and provided project briefings to a wide range of interested parties, including, but not limited to the following:

- Enterprise Ireland.
- IBEC.
- Construction Industry Federation.
- Engineers Ireland.
- Chambers Ireland.
- British Irish Chamber.
- Climate Change Advisory Council Chair.
- MaREI, Cork.
- Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board South-East Technological University.
- Wicklow Town and District Chamber.
- Wicklow, Bray and Greystones Town Teams.
- Bray Chamber.

4.7 Engagement with local schools

153. During the public consultation process, a strong emphasis was placed on engaging with local schools to ensure their active participation and input. Several initiatives were undertaken to facilitate meaningful interactions with students, such as organising presentations and workshops specifically tailored to the school environment, where students were encouraged to share their perspectives and ideas on the relevant topics. Furthermore, educational materials were developed to provide valuable information and resources to schools, enabling them to incorporate the consultation themes into their daily lives. By actively engaging with schools, the public consultation aimed to foster a sense of engagement and empower the younger generation to have a voice in shaping their community's future.

154. CWP undertook the initiatives described at the sections below.

4.7.1 Global Wind Day art competition

155. To coincide with Global Wind Day on 15 June 2021 and 2022, CWP launched an art competition for all local primary schools in the Wicklow and Greystones Municipal District areas. There was a competition for juniors and another for seniors, aimed at getting children to think about offshore wind and to generate a conversation around this technology, which will be developed on their doorstep.

156. Over 100 entries were received in 2021, while the number of entries ballooned to over 500 in 2022.

4.7.2 STEAM Climate Action in a Box Education Programme

157. CWP teamed up with STEAM Education Limited, a Cork-based team of experts aiming to bring science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths to life in a fun way for children, to provide a solution-focused education programme on climate change to primary schools in the Wicklow and Greystones' municipal districts. The five-lesson programme explores what climate change is, the causes and effects on humans, nature, and the environment, and looks at engineering and technology solutions for a sustainable future.

158. Delivered by STEAM experts from industry and academia, the sessions also help to inspire primary school children to love STEAM subjects and to become the future generation of Scientists, Technologists, Engineers, Artists and Mathematicians. Using arts, communication and active citizenship, the hands-on, creative sessions engage children in understanding the vital role that they can and do play in contributing their ideas towards a greener future.

159. The programme was rolled out to four local primary schools in 2021 and 2022: St Coen's NS, Rathnew; St Kevin's NS, Greystones; Brittas Bay NS; and Wicklow Educate Together School.

4.7.3 Careers talk

160. In October 2021, four members of the Codling team delivered a careers talk, followed by a Q&A, to transition-year students in Temple Carrig Secondary School in Greystones. The session began with an overview of the climate-change challenge and the context within which offshore wind is being developed in Ireland. This was followed by three Codling team members who presented, speaking about their careers to date in the renewables industry and other sectors, and focused on a range of skillsets, e.g., engineering, geology, marine biology, stakeholder engagement, and communications.

4.7.4 Transition year workshop

161. The project team held a workshop with transition-year students of Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole on 22 February 2023. During this workshop, the team delivered a presentation on the CWP project and had an open discussion between the students and project team about the project. The students were asked to provide feedback and queries regarding the project via feedback forms.

4.7.5 Youth climate conference

162. On 16 November 2023, CWP delivered Wicklow's first youth climate conference with the support of transition-year students from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann. The objective of the conference titled, 'Our Climate, Our Future', provided a platform for youth voices in the community to inspire and empower them to take charge and be the drivers of change for the planet. The conference had over 400 attendees with representatives from local secondary schools, Oireachtas Members, Local Authority Elected Members, and Wicklow County Council climate action committee. Hosted by a well-known MC and a spokesperson from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann, the young attendees listened to the experiences of an environmental campaigner, Wind Energy Ireland's CEO, the Youth & Climate Justice Development Officer at the National Youth Council of Ireland, and a representative from CWP. The students also participated in a panel discussion on climate anxiety and discussed employment pathways with a diverse careers panel from the renewables sector.

163. All information on the conference was shared with attendees through the dedicated website www.climatefuture.ie and was promoted on CWP's LinkedIn page. Videos from the conference can also be viewed on CWP's YouTube channel.

4.7.6 Community engagement

164. Engaging with community groups during consultation is crucial as it ensures that the voices and perspectives of residents are heard and considered in the decision-making process. Community groups represent the interests and concerns of the people who will be directly affected by the proposed policies, projects, or developments. By actively involving these groups, a deeper understanding of the unique needs, priorities, and values of the community can be collated.

165. Community engagement began with the CLM contacting a wide range of individuals and community organisations. This engagement took the form of phone calls, emails, face-to-face meetings, and attendance at community-based events. The organisations engaged with included community groups (e.g., development associations and Tidy Towns committees), sporting organisations, business organisations (e.g., Wicklow and District Chamber), and support organisations / agencies and charities (e.g., Wicklow Hospice).

166. In the final quarter of 2022, engagement began with the communities closest to Poolbeg. To date, there have been meetings with SAMRA, Ringsend Community Services Forum, Irish Nautical Trust, and Dublin Port. An information leaflet was sent to the following groups:

- SAMRA;
- George Reynolds Residents' Association;
- Ringsend and Irishtown Community Centre;
- Sandymount Tidy Towns;
- Ringsend and Irishtown Tidy Towns;
- Ringsend Community Services Forum;
- The Half Moon Swimming Club;
- Kitesurfing Dublin; and
- News Four (local freesheet).

167. Letters were also dropped through the letterboxes of 245 residents along Strand Road in Sandymount.

4.7.7 Attendance at community events

168. In 2022, CWP made a conscious decision to have a presence at some large community events throughout the summer in order to bring the proposed project to the community and make information available and accessible to them at events in their hometowns.

169. The events attended by CWP included the following:

- Kilmacanogue Horse Show – 23 July 2022;
- Taste of Wicklow – 25 and 26 June 2022 (also provided sponsorship for this event);
- Wicklow Energy Awareness Day – June 2022 (hosted by Wicklow Sustainability Group);
- Taste Of Greystones Keelboat Regatta – August 2022 (also provided sponsorship for this event).
- 'Screen Skills to Green Skills – 24 June 2022. Hosted by Wicklow County Council, this event related to the local authority's plan, in collaboration with a range of partners, to strengthen the county's capabilities in three core skills areas: food, film, and renewables. The keynote speaker from the government highlighted the need for an effective skills strategy to have lifelong learning, with the maximisation of individual potential at its heart;
- Greystones St. Patricks Day Parade – March 2023;

- Wicklow Pride Parade – July 2023;
- Sandymount Community Centre Launch – July 2023;
- RNLI Family Open Day – August 2023;
- Greystones Picnic in the Park – August 2023;
- Wicklow Hospice Dip in the Nip – October 2023;
- Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce Business Achievements Awards – November 2023;
- St Pat's GAA Wicklow Kube Fundraising Event – September 2023;
- Launch of the Wicklow She Shed, Bray – September 2023;
- Greystones Library Sustainable Youth Ambassadors Awards – September 2023;
- Wicklow Half Marathon – March 2024;
- North Wicklow Women's Shed meeting – May 2024; and
- Wicklow RNLI Meeting – May 2024.

4.7.8 Presentations to community groups

170. CWP has positively agreed to local requests to deliver presentations to community groups interested in learning more about the project. To date, CWP has delivered the following presentations to local groups:

- Probus Greystones (a group for retired male professionals) – February 2022: the session, in Delgany Golf Club, was attended by approximately 25 representatives;
- Wicklow Active Retirement Association – May 2022: the presentation, in Wicklow Town, was attended by approximately 20 representatives;
- Greystones U3A, University of the Third Age – March 2023;
- Greystones Town Team – April 2024;
- North Wicklow Women's Shed (NWWS) – May 2024;
- Wicklow Chamber – May 2024;
- Newcastle Sustainable Energy Community – July 2024; and
- Bray Chamber – July 2024.

4.7.9 Other activities

171. In the first half of 2021, the project established a Sponsorship and Donations Policy to provide support to a range of local community initiatives and organisations as a way of demonstrating CWP's commitment to the local community.

172. Requests for sponsorship have been dealt with by the CLO, who gathers as much information as possible to assess the application against the criteria set out in the project's policy.

173. The following sponsorships have been provided by the project to date:

- Wicklow Hospice
- Greystones Rowing and Kayaking Club
- Greystones Fire Brigade
- St. Patrick's GAA Club Wicklow
- Taste of Wicklow Food Festival
- Taste of Greystones Regatta
- Éire Óg Gaelic for Mothers and Others team, Greystones
- Éire Óg Under 15 Féile Hurling Team
- Wicklow Tennis Club – provided two water stations and outdoor pool table
- Coláiste Chraobh Abhann Showstoppers event

- Sandymount Community Centre
- Wicklow Town and District Chamber
- Wicklow Women's Shed
- RNLI Wicklow
- Greystones Library Sustainability Ambassadors
- Bray Rowing Club
- Wicklow Pride
- Greystones Town Team, Picnic in the Park and Christmas Lights
- Wicklow Rowing Club
- Wicklow Bay Sea Anglers
- Poolbeg, Half Moon Swimming Club
- Local schools
- Wicklow Scouts
- Dublin Port Sea Scouts
- Wicklow Half Marathon and 10km race event
- Poolbeg Sea Scouts
- Bloomsday Festival

4.8 Environmental groups and non-governmental organisations

174. Engaging with environmental groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) holds immense significance for CWP as it taps into our expertise, knowledge, and passion for environmental preservation. These groups have valuable insights into potential environmental sensitivities, assessment methods, mitigation, monitoring, and policies that inform the planning application. CWP has had engagement with the following groups:

- Fair Seas Conference
- BirdWatch Ireland
- South East Coastal Protection Alliance
- Friends of the Earth
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Rich North Sea – a Dutch-based marine biodiversity organisation
- NORRI – Native Oyster Reef Restoration Initiative, based off the coast of Co. Wicklow
- Irish Environmental Network

5 CONSULTATION WITH PRESCRIBED BODIES AND REGULATORY STAKEHOLDERS

175. CWP have consulted with prescribed bodies and An Bord Pleanála regularly since 2020. This consultation includes:

- Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP);
- Consultation to inform the EIA and Appropriate Assessment (AA); and
- Transboundary consultation, including with stakeholders in the UK.

5.1 Overview of pre-application consultation

176. Since the earliest stages of the CWP Project, the Applicant has been committed to actively informing and engaging with prescribed bodies and other relevant stakeholders. The aim has been to integrate this feedback at all stages of the design evolution and into the planning application.

177. The prescribed bodies for the purposes of applications under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 are prescribed by Article 8 of the Planning and Development (Maritime Development) Regulations 2023 (SI 100/2023). The list of prescribed bodies was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála as part of the pre-application consultation process.

178. The consultation conducted to inform the planning application is detailed in EIAR **Volume 2, Chapter 5 EIA Methodology** and in the technical EIAR **Chapters 6 to 32**, and in the **Natura Impact Statement**.

5.2 Pre-application consultation with ABP

179. As the Applicant is submitting a planning application for the CWP Project under section 291 of the PDA, it submitted its initial request to commence pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála in February 2023.

180. A series of pre-application consultation meetings were held under section 291 and section 287A and B of the PDA from June 2023 to January 2024. An Bord Pleanála formally closed the consultation on 24 March 2024 by issue of an Opinion.

5.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

5.3.1 Overview

181. A key component of the planning application submission is the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), detailing the findings of the EIA. The purpose of the EIAR is to provide An Bord Pleanála, relevant stakeholders, and all interested parties with the environmental information required to develop an informed view of any likely significant effects on the environment resulting from the development, as required by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive) and the European Union (Planning and Development) (EIA) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) (the EIA Regulations).

182. Consultation has formed a key component of the EIA process, which is set to continue throughout the lifecycle of the CWP Project. During the pre-application phase, the Applicant has sought to undertake EIA topic-specific engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, with the overall aim of seeking

agreement on the approach to the EIA. Details of the consultation conducted are available in EIAR **Volume 2 Chapter 5 EIA Methodology** and the **Schedule of Pre-Application Consultations** (see **Planning Documents**).

5.3.2 EIA Scoping

183. An informal EIA Scoping Report for the CWP Project offshore infrastructure was published on 2 December 2020. Separately, the Applicant prepared an informal EIA Scoping Report for the onshore infrastructure, which was published on 30 April 2021.

184. A consultation period of eight weeks was provided for responses to each Scoping Report.

185. The purpose of the EIA Scoping Reports was to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and other interested parties at an early stage, inviting them to provide relevant information and to comment on the proposed approach to the EIA.

186. Responses to the EIA Scoping Reports have informed the scope of the topic assessments, and specific matters are referenced in the consultation summary tables within each of the EIAR topic chapters **(Chapters 6–32).**

5.3.3 Appropriate Assessment Consultation

187. A Natura Impact Statement has been submitted in support of the planning application for the CWP project in line with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). The NIS provides the Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening and AA. Consultation with An Bord Pleanála and relevant stakeholders is a key part of the AA process. Consultation regarding AA has been undertaken to inform the approach to, and scope of, the assessment. The consultation completed is detailed in the NIS.

5.4 Transboundary Consultation

188. Transboundary effects arise when impacts from a development within one European Economic Area (EEA) state affect the environment of another EEA state(s).

189. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (referred to as the Espoo Convention) requires states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. This convention is not limited to EU Member States and includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

190. The potential for transboundary effects is considered in each EIAR topic chapter **(Chapters 6–32)**.

191. Where required, transboundary consultation has been undertaken with other EEA states and a record of this is provided in the consultation summary tables within EIAR **Volume 2, Chapter 5 EIA Methodology** and in each of the relevant EIAR topic chapters **(Chapters 6–32)**.

6 FUNDS

6.1 Community Benefit Fund

192. Generators successful in the ORESS 1 auction are required to make contribution payments to their project's Community Benefit Fund (CBF) during the construction and operational phases of their projects. CWP is obliged to procure the services of a fund administrator to manage this process. The fund is required to be established no later than one year after the commencement date of the project. The fund administrator will appoint a representative committee who will define the target local community and act as key decision makers on use of the fund. Guidelines for Generators and Fund Administrators were published by DECC in January 2023.

193. The fund offers unique opportunities to the communities connected to the project, unlike any scale seen in Ireland before. It is therefore important that CWP updates the local communities on what to expect from their CBF.

194. In April 2024, CWP announced the value of the CWP Community Benefit Fund as up to €200 million over the lifetime of the project.

195. CWP's key messaging for communities on the CBF is:

- The CBF is not to be considered compensation or mitigation whatsoever. It is intended to enable the local communities as a neighbour to the development to share in the benefits of offshore wind energy and to use the fund for the enhancement of the area;
- The fund (or part of in the early contribution years) will be a significant annual fund of up to €10 million, specifically for the benefit of local communities, and will be made available after the project is fully consented to and a commencement date is issued;
- It is important that communities use the time in advance of the fund being available to prepare, so that the communities can maximise the potential opportunities that the fund can bring;
- The purpose of the fund is for the sustainable, environmental, economic, social and cultural well-being of the Target Local Community;
- Careful consideration is given to funding opportunities for all stakeholders in the CBF Target Local Community, including, but not limited to, local fishers, seafood culture, tourism, the wider blue economy, and maritime heritage communities;
- The Committee could choose to reserve funding for initiatives that address drivers of social or economic disadvantage among communities, encourage better energy sustainability solutions, benefit the local fishing community, support marine biodiversity and conservation, or enhance a particular location or area; and
- The CBF committee is organised by the Fund Administrator. It can have a minimum of 7 members and a maximum of 20 members. Two members are from representative local agencies, two are advisory non-voting members, and the remaining members are appointed based on their connection to the local community, specific experience / skills in community development, SDGs, and / or community investment.

196. CWP has provided key messaging on the CBF directly to the Greystones Town Team, Wicklow Town Team, Wicklow County Council, SAMRA, Fishermen, and Public Representatives. The team also shared the key messaging to interested parties during the public engagement and information sessions in April and May 2024.

6.2 Fisheries Fund

197. In May 2023, CWP announced a €500,000 Fishers Fund, dedicated solely to support and benefit the local fishing industry, operating within and around the Codling Bank area of the Irish Sea.

198. The €500,000 fund will have a €100,000 annual budget to support different initiatives over five years (2023–2028). It will support opportunities for both inshore and offshore fishing by fishermen associated with CWP.

199. CWP is asking fishermen to bring forward their own ideas about how the fund should be distributed.

200. In addition, CWP is considering other suggestions to support fishermen, including supporting fishery diversification by proposing to support the establishment of a lobster hatchery. That would involve raising and releasing young lobsters back into the Irish sea to increase fishing opportunities in the area. Engagement continues to progress with fishermen on this proposal, which would significantly support a sustainable and productive fishery in the area.

7 HOW PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT HAS INFORMED THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

201. Public consultation, stakeholder engagement, and community liaison since 2020 have informed the project design and development.

202. During the first public consultation in 2020, the communities asked for more information and ongoing engagement. This resulted in the project team taking a highly proactive approach to community liaison, including appointing a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in 2020. They have been highly visible, active, and available to meet with community groups, schools, and individuals.

203. Site surveys, desk-based assessments, and stakeholder consultation, combined with community and public consultation feedback, have influenced the design of the CWP Project, including wind turbine layouts, numbers and heights, and the design of the onshore substation. The key topics which were of interest to stakeholders during the non-statutory consultation and engagement events included the environmental impacts of the project and the mitigations that will be implemented to minimise these. This particularly extended to potential impacts on birds, marine mammals, and populations associated with protected sites. Access to public paths and walkways on the Poolbeg peninsula during construction was also raised a few times. Views of the potential wind farm from locations along the Wicklow coast were of interest, particularly to residents in communities neighbouring the project. The use of VR in Phase 3 engagement provided a welcome clarity to attendees. The benefits in terms of job creation, both direct and indirect, and the economic impact during construction were of interest, as was the Community Benefit Fund and the processes to access the fund.

204. The design process and how stakeholder feedback has informed it is described in EIAR **Volume 2, Chapter 3 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives**. Mitigations are described throughout the EIAR, NIS, and in supporting documentation, such as the **Construction Environmental Management Plan** (CEMP).

205. Following stakeholder feedback in relation to ecological concerns and to further demonstrate its commitment to the environment and supporting biodiversity, the Applicant has prepared a voluntary Biodiversity Strategy for the project. The core element of this is a funding partnership with University College Dublin, supporting a research project exploring themes such as seagrass and oyster bed restoration and eco-engineering, and their role in promoting biodiversity and mitigating climate change impacts.

Appendix A.1 Consultation #1 Feedback and Response Report

Phase 1 Consultation

Feedback and Response Report

June 2021


codling
wind park

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, set in an area called Codling Bank, approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

It is being developed by Codling Wind Park Ltd. (CWPL), a joint venture between Fred. Olsen Renewables and EDF Renewables. Both companies are leading developers, owners and operators of renewable energy assets, with many years of global experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector.

Codling Wind Park represents one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade and is set to become Ireland's largest offshore wind farm being developed in the Irish Sea.

With the potential to generate enough locally produced renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million homes annually, Codling Wind Park will support the delivery of Ireland's Climate Action Plan targets. It will also help reduce Ireland's reliance on imported fossil fuel-based energy and significantly improve energy security.

The project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken.

The onshore and offshore planning applications are expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

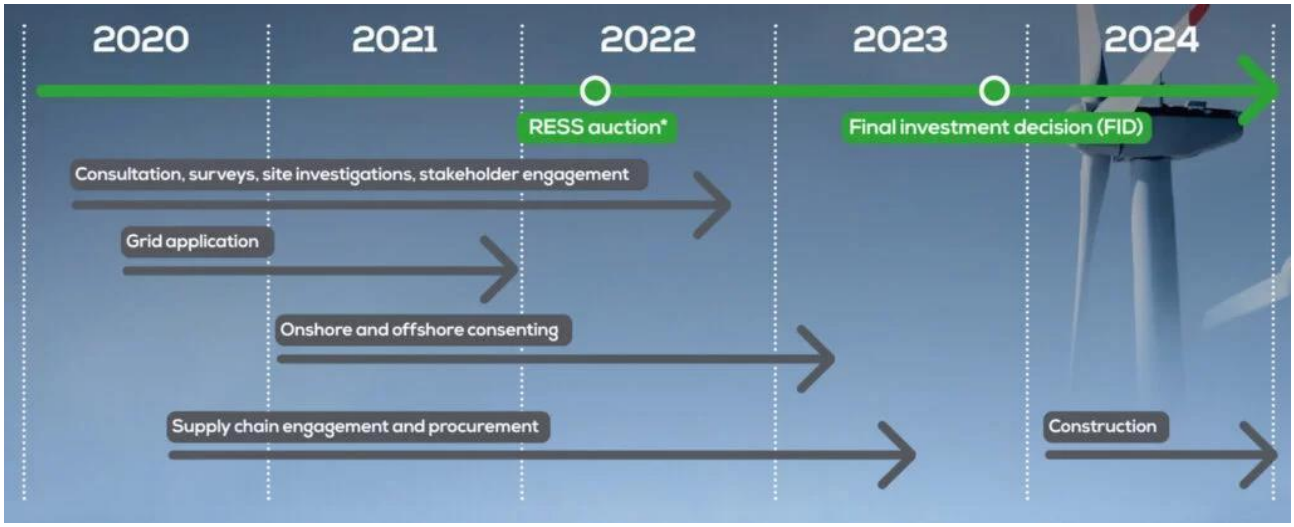

Figure 1 - Codling Wind Park - Indicative Project Timeline

2 APPROACH TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultation with the community, including fisheries and other marine stakeholders, forms a central component of the project development process. The project team seeks and welcomes feedback to inform the design of the Codling Wind Park project.

2.1 Consultation Phase and Objectives

The first phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park project ran from 1st March 2021 to 27th March 2021 inclusive. A number of briefings with key local stakeholder groups took place in advance of this, including with local elected representatives (TDs and councillors from the Greystones and Wicklow Municipal Districts).

The purpose of this first phase of public consultation was to begin a dialogue with local communities and other stakeholders, which will continue throughout the development of the project. This introductory consultation provided the opportunity to share early design plans for the project with all interested parties and to seek feedback to help shape the future design of the project.

2.2 Purpose of this Report

This report details the consultation process and records the feedback received during this first phase of non-statutory public consultation for the Codling Wind Park project.

In compliance with data protection requirements, feedback received from individuals has been anonymised. Feedback received from organisations is attributed to the respondent organisation. Data collected during this consultation has been processed in accordance with the Codling Wind Park Privacy Policy which is available at https://codlingwindpark.ie/privacy-policy/.

2.3 Consultation Roadmap

Two further phases of pre-application consultation will be held in late 2021 and early 2022 to share updated plans as the project progresses and to provide further opportunities for feedback.

Once applications for consent are made, a statutory submissions period will be held to provide the opportunity for interested parties to make observations and submissions on the proposed development to the planning authority.

3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

Phase 1 public consultation for the Codling Wind Park project consisted of three elements: a virtual public exhibition, a webinar with members of the project team, and information clinics.

Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, the holding of public information events at local venues was not possible during this consultation. The project team sought to use all available communications channels to make the consultation as engaging and accessible as possible, to promote the consultation, encourage participation, and welcome feedback.

3.2 Project Website and LinkedIn page

A new project website was launched on 26th February to publicise the Phase 1 consultation and the associated activities.

Members of the public were encouraged to view the project information on the website and to contact the project team with any questions.

More than 111 people subscribed to project updates during the consultation. The website received 4,679 visits during the month-long consultation process.

The website includes an introductory video in which the Project Director explains the need for and benefits of Codling Wind Park and the project development process.

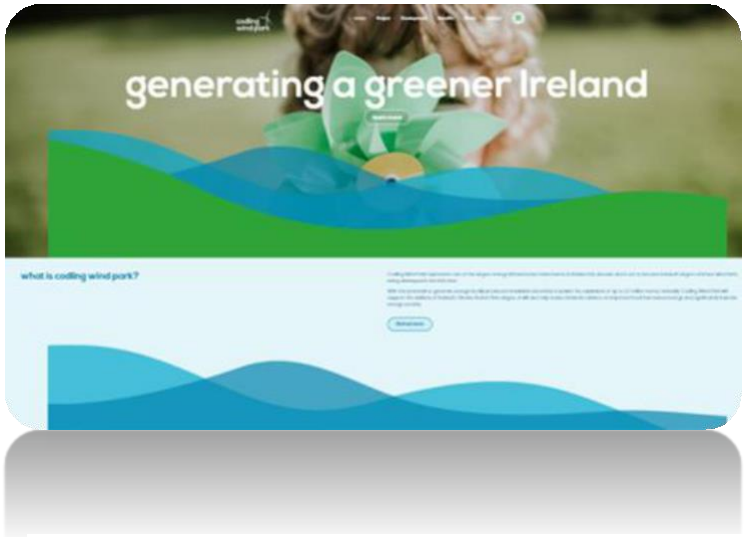

Figure 2 - Codling Wind Park Website

A “Stay in Touch” form invited people to submit their contact details and receive regular updates on the project as it develops. A facility to submit a direct question by email to the project team also sits on the site , in addition to direct contact details for the project’s Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Community Liaison Officer. A contact email address for the project’s Fisheries Liaison Officers is also included.

A Supply Chain page was also created on the website, inviting local businesses to register their interest in working on, supplying or providing services to the project.

On 27th February, the project team also launched the Codling Wind Park LinkedIn page. Five posts were made during the month of March to promote the public consultation. By the end of March, the page had over 700 followers.

3.3 Virtual Public Exhibition

An online virtual exhibition was used to make information about the CWP project available to the public in an accessible and user-friendly format. The exhibition comprised a series of displays, videos, fact cards, maps and indicative photomontages showing what the turbines could look like from nine different viewing points along the east coast.

The exhibition ran online, on www.codlingwindpark.ie, for two weeks from 1st-14th March (inclusive).

There were 1,743 visitors to the virtual exhibition from 1st-14th March (inclusive).

The exhibition displays and the photomontages remain available to view on the www.codlingwindpark.ie website.

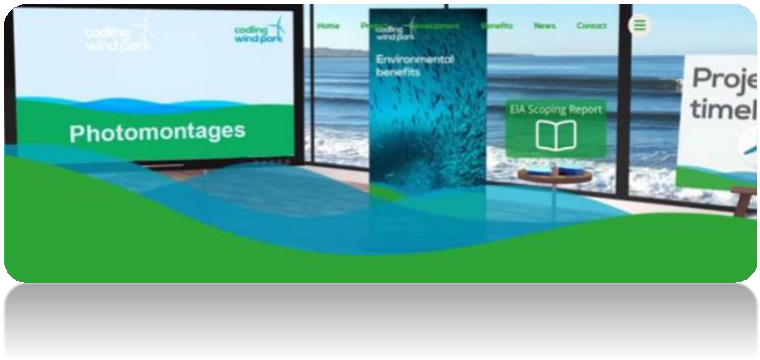

Figure 3 - Codling Wind Park Virtual Exhibition

3.4 Online Feedback Survey

The virtual exhibition included an online survey to enable participants to provide their views on climate action, offshore wind energy, and the Codling Wind Park project.

In total, 37 completed questionnaires were received by the project team during the first consultation period. A summary of the feedback received is provided in Section 4.

A copy of the online survey can be found in Appendix A.

3.5 Social Media

Several public representatives and community organisations shared details about the public consultation on their Facebook pages, including elected representatives, Wicklow Public Partnership Network (which has a membership of approximately 300 community groups), Greystones and Delgany Sustainable Energy Community, Wicklow Maritime, and the Wicklow Town Team.

3.6 Press Releases / Coverage

Press releases were issued to announce the consultation to national, local and specialist trade media in advance of commencement of the virtual exhibition.

The press release generated 14 news articles (newspaper and online) and eight radio broadcast items.

Copies of the press releases (one for national and trade media and a second for local media) are contained at Appendix B.

3.7 Newspaper Adverts

Full-page colour ads were placed in all three local newspapers as follows:

- Wicklow Times – Saturday, 27th February
- Wicklow People – Wednesday, 3rd March
- Wicklow Voice – Monday, 8th March

A copy of the newspaper advertisement is contained at Appendix C.

3.8 Radio Adverts

A series of ads on local radio were used to create awareness of the consultation process as follows:

- East Coast Radio – 10 x 30 second slots aired over 10 days (27th February to 8th March)

3.9 Webinar

The project team delivered a live webinar on 11th March 2021 from 7-8pm.

Seven members of the project team, including the Project Director, presented information on the project development process and answered questions on the project.

80 people attended the webinar. 50 questions were submitted to the project team.

A recording of the webinar and responses to any questions not answered during the webinar (due to time constraints) were made available on the project website and remain there.

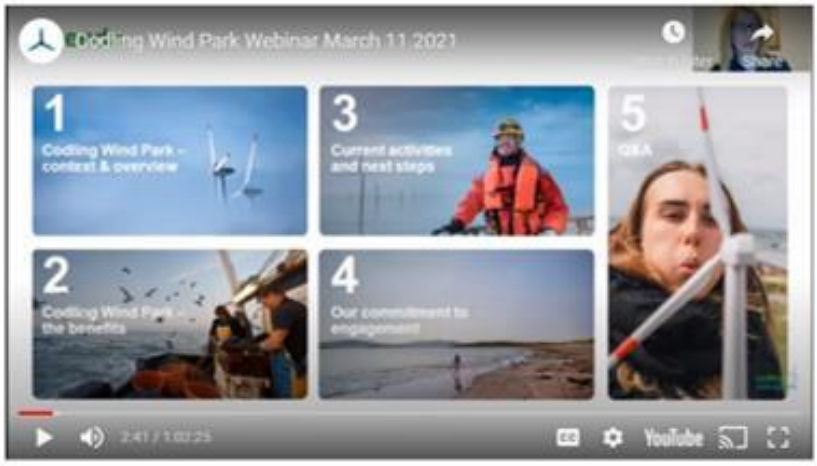

Figure 4 - Codling Wind Park Webinar 11th March 2021

3.10 Stakeholder Briefings

The project team held briefings with a number of public representatives and local groups during the consultation. These included:

- Wicklow TDs x 5
- Ireland South MEP x 1
- Elected members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Elected members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Wicklow Town Team.

3.11 Information Clinics

The project team offered 26 information clinic slots over a two-week period (15th-27th March inclusive). These meetings provided the opportunity for all interested individuals and groups to book time with the project team members to discuss the Codling Wind Park project. The schedule provided morning, afternoon, evening and Saturday options. Meetings could be booked online or by telephoning the Community Liaison Officer.

Six individuals and groups availed of the information clinics as follows:

- 1 residents' association (Greystones)
- 2 environmental organisations
- 1 local councillor
- 2 local businesses.

3.12 Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

The Codling Wind Park Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, is available throughout the project – at 087 1011 473 and liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie.

3.12.1 Emails / Phone Calls Direct Outreach

At the commencement of the consultation, the CLO sent an email to 105 community groups, organisations and individuals to inform them of the forthcoming public consultation opportunities.

All marine-based sports clubs from Greystones to Wicklow were contacted to inform them about the consultation and offer the opportunity of attending an information clinic.

The project team also informed all local public representatives of the public consultation.

A copy of the email sent to stakeholders can be viewed at Appendix D.

3.13 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

The project's Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) team is available at 021 203 1005 and flo@codlingwindpark.ie. The main point of contact is the lead Fisheries Liaison Officer is Mark O'Reilly, who is available on 085 139 9000. He is supported by colleagues David Hyde and Trudy McIntyre, who may be contacted via the flo@codlingwindpark.ie email address.

The FLO team was available throughout the public consultation period and remains available on an ongoing basis.

4 FEEDBACK AND SUBMISSIONS

During this consultation period, stakeholders could submit questions and provide feedback through the online feedback survey, via email or phone and during the online webinar and information clinics with the project team.

Over 200 queries were logged and responded to by the project team during the four-week consultation period.

The feedback has been categorised into common 'themes' identified following a detailed review of the submissions received.

The categories are:

- Climate Change
- Energy Security
- Project Need
- Project Location
- Infrastructure (Onshore and Offshore)
  - Turbine Technology and Engineering Considerations
  - Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure
  - Irish Grid Capacity and Project Energy Output
  - Construction
  - Operation
  - Decommissioning
- Environmental Considerations
  - Marine Water Quality and Fish / Shellfish Ecology
  - Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts
  - Marine Geology / Coastal erosion
  - Ornithology
  - Marine Mammals
  - Commercial Fisheries
  - Marine Leisure and Commercial Shipping
- Community Benefit
- Supply Chain Opportunities
- Project Development Process
- Consultation Process

Section 4.1 of this report details the questions asked and responses received in the online survey that formed part of the virtual exhibition. Section 4.2 sets out details of all the questions that were asked (grouped as outlined above) and the responses given by the project team during the engagements.

It should be noted that feedback is not presented in order of importance and no weighting has been applied to the issues raised based on frequency or on the number of submissions received.

In compliance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (May 2018) and the Data Protection Act (2018), all personal information has been withheld from this report but has been considered by the project team for the purpose of informing the project development process.

4.1 Online Survey Responses

The consultation questionnaire consisted of eight questions. 37 feedback forms were completed. The survey results are presented below. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A.

4.1.1 Question 1 – "Are you supportive of Ireland's ambition of generating 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030?"

Question one, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents if they were supportive of Ireland's ambition of generating 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030. Respondents were given five options to choose from: Very supportive, somewhat supportive, Neutral, Not very supportive, and Not at all supportive. Table 1 and Figure 2 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Very supportive	30
Somewhat supportive	4
Neutral	2
Not very supportive	0
Not at all supportive	1

Table 1 - Breakdown of responses to Question 1

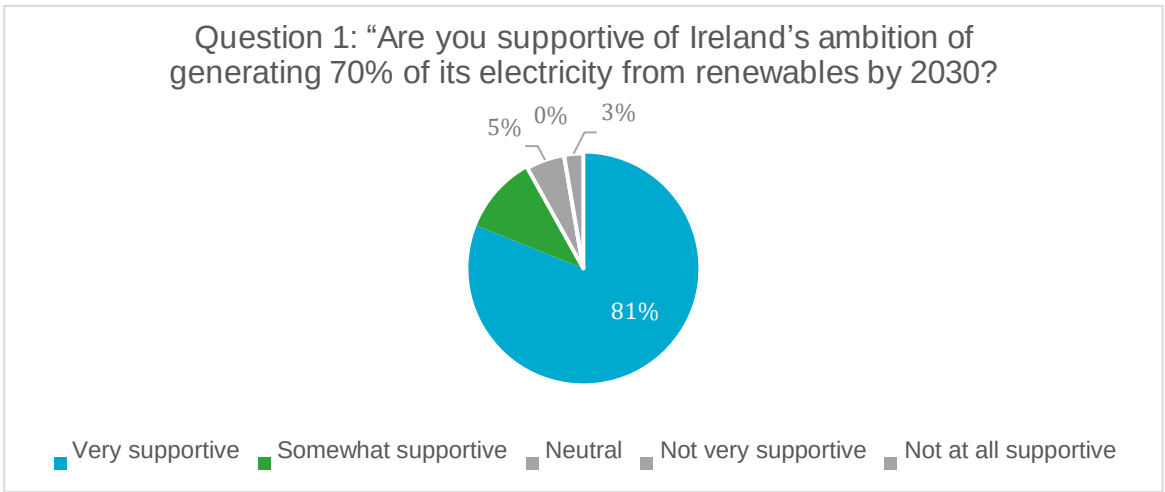

Figure 5 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 1

4.1.2 Question 2 – "How important, in your view, will offshore wind energy be in meeting our 2030 climate action targets?"

Question two, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents in their opinion how important offshore energy will be in Ireland meeting its 2030 climate action targets. Respondents were given six options to choose from: Extremely important, Very important, Moderately important, Slightly important, Not at all important, and No opinion. Table 2 and Figure 3 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Extremely important	24
Very important	7
Moderately important	4
Slightly important	1
Not at all important	1
No opinion	0

Table 2 - Breakdown of responses to Question 2

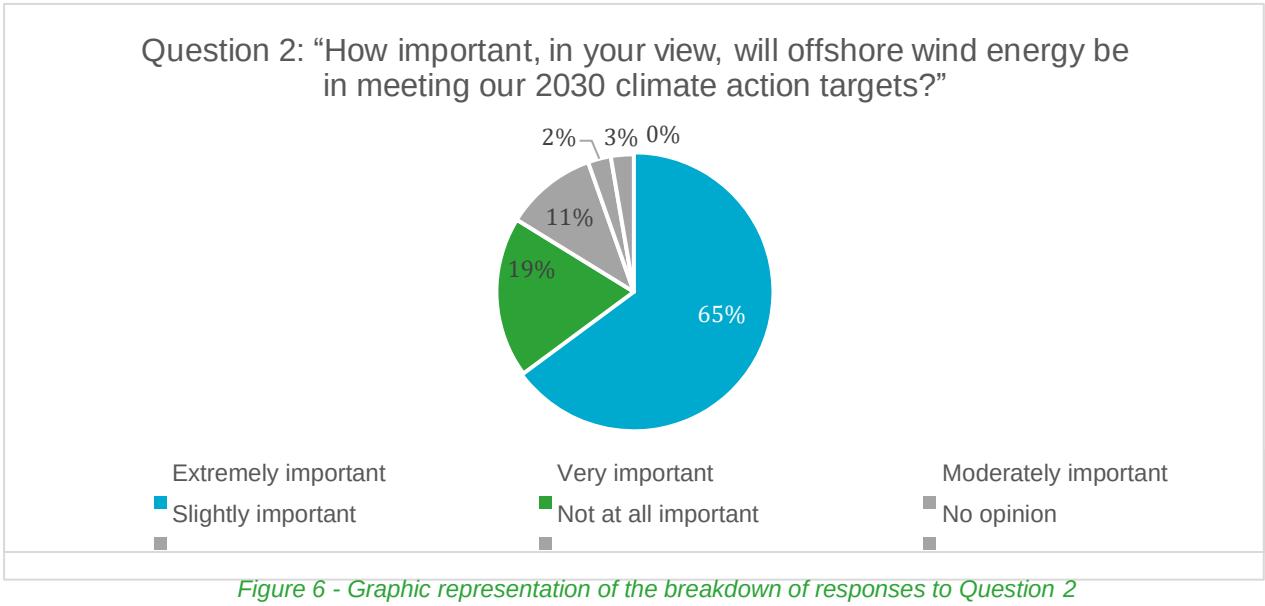

Figure 6 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 2

4.1.3 Question 3 – "In general, what are your views on the Codling Wind Park project?"

Question three, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents their views on the Codling Wind Park project. Respondents were given five options to choose from: Codling Wind Park is essential to help Ireland achieve its climate action targets and I support the project; I am generally in favour of the Codling Wind Park project, but I would like further information as the project develops; Currently, I am neither in favour nor opposed to the Codling Wind Park project; I am not supportive of the Codling Wind Park; and, Other (please specify). Table 3 and Figure 4 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Codling Wind Park is essential to help Ireland achieve its climate action targets and I support the project	16
I am generally in favour of the Codling Wind Park project, but I would like further information as the project develops	13
Currently, I am neither in favour nor opposed to the Codling Wind Park project	2
I am not supportive of the Codling Wind Park	2
Other (please specify)	4

Table 3 - Breakdown of responses to Question 3

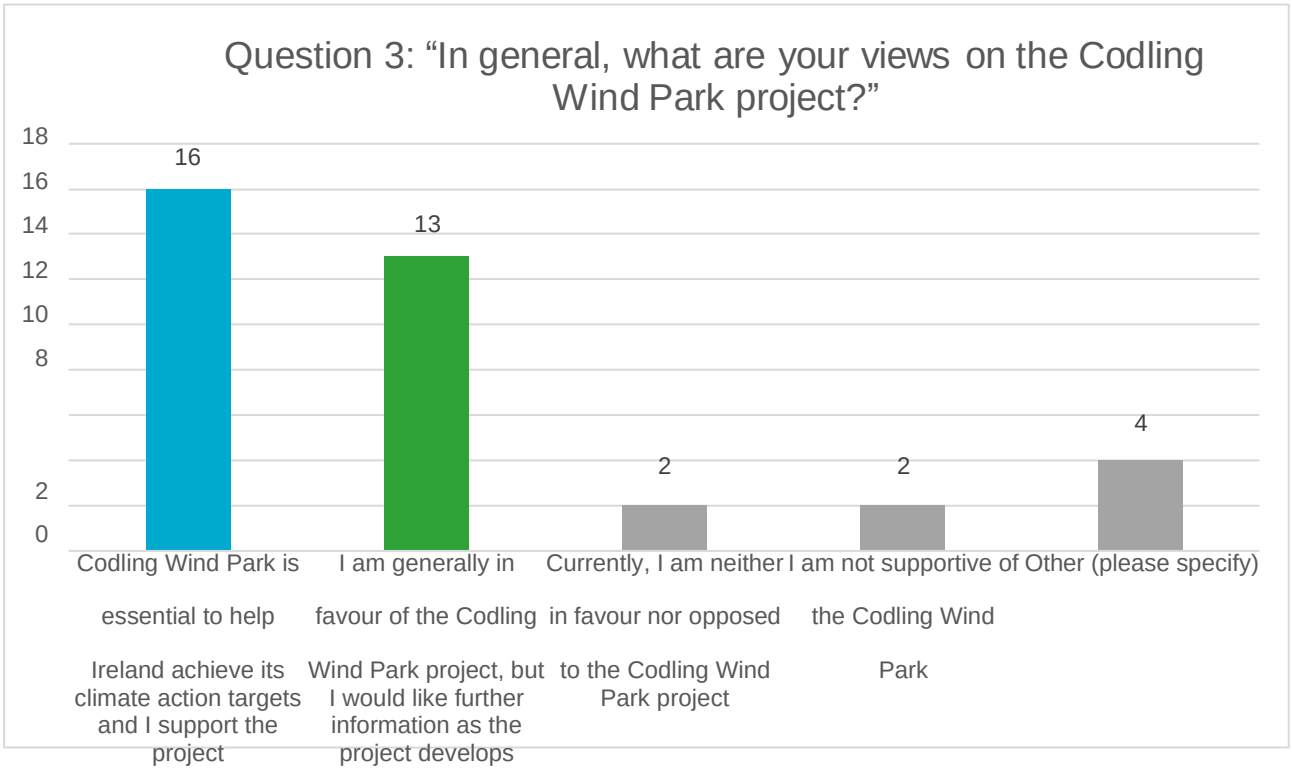

Figure 7 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 3

4.1.4 Question 4 – "What are the most important factors you would like us to consider as we progress the design of the Codling Wind Park project? (Please rank in order of importance to you, 1 being the most important)."

Question four asked respondents to rank the most important factors they would like the project team to consider as they progress the design of the Codling Wind Park project, from 1 – 10. The Options were as follows: Benefits for local communities; Responsible environmental management; Visual impacts; Delivering the lowest cost electricity to consumers; Development of local supply chain; Employment, training, and development opportunities; Impacts on marine users; and, Other (please specify). Figure 5 below shows the breakdown of responses.

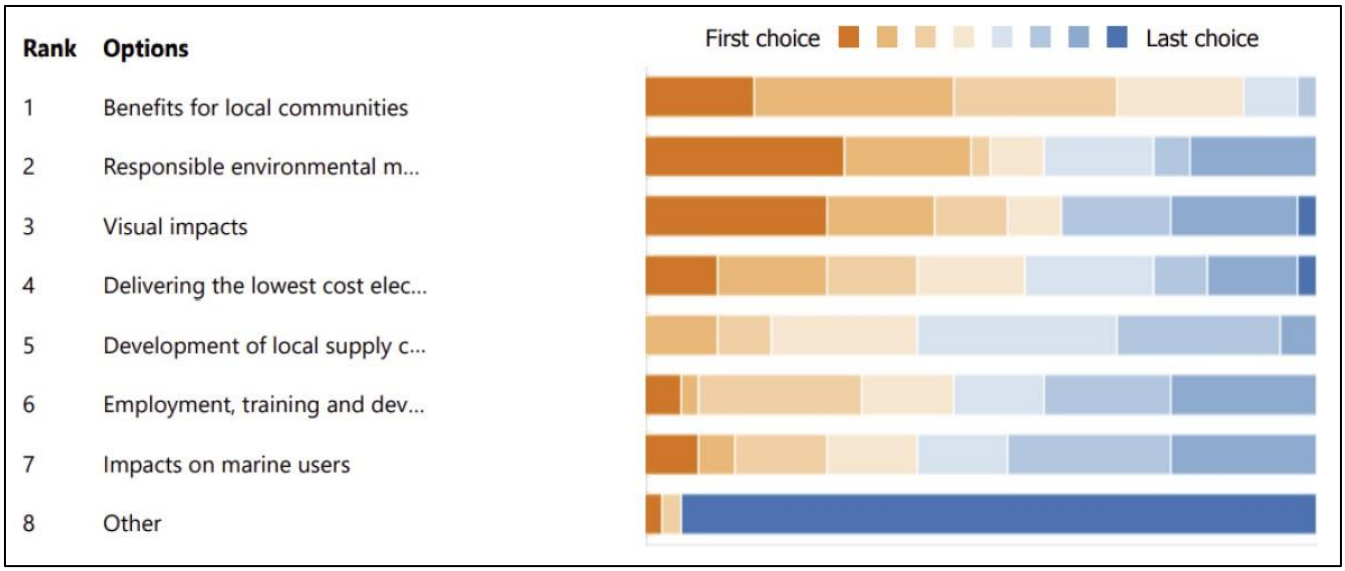

Figure 8 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 4

4.1.5 Question 5 – "How helpful has our exhibition been in giving you an understanding of the Codling Wind Park project?"

Question five, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents how helpful the online exhibition had been in giving them an understanding of the Codling Wind Park project. Respondents were given five options to choose from: Extremely helpful, Very helpful, Somewhat helpful, Not so helpful, and Not at all helpful. Table 4 and Figure 6 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Extremely helpful	12
Very helpful	18
Somewhat helpful	6
Not so helpful	0
Not at all helpful	1

Table 4 - Breakdown of responses to Question 5

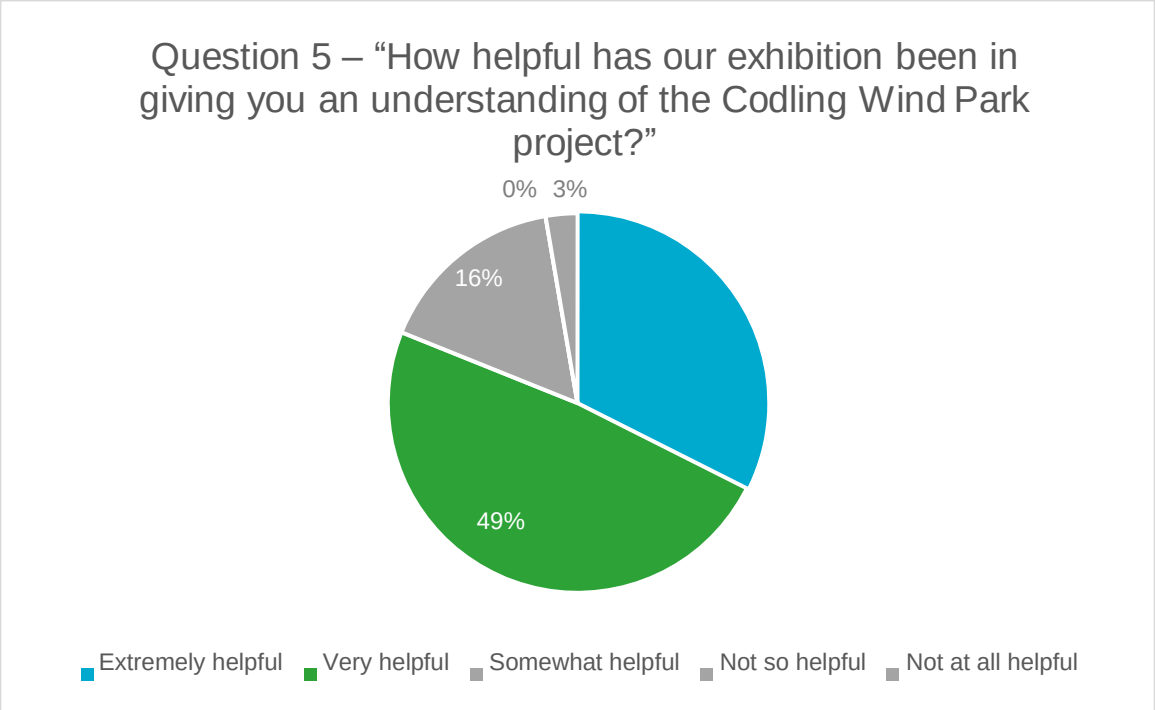

Figure 9 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 5

4.1.6 Question 6 – Please provide any specific feedback on the Codling Wind Park project that you would like the project team to consider.

There were 15 responses to this question. The feedback received is set out in Section 4 below in the relevant categories outlined.

4.2 Consultation Feedback and Project Team Response

This section of the report summarises the feedback received during the Phase I consultation. Where current information was available, responses to the feedback were provided by the project team. Where information was not currently available, the process for project development was outlined. Therefore, some of the queries received will be answered at later stages of the project development process.

4.2.1 Climate Change

There was broad acceptance of the need for action to address climate change. There was mostly acceptance amongst stakeholders on the need for offshore renewable energy projects in Ireland to support the decarbonisation of Ireland's energy supply. Respondents voiced support for the opportunity to make Ireland a greener and more sustainable country.

It was suggested that younger people are engaged with the topic of climate change and are very supportive of renewable energy. Consultees expressed belief that engaging with younger people would be key to the success of the project. It was also stated that the people of Greystones are very environmentally conscious and are keen to advance the green agenda.

Stakeholders asked whether sustainable development techniques would be used by the project team to develop the Wind Park. It was outlined by respondents that they expected any carbon emissions produced in the construction and daily running of the wind park to be offset, ensuring the project was carbon neutral and possibly carbon negative.

Respondents queried whether the project team was considering hydrogen as a fuel source for Codling during construction and operation.

Stakeholders asked whether the payback costs were worthwhile from a sustainability perspective, given the investment required, the impact on the environment, and the embodied energy required in production. Respondents outlined the hope that the wind park would be an adaptable project with regard to advancements in wind farm technology over the coming decades.

4.2.1.1 Project Team Response to Climate Change

We thank respondents for their feedback on the issue of climate change.

We are facing a global climate emergency. In 2019, Ireland published its Climate Action Plan (CAP), which recognises that we must significantly step up our commitments to tackle climate disruption and achieve our decarbonisation goals. Within the CAP, Ireland aims to achieve renewable electricity generation of 70% and reduce carbon emissions by 51% in the period to 2030. To help reach these goals, we will need 5GW of electricity to be generated from offshore wind by 2030. With a potential generating output of 1.5GW, Codling Wind Park will be the largest of the east coast offshore projects and will make a significant contribution to meeting Ireland's 2030 targets - putting the country on a path to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In developing CWP, the project team will employ sustainable development processes and environmentally friendly techniques to minimise impacts during construction and operation. Such measures will be identified and included in a detailed Construction and Environmental Management Plan.

4.2.2 Energy Security

The national target of achieving 5GW of offshore wind by 2030 was queried by respondents who asked if the target was realistic given the current capacity of the Irish electricity grid. The total energy output of the Codling Wind Park was queried by respondents.

Concerns over energy security were raised by respondents with regard to the intermittent nature of wind energy. Respondents questioned how Irish consumers could trust Ireland's energy security when the wind does not blow. Anecdotes of amber alerts during no wind days in January 2021 were shared by respondents. Stakeholders outlined fears of Ireland being at the mercy of interconnectors with countries who are struggling with their own issues. Concerns with international gas supplies and recent spikes in European pricing were also outlined by respondents.

Local residents of Greystones questioned placing trust in wind energy given the predicted increase in electricity needs. They maintained that wind energy only works on stormy days and queried the project team's plan to store wind generated electricity to avoid switching to fossil fuel stations when the wind isn't blowing.

4.2.2.1 Project Team Response to Energy Security

Ireland aims to achieve renewable electricity generation of 70% and reduce carbon emissions by 51% in the period to 2030. To help achieve this, 5GW of clean electricity will need to be generated from offshore wind by 2030. The capacity of the electricity grid to accommodate renewable electricity from offshore projects is critical to meeting this target.

With a potential generating output of 1.5GW, Codling Wind Park will be the largest of the east coast offshore projects and will make a significant contribution to meeting Ireland's 2030 targets. Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of 70% of Irish households – 1.2 million in total – with clean, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and save almost 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

In addition to supporting delivery of the country's climate action targets, Codling Wind Park will help reduce Ireland's reliance on imported fossil fuel-based energy and significantly improve energy security.

Excellent wind speeds in the Irish Sea and favourable foreshore conditions provide an ideal environment for generating carbon emission free and low-cost electricity offshore. When the wind is not blowing storage technology, back-up generation or interconnectors are used to ensure continuity of supply. Regardless of the type of renewable energy technology employed, back-up generation and interconnection are required to ensure security of supply.

4.2.3 Project Need

Stakeholders outlined a broadly positive and supportive attitude towards the Codling Wind Park project and its role in terms of climate action and decarbonising Ireland's energy supply. Some respondents cited broad support for the need for the project but wanted assurances it would be delivered in an environmentally sensitive way which would enhance biodiversity and not be at the expense of the environment.

Consultees expressed their support for offshore wind energy in Ireland, and their eagerness for this project to progress, as long as benefits to the local communities are delivered. Some stakeholders also outlined their interest in the wider potential for offshore wind in Ireland, including floating offshore wind in the future. Some stakeholders suggested that with the backing of government this project would seem less like a 'leap of faith' and more a positive step forward.

Respondents who described themselves as 'wind farm positive' outlined their belief that wind energy is good for society, but sought assurance on the height, scale, and location, impacts on local wildlife, and the combined visual and environmental impacts of multiple wind farm projects in the area.

Some respondents stated that the Codling project could be minimally intrusive and that the upside of the project in terms of clean energy was significant. Respondents outlined the need to protect local nature and wildlife.

4.2.3.1 Project Team Response to Project Need

We thank respondents for recognising the important role that Codling Wind Park will play in meeting Ireland's 2030 targets.

The Codling Wind Park project partners, EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables, have a strong track record of appropriate and environmentally responsible development.

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the project. This will be developed in consultation with stakeholders to ensure their expertise and advice is taken on board as project proposals develop. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and in the Natural Impact Statement (NIS), which form the key supportive information submitted with consent applications. Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued over specific phases since then. More recently the focus has been on building up a good understanding of the baseline environment in relation to the receptors that will be considered in the environmental report. These receptors include, but are not limited to birds, marine mammals, onshore, intertidal and subtidal ecology, fish and shellfish ecology and marine archaeology.

The project team will ensure that the wind park is planned and delivered in the most environmentally sensitive and responsible way.

4.2.4 Project Location

The suitability of the Codling Bank site was queried by some participants who argued there would be more wind in the west of Ireland. Respondents also asked whether Ireland had other suitable locations for renewable assets in terms of tidal and wind energy.

Respondents asked the project team for information on the international best practice for the location of offshore wind parks.

The cumulative impact of this project and other wind farms was noted by respondents as a significant concern. It was stated that the cumulative impact of Codling Wind Park must be considered in the context of proximity to the proposed Dublin Array wind farm.

4.2.4.1.1. Project Team Response to Project Location

The Codling Wind Park site was first identified in 1999 when Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited initiated a search around the whole of the Irish coast for potential offshore wind development sites within Ireland's territorial waters. After careful consideration of the technical, physical and environmental criteria, the area around the Codling Bank was considered a feasible location for the development of an offshore wind project. The Codling Bank site is set in an area approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. With wind speeds of 9.7 m/s at 130 metres above sea level and shallow waters with depths ranging from 10 to 25 metres, the Codling Bank area is well suited to deliver a highly significant renewable energy project.

There is no international standard for distance to shore for offshore wind farms, as there are multiple technical, environmental and economic factors involved in selecting suitable locations and conditions vary in different countries. One important factor is water depth, particularly when using fixed-bottom turbines, which are connected to the seabed. Fixed-bottom turbines can typically only be deployed in water depths of 50-60 metres or less and where the seabed conditions are suitable to secure the foundations. All of the projects proposed for development to meet the Government's 2030 target of 5GW of electricity from offshore wind will use this technology (which is mature and in use all over the world) and all are therefore being developed off the east coast, as the water depths are shallower.

The cumulative impact of the CWP project and any other nearby consented or proposed projects will be examined in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators. The EIAR will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects, which will assess the potential visual impacts of the project in accordance with best practice and current guidance.

4.2.5 Project Components

4.2.5.1 Turbine Technology and Engineering Considerations

Respondents expressed concern about the distance of the Codling Wind Park from the shore. Submissions included questions asking how far the turbines would be from shore; why the wind farm could not be constructed further offshore to reduce the visibility of the turbines; and why floating offshore turbines were not being considered further offshore. Respondents claimed this would be in line with standard EU practice.

Some respondents suggested that turbines of this size are not located in as close proximity to the coastline in any other country, and it was argued that the marine licensing legislation that was used to permit this wind farm should be reviewed. It was suggested that there should be a 25-degree angle of view from Greystones between Dublin Array and the Codling Wind Park. Consultees also asked what direction the turbines would be facing to maximise wind from the Irish Sea.

It was queried how the size of the Codling Wind Park would compare with the largest wind farms in other European countries.

It was noted by respondents that a local campaign group is calling for offshore wind farms to be at least 22km from the shoreline.

Stakeholders queried whether or not the turbines would have navigational safety lights on them which would be lit at night-time. If so, respondents asked how visible these would be from the shore at night. Stakeholders also expressed concern over light pollution at night. Some stakeholders acknowledged the need for night-time safety lights for rescue services, helicopters, and marine navigation.

Concerns regarding the height of the turbines were expressed by stakeholders. Specific questions regarding the proposed heights of the turbines, and whether or not higher blade height meant taller turbines, were asked by respondents. With a proposed maximum height of 320m, concern was outlined by respondents about the height of the turbines above sea level and the impact of the turbines on air traffic, in particular for Dublin Airport. The proposed height ranges of the turbines were described as considerably high by respondents. It was also queried how the final heights of the turbines would be decided.

Concern regarding whether or not the turbines would be anchored to the seabed was voiced by respondents. It was also queried whether there were any modifications the project team could incorporate that would help create reefs at the base of the turbines i.e. modifying structures.

Stakeholders outlined that in the public exhibition it was noted there would be up to 140 turbines, each generating an output of 11 – 16 MW. The scale of the project was queried and how the project team would decide on the final number of turbines, the capacity of each, and their distribution on the seabed. With regard to the distribution of the turbines, it was queried how many of the turbines would be placed within the site area outlined during the consultation and what final shape the wind farm would take.

Stakeholders queried why the project team had not considered floating offshore turbines for the Codling Wind Park. It was claimed that it is standard EU practice to construct offshore turbines on floating platforms further out to sea. It was also suggested by respondents that floating turbines could be easier to dismantle and reuse for parts than fixed turbines. Consultees asked whether it would be possible for floating offshore wind farms and fixed foundation wind farms to be developed at the same time, i.e. would it be possible to explore and develop wind farms on both the east and west coasts of Ireland.

It was suggested by respondents that other wind farm projects employing floating platforms have been initiated in Scotland and Portugal, with 18 projects worldwide, and that the technology is moving quickly. Stakeholders described the floating turbine technology as a ‘game changer’.

It was queried by respondents whether it would be possible and economically or logistically feasible to use a wind farm design with two types of turbine i.e. rows of 250m tall turbines close to the shore, and turbines at a maximum height of 320m further offshore.

4.2.5.1.1. Project Team Response to Turbine Technology and Engineering Considerations

We thank respondents for their considered feedback and the queries on technical and engineering considerations.

While a final output for Codling Wind Park cannot be determined at this early stage, a potential generating output of 1.5GW may be feasible. A final output is dependent upon a wide range of factors including the grid connection offer (i.e. how much power the grid can accommodate) and the results of the environmental and technical studies and investigations.

A 1.5GW project would involve between 100 and 140 turbines depending on the turbine technology type employed, with tip heights ranging from 250 metres to 320 metres.

Wind turbines rotate to face the prevailing wind. According to Met Éireann, the prevailing wind direction in the Irish Sea is between south and west.

Fixed-foundation wind farms can be developed in sea depths of 50-60 metres which influences the distance turbines can be placed from the shore. Floating technology is at an early commercial stage with a number of demonstration projects being advanced around the world. This technology cannot deliver at the scale required in time to contribute towards our 2030 targets. For this decade the most effective way to achieve large volumes of wind energy at the lowest possible cost to the consumer is through fixed-bottom offshore wind which is a proven technology. Over the longer term, both fixed-foundation and floating offshore wind energy will be required if Ireland is to become carbon neutral by 2050.

There are more than 60+ offshore wind energy projects within 22kms distance from shore in European waters. An additional 16 projects have received planning permission recently. Some countries have put in place distance-to-shore restrictions but it is important to understand that their seabeds are much shallower.

Irish and international aviation regulators require structures of certain heights to have lights to ensure the safety of passing air traffic. Turbine lighting is also required for marine navigational safety. The lighting and marking requirement for the project will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders to ensure compliance with relevant guidance.

The EIAR will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) in accordance with best practice and current guidance. This will include assessment of lighting requirements including at night-time. Many offshore developments use infra-red lighting in the interests of public amenity, this being barely perceptible to the human eye. Radar technology is also being used on some developments. The project team will investigate this further as part of the project design. The EIAR will also include an assessment of the project on aviation receptors. This will provide an understanding of potential impacts and any mitigation, as required.

The prevailing weather conditions also affect the visibility of safety lighting from the shore.

For visual amenity reasons, most wind farms employ one type of turbine technology.

4.2.5.2 Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure

Respondents questioned other technical aspects of the offshore infrastructure, with particular focus on the type of foundations used in the wind farm; the cable interconnector types; the cable voltages; and the land connection points. Respondents asked how close to land the offshore substation would be located. Consultees asked the project team to provide more detail about the offshore substations and why they are needed. Some respondents claimed that up until this point they were unaware there was a need for offshore substations. It was claimed by respondents that there was a lack of information regarding the cabling routes in the public consultation. Consultees also questioned whether the onshore cabling would be part of the project and owned by the developer. Respondents also asked about the planned next steps for identifying the onshore cable routes and the location of the onshore substation.

Respondents asked the team to provide more information on some technical aspects of the project i.e. cable interconnector types, cable voltages, land connection point and foundation types. Respondents also asked the project team about the planned next steps for identifying the onshore cable routes and substation location.

Submissions included queries asking the project team to further explain the onshore infrastructure associated with the project. Stakeholders asked where the landfall locations and onshore grid connections would be located. Respondents asked what would be involved in the onshore work regarding the operations and maintenance base, and queries around where these buildings would be located were raised. Stakeholders queried what the deciding factors in selecting the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base would be and who the key stakeholders in this decision would be. Consultees also queried when the O&M base would be selected.

Support for Wicklow port to be considered as a potential O&M base for the project was offered by some consultees. It was suggested by consultees that Wicklow port has plenty of room for assembly, has good access with the new port road and that berthing areas for smaller boats would be available in other areas. It was also noted that Wicklow harbour is open all year round.

Consultees described their eagerness to see the necessary investment and upgrade works in the area to happen. It was also stated by stakeholders that there is an empty facility in the Greystones harbour which could work for the project.

4.2.5.2.1. Project Team Response to Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure

We thank respondents for their feedback and queries on the project infrastructure.

The main components of an offshore wind farm are the wind turbines, subsea and underground cables, and the substations (offshore and onshore). Wind turbines harness the power of the wind and convert the energy into electricity. The electricity produced by the turbines is then transferred through cable arrangements to an offshore substation. Transformers housed in the offshore substation will increase the voltage for delivery of the power to shore via export submarine cables. From there, the electrical power is transferred using underground cables via an existing or new onshore substation to the grid.

An operations and maintenance facility will also be located locally to manage and service the wind farm. A number of local options are currently under consideration and further details on site identification and selection for this facility will be provided by the project team once available. The operations and maintenance facility will provide employment for approximately 70 people.

The detailed studies and site investigation currently underway for the project will help us to understand the ground conditions to inform turbine foundation design. The cable technology, the landfall points, the substation location and grid connection point are not yet known and require detailed environmental and engineering studies. Technical studies and discussions with EirGrid are underway to determine the most appropriate connection point(s), and as such, currently there are a number of different connection options and grid routes under examination. The project team will share further information when it is available as part of future consultations. It is not possible to state at this stage at what distance from shore the offshore substation would be located but it will be located within the offshore wind farm area which is located 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast.

The construction and operation of any onshore facilities will be assessed in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will be prepared by environmental specialists as part of the planning application.

4.2.5.3 *Irish Grid Capacity and Project Energy Output*

The suitability of the Irish grid, in terms of capacity, for the power that would be generated from Codling Wind Park was queried by respondents. Consultees asked how the Irish grid would be able to remain stable and cost-effective for consumers with the extra wind energy coming into it. Respondents stated that the grid currently consumes 6GW and questioned whether the target of 5GW of energy from offshore wind by 2030 was realistic, given the capacity of the Irish electricity grid. It was also queried whether much of the energy generated by Codling Wind Park would be exported.

Respondents queried the likelihood of getting a grid connection offer from EirGrid for 1.5GW. Respondents outlined that the Irish grid could not handle this much extra capacity onto the transmission system, even if it was spread out over time on a phased basis and if multiple connection points were used.

Respondents raised questions over the total energy output of the Codling Wind Park project. It was queried by stakeholders why the original project design included a target of 2.1GW, but the new design is now only 900MW to 1500MW. Respondents also questioned whether or not this type of electricity would be expensive to consumers.

4.2.5.3.1. *Project Team Response to Irish Grid Capacity and Project Energy Output*

EirGrid has a number of initiatives and programmes under way to ensure that Ireland can meet its energy targets and decarbonise the economy in a cost-effective manner for all stakeholders, both customers and generators. Having sufficient grid capacity is a necessary pre-requisite to meeting the 2030 targets.

Codling Wind Park is a combination of what was initially proposed as two projects, with a total project area of approximately 125 km².

- The combined maximum total energy output of both projects was up to 2.1 GW
- The combined total number of wind turbines across both projects was up to 440

Significant advances in wind turbine generator technology, combined with considerable reductions in the cost of energy from offshore wind, means that Codling can now be developed as one project with a greatly reduced number of wind turbine generators while optimising the renewable electricity production from the site.

The current expectation and design for the offshore part of the wind farm is

- A total installed capacity of between 900 megawatts (MW) and 1,500 megawatts (MW)
- Maximum number of 140 turbines across 125 square km site.

All electricity generated by Codling Wind Park will be supplied to the Irish electricity grid.

4.2.5.4 Construction

Respondents outlined some queries with regards to the construction of the wind farm, including the types of foundations that would be used, where the turbines would be constructed and how long the construction would take.

Concern over construction marine traffic was outlined by stakeholders, as well as queries over where the site would live dock. Consultees also questioned the costs involved in the construction of Codling Wind Park.

Respondents asked the project team to outline the pollution risks associated during construction of the wind farm. Respondents highlighted the impact the development of the Greystones Harbour and Marina had on the surrounding beaches and queried the potential impact of this project on the area.

4.2.5.4.1. Project Team Response to Construction

The detailed studies and site investigations underway will help us to understand the environmental conditions which will inform turbine foundation design and the wind farm layout arrangement (i.e the array) of the wind park.

All impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project will be assessed in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) that will be prepared by environmental specialists in support of the planning application.

Codling Wind Park represents one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade and will have major economic benefits for the national and regional economies. These will include more than 1,000 jobs during construction, approximately 70 new, full-time local jobs during the operation, and opportunities for local ports and quayside facilities during construction and for operations and maintenance purposes. Ultimately, Codling Wind Park will deliver benefits for all Irish consumers through supplying low-cost, clean electricity.

4.2.5.5 Operation

Questions regarding when the wind farm would be operational, as well as whether Codling Wind Park was being rolled out on the same timeline as other projects in the area, were asked by respondents.

With regard to the maintenance of the offshore wind farm, respondents questioned whether these capabilities could be built up in Ireland, or whether the partners' own teams would be brought in to do this.

4.2.5.5.1. Project Team Response to Operation

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken, to further inform the project development process. The project aim is to submit onshore and offshore planning applications to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, and to submit a single Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in support of these applications. Consultation and engagement will form an important part of both processes, and we will hold three phases of public consultation – of which this is the first – over the next 12 to 15 months. Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

The project team, in undertaking its environmental assessments, will consider the timelines associated with other planned projects in the Irish Sea. The cumulative impact of our project and any other nearby consented or proposed projects will be examined in detail in our EIAR and NIS, in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators.

Approximately 70 full-time jobs will be provided during the operational phase of the wind park. Training, upskilling and development opportunities will be provided for the local workforce. It is hoped that many of the available positions will be filled locally which will deliver a positive economic impact to the regional economy.

4.2.5.6 Decommissioning

The decommissioning process and removal of the turbines was outlined as a concern in submissions. Stakeholders asked how long the lifespan of the turbines would be; what would happen to the wind farm and turbines in 25-30 years' time; how the project team would dispose of the turbines upon decommissioning; and whether the turbines would have to be replaced after 25-30 years.

Respondents outlined concerns around the potential for abandoned engineering and cited previous local examples. It was outlined by respondents that once the economic life of the wind farm has ended, the cost of dismantling fixed turbines and the subsequent restoration of sand banks could be seen as prohibitive. Fears surrounding the abandoning of the wind farm were raised, and it was questioned who would pay for the removal of the assets in the case the owner abandoned the site, went bankrupt or sold their assets. It was queried whether liability would be vested in any future owner of the site.

4.2.5.6.1. Project Team Response to Decommissioning

The average assumed operational lifetime of an offshore wind farm is 25 years. The planning permission will confirm the operation period and will contain conditions for the decommissioning phase. Typically, such conditions place legally binding requirements on the wind park owner, including making financial provision for the decommissioning phase. The conditions are fully transferable to any new owner.

About 85 percent of turbine component materials—such as steel, copper wire, electronics, and gearing—can be recycled or reused. The blades are made of fiberglass (a composite material) to be lightweight for efficiency yet still durable enough to withstand storms.

4.2.6 Environmental Considerations

Consultees expressed a desire for the project to be conducted in an environmentally sensitive way and in a way that enhances biodiversity. Some respondents outlined general concern about the impact of the project on the environment and the issues surrounding construction and operation of the wind farm. Stakeholders voiced concern about the possible environmental sensitivities around Codling and highlighted that the invasive construction period was of particular concern.

Questions surrounding how the team would ensure the nature conservation objectives of the project would be met and upheld during construction and operation of the wind farm, were posed by respondents. It was noted the team would need to invest in and produce a comprehensive and robust EIAR. Stakeholders asked the project team what environmental surveys had taken place to date and for more information regarding the future studies that will be undertaken. Respondents queried why the environmental assessment had not already been completed given the project has been in progress for over 15 years.

4.2.6.1.1. Project Team Response to Environmental Considerations

We thank respondents for their interest in the development of the Codling Wind Park project and their concern for the environment. The project partners, EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables,have a strong track record of appropriate and environmentally responsible development.

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued over specific phases since then. More recently the focus has been on building up a good understanding of the baseline environment in relation to the receptors that will be considered in the environmental report. These receptors include birds, marine mammals, fish populations and marine archaeology.

With regards to nature conservation designations, the project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. The NIS will also be submitted in the support of the application for development consent.

The project team will ensure that the wind park is planned and delivered in the most environmentally sensitive and responsible way in consultation with all interested stakeholders.

4.2.6.2 Marine Water Quality and Fish / Shellfish Ecology

Submissions included queries regarding the pollution risks of the project during construction. Respondents asked what mitigating measures the project team was taking to protect fish and shellfish habitats.

Consultees outlined interest in the potential opportunities for developing oyster beds around the turbine bases. An Irish organisation examining North Sea wind farms for oyster restoration projects outlined support for the project and highlighted the potential for collaboration between the projects. It was noted the organisation was looking to establish a research area together with a wind farm. The group outlined the need to establish long-term plans to restore Ireland's populations of oyster, kelp and mussel reefs, essential habitats that are currently depleted. The community benefits associated with restoring these populations, including cleaner water and higher fishing yields, were highlighted by the group. Stakeholders asked if there were any modifying structures that could be incorporated within the turbine infrastructure to help create reefs. Respondents expressed an understanding that oysters used to be very important off the coast of Wicklow but that they were wiped out, and that a 'nature inclusive approach' to the project would be great to see.

Respondents also outlined interest in information about the potential reefs that may be developed on the Codling Bank.

With regard to marine biodiversity, concern was raised specifically with regard to the associated noise pollution and vibrations, deterring fish from the area, as well as the magnetic effects on fish. Queries over whether the underwater electricity cables would affect sea life with regards to species with electro-magnetic sensitives and those which rely on communication systems were raised. Stakeholders also asked the project team to consider undertaking a full survey and thorough research into the wealth of elasmobranch species of fish in these areas. Due to concern about the impact of the project on sea life, respondents queried what the project team would be doing to minimise the effects on fish and the established sea-bed environment during the surveying and construction phases.

4.2.6.2.1. Project Team Response to Marine Water Quality and Fish / Shellfish Ecology

Codling Wind Park recognises the need for early engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including all maritime interest groups.

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

The project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. The NIS will also be submitted in the support of the application for development consent.

Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued over specific phases since then to build up a good understanding of the baseline environment including for birds, marine mammals, fish and shellfish populations and marine archaeology.

We will also be carrying out surveys to determine the ecology on and in the seabed across the subtidal and intertidal areas.

The potential for electromagnetic field (EMF) effects will be assessed in the EIAR by qualified specialists in order to understand and interpret the potential for interactions of these emissions with electro and magneto sensitive marine species present.

The potential effects of underwater noise on marine ecology, including fish and marine mammal species will also be assessed and detailed underwater modelling will be undertaken to inform assessments.

The project team is open to exploring all possible collaborations with environmental groups involved in research and habitat creation.

The project team will ensure that the wind park is planned and delivered in the most environmentally sensitive and responsible way, in consultation with all interested stakeholders. A fisheries liaison team has been appointed and is currently engaging with industry stakeholders and the local fishing community. Frequent engagement with the fishing community will continue through the project lifecycle, especially for the preparation and execution of marine surveys. In addition, the project's Community Liaison Officer is engaging regularly with all local coastal communities and will continue to do so throughout these activities.

4.2.6.3 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts

Stakeholders highlighted concerns about the visual impact of Codling Wind Park from areas along the coast. The height of the turbines was voiced as a concern by respondents. At roughly 300m high respondents compared the maximum turbine heights to Irish landmarks to visualise the impact, e.g. the Sugarloaf Mountain. The distance from the shore was questioned by respondents who asked why the turbines could not be placed further offshore, to reduce the impact of the visibility of the turbines.

With regard to the photomontages available during the virtual exhibition, respondents outlined some issues. It was suggested that the Kilcoole / Greystones visual was not realistic, and that the visual impact from Newcastle and Kilcoole Beach was not shown in the photomontage gallery. Respondents highlighted that it would be interesting to have higher vantage points, with sea views in Wicklow, included in the photomontages to highlight the effects of the visual impact with height. As well as this, respondents queried whether a cumulative visual impact assessment with other potential offshore wind farms adjacent to the Codling Wind Park would be undertaken.

Respondents outlined some confusion about the Dublin Array and the Codling Wind Park and outlined that the combined visual impact of both projects would be detrimental to the Bray seascape.

It was queried whether photomontages in the next phase of public consultation would reflect the combined impact of Codling Wind Park, as well as other wind farms in the area. It was noted that there is some concern about the cumulative visual impact of the two projects on Bray's seascape. Stakeholders also queried if there was sufficient space between Dublin Array and Codling Wind Park, with the hope there wouldn't be a wall of turbines from Kish to Wicklow. It was suggested by stakeholders that the visual impact of the Codling Wind Park would need to be assessed in combination with the Dublin Array project. Concerns about the visual impact from Greystones was outlined in submissions and it was suggested by stakeholders that the people of Greystones would want something that 'looks good'.

Consultees expressed concern over the public's negative perception of the visual impact of the wind farm. As Ireland 'can't afford not to do renewables' it was suggested by stakeholders that this narrative was dangerous as it can lead to misinformation and scaremongering.

Respondents voiced concerns about the potential light pollution of the turbines if they are lit up at night and asked how visible they would be from shore. The importance of safety navigational lighting on the turbines for helicopters and rescue services was outlined, but stakeholders questioned having night-time, red flashing lights. It was suggested that the turbines are located in a busy transport route which could cause air-traffic problems.

The visual impact was described by some stakeholders as something that would outweigh the benefits of the wind farm in this location. Some stakeholders expressed concern that the visual impact of the wind park would be intrusive and could potentially devalue their property. Compensation for the perceived negative visual impact of the project was sought by some respondents who stated that their sea view would be impeded if the project goes ahead.

Stakeholders suggested that the sea views which are a short distance from a major European Capital City should be protected. It was suggested that other areas further down the coast should be looked at, as the negative aspects of the project would not impact on as many people.

It was noted that the proposed East Coast Greenway would likely transform the local economies of Greystones and Wicklow through increased tourism. As well as the tourism potential, the project could help regenerate important coastal habitats and boost biodiversity. If the Greenway and the wind farm were built in conjunction with one another, some respondents suggested that they could together have a positive, transformative impact on the area.

4.2.6.3.1. Project Team Response to Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

The EIAR will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects in accordance with best practice and current guidance. This will include assessment of safety lighting requirements.

Indicative photomontages showing what the turbines could look like from nine different viewing points along the east coast were made available as part of the Phase 1 online exhibition. The photomontages remain available to view on the www.codlingwindpark.ie website. Updated photomontages, informed by the offshore surveys and assessments currently taking place as part of the EIA process, will be made available during Phase 2 of public consultation. These will reflect the anticipated configuration and height of the turbines at that stage. The same will apply during Phase 3.

The cumulative impact of the CWP project and any other nearby consented or proposed projects will be examined in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), including consideration of SLVIA, in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators.

4.2.6.4 Marine Geology / Coastal Erosion

The importance of sand banks in protecting the coast was described by stakeholders. Respondents stated that sand banks are natural buffers against coastal erosion and that fixed offshore turbines can contribute to the disruption of sand banks.

The impacts of construction and maintenance of the wind farm on sand banks was outlined by stakeholders as a strong concern. It was argued that although climate action is important, the project could cause other negative environmental impacts on the coasts including scouring and sediment displacement, by placing turbines on these naturally formed sand banks. Consultees queried whether the proximity of the turbines to shore would have an increased negative impact on the environment and asked the project team to outline the potential impact of the turbines at this distance.

The sediment impact on beaches in the area was described by respondents as already evident, and with construction of up to 140 offshore turbines, it was likely to become even more of a concern. It was outlined there would likely be an environmental price to pay due to the project causing disruption to sand banks. Stakeholders asked the project team how they could guarantee the Codling sand bank would not be destroyed during the construction process. The scouring effects around the monopiles caused by strong tidal currents were also highlighted as a concern. Respondents highlighted specific interest in providing mitigation / scouring protection on a significant number of turbines.

Stakeholders asked for an explanation of the project process with regards to the environmental assessments indicating potential problems. It was asked at what point could decisions on the impacts be made and whether the project team would be able to react. Stakeholders also outlined interest in the evidence for the

impacts of fast currents on the wind farm. Queries over why the turbines could not be placed further offshore to protect sand banks and marine habitats were raised.

Concern for the impact of coastal and tidal erosion during construction, maintenance and running of the wind farm, as well as the impact of the wind park on the Codling Bank, were highlighted as major concerns for stakeholders. It was stated that coastal erosion is already an issue from Wicklow town north along the railway line.

4.2.6.5 Project Team Response to Marine Geology / Coastal Erosion

Given the considerable distance from shore (13-22kms), it is not anticipated that the project will have any impact on coastal erosion. However, potential impacts on coastal processes, including sediment transport, will be assessed within the EIAR, supported by detailed coastal processes modelling. As part of the EIAR, the project will also consider any mitigation and monitoring required.

Likewise, the EIA process will include surveys to understand the metocean conditions, both current and future, which will inform our understanding of the scour potential and identify any necessary mitigations. The project will be designed to minimise the risk of scour.

We will be conducting several survey campaigns over the coming years, starting in early 2021.

The first are non-intrusive geophysical surveys, the purpose of which is to describe the physical features of the seabed which includes measuring water depth, definition of seabed structures (e.g. sand waves), identifying sediment type and distribution (sand, mud, gravel, rock) both on and below the seabed.

The second are geotechnical surveys, whereby samples of the seabed are collected and returned to the vessel for analysis. These include grab / core sampling, boreholes and cone penetration testing (CPT).

Metocean surveys will also be carried out to gain an understanding of the meteorological and oceanographic conditions that exist on Codling Bank.

4.2.6.6 Ornithology

Concerns were raised with regards to local bird populations related to local bird habitats; feeding areas; foraging bird species; and the movement of birds in and out of the area. Respondents asked what mitigating measures would be implemented to protect habitats for birds, to eliminate the negative impact on local bird species.

Bird strikes, on already declining sea bird and migratory bird populations, were outlined as a major concern for stakeholders. Respondents asked what measures would be taken to protect birds from the turning turbine blades. It was noted the team should consider painting the turbines black, so the birds don't fly into them. Stakeholders queried the collision risk modelling that would be used by the project team. Respondents outlined concern for the bird displacement resulting from the wind park.

With regard to ornithological surveying, respondents referred to the importance of using a consistent methodology in all bird surveys. It was also suggested by respondents that the presentation of the results of the surveys is critical to the reports. Consultees questioned why there was a gap in surveying from January 2020 to May 2020 and, generally, what the frequency of bird surveying is presently. Stakeholders asked what methodology Codling is using for observing birds at sea and along the coast. Queries surrounding the methodologies used in boat-based and digital-based surveys were also raised by respondents. Stakeholders asked the project team what coastal migration surveys are being carried out, including in Wicklow, Bray and Kilmichael Point. The importance of continuing surveys for the full year of 2021 was suggested by stakeholders. Respondents also maintained that the behaviour of birds is as important in terms of assessment as their absence or presence. Respondents discussed the different behaviours of birds in relation to foraging and migration and it was also noted that some species fly at different heights depending on their activity, which is something that needs to be examined closely with regard to the height of the turbines.

Support for the need for renewable energy was shown by respondents, however due to the scale of the wind park, concern for the negative impacts on the movements of birds was voiced. It was queried how this could be mitigated. Respondents raised queries on how returning bird species could be assessed and monitored. It was queried how the project team would ensure important bird life, including the protected tern colony along the Wicklow coast, would be protected if this project goes head, during both construction and operation. Consultees asked the project team for details on the migration of geese on the east coast and queried the potential impact the wind farm would have on these migrating birds.

Specific concern for local tern colonies was raised by respondents. The Kilcoole Bird Sanctuary and its nesting tern populations were of considerable concern to stakeholders. Queries over why the turbines could not be placed further offshore to protect Ireland's endangered curlew populations were raised by respondents. It was also noted by respondents that a Brown Booby was first recorded in Ireland off the coast of Greystones recently. These birds and other important Irish biodiversity should be protected and observed during construction and operation of the wind farm.

4.2.6.7 *Project Team Response to Ornithology*

We thank respondents for their feedback in relation to ornithology. Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project., including on ornithological species. The results from these assessments will be reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. Both the EIAR and NIS will be submitted in the support of the application for development consent.

We are currently undertaking baseline bird surveys and assessments within the study area, to inform the EIAR and NIS. Terrestrial ornithological surveys have been ongoing since Q1 2020. These surveys capture the numbers, distributions and behaviours of bird species present within the landfall survey areas. These surveys will continue into 2021, forming key baseline information to inform the EIAR. Similarly, we have completed aerial and boat-based surveys over the project site since early 2020, collecting baseline bird and marine mammal data. We will be conducting further survey campaigns over the coming years. Where potential impacts are identified, all appropriate avoidance and mitigating measures will be employed to protect habitats for birds, and to remove any negative impact on local bird species wherever possible.

4.2.6.8 *Marine Mammals*

Local residents of Greystones voiced concern on the impact of the project on Ireland's marine mammal populations, including fin whales, pilot whales, basking sharks, dolphins and porpoises. It was outlined these very rare and often deep oceanic animals are an important part of Ireland's marine biodiversity and should be protected.

4.2.6.9 *Project Team Response to Marine Mammals*

We are currently undertaking baseline marine mammal surveys within the study area, to understand the baseline environment with respect to marine mammal species.

The potential impacts of the project on marine mammal species will be assessed and reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. Both documents will be prepared by environmental specialists and submitted in support of the application for development consent.

The potential impact of underwater noise generated by the construction of the offshore wind farm on marine mammals, seabirds, fish and other marine fauna will be assessed within the EIAR and NIS, supported by detailed underwater noise modelling studies.

4.2.6.10 Commercial Fisheries

Members of the local fishing industry raised concerns about any negative impact on fish catch and their business livelihood, during construction or operation of the wind park.

Local fishers expressed concern for the elasmobranch species of fish, with regard to water borne particles and sediment deterring species from the area. Respondents asked whether or not the project team could guarantee that fish and shellfish stocks would not be depleted or strongly impacted by the presence of the turbines.

Concerns about access to the water during surveying and construction; damage to established seabed environments, nurseries and pupping areas; water borne particles /sediment deterring species from the areas; noise and vibrations deterring fish from the area; and the magnetic effects on fish were outlined by respondents.

It was claimed by some stakeholders that the Irish Sea is struggling due to overfishing. Stakeholders suggested that fishers could potentially transfer to the offshore industry for a period to give the area an opportunity for replenishment of its natural stocks.

Stakeholders outlined concern over the destruction and disturbance of the seabed due to establishing undersea cables and queried how these undersea cables would be removed in the future. Members of the local boating and angling industry questioned whether their businesses would be affected by any resulting damage to established seabed environments, nurseries, and pupping areas.

4.2.6.11 Project Team Response to Commercial Fisheries

We thank respondents for their feedback in relation to fisheries. The project team understands the concerns of this important group and recognises the importance of early and ongoing engagement with the fishing community.

A team of Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLOs) has been appointed and is currently engaging with industry stakeholders and the local fishing community. We want to work with the fishing industry to minimise, wherever possible, any negative impact on fishing activity from wind farms that might result in a loss of earnings. Engagement is already under way with representatives of the fishing industry to discuss how this can best be achieved and what would be the best approach in situations where fishermen face a loss of income due to the development or operation of a wind farm.

In principle, there is no reason why fishing activity cannot co-exist with offshore wind farms. Following construction of the project there will be no exclusions in relation to fishing activity and fishing continues in the vicinity of offshore wind farms in many locations around the world. Cooperative engagement is needed to promote co-existence and we are committed to this.

A Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy will be prepared as part of the discharge of conditions of planning permission (if granted). This strategy will be developed and agreed with local fishing interests and will identify reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts.

4.2.6.12 Marine Leisure and Shipping

Queries about the impacts of the project on recreational water sports were voiced by respondents. The impact of the turbines on shipping lanes was also outlined by respondents. Some stakeholders recommended that the project team engage with all sailing clubs between Howth and Arklow during the next public consultation.

4.2.6.13 Project Team Response to Marine Leisure and Shipping

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), shipping and navigation will be assessed and a Navigation Risk Assessment conducted by independent specialists. This will identify any potential navigational risks associated with the construction and operation of the wind farm and set out any necessary mitigation measures.

Consultation with local marine users will also form an important part of the EIA process, with all feedback informing our EIAR.

A DCCAE (2017) Guidance provides an indicative list of impacts that should be considered for marine navigation (including recreational). These include allision risk (surface), displacement and collision risk. Following the results of the baseline assessment and based on experience of other marine navigation assessments, the following impacts have also been identified:

- Reduced access to local ports; and
- Anchor interaction with subsea structures.

The potential navigation impacts have been considered and the proposed mitigation measures are summarised in the Foreshore Licence Application – Supporting Information (Table 4.5).

Our Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLOs) will liaise with all marine stakeholders to ensure that the surveys are carried out in full compliance with the Foreshore Licence and best practice. During site investigations and construction activities temporary exclusion or safe passage zones for vessels are likely. Following construction of the wind farm, no exclusion or safe passage zones are proposed.

4.2.7 Community Benefit

Respondents welcomed the community benefit fund, stating that it would be very beneficial.

There was significant interest from respondents with regard to local funding opportunities and potential investment in local areas. Grants for local organisations and donations to local charities were highlighted as useful benefits by respondents. Stakeholders asked how local voluntary and sporting organisations could apply to the Codling community benefit fund and when this would be open for applications. Respondents suggested that, due to the private investor element of the project, a significant percentage of company profits should be given to local environmental projects.

Submissions also outlined that it would be beneficial for Codling to be involved in a Community Sensory Project and a project to update the Greystones Dart Station with planting and visual aids. Respondents also queried how the local area and communities were being defined and which areas and communities would be eligible for the community benefit fund i.e. all communities along the east coast or just Wicklow. Stakeholders outlined their desire for the benefits of the project to be spread out for the whole district, including for the likes of Kilcoole. Other stakeholders expressed their hope that Greystones would be a hub for activity and jobs. Consultees expressed a strong interest in the potential benefits to Wicklow harbour due to the Codling Wind Park.

There was significant interest in the possibility of collaboration between the project team and some local organisations and groups.

Stakeholders and members of the local industry outlined their desire to engage with Codling on a local level and communicate with the team in order to share knowledge and experience. As members of the local community, these stakeholders highlighted their desire for an open dialogue, and to compete and bid for opportunities presented by the project.

Consultees expressed their desire to achieve benefits for the local towns and establish a connection with the wind farms in their area. Respondents expressed that it is important for people to see the benefits to their local communities. Community benefit on both a local and national scale was described as important to stakeholders. Local members of the shipping industry in Wicklow outlined their support for the project and outlined their eagerness to see the benefits coming to Wicklow.

The eco-tourism potential for the area was highlighted as a significant possible benefit. Respondents asked whether it would be possible to go out and visit the turbines. It was noted that an interpretive / visitor centre in Greystones could ensure local benefits, establish a connection between the project and the local community, and offset the visual impact. The mutual benefit of an interpretive centre was outlined by respondents and the example of the Brighton interpretive centre was used to support this point.

The proposed East Coast Greenway was outlined as another project that could transform the local economies from Greystones to Wicklow town, through tourism. Respondents highlighted that the Greenway and Codling Wind Park could together have a transformative impact on the area. There were submissions both seeking and rejecting the potential for eco-tourism in the area.

The potential for the project to create local jobs and boost the local economy was cited by respondents. The importance of providing jobs and apprenticeships, and for the project to act as a place for knowledge transfer, was expressed by respondents. Consultees outlined that the project was a great opportunity for young people going through the local education system. It was also suggested the project could create the potential for the development of a local industrial estate, linked to the project. Respondents queried the number of jobs the project estimated it would provide, as well as queries about the location of the project office.

It was highlighted by stakeholders that an apprenticeship programme for local young people could bring significant benefits to the local communities. Respondents raised questions about the potential for upskilling the local workforce so that they could work on the O&M base. It was also suggested by stakeholders that marine ecology training would be beneficial for the local industry. The social responsibilities associated with constructing a project like this was also raised by respondents. It was highlighted by respondents that the

two companies in joint venture to develop Codling Wind Park have a good track record of community gain in other projects, and that the potential for benefits to local communities due to Codling seemed promising.

Respondents asked whether or not their electricity costs would be reduced as a result of this project.

The environmental benefits associated with the construction of a project such as this, including regeneration of kelp forests, cleaner water, and higher fishing yields, were also highlighted by stakeholders as benefits to the local communities. Consultees expressed their eagerness for the project to progress as long as the local benefits would be delivered. Support and excitement were expressed by respondents who described the project as a great opportunity not only for clean, green energy but also for community gain.

4.2.7.1 Project Team Response to Community Benefit

There will be a multi-million Euro community benefit fund associated with the project and it will run for a minimum of 15 years. The fund will be established for the benefit of the communities closest to the project, including for local marine stakeholders.

Some of the details of the community benefit fund – including the overall value of it – will be set out by Government as part of the terms and conditions of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme, or RESS, which are expected to be published later this year.

There will also be flexibility for individual projects to work with local communities to identify the best way of managing it to suit local needs. Codling intends to create opportunities for local communities to input into the shaping of the fund through an extensive consultation process.

We will work in partnership with local communities to ensure transparency, fairness, and maximum community participation in how the fund is accessed and managed. Our ambition is to create a legacy for local communities and the best way of doing this is by working in partnership.

4.2.8 Supply Chain Opportunities

Stakeholders positively responded to the potential opportunities for local businesses to supply both onshore and offshore services to the project. Respondents noted their interest in the potential business opportunities with the Codling Wind Park project, including marine surveying and drone footage opportunities. Supporting local businesses was described as a priority for stakeholders, as well as ensuring long-term relationships. It was noted by stakeholders that local businesses could act as support for the project when and if required. Respondents left details of their businesses in the hope of securing business opportunities with the project. It was asked by respondents how businesses could register as suppliers of services to the project. As it has been outlined that local businesses will be important to the project, questions over whether or not companies had to be registered in Ireland to be categorised as local were asked by stakeholders. Stakeholders outlined the desire to be contacted during the project process so they would be prepared for opportunities. The opportunity to compete and bid for roles within the project was outlined as important for stakeholders. Consultees asked about the supply chain analysis the Codling project team have already undertaken and will have to undertake over the next few phases of the project.

With regard to the local supply chain, respondents highlighted that in previous experience with other offshore wind farm projects, despite promises of supporting local supply chains, major contractors were often chosen. Queries regarding whether or not the Codling project team would take this feedback on board were raised. It was also queried by respondents whether the Codling Wind Park project team would actively support Irish suppliers ensuring them access to Tier 1 and 2 appointed contractors (including all EPCI contractors) through introductions, supplier open days and 'Meet the contractors & subcontractor' events.

4.2.8.1.1. Project Team Response to Supply Chain Opportunities

The benefits of offshore renewable energy are many: decarbonising our economy; preserving and enhancing our green image internationally; developing a significant new industry for Ireland with multiple economic benefits, including new jobs, infrastructure and the development of a local supply chain.

The local coastal areas in proximity to offshore projects will benefit economically in the short, medium and long term. Whilst we can't put figures on this yet, it is anticipated that more than 1,000 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the project, with 70 full-time, long-term jobs during operations. Other benefits that are likely to arise from Codling include the potential upgrade of an existing port facility or facilities and the development of an operations and maintenance base – and associated facilities – on the east coast.

The CWP project is committed to supporting the development of a local supply chain through all stages of the project. This will involve working in partnership with our main contractors on the various phases of the project, as well as with local training and skills agencies and education providers. Through this collaboration, we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible on the CWP project, while also helping to create a sustainable local supply chain for the offshore industry in Ireland into the future.

4.2.9 Project Development Process

Stakeholders raised questions about the overall project timeline, including when the project would be operational. Stakeholders queried the sequencing of the delivery of the east coast offshore wind energy projects and whether Codling Wind Park would be constructed first.

Consultees queried whether the project team were facing any legislative barriers in the project, including the Marine Area Planning (MAP, formerly Marine Planning and Development Management, or MPDM) bill. Respondents also asked what support from the Government would be needed to ensure the project's success. It was also queried whether the project team had had discussions with Wicklow County Council about the project requirements. Stakeholders were eager to understand any issues associated with the project and highlighted that there was no point in having high ambitions if the mechanisms for delivery were not there. Stakeholders outlined that the RESS offshore auction was likely to be another challenge.

In relation to the next steps, stakeholders asked the project team what these would be in terms of identifying onshore cable routes and substation locations.

4.2.9.1.1. Project Team Response to Project Development Process

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken. The project team's aim is to submit onshore and offshore planning applications to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, and to submit a single EIA report in support of these applications. Consultation and engagement will form an important part of both of these processes, and we will be holding two further phases of public consultation over the next 12 to 15 months.

In order to proceed, there are various consents that the Codling project must secure. The final consenting regime is not yet confirmed in detail, but the main permissions required are expected to be:

- Foreshore investigation licence (under the Foreshore Act 1933) – granted in February 2021
- Maritime Area Consent (under the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Bill)
- Onshore and offshore planning permission/consent(s)

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

4.2.10 Consultation Process

Consultees expressed their interest in ensuring meaningful engagement with the project team. Stakeholders outlined their desire to engage with the Codling project team on a local level and communicate in order to share knowledge and experience. These stakeholders highlighted their desire for an open dialogue, and the opportunity to compete and bid for opportunities within the project. The Codling Wind Park project and the work of its staff members were praised by some respondents. The information clinics, webinars and virtual consultation were described as 'comprehensive' and 'excellent'. Stakeholders gave thanks to the project team for their 'accessible' and 'informative presentations' as well as the information available on the website.

Respondents highlighted that the process had been informative. With regard to queries submitted about the decommissioning phase of the project and also the environmental impacts of the project, respondents highlighted that the project team was clearly conscious of the issues and thanked the team for their discussion. The team was also acknowledged for its use of the Irish language in the introductory video and during the consultation.

4.2.10.1.1. Project Team Response to Consultation Process

We thank respondents for their feedback on the consultation process. As noted previously, consultation with the community, including fisheries and other marine stakeholders, forms a central component of the project development process. The project team is committed to ongoing, open dialogue as the project progresses.

The Codling Wind Park Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, is available throughout the project – at 087 1011 473 and liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie. Our Fisheries Liaison Officers are available at 021 203 1005 and flo@codlingwindpark.ie.

5 NEXT STAGES OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The Codling Wind Park project team thanks all of the respondents to the Phase 1 consultation.

This consultation feedback report sets out how the public consultation process was publicised, records how participants interacted with the project, and summarises feedback received during the public consultation process. The transparency of the public consultation process is supported by the production of this consultation report, which demonstrates that the points raised in submissions were received and understood by the project team.

Each submission received has been reviewed by the project team. Responses to the queries received have been provided to stakeholders using the available information. Where information is not yet available, this has been acknowledged and the feedback and opinions expressed will be taken into consideration as the design of the wind park develops and progresses, in advance of the project's submission to the planning authority.

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early stages of development. Throughout 2021, a range of offshore and onshore environmental studies and site investigations will be undertaken to ensure that a comprehensive environmental impact assessment report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) can be produced for submission as part of the planning application.

Throughout the EIA process, the Codling team will continue its engagement with all stakeholders including government, public representatives, local communities, the fishing industry, and maritime interest stakeholders. Two further phases of public consultation will take place to share project progress and seek feedback on the project design.

Key project development phases over the next two years will include: assessment of onshore landfall locations, designing the wind farm layout, turbine technology decision, identifying cable routes and selecting a suitable location for the operations and maintenance base.

The project team aims to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2022.

Information and updates will be posted to the project website at https://codlingwindpark.ie/.

Appendix A: Online Feedback Survey

The following questions were asked in the online questionnaire:

1) Are you supportive of Ireland's ambition of generating 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030?
    - Very supportive
    - Somewhat supportive
    - Neutral
    - Not very supportive
    - Not at all supportive
2) How important, in your view, will offshore wind energy be in meeting our 2030 climate action targets?
    - Extremely important
    - Very important
    - Moderately important
    - Slightly important
    - Not at all important
    - No opinion
3) In general, what are your views on the Codling Wind Park project?
    - Codling Wind Park is essential to help Ireland achieve its climate action targets and I support the project
    - I am generally in favour of the Codling Wind Park project, but I would like further information as the project develops
    - Currently, I am neither in favour nor opposed to the Codling Wind Park project
    - I am not supportive of the Codling Wind Park
    - Other (please specify)
4) What are the most important factors you would like us to consider as we progress the design of the Codling Wind Park project? (Please rank in order of importance to you, 1 being the most important).
    - Benefits for local communities
    - Responsible environmental management
    - Visual impacts
    - Delivering the lowest cost electricity to consumers
    - Development of local supply chain
    - Employment, training, and development opportunities
    - Impacts on marine users

- Other (please specify)

5) How helpful has our exhibition been in giving you an understanding of the Codling Wind Park project?
    - Extremely helpful
    - Very helpful
    - Somewhat helpful
    - Not so helpful
    - Not at all helpful
6) Please provide any specific feedback on the Codling Wind Park project that you would like the project team to consider.
7) Would you like to be kept updated, as Codling Wind Park progresses?
    - Yes
    - No
8) Please enter your email address in the box below.

Appendix B: Press Release

PRESS RELEASE – LOCAL MEDIA

Public Consultation on Codling Wind Park Opens March 1

- **Two-week online exhibition on flagship offshore wind project**
- **Webinars and virtual information clinics**
- **Latest project plans and information on display**
- **Opportunity to provide feedback and help shape the future design of the project**

The first phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park project – a proposed offshore wind farm approximately 13 kilometres off the Wicklow coast between Greystones and Wicklow Town – will begin on Monday (March 1).

With an expected capacity of up to 1,500 megawatts (MW), Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million[1] Irish homes – 70%[2] of all Irish households – with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save almost 2 million[3] tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and 70 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, face-to-face engagements are not possible and so a series of online consultation activities will take place from March 1 to March 27. In addition to a two-week virtual exhibition, there will also be two webinars and a series of virtual information clinics to facilitate individual and small group meetings between community members and project representatives.

Further phases of consultation are planned for the summer and autumn, to share updated plans as the project progresses and provide further opportunities for feedback.

The virtual exhibition will display project plans as they currently stand, including indicative photomontages from a number of viewing points along the coast. It will showcase the important role Codling will play in

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[1] Calculation as follows: 1,500MW (installed capacity) x 0.3886 (offshore wind load factor, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy UK, 2015 to 2019) x 8,760 (hours in a year) / 4.2MWh (average household Irish annual electricity consumption) = 1,215,762

[2] Calculation as follows: According to the Census of Ireland 2016, there are 1,697,665 permanent occupied dwellings, or households, in the State. 1,215,762/1,697,665 = 71.6%

[3] Based on the SEAI 2018 carbon intensity figure of 385gCO_2/kWh. Calculation for Codling: 1,500MW x 0.3886 *(load factor: BEIS July 2020) x* 8,760 (hours in the year) *x 385)* /1,000 = 1,965,888 tonnes of CO_2 per year

helping Ireland to achieve its Climate Action Plan targets and set out the wide range of benefits that will arise from the project, including for local communities, as well as the wider benefits for the regional and national economy.

Codling Wind Park Project Director, Arno Verbeek said: “We are in the early stages of planning our project and this is the first of many opportunities people will have to see our progress and provide their feedback. Listening to and engaging with the public is an important part of our journey. We want to deliver this project in partnership with the local communities and want them to feel involved in it at every stage.

“Feedback is an incredibly important part of this, and we hope that many people will take the time to view our initial plans and share their thoughts with us. This input will help us to shape and design the project in the months ahead.”

The Codling Wind Park virtual exhibition can be accessed via the project website at www.codlingwindpark.ie. Details of the webinars and information clinics, and how to register for them, are also available on the website. Information can also be obtained by contacting the project’s Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, on 087 1011473.

Codling Wind Park is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables.

With an expected total installed capacity of up to 1,500MW, the project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken.

The onshore and offshore planning applications are expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in late 2021 or early 2022, alongside a single Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

Ends

For Further Information

Contact

Denise Horan

Mobile: +353 87 1269111

Email denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie

Notes to Editors

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland (EDF-R) is a joint venture between two companies, EDF Energy (EDF’s UK business) and EDF Renewables Group (EDF’s global renewables business). EDF Renewables Group has more than 25 years of experience in delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries around the world. EDF-R has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and one of the UK’s largest battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW). The company is providing some of the much-needed new affordable, low carbon electricity across all technologies. EDF-R has an expanding renewables portfolio with

almost 4GW of projects in planning and development across wind, battery and solar. It also has 600MW of projects currently under construction. EDF-R has offices in Edinburgh, Durham, London and Dublin.

About Fred. Olsen Renewables

Fred. Olsen Renewables AS (FOR) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bonheur ASA and is responsible for the group's renewable energy development activities within the wind sector. FOR is a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy assets, currently within onshore wind farms. FOR operates in all parts of the value chain, from business development and site acquisition, concept development to detailed design, construction, commissioning and operations to sale of electricity. As of 2020, FOR's portfolio consisted of 679MW of operational onshore assets and close to 4GW of onshore and offshore assets in development.

PRESS RELEASE - NATIONAL MEDIA

Public Consultation on Codling Wind Park Opens March 1

- **Two-week online exhibition on flagship offshore wind project**
- **Webinars and virtual information clinics**
- **Latest project plans and information on display**
- **Opportunity to provide feedback and help shape the future design of the project**

The first phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park project – set to be Ireland's largest offshore wind farm, located off the coast of County Wicklow, between Greystones and Wicklow Town – will begin on Monday (March 1).

With an expected capacity of up to 1,500 megawatts (MW), Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million[1] Irish homes – 70%[2] of all Irish households – with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save almost 2 million[3] tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and 70 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, face-to-face engagements are not possible and so a series of online consultation activities will take place from March 1 to March 27. In addition to a two-week virtual exhibition, there will also be two webinars hosted by the project team and a series of virtual information clinics to facilitate individual and small group meetings with project representatives.

Further phases of consultation are planned for the summer and autumn, to share updated plans as the project progresses and provide further opportunities for feedback.

The virtual exhibition will display project plans as they currently stand and showcase the important role Codling will play in helping Ireland to achieve its Climate Action Plan targets. It will also set out the substantial range of benefits that will arise from the project, including for local communities, as well as the wider benefits for the regional and national economy.

Codling Wind Park Project Director, Arno Verbeek said: "Our ambition is to not only develop a project of which Ireland can be proud, but to help create the right conditions for the development of a strong and

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[1] Calculation as follows: 1,500MW (installed capacity) x 0.3886 (offshore wind load factor, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy UK, 2015 to 2019) x 8,760 (hours in a year) / 4.2MWh (average household Irish annual electricity consumption) = 1,21 5,762

[2] Calculation as follows: According to the Census of Ireland 2016, there are 1,697,665 permanent occupied dwellings, or households, in the State. 1,215,762/1,697,665 = 71.6%

[3] Based on the SEAI 2018 carbon intensity figure of 385gCO_2/kWh. Calculation for Codling: 1,500MW x 0.3886 *(load factor: BEIS July 2020) x* 8,760 (hours in the year) *x 385)* /1,000 = 1,965,888 tonnes of CO_2 per year

sustainable offshore wind industry in Ireland. We want to contribute to Ireland's low carbon ambitions and help generate a cleaner environment, not only for today's generation, but for generations to come.

"We are in the early stages of planning our project and this is the first of many opportunities people will have to see our progress and provide their feedback. Listening to and engaging with the public and all our stakeholders is an important part of our journey, as we want to do this in partnership. Feedback is incredibly important to us, and we hope that many people will take the time to view our initial plans and share their thoughts with us. This input will help us to shape and design the project in the months ahead."

The Codling Wind Park virtual exhibition can be accessed via the project website at www.codlingwindpark.ie. Details of the webinars and information clinics, and how to register for them, are also available on the website.

Codling Wind Park is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables.

With an expected total installed capacity of up to 1,500MW, the project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken.

The onshore and offshore planning applications are expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in late 2021 or early 2022, alongside a single Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

Ends

For Further Information

Contact

Steve Thomas

Mobile: +44 (0) 7918 588746

Email : steve.thomas@codlingwindpark.ie

or

Denise Horan

Mobile : 087 1269111

Email : denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie

Notes to Editors

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland (EDF-R) is a joint venture between two companies, EDF Energy (EDF's UK business) and EDF Renewables Group (EDF's global renewables business). EDF Renewables Group has more than 25 years of experience in delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries around the world. EDF-R has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and one of the UK's largest battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW). The company is providing some of the much-needed new affordable, low carbon electricity across all technologies. EDF-R has an expanding renewables portfolio with almost 4GW of projects in planning and development across wind, battery and solar. It also has 600MW of projects currently under construction. EDF-R has offices in Edinburgh, Durham, London and Dublin.

About Fred. Olsen Renewables

Fred. Olsen Renewables AS (FOR) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bonheur ASA and is responsible for the group's renewable energy development activities within the wind sector. FOR is a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy assets, currently within onshore wind farms. FOR operates in all parts of the value chain, from business development and site acquisition, concept development to detailed design, construction, commissioning and operations to sale of electricity. As of 2020, FOR's portfolio consisted of 679MW of operational onshore assets and close to 4GW of onshore and offshore assets in development.

Appendix C: Newspaper Advert

An introduction to the Codling Wind Park project

Dear community members,

I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Arno Verbeek and I am Project Director for the Codling Wind Park project, a proposed offshore wind farm approximately 13km off the coast of Wicklow, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

Codling Wind Park could provide enough locally-produced, low-cost renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes. This will make a significant contribution to the Irish Government's commitment to generating 70 per cent of Ireland's electricity from renewable energy by 2030. It will also go a long way towards enhancing Ireland's energy security, by reducing our dependence on imported energy.

Together with an excellent team of 40 people with expertise across a range of technical, environmental and social disciplines, we are currently in the early stages of planning what could be Ireland's flagship offshore wind project. Throughout 2021 we will be undertaking a range of site investigation works and offshore surveys to help us prepare an environmental impact assessment of the proposed project. This will be in preparation for a planning application, which we hope to submit at the end of this year or early next year.

"It is important to us that you, the local communities, are involved in the project and help us to shape it."

As we progress this work, we will be engaging regularly and openly with local communities and providing several opportunities for you to view our plans and provide feedback. I am writing this letter to you today to make you aware that the first of these opportunities is about to begin.

For a four-week period starting on Monday, March 1, you will be able to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide your feedback to us, which is most important. Below you will find specific details on the timings and ways of accessing this engagement and consultation process.

Though nationally significant, Codling Wind Park will also be a local project and it is important to us that you, the local communities, are involved in it and help us to shape it.

This is the first of many opportunities you will have to see how our project is progressing and to share your feedback with us. As Covid-19 restrictions ease in the months ahead, we hope to return to face-to-face meetings and to also have physical exhibitions at a range of local venues. I look forward to meeting with many of you as part of these future engagements.

Codling Wind Park is at the start of its journey.

I hope you will be part of this journey with us so that together we can create something that benefits Wicklow and Ireland for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

Arno Verbeek

Arno Verbeek
Project Director
Codling Wind Park

Virtual Codling Wind Park Exhibition

Accessible via the project website, **www.codlingwindpark.ie,** this online exhibition will contain a number of exhibition boards with information about different aspects of the project. It will also contain some useful visuals, such as a map of the project site and early stage, indicative photomontages of the wind turbines from a range of coastal locations, and information for you to download and read at a later date. Finally – and most importantly – it will contain a feedback survey, through which you can provide us with your thoughts on the project to date.

This will be live from Monday, March 1 and will run until Sunday, March 14.

Codling Wind Park Webinars

During these two webinars, senior representatives of the project will provide a live online presentation of different aspects of the project. Those who attend will be able to submit questions via the chat box in the webinar and as many of these questions as possible will be answered during the live session.

The webinars will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday March 9: 7–8pm
Thursday March 11: 7–8pm

Details on how to register are available on our website, **www.codlingwindpark.ie.**

Information Clinics

We realise that having viewed the virtual exhibition, you may have some questions. To discuss these, members of the project team will be available for virtual calls with individuals and organisations between March 15 and March 27.

Appointments – including some in the evening and at the weekend – can be booked using our online calendar on **www.codlingwindpark.ie**. To book by phone, call our Community Liaison Officer **Liz Dillon on 087 101 1473**.

codling wind park

generating a greener Ireland

codlingwindpark.ie.

Appendix D: Stakeholder Email

Subject: Codling Wind Park – Public Consultation

Dear [Named stakeholder},

I hope this email finds you well.

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm located approximately 13-22km off the Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The largest planned offshore wind project in Ireland, it could provide enough locally-produced, low-cost renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes.

Throughout 2021 we will be undertaking a range of site investigation works and offshore surveys to help us prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project. This will be in preparation for a planning application, which we hope to submit at the end of this year or early next year.

We intend to engage regularly and openly with the communities closest to the project as it progresses, so that locals feel involved and heard. I am writing to you today to let you know that your first opportunity to get involved is about to begin.

For a four-week period, starting on Monday next, March 1, our first phase of public consultation will be open to the public. It will consist of the following:

- **Virtual Codling Wind Park Exhibition:** this will be online from March 1 to 14 and will consist of a range of exhibition materials and visuals providing information on the project as it currently stands. It will also contain a feedback survey. It can be accessed via our project website, www.codlingwindpark.ie (live from Monday morning).
- **Codling Wind Park Webinars:** members of the Codling Wind Park team will present details of the project live during two dedicated webinars on the evenings of March 9 and March 11. You can register for one of these events – during which you will also have an opportunity to ask questions via a chat box – on our website, www.codlingwindpark.ie.
- **Information Clinics:** having viewed our virtual exhibition, you may have questions or topics that you would like to discuss with us directly. You can do this by booking a virtual appointment on our website (www.codlingwindpark.ie) or by calling me directly on 087 1011473. Appointments will be available from March 15 to 27 and each appointment will last for 30 minutes.

We are eager to spread the word about these consultation activities as much as possible, in order to maximise participation. Therefore, feel free to share the above details with any of your contacts or simply share our website address.

As the local face and voice of the project, I want to ensure you feel listened to and informed through all stages of its development. I also want to ensure, as a member of the local community, that the full benefits of what will be one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade are realised at a local level. By communicating regularly with each other, I'm confident we can achieve both!

Yours faithfully,

Liz

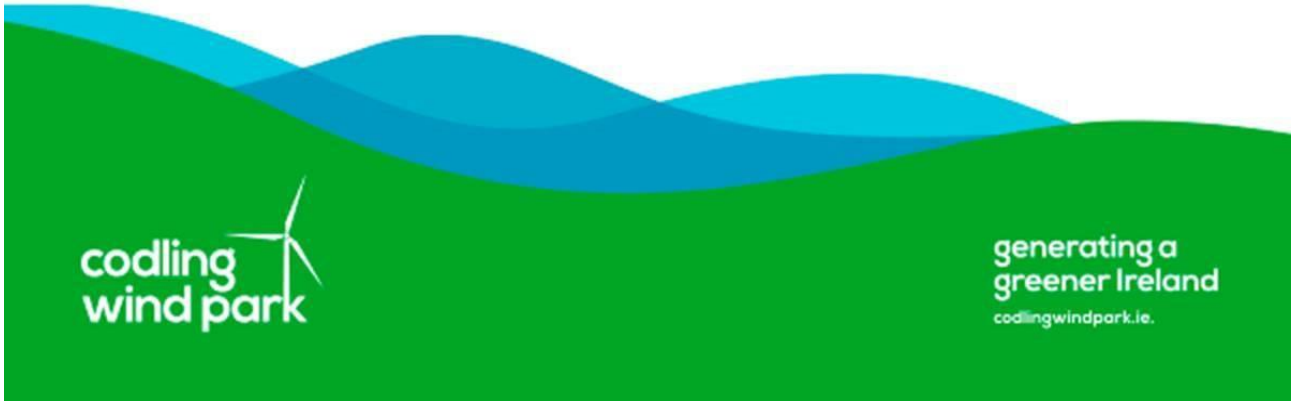
Liz Dillon

Community Liaison Officer

+353 8710 11473

Codling Wind Park

www.codlingwindpark.ie



Appendix A.2 Consultation #2 Feedback and Response Report

codling wind park

Phase 2 Consultation

Feedback and Response Report

May 2023


codling
wind park

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Codling Wind Park (CWP) is an offshore wind farm proposed to be developed in the Irish Sea, approximately 13-22 kilometers off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The project is a 50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind and EDF Renewables. Both companies are leading developers, owners, and operators of renewable energy assets, with many years of global experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector.

With the potential to provide power for up to 1.2 million Irish homes, and a generating output of 1,450MW, CWP is the largest Phase One offshore renewable energy project in Ireland and will be essential to achieving national renewable energy and climate action targets. When developed, it will be the largest offshore wind farm off the Irish coast

Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents, the project could be ready to commence construction in 2026. Construction is expected to take in the region of three years to complete, which means that the wind farm could export power to the Irish grid system by 2028.

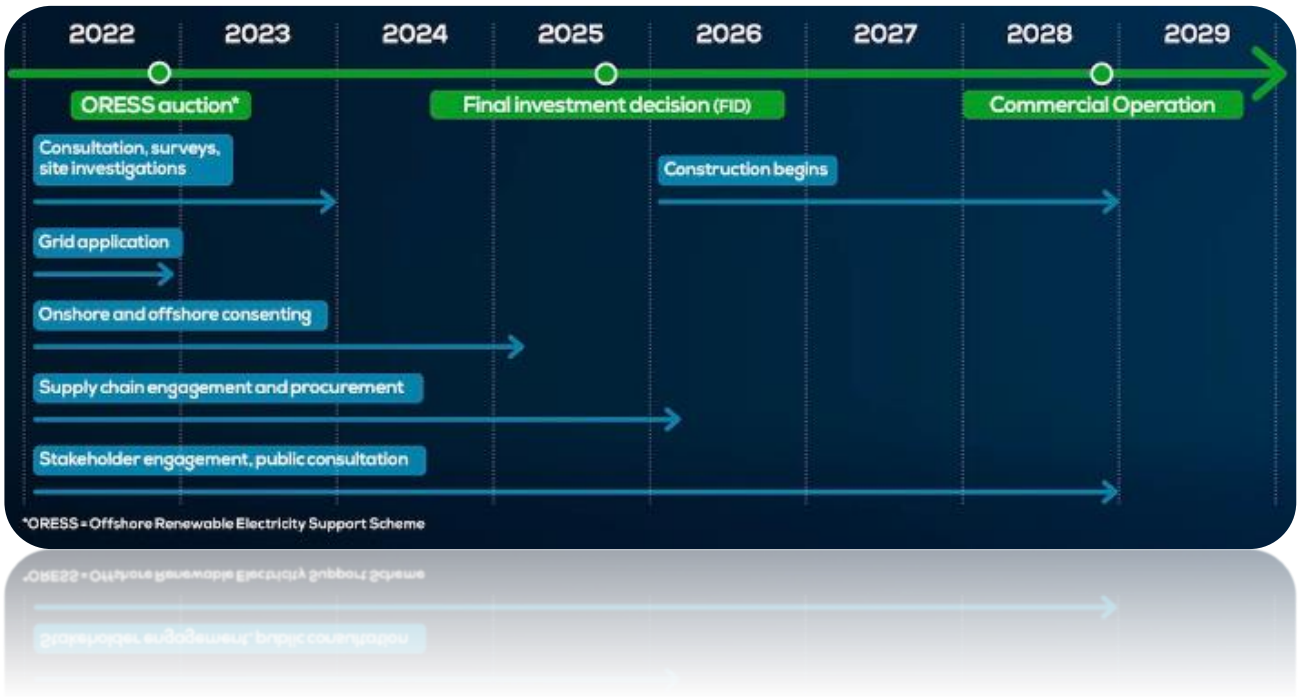


Figure 1 – CWP – Indicative Project Timeline

2 APPROACH TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

CWP has committed to three phases of non-statutory public consultation. The first phase of public consultation took place in March 2021, which presented an introduction to the project. Since then, the project has advanced significantly, and the project team seek to gather public feedback on these advances through different platforms.

Phase 2 of CWP's public consultation ran for four weeks, starting on Wednesday 11 January 2023 and continuing until Wednesday 8 February 2023. The consultation included two briefings for Wicklow and Poolbeg stakeholders, a Virtual Consultation Room, four public information days and a local Transition Year workshop. A series of dedicated information clinics ran concurrently with the consultation and remain open for the public to avail of.

A number of briefings with key local stakeholder groups took place in advance of this, including local elected representatives, community leaders and council officials. Stakeholders in the Wicklow area were invited to attend an event in the Glenview Hotel Co. Wicklow and key stakeholders in the Poolbeg area invited to a briefing in the Sandymount Hotel, Dublin.

Phase 2 of the public consultation provided the public with more detail on the onshore and offshore environmental, technical and feasibility advances including details of the onshore infrastructure required for the grid connection and updated information on the offshore array. Feedback gathered from the public as part of this consultation process will feed into the ongoing development of the project, and updated proposals will be presented at a third phase of public consultation later this year.

2.1 Consultation Phase and Objectives

The second phase of public consultation provided a greater level of detail on the project than was shared with stakeholders and the wider public during Phase 1 of consultation. As a result, the project can be more clearly focused on local communities, namely Greystones and Wicklow Town (and the smaller communities in between), and Poolbeg.

This information included:

- Refined options for the onshore and offshore elements of the project, based on detailed investigation work undertaken and taking into account feedback received during the first phase of consultation and from statutory consultees since then.
- Consultation on community benefit and some outline information on local benefit and local supply chain development.

Significantly, the second phase of public consultation also had a more succinct geographical focus, as the project now has more refined parameters. These included:

- Co. Wicklow coastal communities – communities which may be able to see the offshore array from the coast and with interest in the visual impact of the development; and home base / operating location of many of the key fisheries stakeholders with an interest in the area of the offshore array and cable routes.
- Wicklow Port / town, Co. Wicklow – location chosen for the proposed Operations and Maintenance Base (OMB) from which the wind farm will be operated over the lifetime of the development.
- Poolbeg – preferred location for the onshore substation connecting the wind farm to the national grid and landfall point for cables connecting the offshore array to the coast.

The second phase of public consultation sought feedback on the updated project proposals. The project team also continued engagement and dialogue with local communities and other stakeholders, which will

continue throughout the development of the project. Consultation with the community, including fisheries and other marine stakeholders, forms a central component of the project development process.

2.2 Purpose of this Report

This report details the consultation process and records the feedback received during this second phase of non-statutory public consultation for the CWP project.

In compliance with data protection requirements, feedback received from individuals has been anonymised. Feedback received from organisations is attributed to the respondent organisation. Data collected during this consultation has been processed in accordance with the CWP Privacy Policy which is available at https://codlingwindpark.ie/privacy-policy/.

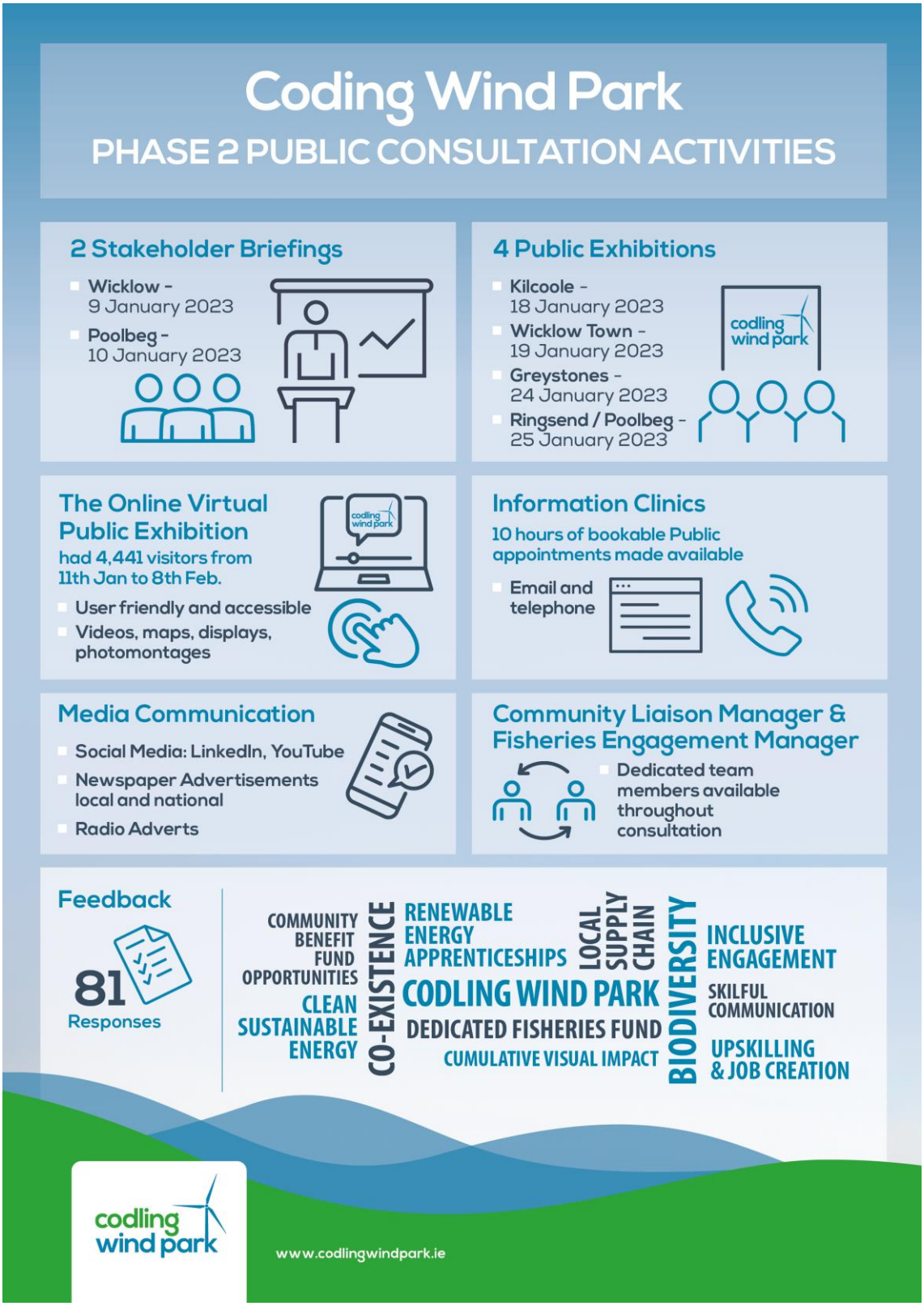
2.3 Consultation Roadmap

The third phase of consultation will be the last before the project submits its planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

In this phase, more specific detail will be shared on proposals for community benefits arising from the project and local plans for the duration of the project's life cycle.

This consultation will be an opportunity for the public to see how the proposals have progressed and to get their observations on the final plans that will be submitted. It also allows them to see how and where their feedback has been incorporated from phases 1 and 2 of the consultation process.

3 Public Consultation Process



3.1 Overview

CWP began its second phase of public consultation which launched on the 11 January 2023 and continued up to and including 8 February 2023.

Phase 2 of the public consultation consisted of two components: an online virtual public exhibition and in-person exhibitions.

3.2 Online Virtual Public Exhibition

The public was given access to information about the Phase 2 consultation through an online virtual exhibition that was user-friendly and accessible. The exhibition included a number of displays, videos, maps, and indicative photomontages showcasing the potential views of the turbines from ten different locations along the east coast.

Figure 2 – CWP Virtual Room

The exhibition could be accessed online on www.codlingwindpark.ie, for four weeks from 11 January 2023- 8 February 2023 (inclusive).

There were 4,441 visitors to the virtual exhibition from 11 January 2023- 8 February 2023 (inclusive).

The exhibition displays and the photomontages remain available to view on the www.codlingwindpark.ie website.

The virtual exhibition included an online survey to enable participants to provide their views on climate action, offshore wind energy, and the CWP project.

A summary of the feedback received is provided in Section 4.

3.3 In-person Public Exhibitions

Four in-person public exhibitions were held in Kilcoole, Wicklow Town, Greystones, and Ringsend. The community of each location were invited to attend the events and were given an opportunity to speak to members of the project team directly, expressing any ideas or questions they had. Events were held in both the morning and afternoon / evening to allow as many people as possible to attend the events.

When members of the public arrived, they were provided with a detailed information brochure, a one-page leaflet, a copy of the feedback form, and were advised of the contents of the exhibition.

Similar to the online virtual exhibition, the in-person events comprised of a number of informative exhibition boards including large screens displaying the project photomontages, which give an impression of how the final development may look.

A total of 147 people visited the four exhibitions. This has been broken down as follows:

- Kilcoole – 33 people attended including local elected representative, representatives of the fishing community, members of the local Kilcoole community, journalist, and other interested stakeholders.
- Wicklow Town – 43 people attended. This included residents of Wicklow, members of the local fishing community, local business representatives, elected representatives and stakeholders involved in the local voluntary sector.
- Greystones – 46 people attended including local elected representatives, members of the fishing community, local residents, a journalist and other interested stakeholders.
- Ringsend – 25 people attended. This included local residents, members of local sporting organisations and representatives from other developer organisations interested in learning more about the CWP project and proposed activities in Poolbeg.

Figure 3 – Photographs from the in-person public exhibitions held by CWP

3.4 Stakeholder Briefings

The project team held two stakeholder briefings with several public representatives and local groups during the consultation. These stakeholder briefings were held in Wicklow and Sandymount, and attendees included:

- Wicklow TDs
- Elected members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Elected members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Wicklow Town Team
- Greystones Town Team
- Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club
- SAMRA
- Dublin Port
- Dublin City Council

3.5 Dedicated Information Clinics

The project team offered the public appointments at the dedicated information clinics. These meetings provided the opportunity for all interested individuals and groups to book time with the project team members to discuss the CWP project. The schedule provided morning, afternoon and evening options. Meetings could be booked online on the CWP website or by contacting the CWP Community Liaison Officer.

During the public consultation, 10 hours of appointments were made available to the public, including on January 26 and 31, and February 1 and 4.

A telephone and email line were also made available throughout the consultation to allow for a timely response to queries and recoding of consultation submissions.

3.6 Social Media

Throughout the second phase of the public consultation, CWP utilised its LinkedIn platform with over 3,000 followers to share and promote the consultation and the consultation events taking place.

Several public representatives and community organisations shared details about the public consultation on their social media pages, including elected representatives, RTÉ Business, Afloat Magazine, Wicklow People, Dublin City FM and Wicklow Wildlife Welfare.

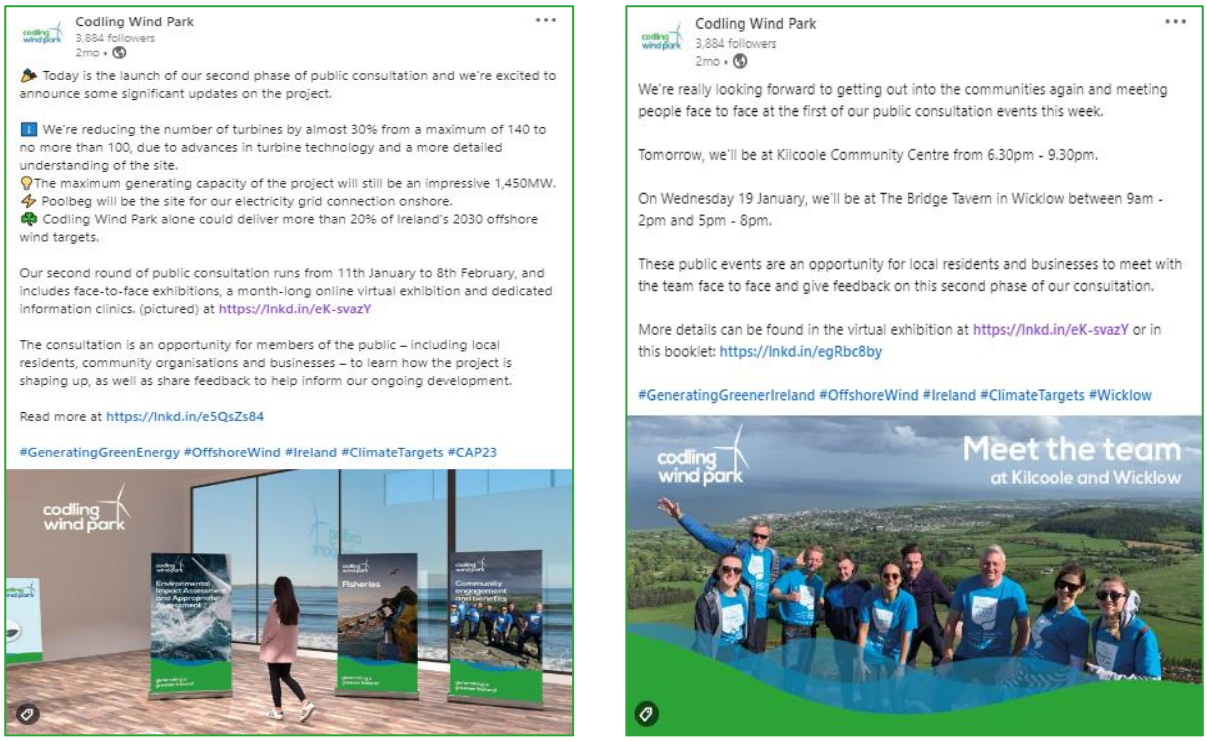


Figure 4 – Examples of CWP's social media activity throughout the Phase 2 Public Consultation

3.7 Press Releases / Coverage

CWP's press release announcing the decision to reduce the number of turbines received a lot of positive media coverage on both online and print news outlets. It was picked up by The Irish Times, The Wicklow Times and RTÉ News.

Figure 5 – Media Coverage of CWP's press release

3.8 Newspaper Adverts

Three full-page colour ads advertising the public consultation were placed in local newspapers outlined below:

- Wicklow & Bray People – 9, 16 and 23 January 2023.
- Wicklow Voice – 3, 10 and 17 January 2023.

A fully copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix A.

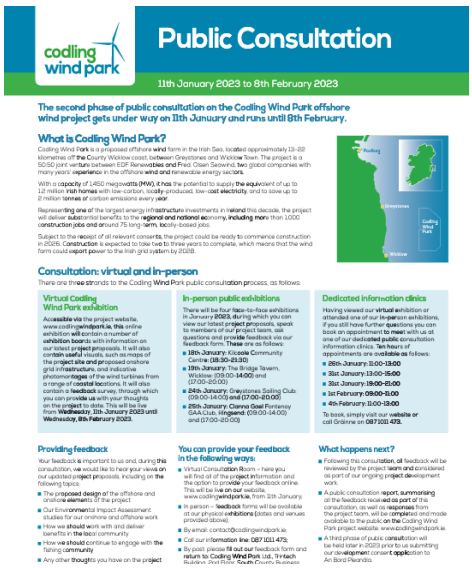


Figure 6 – Copy of CWP Public Consultation newspaper advertisement

3.9 Radio Adverts

The consultation process was also advertised through a series of ads on local radio, including:

- Dublin Live FM - 7 x thirty second adverts per day, for 14 days starting January 14 January 2023
- East Coast FM - 7 x thirty second adverts per day, for 20 days starting January 11 January 2023

In addition, interviews were given by Denise Horan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, on East Coast FM on Friday the 13 January and by Pat Sammon, External Affairs Manager, on Tuesday the 24 January on Dublin City Live.

3.10 Community Liaison Manager

The CWP Community Liaison Manager, Gráinne Fennell, was available throughout the public consultation to talk to members of the public regarding their queries and about the project. Gráinne is available to meet with members of the local community throughout the project process. Gráinne can be contacted at 087 1011 473 or grainne.fennell@codlingwindpark.ie.

3.11 Fisheries Engagement Manager

The project's Fisheries Engagement Manager, Courtney French, was also available during the public consultation to talk to the fishing community about any of their concerns or questions related to the project. Courtney will continue to work closely with members of the fishing community throughout the project development process.

4 FEEDBACK

4.1 Views on the Development of Codling Wind Park?

Question one, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents if they were supportive of the development of CWP. Figure 5 below shows the breakdown of responses.

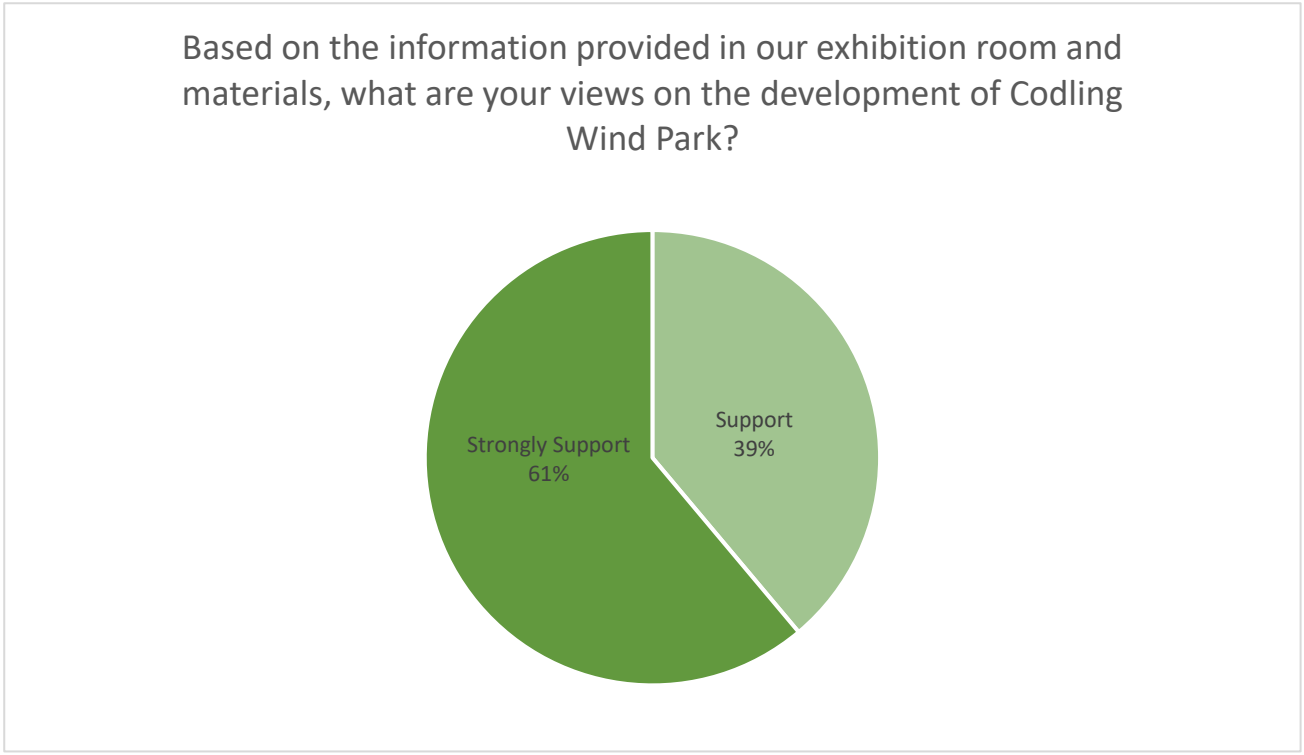


Figure 7 – Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 1

4.2 Views on the Exhibition

Question seventeen, another multiple-choice question, asked respondents for feedback on the exhibition (virtual or in-person). Respondents were given five options to choose from:

- 5 - Extremely informative and engaging
- 4 - Very informative and engaging
- 3 - Slightly informative and engaging
- 2 - Not very informative or engaging
- 1 - Not at all informative or engaging.

Figure 8 below shows the breakdown of responses.

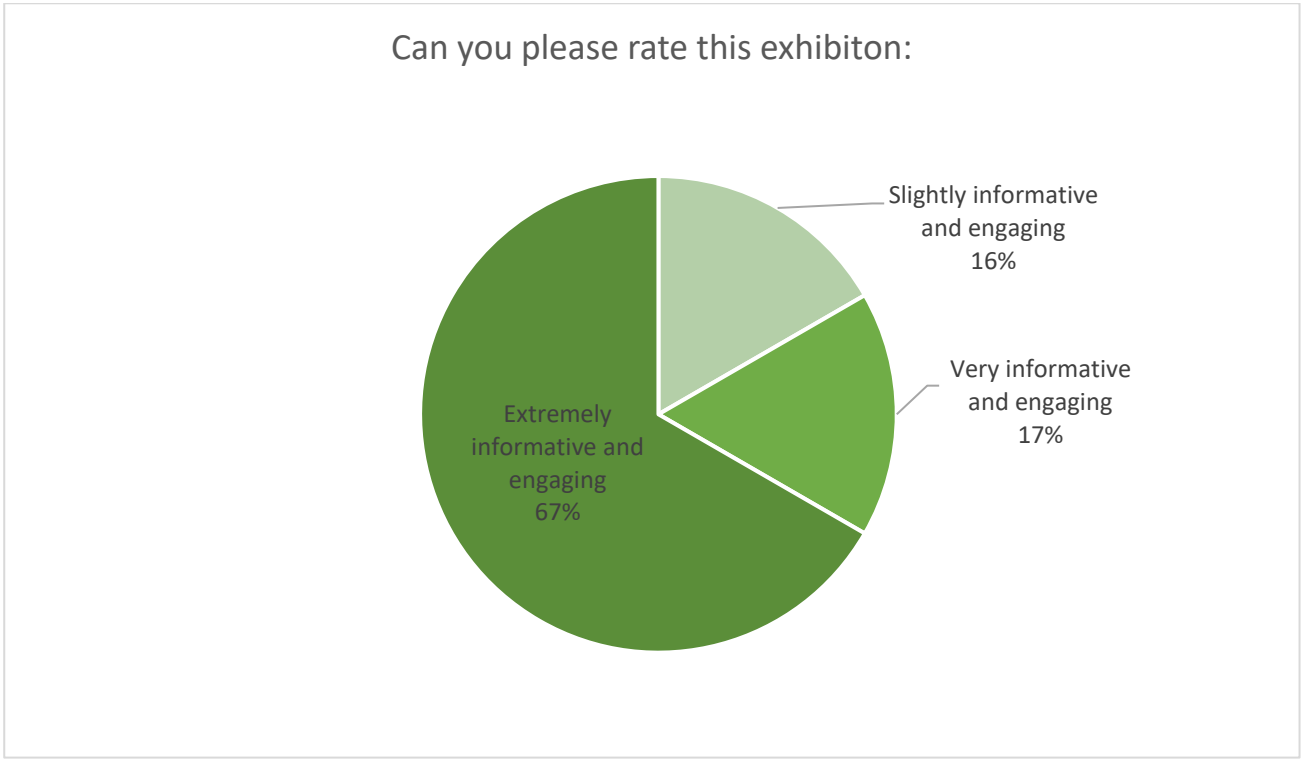


Figure 8 – Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 17

4.3 Consultation Feedback

During Phase 2 of the CWP public consultation period, stakeholders could also submit questions and provide feedback through the online survey, via email or phone, via feedback forms and during the information clinics, public exhibitions, and stakeholder briefings with the project team.

Over 40 submissions were received to the consultation from an online survey, other submissions, and conversations with stakeholders at briefings and public information events. Following a detailed review, the feedback has been categorised into common 'themes' identified.

These themes are:

- Environment
- Community
- Visual Impact
- Education & Training
- Economic
- Fisheries
- Consultation
- Construction

It should be noted that feedback is not presented in order of importance and no weighting has been applied to the issues raised based on frequency or on the number of submissions received.

4.3.1 Environment

Many submissions noted how the project might be positive for and enhance the environment. However, others noted the proximity of elements of the development to a “biodiversity hub” and appealed that it be supported by the project.

One submission cited their opinion that the Environmental Impact Assessment process was not robust or independent enough and requested additional surveys to be done.

Concern for the impact the surveys had and continue to have on the environment were referenced in submissions, such as the claim that the whelk population has decreased post surveys. The claim that directional drilling could have a negative impact on the environment was also received in a submission.

One submission asked for a hydrological model to be done so that water resources could be better managed This respondent claimed that the top of the bank is a dynamic and challenging environment, which ties into physical processes.

In terms of the CWP site selection, some submissions expressed that the process was insufficient, and concerns were voiced regarding the impact the project will have on sites such as Brittas Bay and the Irishtown Nature Park.

It was asked that there be support given to independent birdwatchers and Bird Watch Ireland, as their HQ is in Kilcoole and one submission claimed they may be impacted. It was suggested that contributing to the Little Tern protection scheme in Kilcoole as one way that CWP could help. Suggestions such as building an interpretive or biodiversity centre as a community benefit were also referenced by respondents.

4.3.2 Community

Submissions referenced the opportunities the project might bring for their areas and communities.

Many submissions welcomed the details of the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and emphasised how important it is. Some submissions called for more targeted support to those who are living in “energy poverty” and/or on lower income. One respondent questioned if areas such as Kilcoole will benefit more from the CBF as they are situated closer to the wind farm, and another asked that Kilcoole Community Development Association get more support.

Representation from Sustainable Greystones asked to see more direct engagement and help from CWP in achieving the groups plan and goals.

Community amenities such as recreational facilities, community centres and greenways were called for by submissions to be supported or even upgraded through the CBF. It was requested that existing community buildings be upgraded with improved energy systems, and that CWP could sponsor local events, clubs etc.

The role of a Community Fund Administrator was questioned by one respondent. They asked who and how this role is decided by.

In terms of community benefits, one respondent asked if local marinas and ports could be considered for their boat movements and jobs instead of Wicklow Port. However, another submission noted that local ports and marinas are not suitable to be used during construction as they claimed that these vessels may be loud and would pass by residential areas at unsociable hours.

It was suggested that some pathways down country roads towards the beaches and along the coast could be improved and protected through the CBF. It was also put forward that the CBF support groups that are involved in foreshore clean-ups.

Respondents noted that they wanted to see more involving the whole community, such as the local GAA clubs and Vincent De Paul shops.

It was suggested by a respondent that the CBF be rebranded to the “Fisheries Fund” and that it directly benefit the impacted fishing community.

It was also suggested that some opportunities for tourism could be presented by the project.

One submission asked for an example of a community that have been positively affected by an offshore wind farm in their area to give an example of how the project may provide a benefit.

A respondent queried if the use of Poolbeg Harbour would in turn preclude any recreational use for the public.

Another submission noted that it is important to bring the people of the community along with the process instead of having international companies and their staff taking over and “using Ireland’s wind”.

It was said that there needs to be more done by CWP so that the towns feel connected and involved.

4.3.3 Visual Impact

Some submissions expressed that they did not dislike wind turbines, with one respondent describing them as “graceful”. Another submission noted that they see turbines every day in Arklow, Co. Wicklow and they have caused them “no harm”. A resident of Greystones noted that their apartment looks out directly at the wind farm site and is looking forward to seeing the turbines be installed and working away to bring clean and sustainable energy.

However, others had concerns about the visual impact of the project. Submissions noted that there is concern for the impact CWP will have on the seascape view from Greystones. Respondents asked that this issue be addressed sensitively and realistically. It was claimed that Greystones is the most visually impacted of coastal towns, with one submission describing the combined visual effect from Greystones as “adverse” and “significant”.

One submission claimed that Greystones will become ‘wind farm central’ due to the 3 proposed windfarms planned to meet off Greystones. The submission claimed that the turbines will be taller than the local landmark, Bray Head, and will occupy most of the sea horizon, 115 degrees arc of view. The respondent claimed that this is a much greater visual impact than any other place as detailed by CWP and noted that the “whole seascape horizon will be windmills”. It was claimed that no visual impact assessment has been done by CWP.

It was also said that communities have to make tough decisions and one respondent asked if it is more important to keep a seaside view or to provide clean energy for generations to come.

Several comments were received in respect of the photomontages presented in the consultation. It was asked that the photomontages be more prominent in future exhibitions, as it was claimed there is considerable misinformation in local communities about how large they will actually appear.

One submission requested that additional visualisations be provided, specifically for the ‘monkey pole’ in the Murrough in Co. Wicklow.

Another submission called for updated photomontages that include all potential windfarms off the coast, instead of just the one, and another that wished to see the offshore substations included in the photomontages.

The photomontages for Newcastle and Wicklow town were also described as being too vague.

One submission called for realistic photomontages, claiming that the turbines are much bigger and asked CWP to “not hide this fact.”

It was asked if there are going to be navigational lights on all of the turbines, and what these might look like.

A respondent suggested that the size of CWP should be reduced to allow at least a 25-degree visual gap (viewed from Greystones Harbour) between it and the neighbouring Dublin Array project. The respondent continued to note that the scale of effect is considered closely related to the width of turbines across the horizon.

Another submission asked if the design plan could incorporate a gap of 15 degrees in the layout of the turbines between different developments so that the people of Greystones could enjoy an uninterrupted sea view.

One submission asked if there would be any noise from the development for those walking the paths or living close to the sea for different weather and wind conditions and it was asked if CWP could provide an audio of example.

4.3.4 Education & Training

With regards to education, respondents asked that the project team continues its engagement with local primary and secondary schools.

It was suggested that specific wind energy apprenticeships be run in local third level institutions in Bray and Wicklow and also to engage with Coláiste Chill Mhantáin’s Transition Year Programme.

It was proposed that the project could offer a short programme to enlighten and encourage secondary students to see the value of windfarms to society and the part they themselves could play and have a career in.

The importance of training apprentices and other skilled people to work on construction and the final project was widely referenced throughout submissions. It was asked that the project engages with the Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) to facilitate this.

Submissions questioned the steps that CWP have taken in order to provide the skills and training necessary for the workers in Wicklow, noting that when it comes to the construction phase, they should be ready.

The establishment of a Marine College on the East Coast was a suggestion received as a submission claimed that the maritime college in Cork is quite difficult to get into. It was also proposed that CWP could provide apprenticeships and college scholarships and link with other training opportunities.

4.3.5 Economic

The economic benefits that the potential tourism opportunities this project will bring were widely referenced throughout submissions. Suggestions such as boat tours, interpretive centres and improved coastal walkways with explanation boards were all highlighted as ideas that would encourage tourism.

The issue of how the economic benefits of the project will be spread was raised, with submissions referencing many different areas that should receive the benefits, such as towns closer to the project, those on lower income, small businesses, charities and fisheries.

It was asked that CWP liaise “with the Local Enterprise Offices (particularly Wicklow) to get small businesses to buy in to this project”.

One submission asked that CWP publishes supply chain requirements and try to purchase from and use local services even if they are not the cheapest option. It was said that CWP procurement staff should maximise exposure to the local business community for all purchasing needs and where feasible CWP should prioritise indigenous suppliers.

One submission noted that their organisation has been providing training for projects like CWP since 2003 and thanked the project for the business they will be creating for them.

It was asked that CWP begin raising awareness amongst the local communities about the jobs this project requires and what skills are necessary. One submission emphasised that the younger people of these towns and their parents are extremely important to target regarding the possible employment opportunities this project will create.

With regards to job creation, it was claimed that these jobs are timely and short-term. Another submission asked for more information on how CWP will increase local employment.

One respondent queried if CWP has plans to use electrolysers to produce hydrogen from CWP power, either at Poolbeg or elsewhere. They further asked if this power can then be exported.

One submission asked that CWP ensures there is a realistic minimum purchase of kilowatts by Eirgrid.

It was claimed that because the base will be in Wicklow Town, there will be no economic benefit for Greystones.

4.3.6 Fisheries

Fisheries were referenced substantially by respondents with regards to compensation and potential risk to the sector. The need for skilful communication was cited.

It was asked that the project supports local fishermen who will have a difficult time earning their living because of the project. It was noted that some fishermen were unhappy with the compensation for the surveys that took place in 2021.

It was suggested that there is scope for employment in ongoing surveying and in the development of lobster farming between turbines. One submission noted that fishers want retraining and guaranteed jobs on the wind farm.

Another respondent suggested that there are possibilities for aquaculture farming within the wind farms such as within every second lane.

One submission commented that they believe co-existence will not be possible when the windfarm is operational because of the nature of their fishing. It was claimed that the long-term impacts from CWP will destroy fishing stocks.

4.3.7 Consultation

One submission noted how there was excellent outreach to those affected in Wicklow throughout the consultation. Submissions described the staff at the public events as “knowledgeable”, “enthusiastic” and referenced how they were impressed with the engagement.

CWP’s efforts to keep people informed via their presentations to Probus Greystones and U3A were widely appreciated throughout submissions. One respondent further explained that it is essential to keep people informed.

Transparency throughout the public consultation was highlighted as being critical by submissions. It was suggested that all site and survey data be made available, free, and online. It was added that sharing and publishing data can help to tackle misinformation.

It was also suggested that all FAQs from the public published to show transparency around what the public are saying.

One submission referenced the country's "current limited energy capacity nationally" and suggested a campaign to regard this as an emergency project which should be put before government to enable it to be brought to fruition as quickly as possible.

Another submission suggested door to door flyer drops to those who are directly impacted along the coastline. A regular "open-door" spot in Kilcoole was also recommended by a respondent.

4.3.8 Construction

It was asked how CWP are navigating through supply chain difficulties when it comes to supplying turbines, and how this could affect the timeline of beginning construction in 2026.

The impact construction may have on communities was referenced in submissions. It was queried how the project team envision the addition of construction traffic might impact the community. Another submission also asked if there will be any closures of pathways or limited access to communal amenities during construction.

The impact certain elements of construction, such as onshore cable laying and trenching, will have on the community and critical services were also questioned in the submissions.

Many submissions had questions regarding the onshore substation at Poolbeg and asked for more clarification regarding the impact it will have on the surrounding areas & communities both during construction and operation.

The quantity and type of vessels being used for trenching works in Dublin Bay were questioned by respondents.

One submission queried the ratio of crew transfer vessels to turbines. The ratio of service technicians per turbine was also queried. It was asked if the wind farm will need 24-hour servicing or would technical maintenance take place during daylight hours.

Submissions asked for answers regarding the amount of workforce needed in the impacted areas during construction, specifically Poolbeg.

Directional drilling and suggestions such as lodging anchors on the border were also referenced in the submissions. One submission queried if the project will be undertaking directional drilling from the marina onto the peninsula.

It was asked if the export cables will be all laid together or will the array be developed in three different phases. The respondent further queried when CWP will know the machinery needed during construction.

A submission noted that it can take a long time for major infrastructure projects to be delivered in Ireland, and that the project being preceded by other major developments in the Poolbeg area means that this may not take so long. This submission noted that "this critical project" should "proceed at pace".

4.4 Transition Year Workshop

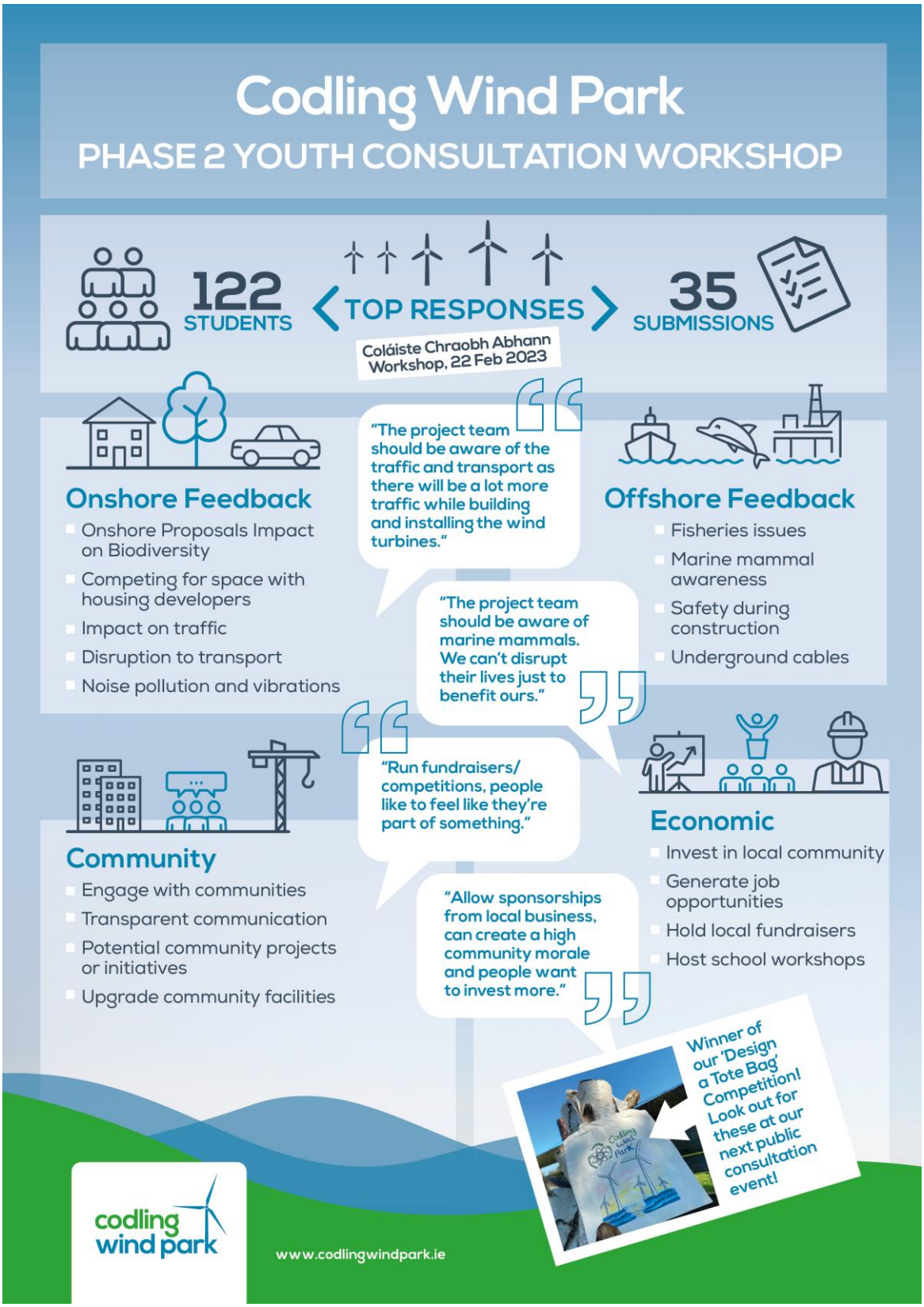
The project team held a workshop with the transition year students of Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole on February 22, 2023. During this workshop, the team delivered a presentation on the CWP project and had an open discussion between the students and project team about the project.

The team also held a 'Design a Tote Bag' competition with the students, with the winning design to be used for future CWP materials.

The students were asked to provide their feedback and queries regarding the project via Feedback Forms. This feedback is outlined below in Section 4.2.1.

Figure 9- Workshop with Transition Year students at Coláiste Chraobh Abhann Secondary School in Kilcoole

4.4.1 Feedback Received



5 NEXT STAGES OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The CWP project team thanks all of the respondents to the Phase 2 public consultation.

This consultation feedback report outlines how the public consultation process was advertised, how participants engaged with the project, and summarises the feedback received during the process. The transparency of the public consultation process is supported by the production of this consultation report, which demonstrates that the points raised in submissions were received and understood by the project team.

The project team has reviewed each submission that they have received. The comments and suggestions made will be taken into account as the wind park's project progresses, before the project is submitted to the planning authority.

The project team aims to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later in 2023.

Information and updates will be posted to the project website at https://codlingwindpark.ie/.

APPENDIX A NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Tuesday 10th January 2023 Wicklow Times 7

codling wind park

Public Consultation

11th January 2023 to 8th February 2023

The second phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park offshore wind project gets under way on 11th January and runs until 8th February.

What is Codling Wind Park?

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, located approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The project is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind, two global companies with many years' experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sectors.

With a capacity of 1,450 megawatts (MW), it has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save up to 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and around 75 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents, the project could be ready to commence construction in 2026. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete, which means that the wind farm could export power to the Irish grid system by 2028.

Consultation: virtual and in-person

There are three strands to the Codling Wind Park public consultation process, as follows:

Virtual Codling Wind Park exhibition

Accessible via the project website, www.codlingwindpark.ie, this online exhibition will contain a number of exhibition boards with information on our latest project proposals. It will also contain useful visuals, such as maps of the project site and proposed onshore grid infrastructure, and indicative photomontages of the wind turbines from a range of coastal locations. It will also contain a feedback survey, through which you can provide us with your thoughts on the project to date. This will be live from **Wednesday, 11th January 2023 until Wednesday, 8th February 2023.**

In-person public exhibitions

There will be four face-to-face exhibitions in January 2023, during which you can view our latest project proposals, speak to members of our project team, ask questions and provide feedback via our feedback form. These are as follows:

- **18th January:** Kilcoole Community Centre: **(18:30-21:30)**
- **19th January:** The Bridge Tavern, Wicklow: (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)
- **24th January:** Greystones Sailing Club: (09:00-14:00) and **(17:00-20:00)**
- **25th January: Clanna Gael** Fontenoy GAA Club, Ringsend: (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)

Dedicated information clinics

Having viewed our virtual exhibition or attended one of our in-person exhibitions, if you still have further questions you can book an appointment to meet with us at one of our dedicated public consultation information clinics. Ten hours of appointments are available as follows:

- **26th January: 11:00-13:00**
- **31st January :13:00-15:00**
- **31st January :19:00-21:00**
- **1st February: 09:00-11:00**
- **4th February: 11:00-13:00**

To book, simply visit our website or call Gráinne on **087 1011 473.**

Providing feedback

Your feedback is important to us and, during this consultation, we would like to hear your views on our updated project proposals, including on the following topics:

- The proposed design of the offshore and onshore elements of the project
- Our Environmental Impact Assessment studies for our onshore and offshore work
- How we should work with and deliver benefits in the local community
- How we should continue to engage with the fishing community
- Any other thoughts you have on the project

You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

- Virtual Consultation Room – here you will find all of the project information and the option to provide your feedback online. This will be live on our website, www.codlingwindpark.ie, from 11th January;
- In person – feedback forms will be available at our physical exhibitions (dates and venues provided above);
- By email: contact@codlingwindpark.ie;
- Call our information line: 087 1011 473;
- By post: please fill out our feedback form and return to: Codling Wind Park Ltd., Trintech Building, 2nd Floor, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin D18 H5H9.

What happens next?

- Following this consultation, all feedback will be reviewed by the project team and considered as part of our ongoing project development work.
- A public consultation report, summarising all the feedback received as part of this consultation, as well as responses from the project team, will be completed and made available to the public on the Codling Wind Park project website, www.codlingwindpark.ie.
- A third phase of public consultation will be held later in 2023 prior to us submitting our development consent application to An Bord Pleanála.

Figure 10- PC2 Ad as appeared in The Wicklow Times, 10 January 2023

APPENDIX B ONLINE CONSULTATION SURVEY

Codling Wind Park Second Public Consultation Survey

Based on the information provided in our exhibition room and associated materials, what are your views on the development of Codling Wind Park?

- ○ Strongly Support
- ○ Support
- ○ Neither supportive nor unsupportive
- ○ Do not support
- ○ Extremely opposed

Onshore Proposals (Poolbeg)

The development of the onshore substation and associated infrastructure requires the assessment of environmental impacts under a number of topics, including:

Population	Noise and Vibration
Human Health	Onshore Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
Biodiversity (aquatic and terrestrial)	Landscape and Visual
Land and Soils	Traffic and Transport
Water and Flood Risk	Material Assets
Air Quality	Waste and Resource Management
Climate (Carbon Balance Assessment)	

In your opinion, under any of the above headings, is there anything the project team should be aware of in relation to our onshore proposals (including landfall location, substation, and onshore cable routes) at Poolbeg?

Enter your response here

Is there any other information in relation to the project's onshore works that you would like to see included?

Enter your response here

Offshore Proposals

The development of the offshore wind turbines and associated infrastructure (including offshore substations, inter-array cables and subsea cables) requires the assessment of environmental impacts under a number of topics, including:

Physical Processes	Climate (Carbon Balance Assessment)
Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	Commercial Fisheries
Offshore Bats	Shipping and Navigation
Fish and Shellfish Ecology	Aviation, Military and Communications
Marine Mammals and Reptiles	Marine Archaeology
Marine Ornithology	Other Marine Users
Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts	

In your opinion, under any of the above headings, is there anything the project team should be aware of in relation to our offshore proposals?

Enter your response here

Is there any other information in relation to the project's offshore developments that you would like to see included?

Enter your response here

Community

As part of the development of Codling Wind Park, there will be a substantial Community Benefit Fund (CBF) which will run for 20 years and will be available for local projects and initiatives. The governance of the CBF will be completely transparent, involving an independent Fund Administrator and a local Community Benefit Fund Committee, which will be put in place prior to the start of operations and will be consulted upon widely.

At this early stage, we welcome any suggestions you may have in terms of community projects or initiatives which could potentially be supported by Codling Wind Park, particularly in the areas of energy, environment, and biodiversity. Please outline these below:

Enter your response here

Do you have any feedback or comments on the quality of our engagement to date with the communities closest to the project?

Enter your response here

Do you have any comments on how Codling Wind Park can work effectively with the fishing community throughout the development and operation of the project?

Enter your response here

Economy and Education

The development of Codling Wind Park will create a wide range of employment opportunities, both short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operations). There will also be opportunities for the Irish supply chain to be involved in supporting the project.
In addition, we are eager to support education and training opportunities in the local community, particularly for young people.
We welcome your ideas on how the project can best support the local and national economy through these activities. Specifically:

1. How can the project support local businesses in accessing opportunities on the project?
2. Are there specific education and/or training initiatives that you would like to see the project support?
3. Are there other ways the project could support the local economy?

Enter your response here

Any Other Information

In addition to the questions above, are there any other technical, environmental, or social issues you believe the project team should be made aware of or consider as design and development of the project continues?

Enter your response here

This Consultation

We will be holding our third phase of public consultation later this year. To assist us in making that as informative and engaging as possible, we would value your feedback on this consultation process. Can you please rate this virtual exhibition using the options below:

- ○ 5 - Extremely informative and engaging
- ○ 4 - Very informative and engaging
- ○ 3 - Slightly informative and engaging
- ○ 2 - Not very informative or engaging
- ○ 1 - Not at all informative or engaging

Please add any specific comments you have in relation to the exhibition:

Enter your response here

Please give a rough indication of your location:

Enter your response here

Appendix A.3 Engagement #3 Feedback and Response Report

codling wind park

Phase 3 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Feedback and Response Report

June 2024


codling
wind park

Table of contents

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

Codling Wind Park is a 1,300 MW offshore wind farm proposed to be developed in the Irish sea, in an area called the Codling Bank, approximately 13–22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

The project is a 50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind and EDF Renewables. Both companies are leading developers, owners, and operators of renewable energy assets, with many years of global experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector.

With the potential to provide power to over 1 million Irish homes every year, Codling Wind Park is the largest Phase One offshore renewable energy project in Ireland, essential to achieve the country's national renewable energy and climate action targets.

Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents, the project may be ready to commence construction in 2027 with first power to be generated in 2030.

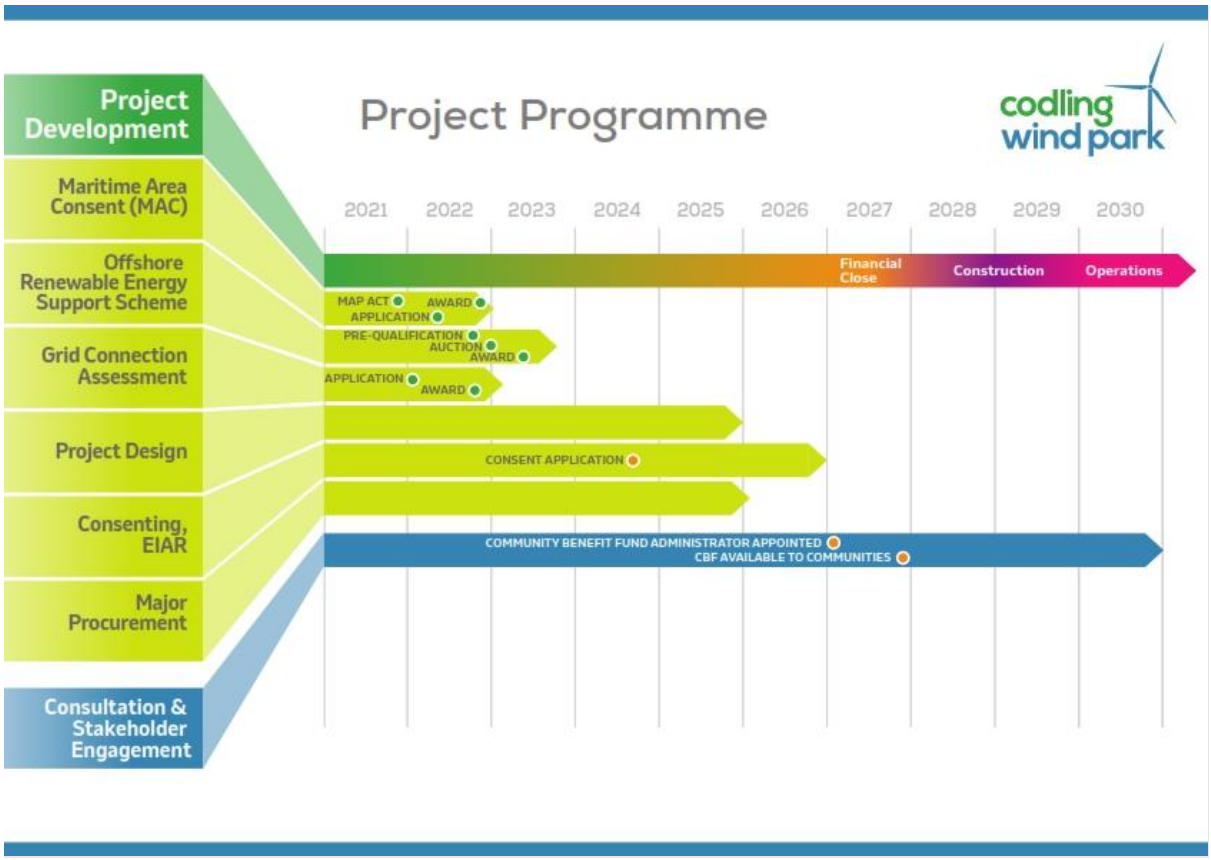


Figure 1: CWP Project Programme Timeline

2 APPROACH TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

CWP has committed to three phases of non-statutory public consultation and engagement. The first phase of public consultation took place in March 2021 and presented an introduction to the project.

Phase 2 of CWP's consultation ran for four weeks, starting on Wednesday 11 January 2023 and continuing until Wednesday 8 February 2023. The consultation included two briefings for Wicklow and Poolbeg stakeholders, a Virtual Consultation Room, four public information days, and a local Transition Year workshop. A series of dedicated information clinics ran concurrently with the consultation and remain open for the public to use.

Phase 3 of the consultation and engagement was delivered to stakeholders in Wicklow, Poolbeg, and Greystones in April and May 2024, in advance of the project submitting its planning application. The consultation and engagement consisted of several events showcasing a series of short films describing the key elements of the planning application, project maps, virtual reality visuals of the proposed wind farm layout from various viewpoints along the coast, as well as the opportunity to engage with members of the project team at each event. This Appendix relates to Phase 3 Public and Stakeholder engagement.

2.1 Phase 3 Engagement Objectives

This phase of engagement was delivered before the project submits its planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The objectives were to provide more specific project information and inform all stakeholders of what is to be included in the planning application. This information included the final designs of the offshore wind park along the Wicklow coast, including wind turbine numbers and layout, and the design and layout of the onshore substation at Poolbeg, Dublin.

It also provided the project the opportunity to showcase how and where feedback has been incorporated from Phases 1 and 2 of the consultation process.

In addition, the project used the opportunity to inform all stakeholders about the project delivery timelines, the Community Benefit Fund (CBF), and the climate benefits of the project.

A key objective of this phase of engagement was to ensure that the information provided by the project was accessible and inclusive to connect people with the purpose of the project at a local and national level.

2.2 Purpose of this Report

This report details the engagement process and feedback received during this third phase of non-statutory public consultation for the CWP project. In compliance with data protection requirements, feedback received from individuals has been anonymised. Feedback received from organisations is attributed to the respondent organisation. Data collected during this consultation have been processed in accordance with the CWP Privacy Policy, which is available at https://codlingwindpark.ie/privacy-policy/

3 Public Engagement Process

The process for this phase of engagement involved three separate events: two in County Wicklow in Wicklow Town and Greystones, and one in Dublin City in Sandymount, where members of the public,

invited stakeholders, and local schools could visit the project exhibition and meet with members of the project team to discuss project updates and ask questions.

Extensive information was made available, including printed maps and a series of project information films on key elements of the project, including the environment, wind farm design and construction, and community benefit.

A state-of-the-art virtual reality (VR) presentation was also available whereby people could wear headsets to visualise the offshore wind farm from 10 viewpoints along the Dublin and Wicklow coastline and experience the project 'on-site' by visiting the wind park by boat from the shore and seeing inside a wind turbine. The viewpoints accessible to attendees via the VR headset were:

1. Howth Summit, Dublin
2. Greater South Wall, Poolbeg, Dublin
3. Killiney Hill, Obelisk, Diblin
4. Bray Promenade, Wicklow
5. Greystones Marina, Wicklow
6. Kilcoole Rock, Wicklow
7. Newcastle Beach, Wicklow
8. Wicklow Town Harbour, Wicklow
9. Brittas Bay, Wicklow
10. Arklow Pier south side, Wicklow

A viewpoint of the proposed onshore substation on the southern bank of the River Liffey, Poolbeg peninsula, Dublin 4 was also presented on the VR headset. Representatives from the project were available at each event location to answer queries and capture any feedback.

3.1 In-person Public Exhibitions

3.1.1 Wicklow Town Public Engagement

The project team hosted three full days and one evening event in Wicklow Library on 16, 17, and 18 April 2024. Stakeholders from a range of organisations were welcomed to the engagement and information sessions including:

- Elected Members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council.
- Elected Members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council.
- Wicklow County Council's Wicklow Town Team.
- Wicklow County Council's Greystones Town Team.
- Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce.
- Wicklow Sustainable Energy Community.
- CWP Wicklow sponsorship recipients, local charities and groups
- Wicklow business groups
- ENGOs

At the Wicklow Library event, 125 people attended to find out how the project has progressed in advance of submitting the planning application.

3.1.2 Sandymount, Dublin Public Engagement

The project team held a similar event for one full day and evening in Sandymount Community Centre on 1 May 2024. Several stakeholders from a range of local organisations were invited including:

- Dublin Bay South TDs.
- Elected Members of Dublin City Council from local municipal districts.
- Dublin Port Company.
- Dublin City Council.
- SAMRA – Sandymount and Merrion Residence Association.
- SAMSEC - Sandymount and Merrion Sustainable Energy Community.
- ESB.
- Uisce Éireann.
- EirGrid.
- Ringsend Irishtown Sustainable Energy Community.
- Local CWP sponsorship recipients.
- Local schools.
- ENGOs
- Birdwatch Ireland.
- Maritime Survey Office.
- Commissioners for Irish Lights.

A total of 74 people attended the engagement session in Sandymount Community Centre, plus 30 students from a local primary school.

3.1.3 Greystones, Wicklow Public Engagement

A pop-up retail space was leased by the project in Ireton's shop, Killincarrick Road, Greystones. The purpose of this approach was to have a longer-term presence for engagement and information sharing with members of the public local to the project. The project team and exhibition were available from 15 May for two days per week, finishing on Thursday 30 May.

During the 6 days, 49 people visited the exhibition and engaged with project team members.

3.2 Project Information Films

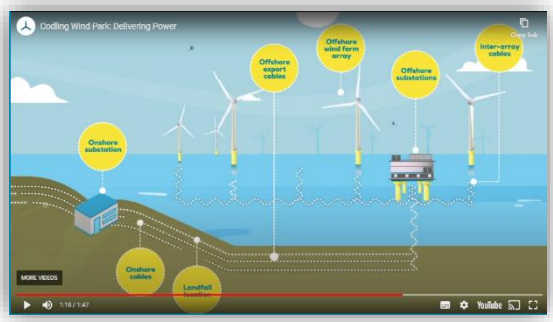
In order to promote increased engagement and ensure that this final phase of engagement was as inclusive and as accessible as possible, the team created a series of short films to communicate the project update information. This also provided the project with the opportunity to introduce the experts delivering the project for CWP and highlight the community benefits and national climate benefits.

The six films are hosted on the Codling Wind Park YouTube channel and include the following information:

- Feature animation explaining how the project will generate electricity.
- An explanation of the importance of the project for Ireland and local communities.
- A description of the site selection, project design and layout, as well as the onshore elements at Poolbeg.
- Overview of the approach to Environmental Impact Assessment work carried out and included in the planning application.
- Local residents talking about the positive impact of Codling Wind Park on their community.

A link to all of the films is available below:

Project Description Animation



Project Delivery

Environment

Community Benefits

Site Selection, Design & Layout

Onshore at Poolbeg

3.3 Press Release / Coverage

A press release was issued on 5 April 2024 in advance of the commencement of the Public Engagement events. The headline messages from the press release were:

- Codling Wind Park announces a further 25% reduction in turbine number
- The project will now have a maximum of 75 turbines, as opposed to 100
- The project will provide a Community Benefit Fund of up to €200m to local communities

- Codling will have a generating capacity of up to 1,300 MW, generating clean energy to power one million Irish homes
- This critical energy infrastructure project will deliver a quarter of Ireland's 2030 offshore wind target
- Planning application for the project will be submitted in summer 2024

The press release received a significant amount of positive media coverage both online and in print news outlets. It was published in The Irish Independent, The Business Post, and on RTÉ News.

A sample of the coverage is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

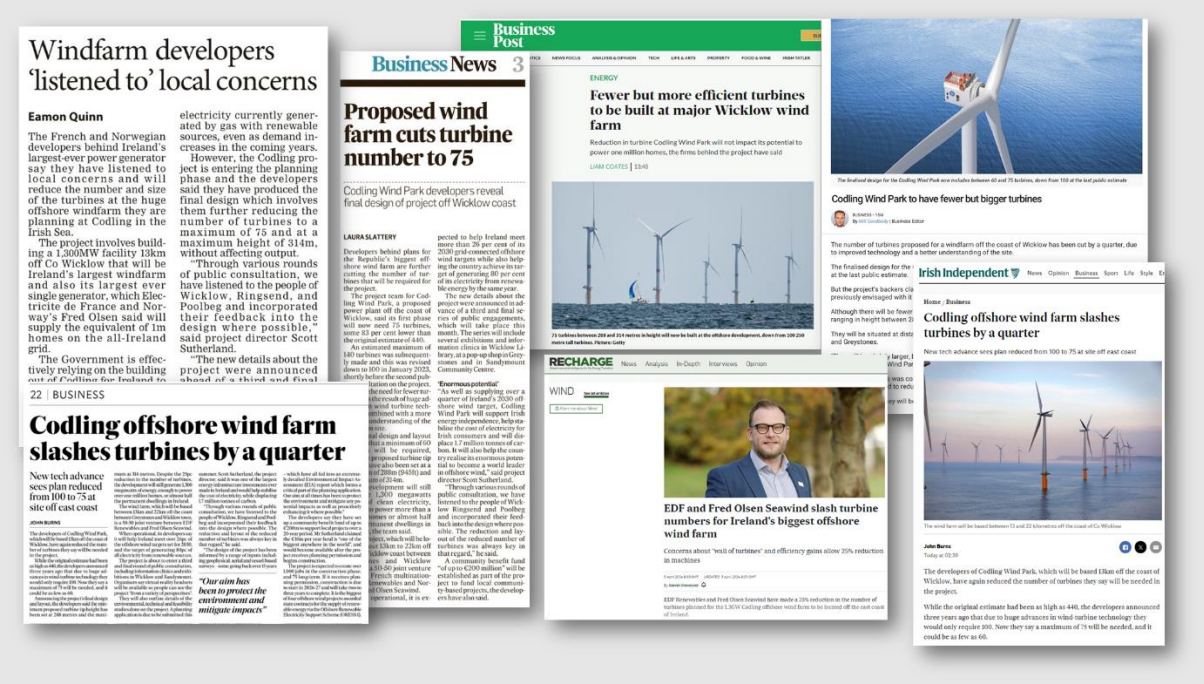


Figure 2: Sample of media coverage leading up to Phase 3 Engagement

3.4 Social Media

A targeted LinkedIn campaign was launched to support the objective of an inclusive and accessible wider reach for the final phase of engagement. The project shared the information films as well as advertising the public information and engagement events. The campaign ran over 52 days and generated 615 new LinkedIn followers, an increase of 273%. A total of 2,543 page views was recorded, attributed to 896 unique visitors, an increase of 107%. The CWP LinkedIn page also recorded 24,833 video views and 7,307 clicks on posts.

The post gaining the most impressions, clicks, likes, and comments was related to the press release announcement on 5 April 2024.

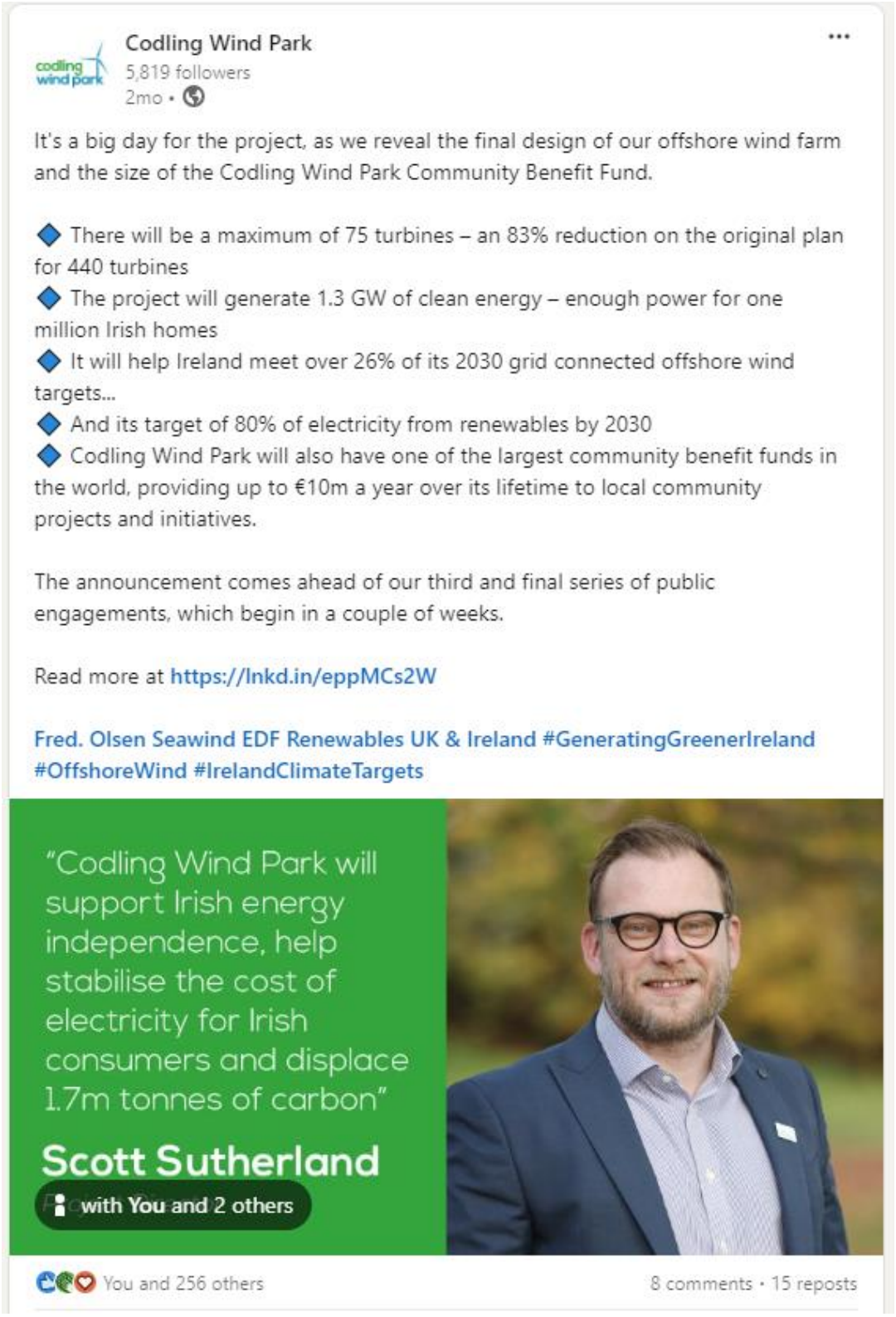


Figure 4: CWP LinkedIn post which gained 256 impressions relating to the press release in advance of Phase 3 Engagement.

The information video, featuring members of the project community discussing the benefits the project will bring to the regions, obtained the most views and was watched 1,296 times.

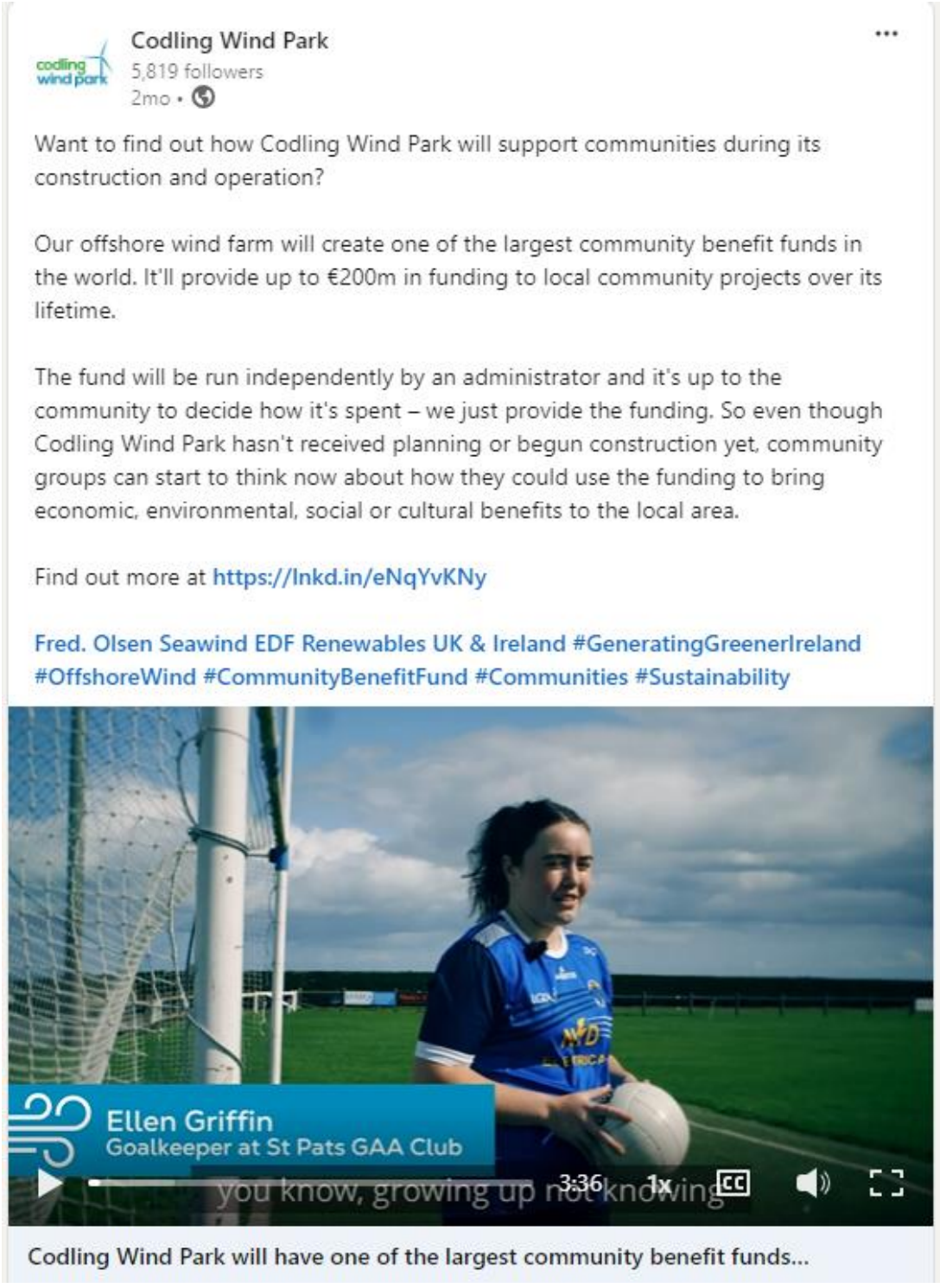


Figure 5: The most viewed video on CWP LinkedIn page

3.5 Radio Adverts

Radio advertisements were aired on some of the largest radio broadcast stations on the East coast, such as East Coast Radio, Dublin Live FM, and East Coast FM. In 2024, CWP sponsored the Declan Meaney show on East Coast FM, which included on-air advertisements of public engagement sessions in Wicklow and Greystones.

The project's Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Installation Director was interviewed on Ringsend Community Radio in advance of the Sandymount engagement event on 1 May 2024, to promote attendance at the event and explain how the project will be part of the Ringsend community.

3.6 Newspaper Advertising

Full- and half-page colour advertisements to promote the third non-statutory public engagement were placed in local newspapers for the three events in Wicklow Town Library, Sandymount Community Centre, and Greystones Town.

- Wicklow People, 3 April 2024, 8 May 2024
- Bray People, 3 April 2024, 8 May 2024
- Southside People, 28 April, 1 May (print) 2024
- Greystones Guide (local digital newspaper) full month of May 2024
- Wicklow Times, 9 April (print), 16 April, 11 May (online), 14 May (print) 2024

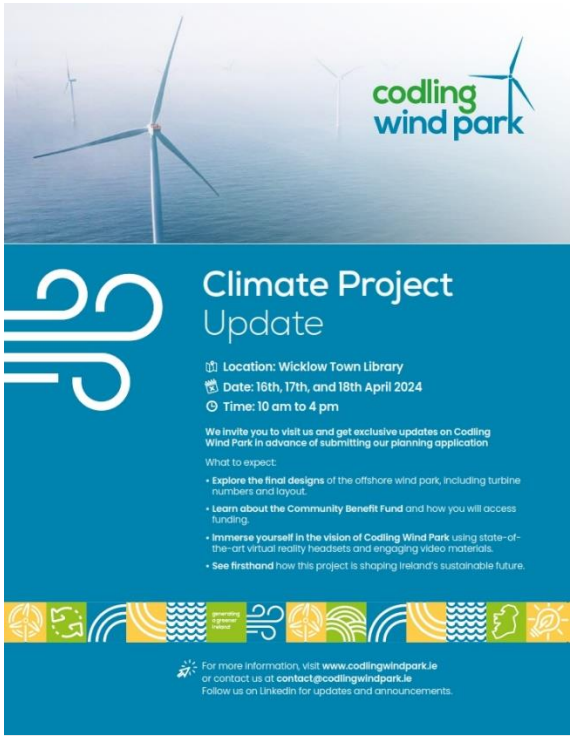


Figure 6: Sample of the print advertisements for Phase 3 Engagement

3.7 Community Liaison Officer

CWP's Community Liaison Officer (CLO) is a County Wicklow local and is highly experienced at stakeholder engagement and has significant policy experience in the climate transition agenda. She has been meeting and engaging with representatives from the community sector, sustainable energy, business, charity, heritage, and Town Teams across the catchment of the project. CWP's CLO has distributed sponsorship funding to groups for a range of community and sporting events, activities, and gatherings; has provided financial support towards new equipment or sportswear for local clubs; and supported fundraising activities in local schools and worthy causes. These sponsorships support several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely:

- SDG 3: Good Health & Wellbeing
    - Sponsorships for improved marine amenity use, local sports, regattas
- SDG 5: Sustainable Cities & Communities
    - Local festivals and picnic gatherings, community and business connection events and social causes.
- SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy
    - Schools' and community fundraisers for local on-site RE projects

CWP's CLO's approach to engagement is based on the principles of mediation and active listening. The CLO was present and available at all P3 engagements and spoke with numerous members of the public about the project and addressed their questions. She is available on the phone and by email for FAQs and directs technical questions to relevant internal staff.

3.8 Fisheries Engagement Manager

The project's Fisheries Engagement Manager was also available during the public engagement to talk to the fishing community about any of their concerns or questions related to the project. She will continue to work closely with members of the fishing community throughout the project development process.

4 FEEDBACK

4.1 Feedback Results

During Phase 3 of the CWP engagement process, queries and feedback received were gathered by the project team and via a questionnaire available digitally using a QR code, and on hard copy at each location.

Following a detailed review, the feedback has been categorised into the common 'themes' identified below.

- Project benefits
- Visual impact
- Project delivery timelines
- Construction

- Environmental and fishing
- Format of engagement

It should be noted that feedback is not presented in order of importance and no weighting has been applied to the issues raised based on frequency or on the number of submissions received.

4.1.1 Project Benefits

There was significant interest in the benefits that the project will bring to the neighbouring communities in Dublin and Wicklow. This is due in part to the press release on 5 April 2024 which communicated the value of the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) of up to €200 million for the lifetime of the project.

Questions were noted in relation to the commencement timeline of the fund, the application process, the local communities who will benefit, the fund administration, and the committee who will decide where the funding is applied.

The CWP project team references the information available in the ORESS 1 Community Benefit Fund Rulebook for Generators and Administrators published by the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications in January 2023[1]. The key messages to information requests on the CBF were:

- The CBF is not to be considered compensation or mitigation whatsoever. It is intended to enable the local communities as a neighbour of the development to share in the benefits of offshore wind energy and to use the fund for the enhancement of the area.
- The fund (or part of it in the early contribution years) will be a significant annual fund of up to €10 million, specifically for the benefit of local communities, and will be made available after the project is fully consented to and a commencement date is issued.
- It is important that communities use the time in advance of the fund being available to prepare, so that they can maximise the potential opportunities that the fund can bring.
- The purpose of the fund is for the sustainable, environmental, economic, social, and cultural well-being of the Target Local Community.
- Careful consideration is given to funding opportunities for all stakeholders in the CBF Target Local Community, including, but not limited to, the local fishing community, seafood culture, tourism, the wider blue economy, and maritime heritage communities.
- The Committee could choose to reserve funding for initiatives that address drivers of social or economic disadvantage among communities, encourage better energy sustainability solutions, benefit the local fishing community, support marine biodiversity and conservation, or enhance a particular location or area.
- The CBF committee is organised by the Fund Administrator. It can have a minimum of seven members and a maximum of 20 members. Two members are from representative local agencies, two are advisory non-voting members, and the remaining members are appointed based on their connection to the local community, specific experience / skills in community development, SDGs, and / or community investment.

The economic benefits that the CBF will bring to the regions through indirect job creation were also welcomed.

Comments in relation to the number of direct jobs which will be created as well as the prospects of upskilling to cater for this new industry were noted.

Attendees also noted the indirect economic benefits which will be generated during construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

[1] https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/244348/0dece698-ab8e-459f-b885-3cc427406647.pdf#page=null

4.1.2 Visual Impact

A very strong positive response was shared at all events to the transparency of the visuals of the project through the use of the Virtual Reality (VR) headsets. The feedback received included how they could now fully understand what the project might look like and, due to this understanding, were more engaged with the project and supported its delivery.

Concerns were noted from a handful of attendees regarding the visual impact of the CWP Project with other planned offshore wind farms from Greystones viewpoint and along the Wicklow coastal cultural heritage area. The team welcomed the comments and communicated that this will be available to view in the planning application. It was also noted that the use of VR helped the visualisation of the project and was a welcome tool.

Visualisation of the onshore substation through VR at Poolbeg was well received. The attendees at Sandymount Community Centre particularly welcomed the opportunity to see a real-life representation of what was planned to be built alongside the existing infrastructure.

4.1.3 Project Delivery Timelines

At all locations there was a high level of interest and support for moving the project forward to delivery, with some attendees expressing that view that “we’ve just got to get on with this” and that it was well past time for offshore wind.

The need to meet our Climate Action Plan targets was very well understood, as was the opportunity that offshore wind can deliver for energy security and independence.

The interest in timelines for commencement were, in many cases, directly linked to the availability of the Community Benefit Fund. The project team communicated that an early contribution of the CBF would become available following the project issuing a commencement notice and that the communities will not have to wait until it is operational.

4.1.4 Environmental and Fisheries

One attendee was concerned about potential bird strike and mentioned the refusal of Bray bridge because of bird strike.

There was a query in relation to the fishing impact on juvenile grounds and whelks, noting that the fishing data should be shared and made available to inform surveying.

A concern was raised about the cumulative impact on fishing potential for the whole coastline as a result of a perceived bank of turbines along the east coast.

Queries about the surveying and impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity were recorded at each location. The project team present responded directly to all concerns and questions and communicated that detailed information will be available in the planning application, which will be accessible to all via a dedicated website, and it will be publicised when it is available.

4.1.5 Format of Engagement

The format of the engagement was well received, and attendees welcomed the accessibility of the video format with subtitles as an alternative to reading boards.

There was a very good response to the VR experience as a medium to understand the reality of the project *in situ* and for viewers to ask questions about the project.

The level of advertising supported the increased number of people who attended the events for this Phase.

4.2 Survey Results

CWP conducted an online survey via QR code at each of the public engagements and provided hardcopy survey forms for attendees to complete. The survey was intended to gauge the overall sentiment of attendees towards the project, their renewable energy priorities, and overall satisfaction with the information presented on the benefits of the project. A total of 28 responses were received.
The questions asked were:

1. How concerned are you about the impacts of climate change in Ireland?
2. Rank the importance of this list to you:
    a. Energy Independence for Ireland
    b. Cleaner Energy Source
    c. Reduced Carbon Emissions for Ireland
    d. More Irish Renewable Energy Projects
3. Did you know about Codling Wind Park before visiting?
4. Did the information presented explain the project benefits, why it is needed, and where it will be?
5. Are you supportive of the project?
6. Do you have any questions about the project which were not answered today?

Of those who completed the survey:

- The majority are concerned about climate impacts in Ireland (7.5 weighted average).
- A Clean Energy Source, followed by Energy Independence are most important to them in the context of switching to a renewable energy mix.
- 82% responded that that they were already aware of the CWP project before visiting the public information-sharing events.
- 100% of respondents found the information presented to them had adequately explained the project benefits.
- 100% of respondents were supportive of the project.

4.3 Next stages of project development

The CWP project team thanks all of the attendees who engaged with the projects during this Phase of voluntary engagement.

This consultation feedback report outlines how the public consultation process was advertised, how participants engaged with the project, and summarises the feedback received during the process. The transparency of the public consultation process is supported by the production of this consultation

report, which demonstrates that the points raised in submissions were received and understood by the project team.

The project team aims to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2024.This will be advertised in local and national papers widely as is the requirement under the planning legislation. CWP will also ensure that the application is communicated via all its communications channels, over and above the prescribed requirements.

Information and updates will be posted to the project website at https://codlingwindpark.ie/.

Appendix B.1 Community Newsletter #1: Summer 2021

codling wind park

Keeping you informed
Codling Wind Park Newsletter

Summer 2021

Generating a greener Ireland

Welcome to our first project newsletter and to what will be an ongoing dialogue between Codling Wind Park, the communities in County Wicklow, and many others.

As a Phase One project, Codling Wind Park is the largest offshore wind farm planned in the Irish Sea and will make a major contribution towards the Irish Government's ambition to generate 70% of the country's electricity from renewables by 2030.

Ireland is facing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and is on the cusp of an energy revolution. Over the next ten years Ireland will connect a number of new offshore wind farms, providing enormous amounts of clean energy to power homes, farms and businesses. We are proud to be part of this energy transformation and are looking forward to Codling Wind Park being a project of which Ireland can be justifiably proud, creating a greener Ireland not only for today's generation, but for generations to come.

Codling Wind Park is in the planning and design phase, with engagement and dialogue an important part of this process. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with developments and to invite your feedback as we continue to progress the project. It contains information on our recent and ongoing activities, along with details on what is coming up in the near future.

So much progress has been made by the project since it was first established back in 1999, placing Codling Wind Park at the heart of the Irish Government's offshore wind ambitions. The momentum is set to continue in the months ahead, with the completion of offshore surveys, the continuation of environmental baseline work and the selection of a preferred location for our Operations & Maintenance base.

I hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any comments or questions about the project, please get in touch with us using the contact details at the end.

Enjoy the summer months and stay safe.

Is mise, le meas / kind regards

Arno Verbeek

Arno Verbeek
Project Director

"We are proud to be part of this energy transformation and are looking forward to Codling Wind Park being a project of which Ireland can be justifiably proud"

Codling Wind Park at a glance

Developed by Codling Wind Park Ltd

A 50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Renewables and EDF Renewables.

Fred. Olsen Renewables

EDF renewables

13–22 km
Distance from shore, off the Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

1,000
Minimum number of jobs during construction.

70
Expected number of full-time jobs.

1,500MW
Maximum generating capacity of the project.

70% renewable
Contributing significantly to Ireland's target of generating 70% of electricity from renewables by 2030, including 5GW from offshore wind.

1.2 million
Number of Irish homes that could be provided with renewable electricity.

2 million
The equivalent number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

140
Maximum number of turbines.

320m
Maximum tip height of turbines.

16MW
Maximum individual capacity of each turbine.

125 km²
Overall size of project site.

25–30 years
Anticipated operating life of the wind farm.

First phase of public consultation draws widespread interest

Throughout the planning and design stages of the project, we have committed to holding three phases of public consultation. This is to ensure that the public have several opportunities to hear about our plans as they take shape and, more importantly, provide feedback.

Our first phase of consultation took place throughout the month of March this year and consisted of three elements: a virtual public exhibition, a webinar with members of the project team, and a series of information clinics. All activities were designed in line with the restrictions in place around COVID-19, to make information about Codling Wind Park available in an easily accessible, safe and user-friendly format.

"We would love to have been able to host face-to-face gatherings across all local communities, but unfortunately that wasn't possible this time around," said Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Denise Horan.

"Instead, we provided a number of online methods and advertised these widely, through the local newspapers, local radio, local social media platforms and the Wicklow Public Participation Network. Our Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, and I were also available for phone calls where people preferred that.

"Overall, we were very pleased with how it went. People were clearly interested in informing themselves and sharing their views and that's important to us, because we want local people to be involved to inform how we shape and develop the project."

26

Number of information clinic slots we were able to provide over a two-week period.

Information clinics

The project team offered 26 information clinic slots over a two-week period (15-27 March inclusive). These meetings provided the opportunity for any interested individual or group to book time with members of the team to discuss the project.

"We want local people to be involved to inform how we shape and develop the project."

Virtual public exhibition

The exhibition attracted 1,743 visitors and ran online for two weeks from 1-14 March (inclusive). It comprised a series of displays, videos, fact cards, maps, and indicative photomontages, showing what the turbines could look like from nine different viewing points along the east coast. It also included an online survey to enable visitors to provide their views on climate action, offshore wind energy, and of course, the Codling Wind Park project.

All exhibition displays and photomontages remain available to view on the website **codlingwindpark.ie.**

Webinar

The project team delivered a live one-hour webinar on the evening of 11 March 2021. Seven members of the project team, including the Project Director, presented information on the project development process and answered questions on the project.

- Eighty people attended the webinar.
- Fifty questions were submitted to the project team, either in advance of or during the webinar.

A complete recording of the webinar, along with responses to the questions not answered during the webinar (due to time constraints), is available on the project website.

1,743

Number of online visitors to the exhibition.

80

Number of people who attended the webinar.

Feedback

We were delighted to be able to directly engage with so many members of the local communities and other stakeholders. This first round of consultation provided the opportunity to share early design plans for the project and to seek feedback to help shape the future design.

A full report on the feedback received and responses given during the first phase of public consultation is available on the Codling Wind Park website, at codlingwindpark.ie/consultation-engagement/

During the consultation period, we received over 200 queries and questions, with many common themes being raised, including;

- The need for Codling Wind Park
- Supply chain opportunities
- Irish grid capacity and project energy output
- Location and visual impact
- Climate change
- Construction
- Environmental considerations
- Energy security
- Operation
- Project development process
- Wind turbine technology
- Decommissioning
- Consultation process
- Onshore and offshore infrastructure
- Fisheries
- Community benefit

200 +

Number of queries and questions received.

Onshore Scoping Report published for consultation

At the end of April, we achieved another important project milestone with the submission of our Onshore Infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

It describes the proposed scope of work and methodologies to be applied in the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the onshore elements of the project and outlines the proposed structure of the EIAR document. The report covers the land-based elements of the Codling Wind Park project, such as the point at which the cables will come ashore (landfall), the routing of onshore cabling and any electricity substation(s) that may be required to connect the project to the national grid. It also describes how the operations and maintenance base (from where the project will be operated during its lifetime) may be considered within the EIAR.

The purpose of the Onshore Infrastructure Scoping Report is to engage with consenting authorities, statutory and non-statutory consultees as part of the EIA process, inviting them to provide relevant information and to comment on the proposed approach being taken by Codling Wind Park, to ensure that a robust EIAR is submitted in support of the project's planning application.

The report was issued to an extensive list of consultees, in addition to 280 people/organisations who registered an interest on our website to receive ongoing information. It was also added to our website and shared on our LinkedIn social media channel.

All responses received will be considered in the development of a final published EIAR.

To view or download the report, please visit codlingwindpark.ie/onshore-infrastructure-environmental-impact-assessment-scoping-report-published/

280

Number of people registered to receive updates on the project.

Environmental surveys to inform baseline understanding

A wide range of environmental surveys and desk-based studies are also ongoing as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, to assess the potential impacts of the project onshore and offshore.

Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 1999 and have continued at specific times since then. More recently, the focus has been on building up a good understanding of the baseline environment.

Surveys and studies will consider:

- Different types of marine ecology, including:
  - Marine mammals (whales, dolphins, seals)
  - Breeding and wintering birds
  - Seabed ecology
  - Fish ecology
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Geology and soils
- Landscape and visual
- Underwater noise
- Electromagnetic fields
- Noise and vibration
- Traffic and transport
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Amenity and community aspects.

Lis Royle, Consents Manager for the project, explained their significance.

"We have a lot of historical data, which is really helpful, but in assessing the potential environmental impacts – positive and negative – and identifying ways of managing, minimising, or mitigating them, it is important that we gather up-to-date data too. That's what we're doing at the moment, and it will continue for the rest of this year and into next year," she said.

"All of our surveys are being carried out by qualified and experienced specialists and are also informed by local knowledge and understanding, which is equally important in many areas."

The results from these assessments will be reported in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and submitted with our planning consent applications.

Offshore survey programme under way to collect important data

› LB Jill on Codling Wind Park site

Towards the end of April, an important step took place in the development of Codling Wind Park with the start of offshore investigation surveys across the project site and along specific potential export cable route corridors.

Comprising mainly of geophysical and geotechnical surveys, plus some ecological and metocean studies, the programme will continue throughout much of the summer. The purpose of the surveys is to gather data to inform the design of the project and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will be submitted as part of the project's planning application.

Some of the vessels working on the surveys have been using Greystones Harbour for overnight berthing and crew changes, with crew members staying locally in Greystones.

Wicklow-based marine specialists Alpha Marine are among the companies that have been supporting the campaign with vessels, personnel and expertise.

› Fastnet Pelican on Codling Wind Park site.

Wind wisdom – did you know?

A typical 14MW offshore turbine provides enough electricity to power approximately 18,000 average European households every year. (Siemens SG 14-222 DD) DD)

Source:
siemensgamesa.com/en-int/-/media/siemensgamesa/downloads/en/newsroom/2020/05/siemens-gamesa-press-release-turbine-14-222-dd-en.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2wXzW3gBZGo75oZh5WvpO74uRGqWVEcW3-JA1mPH45iUol7_D-VSK-35E

What next for Codling Wind Park?

The ongoing survey activities and Environmental Impact Assessment process will help to inform the wind farm layout, including the size and number of wind turbines.

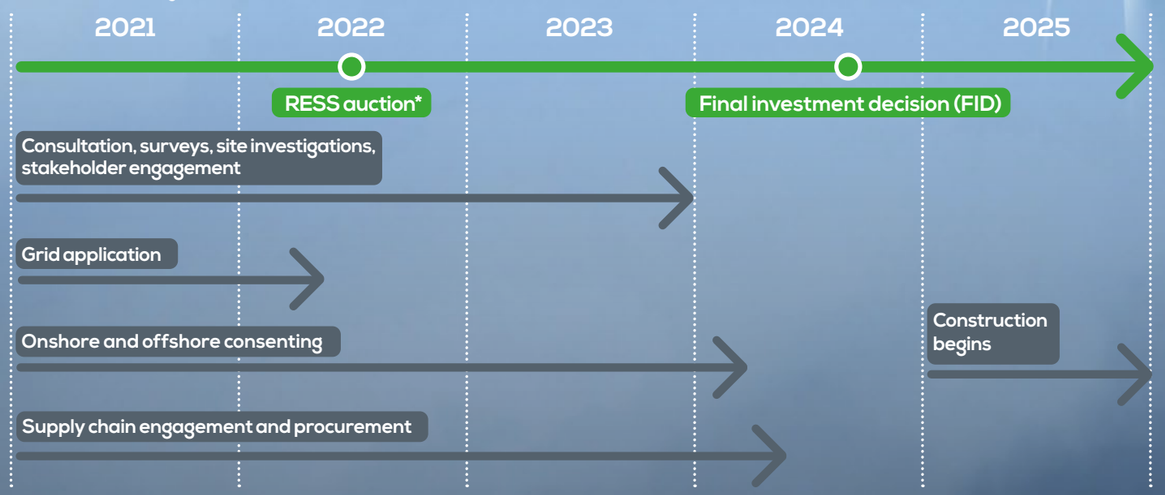
Two further phases of pre-application consultation will be held in late 2021 and early 2022, to share updated plans as the project progresses and to provide further opportunities for input and feedback, to continue to help shape the final planning and design of the project. We hope that these consultations can be conducted in person, as well as online, and further details will be made widely available once plans and dates have been agreed.

The onshore and offshore planning applications are expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála during 2022. Our aim is to balance the technical, commercial, and environmental considerations to deliver the best project – one of which Ireland can be justifiably proud.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling Wind Park could begin construction in 2024/25, and is expected to take two to three years to complete.

› LB Jill and AMS Panther on site at Codling Wind Park.

Indicative project timeline



***RESS** = Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

Register your interest in being part of the Codling Wind Park supply chain

Codling Wind Park will represent one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, delivering substantial benefits for the local, regional and national economy.

During the development, construction and operational phases of Codling Wind Park, there will be significant opportunities for Irish contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, and service providers.

We are committed to maximising the opportunities available to Irish businesses, and in particular those in County Wicklow, as the project progresses.

To date on the Codling Wind Park project, almost €4m has been spent with businesses in Ireland. These include specialist planning, engineering, design, marine and environmental services, vessel providers, accommodation providers and food suppliers. Ten businesses based in County Wicklow have so far benefitted from the Codling project and we look forward to broadening and deepening these local relationships in the months and years ahead. If you are a business that would like to be considered for work on the Codling Wind Park project, you can register your details on our website **codlingwindpark.ie/supply-chain/**

› Members of G-Tec and Fastnet Shipping at Greystones harbour.

2024

Possible date construction of Codling Wind Park could be underway.

We intend to hold "Meet the Buyer" events over the next 12-18 months. All those who have registered their interest in working on the project will be notified of these events. We will also promote the events on our website and through other channels.

Codling Wind Park becomes a corporate partner of Wicklow Hospice

› **Eleanor Flew,** Director of Fundraising & Communications, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services and **Arno Verbeek,** Project Director, Codling Wind Park.

Codling Wind Park has entered into a corporate charity partnership with Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Wicklow, with the project committing to providing financial and practical supports to the facility and its team.

Located in Magheramore, Wicklow Hospice is the first facility in the county to provide specialist palliative care services for patients and their families, and its opening in December 2020 marked the culmination of over ten years of fundraising by the local community. It provides inpatient care for those with life-limiting conditions and a new base for the Wicklow Specialist Community Palliative Care team, who care for end-of-life patients in their homes.

The partnership began recently with a visit by members of the Codling Wind Park team to the hospice to hand over a cheque for €10,000, specifically to support the development of the hospice's inner courtyard.

› Reading left to right:
Sinead Tarmey, Campaign & Events Coordinator – Wicklow Hospice.
Arno Verbeek, Project Director, Codling Wind Park.
Liz Dillon, Community Liaison Officer, Codling Wind Park.
Eleanor Flew, Director of Fundraising & Communications, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services.
Denise Horan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Codling Wind Park.

In addition, the Codling project has committed to supporting the hospice through volunteering and fundraising initiatives throughout the year.

Arno Verbeek, Project Director of the Codling Wind Park project, said:
"Visiting the Wicklow Hospice recently gave me a first-hand insight into the amazing work taking place there. The high standard of care provided – in a beautiful setting – is a source of great comfort to patients and their families at the most difficult of times.

"It's a privilege for the Codling project to work with the team there to support them in whatever way we can," he said.

Eleanor Flew, Director of Fundraising & Communications, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services said:
"We are very grateful to Codling Wind Park for their support. This donation for enhancements to the courtyard will help transform the experience of patients and families. It will connect them to nature and biodiversity and make this a welcoming sheltered space to enjoy the outdoors.

"As an organisation heavily reliant on fundraising, support from businesses in the community and the public is vital to us. COVID-19 really impacted our ability to raise money, resulting in a decrease of 32% in fundraised income last year. We warmly thank Codling Wind Park for this commitment to working with us and we look forward to working with them as sponsors and through volunteering activities."

To find out more about Wicklow Hospice and how you can get involved in supporting their amazing work, please visit **wicklowhospice.ie.**

Meet the Codling team

Momentum has really built up over the past 10 months as we have grown the Codling team to around 50 full-time people.

Behind Codling Wind Park, there is a vast amount of knowledge and experience within the team, gained from offshore wind projects around the world as well as from a variety of sectors and industries across the island of Ireland.

The team is being led by Arno Verbeek who himself has 25 years' experience in the energy industry, 20 of those in offshore wind, having worked on 17 different projects in 8 countries. This includes building Ireland's first and only offshore wind farm, Arklow Bank.

Supporting Arno is a talented team of individuals with over 250 years of offshore wind experience between them and hundreds more years across other sectors.

Within each newsletter, we would like to introduce you to a couple of them, starting with:

Lis Royle

Role/Responsibility
Consents Manager

Professional experience
I have 16 years' experience in consenting onshore and offshore wind farms in the UK, primarily in Scotland. I've worked in many different roles supporting projects throughout all stages of development. I joined the Codling Wind Park project in January 2021 and look forward to supporting the successful delivery of this nationally significant project.

Career highlight to date
I am most proud of helping to take projects from a shape on a map to fully operational renewable energy projects. I am particularly proud of leading the development of an innovative underwater noise mitigation strategy designed to minimise impacts on marine mammals, whilst also reducing construction programme risks. The strategy was the first in the global offshore wind industry and was nominated for a Scottish Renewables Green Energy Award.

What excites you about your current role?
Working on an Irish project is very exciting as the offshore wind industry is in its infancy, so there are plenty of opportunities to realise benefits. This includes anything from job creation, boosting Ireland's supply chain and increasing our understanding of the marine environment, through to reducing carbon emissions and supporting reliable energy supply.

What keeps you busy in your free time?
Most weekends I go wild water swimming, and when I'm not swimming in a freezing loch I prefer to spend time with my family and friends outdoors.

Eric McCarthy

Role/Responsibility
Onshore Package Manager

Professional experience
I have been involved in the wind industry since 2009, where I have been involved in more than 1,500MW of projects in the construction phase, plus the development of 303MW of onshore wind farms in Ireland. I have successfully completed 273 turbines consisting of 8 onshore and 1 offshore wind farm. My regional experience includes wind farms in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Croatia and the Netherlands.

Career highlight to date
My career highlight to date has been working on Europe's largest onshore wind farm in Sweden, a 474MW wind farm consisting of 114 turbines.

What excites you about your current role?
I am passionate about renewables and the need to address the existential threat that is climate change. I am most excited about being part of the Codling Wind Park team and the significant role Codling will play in Ireland achieving its ambitious Climate Action Plan targets to reach 70% renewable electricity by 2030, and to be carbon neutral by 2050.

What keeps you busy in your free time?
With a young family and my children heavily involved in sport, I don't get much time these days for my own sporting adventures, however I hope to make time in the future for something challenging, such as the last multi-day race in the Sahara Desert – described as the toughest footrace on earth.

Getting in touch

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.

You can contact us by email at contact@codlingwindpark.ie or by getting in touch with our team members.

Liz Dillon
Community Liaison Officer
Phone: +353 8710 11473
liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie

Denise Horan
Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Phone: +353 8712 69111
denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie

Mark O'Reilly
Fisheries Liaison Officer
Phone: +353 85 1399 000
flo@codlingwindpark.ie

Project website

codlingwindpark.ie

Our new project website is the initial 'go to' place for information on the project, latest news and getting in touch with the project team.

LinkedIn

You can also stay in touch with news and updates through our **Codling Wind Park LinkedIn page.**

Media enquires

For media enquiries, please contact:

Denise Horan
denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie
Mob: +353 8712 69111

Steve Thomas
steve.thomas@codlingwindpark.ie
Mob: +44 (0)7918 588746

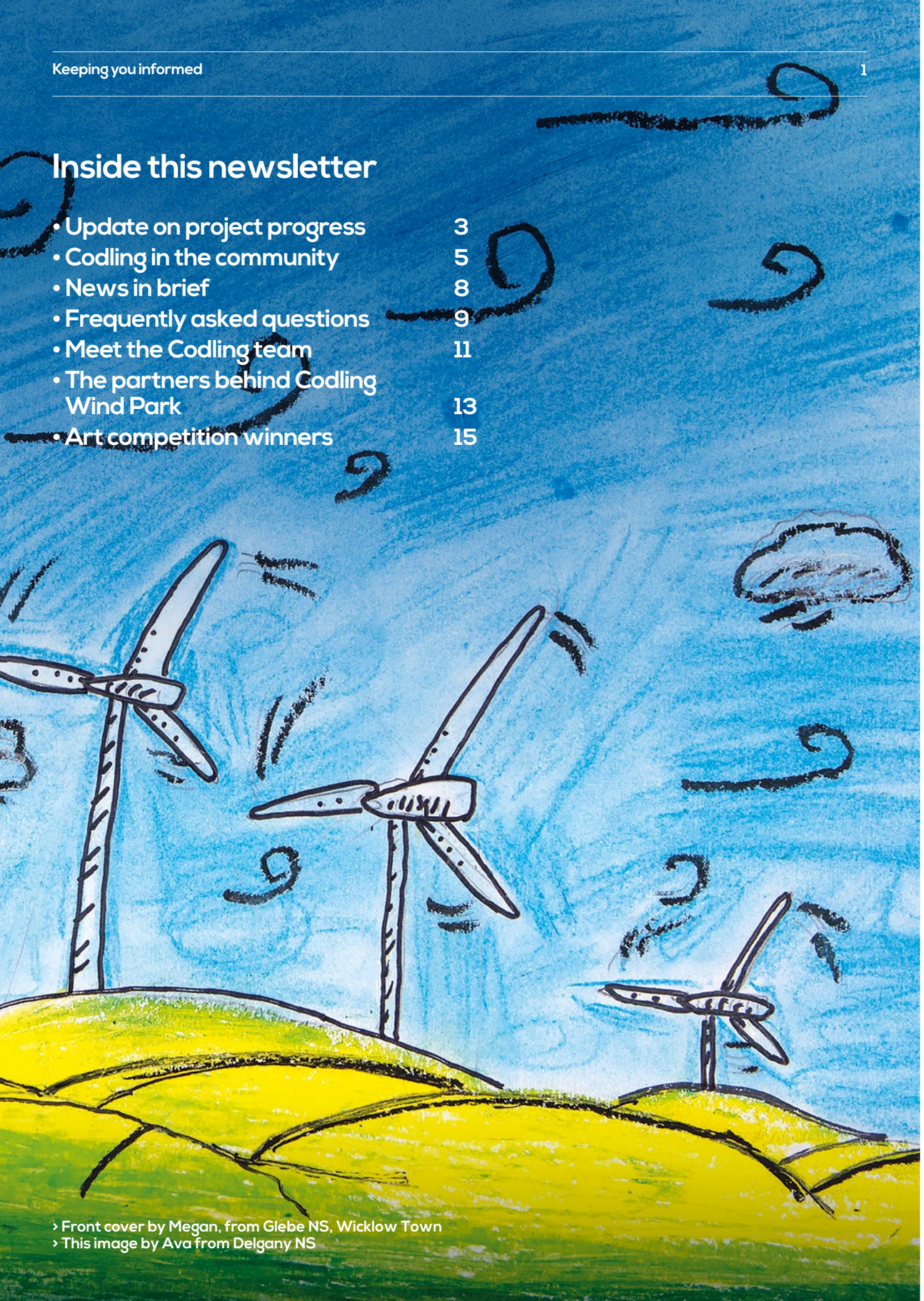
Appendix B.2 Community Newsletter #2: Summer 2022

codling wind park

Keeping you informed
Codling Wind Park Newsletter
Summer 2022

Generating a greener Ireland

Inside this newsletter



› Front cover by Megan, from Glebe NS, Wicklow Town
› This image by Ava from Delgany NS

Welcome to our newsletter

› **Thomas Gellert**
Co-Project Director

› **Scott Sutherland**
Co-Project Director

"Offshore wind can significantly reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels, ensure greater control over our energy supply and reduce electricity bills."

Dear reader,

Since our first newsletter issued in August last year, considerable progress has been made by the team at Codling Wind Park as we continue to develop Ireland's largest Phase One offshore wind farm.

In the pages that follow, you will read about these specific advances – and about the work that lies ahead for the remainder of this year and beyond.

But first we would like to introduce ourselves. Earlier this summer, we took over as Co-Project Directors for Codling Wind Park, taking up the baton from Arno Verbeek, who did great work in the previous 20 months.

This change underlines the commitment of both partners – EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind – to the project and their desire to be more directly involved on a day-to-day basis.

Together, we have almost thirty years' experience in the execution and delivery of market-leading offshore wind projects around the world, and we are committed to realising the potential of what is a hugely important project for us, for Wicklow and for Ireland.

We are excited to be joining such a successful team and look forward to not only delivering one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, but to helping Ireland realise its potential to become a world leader in offshore wind.

These changes come at an important time for the Codling Wind Park project and build upon the significant progress and momentum already built up by our experienced team.

There are plenty of updates to read in this newsletter, across many fronts. But before that, we wanted to remind you, briefly, why projects like ours are more important than ever. The recent tragic events in Ukraine, coupled with the stark warnings in the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have reinforced the urgent need for Ireland to switch to renewable energy as quickly as possible. Never has it been more vital that we use our vast offshore wind resource to create renewable energy at scale and ensure the security of our own energy supply.

Offshore wind can significantly reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels, ensure greater control over our energy supply and reduce electricity bills. The development of our offshore wind energy capacity will lessen – and eventually eradicate – our dependence on imported fossil fuels and bring an unprecedented reduction in CO_2 emissions for a climate neutral future.

Codling Wind Park is a renewable energy project of strategic national importance, with a key role to play in making this energy transformation happen. We are immensely proud of, and passionate about, the role we must play, and it is our intention to develop it in a way that local communities can feel part of.

I hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any comments or questions about the project, please get in touch with us using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer and stay safe.

Is mise, le meas / kind regards

Thomas Gellert
Scott Sutherland

Co-Project Directors

Progress being made on multiple fronts

We continue to make great progress across many areas, to deliver a project of which Ireland can be justifiably proud.

The project team's aim is to submit onshore and offshore planning applications to An Bord Pleanála during the second half of 2023, which will include a single Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Consultation and engagement will form an important part of both processes, and we expect to undertake two further phases of public consultation, towards the end of this year and during the first half of 2023.

Grid connection assessment process ongoing

Discussions have gathered pace to establish where the electricity from Codling Wind Park will be connected into the Irish national grid network. During our first phase of public consultation last year, we indicated that Poolbeg, Carrickmines and Ballybeg were the locations under consideration. Following recent engagement with EirGrid, we are now focusing our efforts solely on Poolbeg as the likely location.

Codling Wind Park, along with other Phase One projects, have now entered into a formal grid connection assessment process with EirGrid – operators of the national grid transmission network – and we hope that a decision will be made by September on the project's connection location(s) and maximum export capacity (i.e. the volume of electricity it will generate).

This decision will allow us to progress the design and layout of the project and enable us to participate in the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) auction, which is due to open in the final quarter of this year.

Once we have clarity on location(s), we will provide a further update, including details of our plans for local consultation.

Codling Wind Park submits application for Maritime Area Consent

Codling Wind Park recorded another significant milestone in its progress in June, with the submission of its application for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) to the Irish Government.

The MAC is a new regulatory requirement for marine-based projects, which came into effect following the enactment of the Maritime Area Planning Act in December 2021. It is set to replace the old foreshore lease process through which companies previously applied for the right to develop parts of the seabed off Ireland's extensive coast.

If Codling Wind Park's application is successful, it will allow the project to participate in the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) auction, which is due to open later this year, and to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

Surveys and environmental studies continue

We have completed several offshore surveys – geophysical, geotechnical, ecological and metocean – gathering important technical and environmental data. Most recently, these included nearshore surveys at a small number of locations along the coast, close to our potential grid connection locations, during which we collected soil samples from the seabed. The information gathered will help provide a more detailed understanding of the seabed conditions and will be used to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and the design of our offshore cable route(s) and landing point(s).

Specific environmental surveys have also been ongoing, which will be used to inform our baseline understanding as part of the EIA process.

All this environmental and survey data will be used to establish design and layout options for the project, which will form the basis of our second round of public consultation later this year.We fully recognise the importance of appropriate and sensitive development of the project. All offshore survey activities are carefully considered and planned to minimise any impact on the fishing community and other marine users. The approach of the project has always been – and remains – to minimise disturbance and ensure co-existence.

› LB Jill conducting geoscience surveys on site 2021

› Pictured at Wicklow Harbour are, from left: Deputy Steven Matthews; Paul Ivory, Wicklow County Council; Breege Kilkenny, Wicklow County Council; Dave Shannon, Wicklow Town Team; Dorothy Kennedy, Wicklow County Council; Deputy Jennifer Whitmore; Senator Pat Casey; Arno Verbeek, former Project Director, Codling Wind Park; Deputy John Brady; Lorraine Gallagher, Wicklow County Council; Cllr Gail Dunne, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow Municipal District; Cllr Shay Cullen, former Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council; Andy Kay, Codling Wind Park.

› Codling Wind Park Operations and Maintenance Base announcement event.

Wicklow selected as Operations and Maintenance Base

The announcement in November of Wicklow Port as the preferred home for Codling Wind Park's Operations and Maintenance Base (OMB), the long-term facility from which the offshore wind farm will be operated and serviced, was a significant milestone for the project.

This decision represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for County Wicklow to be at the heart of the renewable energy revolution that Ireland will undergo in the decades ahead and complements Wicklow County Council's ambitious plans for the regeneration of Wicklow Town and the entire harbour area.

This will bring a major economic boost to the area, with significant investment to be made in the development of the port facilities, the creation of up to 75 new, long-term, local jobs, retraining and apprenticeship opportunities, together with opportunities for local businesses to support the planning, design, construction, and ongoing operation of the new base.

The OMB is expected to provide offices, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities to permit the safe operation and maintenance of Codling Wind Park over its expected operational lifetime of 30 years.

Since our announcement, we have been looking at various options in the harbour, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council. We recognise that it is already a busy harbour, and our objective is to identify potential areas in which our facilities can be accommodated with minimum disruption to existing harbour users.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, further work will continue to take place to assess each of the options identified. Then conceptual and detailed designs will be prepared, setting out what a shortlist of these options might look like. These proposals will be shared publicly through a public consultation process with specific feedback invited in the coming years.

75 new jobs

Expected number of new, long-term, full-time jobs.

30 years

Anticipated operating life of the wind farm.

Economic boost

Codling Wind Park will lead to significant investment in the development of Wicklow Port.

Codling Wind Park in the local community

Information clinics continue at three locations

To continue to make the Codling Wind Park project as accessible as possible to the communities closest to the project, in January we launched a series of dedicated information clinics that are available, by appointment, at three different locations within the Wicklow and Greystones Municipal Districts.

The clinics take place in Greystones, Kilcoole and Wicklow Town on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of every month, respectively. Each clinic is open to bookings for two hours, 10am to 12pm.

An additional "pop-up" clinic – which is open to community, voluntary, sporting, business, and other local organisations, including schools – is available for bookings on the first Wednesday of every month. The location of this clinic will be agreed on an individual request basis.

The purpose of the clinics is to provide the public with an opportunity to meet face-to-face with a project representative to discuss questions they may have and/or to get an update on the project's progress. Online slots may also be booked, where preferred.

To find out more and to book a slot at one of the clinics, simply visit our website[1] and complete the online booking form, or call +353 87 101 1473.

Innovative educational programme rolled out in four local schools

Codling Wind Park has teamed up with STEAM Education Limited – a Cork-based team of experts aiming to bring science, technology, engineering, arts and maths to life in a fun way for children – to provide a solution-focused education programme on climate change to primary schools in the Wicklow and Greystones municipal districts.

The five-lesson programme explores what climate change is, the causes and effects on humans, nature, and the environment, and looks at engineering and technology solutions for a sustainable future.

Delivered by STEAM experts from industry and academia, the sessions also help to inspire primary school children to love STEAM subjects and to become the future generation of Scientists, Technologists, Engineers, Artists and Mathematicians.

Using arts, communication and active citizenship, the hands-on, creative sessions engage children in understanding the part they can, and do, play in contributing their ideas towards a greener future.

So far, programmes have been delivered at four schools: St. Coen's NS in Rathnew, St. Kevin's NS in Greystones, Brittas Bay NS and Wicklow Educate Together School.

Denise Horan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at Codling Wind Park, said:
"These sessions were great fun, and the children were really engaged. They asked lots of interesting questions about their environment and came up with great suggestions of small changes they could make to live more sustainably. Teaching children to think both critically and creatively is key to the development of a society which understands and is fully engaged with the world around them."

› Students from St Coen's NS, Rathnew, taking part in a climate action experiment.

› Ms Lally and Sarah-Jane from 6th Class in St Kevin's NS, Greystones, testing out Sarah-Jane's wind turbine.

[1] https://codlingwindpark.ie/information-clinics/

Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

We were delighted to attend the launch of the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 by Damien English TD, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, in Wicklow during March.

The plan sets out five strategic objectives for enterprise development in the Wicklow, Kildare and Meath region over the next three years, including ensuring that the region accelerates the transition to a low carbon economy. We look forward to continuing to work with local partners to support this accelerated transition in the years ahead.

› Pictured here are former Project Director, Arno Verbeek; Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Denise Horan; Minister Damien English, and Santina Kennedy of Wicklow Naturally. Image credit: Michael Kelly

Local sponsorships and donations

Through our local sponsorship and donation fund, we are pleased to continue to support a range of local organisations and communities close to the Codling Wind Park project.

These include:

- A new defibrillator in Greystones Marina, helping Greystones Fire Brigade to have a continuous route of 24-hour publicly accessible defibrillators along the coastal path around Greystones.
- A new wall-mounted drinking water fountain and filling station at Wicklow Tennis Club.
- Two new kayaks at Greystones Rowing Club
- Catering support at the Taste of Greystones Regatta on the 27 and 28 ust
- A sponsored walk up The Little Sugar Loaf in support of Wicklow Hospice.

› Pictured here are (back row) Neville Long, Niall O'Neill, Liz Dillon, Alan Smullen, Bernard Byrne, Bob Gunning. (Front row): Ewan Long and James Long.

› Members of the Codling Wind Park team, completing a sponsored hike up the Little Sugar Loaf in support of Wicklow Hospice.

First fisheries newsletter issued

In March, we launched our very first newsletter specifically for the local fishing community, which included up-to-date information on planned activities and answers to a wide range of questions and concerns raised with us during numerous face-to-face meetings.

The newsletter was sent directly to all east-coast fishers with whom we regularly engage. Further newsletters will be issued as relevant updates and information are available.
› Fisheries newsletter[2]

› Our first fisheries newsletter

[2] https://codlingwindpark.ie/fisheries-mariners/

Over 500 entries in schools' art competition

To mark Global Wind Day on 15 June, we announced the winners of our 2022 schools' art competition. We received over 500 entries, with the talented winners coming from three different schools in Wicklow Town and Delgany.

The aims of the competition were to encourage children to learn, understand and ask questions about climate change and the important role wind energy has to play in addressing it, while also having fun.

Details were sent to 28 primary schools within the Greystones and Wicklow municipal districts, with the competition open to children in all classes. There were two categories: juniors - junior infants to second class; and seniors - third to sixth class.

The prize for first place was a €100 voucher for either Art and Hobby in Greystones or Hopkins Toymaster in Wicklow Town, with second and third places receiving a €50 and a €30 voucher respectively.

In addition to the individual prizes, every school that entered the competition was also entered into a draw for a special School Prize of an iPad or a €500 voucher for assistive IT equipment for the school. St Catherine's Special School in Newcastle was the lucky winner of this prize, receiving a €500 IT voucher.

See the full list of winners on the back cover.

Some of the winning artists and schools

› **The Glebe NS, Wicklow**
Winners of the Codling Wind Park Art Competition Megan Ferris who won 1st prize in the Senior section and Beth Moran who came 2nd in the Junior section from the Glebe National School in Wicklow Town pictured with teachers David Henderson, Amanda Vogan, Principal Sandra Byran and Liz Dillon of Codling Wind Park.

› **St. Catherine's Special School**
Kim Cosgrave, Joanne Hackett, Duncan Gilbert, Janet Webster, Eva Young, Odetta Sosnowska, Jack Lacey, Amelia Hillditch and Brigeeta Mulvihill of St.Catherine's Special School, Newcastle who were winners of assistive IT equipment in the Codling Wind Park Art Competition pictured with Liz Dillon.

› **Wicklow Educate Together NS, Wicklow Town**
Tia Kerighery, winner of 2nd prize in the Senior section, with Alison Vines and Liz Dillon.

› **Delgany NS School**
Daniel Tyrrell 3rd prize in the Senior section, Alexander Bocquel 3rd prize in the Junior section and Ava McDonnell who won 1st prize in the Junior section from Delgany NS pictured with Principal Anna Ovington and Liz Dillon.

News in brief...

New Maritime Area Planning Act

The Maritime Area Planning Act, which became law in December 2021, is a new consenting system for development activity in the maritime area, including Irish offshore wind projects.

In the context of the nascent offshore wind industry, it will provide more certainty for regulators and developers while reducing electricity prices for consumers and our reliance on imported fossil fuels. It is backed by robust planning requirements and will ensure that the highest environmental standards are applied to all developments.

Under the new planning regime, offshore wind developers must have Maritime Area Consents to be able to apply for planning permission from An Bord Pleanála. The Act envisages the establishment of a new agency called the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, or MARA, which is due to be set up in early 2023. In the interim, the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications is tasked with issuing Maritime Area Consents to the first phase of offshore wind projects that meet the relevant assessment criteria.

Dutch trade mission

› Arno Verbeek, former Project Director of Codling Wind Park, meeting Arjen Schutten, MD of Holland Home of Wind Energy.

Codling Wind Park was delighted to be a part of the Netherlands Embassy Offshore Wind trade mission, which was held 21–23 March in Wicklow and Dublin.

The Netherlands Embassy in Ireland, together with their partners Holland Home of Wind Energy and the Dutch Enterprise Agency, organised the trade mission, facilitating and stimulating links between relevant Dutch and Irish businesses involved in the offshore wind sector.

We gave them an insight into the opportunities that will arise for the Irish supply chain, and international companies where local expertise does not exist.

Wind Energy Ireland Annual Conference

› Denise Horan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at Codling Wind Park, presenting prize winner Alec Granville-Willett at Baringa with a delicious hamper of locally produced goodies from Wicklow Naturally.

This two-day event on the 13–14 April took place in Dublin at a crucial time for Ireland, with energy security high on the public agenda and Ireland's 2030 climate action targets fast approaching.

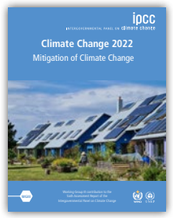
It was a jam-packed and inspirational couple of days, focusing on how the renewables sector can help to 'build a zero-carbon Ireland'.

Never before has there been such a compelling need – energy security, looming climate action targets, spiralling electricity costs – for Ireland to unlock the enormous potential of renewable energy and offshore wind – a clean, green, locally produced energy source, a point stressed by almost every speaker.

Among the wide range of speakers and panellists at the two-day event were Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald, EU Commissioner Mairead McGuinness, EirGrid CEO Mark Foley, Chairperson of Renewable Energy Ireland Dr Tanya Harrington, Lecturer in Sustainable Energy at UCC Dr Hannah Daly, and Oisín Coghlan, Director of Friends of the Earth Ireland.

We were proud to be there and to support the industry. Huge credit to the team at Wind Energy Ireland for organising and hosting such a successful and meaningful event.

Climate Change - IPCC Report



The latest report issued in April, from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), makes for sobering reading.

It highlights that with the Earth already undergoing dangerous overheating the international community has no option, if it wants to avoid climate disaster, but to end fossil fuel use in economies and throughout society – and to do it with great urgency. It reinforces the message that climate change is not some kind of distant threat, happening in some distant place or at some point in the future, it is here and now. And it will get worse without radical action. The report talks about how the next three years will be the most critical in recent global history if unprecedented heatwaves, terrifying storms, and widespread water shortages are to be avoided.

› The full report can be found here[3].

[3] https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/

Frequently asked questions...

We thought it might be helpful to share answers to some of the most common questions we get asked. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us – details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Q1

Why aren't offshore wind farms in Ireland built further out to sea, for example at least 22km from the shore, as they are in other countries?

This is largely due to water depth. As you move out from shore, Ireland's water depth increases very quickly, compared to the North Sea, for example, which is relatively shallow and gently sloping. Identifying the right location for an offshore wind farm requires a careful balance between numerous technical, environmental and economic factors. But, one of the most critical is the water depth at any potential location.

All of Ireland's first phase of offshore wind farms will use a technology called 'fixed-bottom foundations'. This is where the wind turbine is installed on top of a foundation (for example a monopile) which is connected to the seabed. This is a proven and established technology, which is being used to develop offshore wind energy in Europe and all over the world, at low cost.

As of the end of 2020, there were 7.8 Gigawatts[1] of offshore wind capacity installed in Europe from 65 offshore wind farms located closer than 22 km from the coastline. Another 16 Gigawatts of projects within that distance either have planning permission or have applied for it.

Fixed-bottom offshore wind will have to be an essential component of the Irish energy generation mix if Ireland is to meet the 2030 renewable electricity targets. It is also the only technology with the scale and deployment capacity to meet these objectives in full.

[1]Source: Wind Europe

Q2

Will noise from the wind turbines be audible on shore?

It is not expected that noise from operational wind turbines on the Codling Wind Park project will be audible on shore. This is due to the distance of the offshore wind farm from the shore (between 13 and 22 kilometres), combined with the levels of ambient (existing) noise at the coast.

However, the potential for wind turbines to generate noise will be assessed as part of our EIA.

13-22 km

We don't expect noise to be heard onshore as the turbines will be between 13 and 22 kilometres from shore.

Did you know?
Energy Security in Ireland

Energy security, in its simplest terms, means having uninterrupted access to reliable, affordable supplies of energy. Secure supplies of energy are essential for our economy and for maintaining safe and comfortable living conditions.

Dependency on energy imports is one of the simplest and most widely used indicators of a country's energy security, with indigenous energy sources generally considered to be more secure than imported energy.

Ireland needs to become far more reliant on its own sources of energy. Offshore wind will remove our high dependence on imported fossil fuels, ensure greater control and reduce costs.

Ireland imported 77% of its energy supply in 2021[4]

› National Energy Balance | Key Publications | SEA | [4]

[4] https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-pub`lications/national-energy-balance/

Q3

Will the wind farm spoil our view?

The wind turbines will be visible, but they will also be far out at sea, approximately 13km at the closest points and much further from most locations. That is roughly the distance from Bray Head to Dún Laoghaire.

The visual impact of the Codling Wind Park project will be examined in detail in our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators. The EIA will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects in accordance with best practice and current guidance.

During our first phase of consultation, we provided photomontages giving very early indications of what the Codling Wind Park project could look like from different points along the coast. These are still available on the project website[5] for viewing.

We expect to showcase updated photomontages at the next public consultation event planned later this year.

Q4

What measures are taken to protect birds from the turning blades?

Birds are given priority when designing a wind farm.

Since the site was identified in 1999, we have completed several years' worth of surveys to identify the bird species and numbers that regularly use the wind farm site for roosting or feeding. These surveys are ongoing and will continue in the months and years ahead.

Over recent years the renewable wind industry, government organisations and academia have gathered a significant amount of data on the behaviours of the seabird species found off the coasts of Ireland and the UK, and how they interact with wind farms.

This information, as well as regular stakeholder engagement and input, will be considered in developing the design of the Codling Wind Park project and will be included within our EIA which forms part of our consenting application process and will be publicly available.

Mitigation will be incorporated both at the design stage of the project, which we are currently progressing, and once the impact assessment results are known to minimise impact levels. In addition to this, key effects from the wind farm on certain receptors such as birds and marine mammals will be monitored either during or after construction, or both depending on the outcome of our assessments.

Q5

What is a Foreshore Licence?

A Foreshore Licence enables Codling Wind Park to undertake offshore geoscience surveys and site investigations. Foreshore Licence applications are made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and are assessed in accordance with the Foreshore Acts 1933-2011.

Surveys and site investigation activities are important in assessing the suitability and feasibility of all offshore aspects of the project. This data will be used to inform the ongoing environmental assessments required as part of the consenting process and to progress the design of the project.

The surveys and investigations typically involve:

- Geophysical surveys
- Geotechnical surveys
- Metocean and Floating LiDAR equipment
- Fish & Shellfish surveys
- Benthic & Intertidal surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Marine Mammal Acoustic surveys.

[5] https://codlingwindpark.ie/photomontages/

Meet the Codling team

There is a vast amount of knowledge and experience within the Codling Wind Park team. Within each newsletter, we would like to introduce you to a couple of the team, and for this edition, please meet:

Daniel Lazell

Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator and Biodiversity Officer

Professional experience

Ever since early childhood I have been fascinated by both nature and the science behind how things work.

It was from there that I discovered the idea of becoming a Marine Biologist, achieving my goal of a degree in Marine and Freshwater biology from Essex University, as well as qualifications in Marine Mammal Observation and Passive Acoustic Monitoring.

During my degree course, there was an optional module to learn coral reef biology on a field course at a research base in a remote part of Indonesia. After I had completed my degree, I spent a further three summers in Indonesia, undertaking a variety of scientific research projects and spending two years living in a remote part of Indonesia on a small Island called Wanci in the Wakatobi.

Following this, I relocated to Qatar, to take up the role of Environmental Scientist. This led to a further opportunity, conducting a several month survey of the coast of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. I spent 5 years in total working in the Middle East, designing, planning and executing a number of large-scale baselines, Environmental Impact Assessments and monitoring projects, delivering reports to governmental bodies, regulatory agencies, and a wide range of private sector clients.

In 2016, I moved back to Ireland, and am delighted to have joined the team at Codling Wind Park, helping to deliver a project which will improve the future of the country I now call home.

Career highlight to date

My career highlight to date would be working as part of the local community in Indonesia, introducing changes to improve the environment. One initiative involved working with local schools to discuss plastic waste and to identify the most common items we collected during a beach clean. This led to the discovery that the most commonly found items were plastic straws and disposable water cups.
We introduced water refill stations to avoid their use, which then led to the local children becoming advocates for not dumping rubbish in the oceans and discussing the impacts of littering with their parents and wider community.
It was fantastic to see how a small change could make such a difference.

› Daniel studied coral reef biology in Indonesia as part of his degree course.

What excites you about your current role?

Being part of the team working to create one of the first and largest offshore wind farms in Ireland and helping to highlight and increase the biodiversity in and around the development is an incredible opportunity. I am proud to be involved in developing a renewable energy resource for the future of Ireland and doing so in a responsible and positive way.

What keeps you busy in your free time?

Having a toddler keeps me and my wife very busy the vast majority of the time! As a family we enjoy walks with our dog, particularly along the coast where we often look in the rock pools and intertidal areas to see what we can find. We have also recently taken up paddle boarding and sea swimming and I hope to join a local diving club in the near future. When not out and about, I am an avid gamer and Lego enthusiast.

Denise Horan

Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Professional experience

I started my working life as a PE and Irish teacher, but quickly learned that few students shared my passion for either subject!
My love of the English language and involvement in sport led to a move into journalism, first as a sports reporter (GAA and soccer mainly), then as local news correspondent for a newspaper in my home county of Mayo. I later went on to become Editor of The Mayo News, one of the most creatively rewarding roles I have done to date.

From journalism I moved into business communications, with a particular focus on stakeholder and community engagement. I spent nine years working for Shell in a variety of communications and stakeholder engagement roles in Ireland, Scotland, the Netherlands and Kazakhstan.

I then joined global building materials company CRH as Head of Communications for their European business, working first in Amsterdam and then back home in Ireland.

In November 2020, I started my current role on the Codling Wind Park project, my first role in renewables and one which I'm really enjoying.

Career highlight to date

I have been fortunate enough to work in different countries, which introduced me to different cultures and perspectives, which was really enriching. I have also been blessed to work with some great leaders, from whom I learned a lot.

But, the highlight for me was my time editing The Mayo News. I was very young – just 28 – when I took on the role, but the excitement of seeing the fruits of our creative labours every week in the form of a 100+ page publication has not been surpassed since. We had a fantastic team of journalists and designers and everyone was striving for quality. Every week we tried to produce something that would inform, entertain, surprise and challenge our readers.

It also reinforced my belief in the power of communities, because we bore witness to all their triumphs and tragedies and saw how they united in the face of each. It was a huge privilege.

› In her free time, Denise enjoys supporting the Mayo football team, including regular outings to Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

What excites you about your current role?

Many things excite me about my current role... being part of a project – and an industry – that has such an important role to play in Ireland's future, environmentally, economically and energy security wise; working with such a tight-knit, talented and passionate team of people; getting to know the people and the landscape in Wicklow – a most beautiful county and rightly called the 'garden of Ireland'. I also feel a huge sense of responsibility to ensure we do things well and bring people with us. We are leading the way – along with the other Phase One projects – and the example we give needs to be a positive one.

What keeps you busy in your free time?

Having retired from competitive sport many years ago, I was persuaded to go back playing Gaelic football with my local club this year. Though my body doesn't always thank me for it, I am really enjoying it! I also love walking, supporting Mayo football and spending time with my nephews, David and Tom.

The partners behind Codling Wind Park

Codling Wind Park is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind, two global companies with many years' experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sectors.

Both companies understand the importance of sustainable development, building lasting relationships in local communities and have a strong record of ensuring best environmental practice in renewable energy projects.

Fred. Olsen Seawind

Fred. Olsen Seawind AS is an established offshore wind developer building on Fred. Olsen Renewables' 25 years wind track record, market presence and portfolio.

Fred. Olsen has been involved in the project since the very beginning - way back in 1999 - when the site location was first identified as having offshore wind potential.

In 2021, the Fred. Olsen Renewables offshore wind assets and activity was organised within a distinct corporate structure in Fred. Olsen Seawind AS and is 100% controlled by Bonheur ASA.

Utilising the extensive experience in Scotland gained through over 25 years of development, construction, and operation of onshore wind, Fred. Olsen Seawind is committed to progressing offshore wind projects in Ireland, Norway and Scotland and is exploring opportunities in new markets.

› For further information visit:
fredolsenseawind.com

EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables acquired 50% of Codling Wind Park in 2020.

› Teesside offshore wind farm EDF Renewables.

EDF Renewables Group has more than 25 years of experience in delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries around the world.

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and two battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW) and an expanding renewables portfolio with almost 5GW of projects in planning and development across wind, battery and solar. They have offices in Dublin, London, Edinburgh and Durham.

› For further information visit:
edf-re.ie

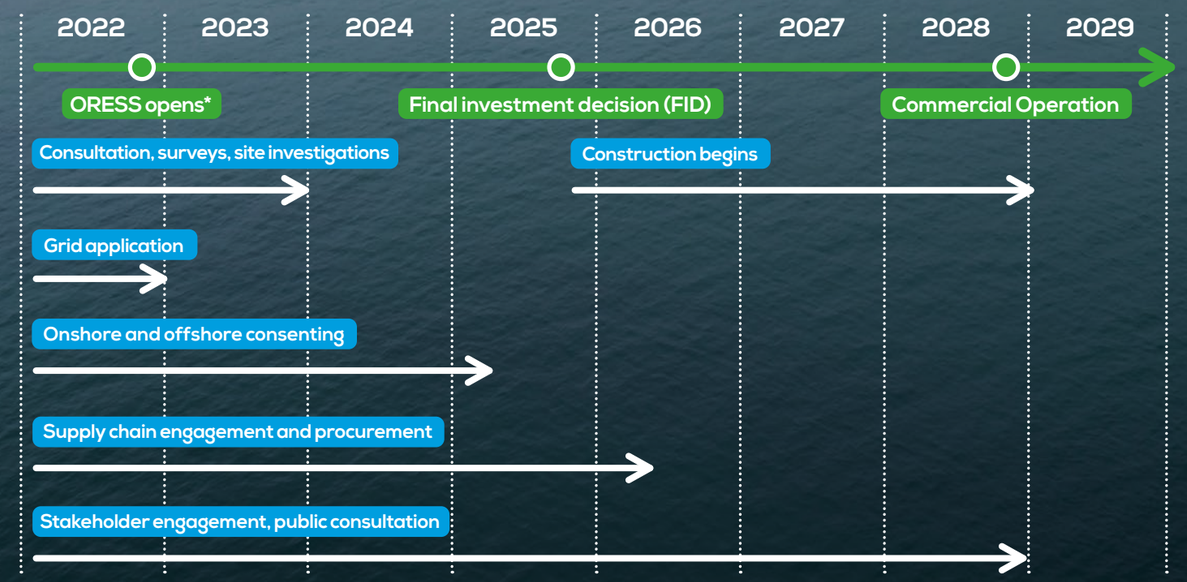
We remain on course to start construction in 2025, with full completion expected by the end of 2028.

However, given the nature and complexity of projects such as Codling Wind Park, dates and milestones can change and are often influenced by many factors outside the control of the project team. Updates to the project timeline will be published on our website
› codlingwindpark.ie

2025

We remain on course to start construction in 2025.

Indicative project timeline



***ORESS** = Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

Art competition winners

Junior winners

› **1st** Ava from Delgany NS

› **2nd** Beth from Glebe NS Wicklow Town

› **3rd** Alexander from Delgany NS

Senior winners

› **1st** Megan from Glebe NS, Wicklow Town

› **2nd** Tia from Wicklow Educate Together NS, Wicklow Town

› **3rd** Daniel from Delgany NS

Getting in touch

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us. In addition to planned public consultation later this year, you can contact us in the following ways, at any time:

Telephone: +353 87 101 1473

Email: contact@codlingwindpark.ie

Project website: https://codlingwindpark.ie

Denise Horan
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Phone
+353 87 126 9111

Email
denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie

Mark O'Reilly
Fisheries Liaison Officer

Phone
+353 85 139 9000

Email
flo@codlingwindpark.ie

Appendix B.3 Community Newsletter #3: Summer 2023

codling wind park

August 2023

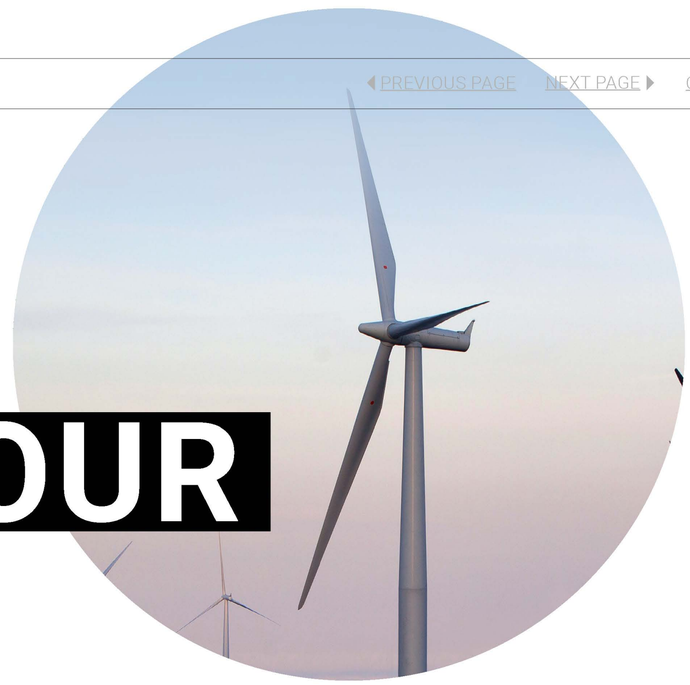
Keeping you informed

Codling Wind Park Newsletter

Generating A Greener Ireland

SEE OUR LATEST UPDATES INSIDE

CONTENTS



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

› **Scott Sutherland**
Project Director

“Codling Wind Park received confirmation that we were one of four successful projects in Ireland’s first ever offshore wind auction.

Hello

We have been busy! Over the past few months, the Codling team have made a lot of progress, bringing Ireland’s largest renewable energy project closer to reality.

The biggest development came in May, when Codling Wind Park received confirmation that we were one of four successful projects in Ireland’s first ever offshore wind auction. This win means we now have a contract to supply our renewable electricity to the Irish grid. The auction was extremely competitive and resulted in an average strike price of €86.05 per megawatt hour, which is about one third cheaper than the average price for electricity in Ireland in April (€126 per MWh). Even more importantly it means Codling, with a capacity of 1300 MW, will be able to supply over 1 million Irish homes with renewable energy.

ORESS (Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme) success doesn’t mean a pause in activity as we bring greater focus on another key milestone, the submission of our planning application to An Bord Pleanála. The Planning Consents team is carrying out a range of surveys and collating the detailed plans for the development. This work will ensure best outcomes for the environment, minimising any disturbance to marine life, while at the same time delivering a key component of Ireland’s climate action infrastructure.

We have also completed the second phase of our public consultation where we were delighted to see firsthand the strong support which exists for offshore energy generally, and Codling in particular. All of the feedback received is helping us to shape the future of the project. We will be coming back into the local communities with our final public engagement before the end of the year and would encourage everyone in the community to meet with us to hear about the latest developments at Codling Wind Park and our exciting plans for the future.

As always, we encourage your feedback so please do not hesitate to contact Pat, Grainne or Pamela on our External Affairs team with any comments or questions on the project.

Talk soon!

Scott Sutherland

Scott Sutherland

Project Director, Codling Wind Park

Email us at contact@codlingwindpark.ie

Phone us on 087 1011 473

1. What's Happening on the Project

Health and Safety

Health and Safety is always our first order of business. We continually strive to maintain the highest levels of health, safety, and environmental performance. With that in mind the project team is fully committed to the ethos of "Zero Harm" which means zero harm to people and the environment.

Government

Following the success of ORESS, the Project Director and other members of team recently had the first of a regular series of engagements with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The meetings are an opportunity for the project to report on progress and flag any potential issues of concern. The Department officials noted the critical importance of the project to Ireland meeting its national climate and energy objectives.

MARA and Grid

We have started engagement with the new Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to coincide with their formal establishment in July. The authority is responsible for assessing all applications for consents in the maritime area prior to projects applying for planning permission and is now the responsible authority for matters connected with our Foreshore Licence. The grid team is also progressing a range of issues relevant to the Poolbeg substation project with Eirgrid, Dublin Port and other state agencies and companies.

Consenting

Our Consenting team is processing the very considerable body of data and information involved in the preparation of the planning application that will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála at the end of the year. We are happy to report that to date we have also had positive and constructive engagement with local authorities including Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Dublin City Council. Also in the planning area, the team is currently progressing our pre application consultations with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) ahead of the application being submitted to ABP at the end of the year.

Ports

The early delivery of new port infrastructure is important for Codling and the other Phase One projects. Most ports still need to secure funding, submit planning applications and begin construction of facilities required to support offshore renewable energy developments. As a project we are engaging with the Irish Maritime Development Office, Department of Transport, and ports companies around Ireland to help ensure sufficient port capacity is in place to support Phase I project delivery in the second half of this decade.

Procurement

The Procurement team is progressing with tendering activities for the major contracts including wind turbines, balance of plant, and electrical systems. It is expected that main agreements will be concluded within the next 12 months. Codling Wind Park is keen to hear new ideas or potential opportunities from the local supply chain. If you want to get in contact, please complete the supply chain registration form on our website.

Engineering

The engineering team are continuing to design and engineer the project, ahead of submitting our planning application to An Bord Pleanála. At the same time, we are engaging deeply with our potential Tier 1 contractors to identify innovative and efficient solutions and technologies with which to build this flagship infrastructure project.

Codling Deliver Unique Fisheries Fund & Charter

In May, we announced details of our €500,000 Fisheries Fund and the industry's first offshore Fisheries Charter. The Fisheries Charter, or code of practice, commits Codling Wind Park to engage with fishers on a regular basis and to follow a range of sustainable development practices. It also highlights our commitment to protecting biodiversity and affirms our responsible stewardship of the waters and seabed on the Codling Bank.

The purpose of the Fisheries Fund is to support opportunities for both inshore and offshore fishing by fishers associated with Codling Wind Park. More importantly, the Fishers have the opportunity to decide how this generous fund is used by bringing forward their ideas. The fund is available for 5 years, and we would encourage fishers in the locality to reach out to discuss their ideas with us.

In addition to the fund, we also confirmed that we will consider other initiatives to support fishers, including helping establish a lobster hatchery. The lobster hatchery would involve raising and releasing young lobsters back into the Irish Sea to increase fishing opportunities in the area. The project is engaging with fishers on this proposal which would significantly support a sustainable and productive fishery in the area.

Speaking at the announcement of the Fisheries Fund and Charter, Project Director of Codling Wind Park Scott Sutherland said: "The purpose of this fund is to support initiatives that could be of benefit to fishing communities, rather than benefitting one individual fisher over another. For example, adding value to a fishery, improving port infrastructure, improving safety, or exploring innovation and fishery diversification."

"This €500,000 fund will help support the fishing industry and long-term sustainable fishing on the Codling Bank. We want to work with the fishers in the area to develop the terms of reference for this fisheries fund to ensure the funds generate maximum benefit for the fishing industry into the future. We want to hear from the fishers about what they think this fund should be used for."

"We are also very proud to be the first developer in Ireland to publish a Fisheries Charter which commits the project to engaging fairly with fishers, to boosting marine biodiversity and to developing sustainable fishing practices."

You can see the full charter on our website. To submit an idea or proposal for the €500,000 Fisheries Fund, please contact: Fisheries Engagement Manager Courtney French, courtney.french@codlingwindpark.ie

Public Consultation Success

As part of our development plan, we committed to three phases of non-statutory public consultation and engagement. The first of these took place in March 2021, where we presented an introduction to the project. Since then, the project had advanced significantly, and the project team ran Phase 2 of the public engagement and consultation process for four weeks, across January and February this year. This second phase of engagement and consultation provided an even greater level of project detail to the people in the community. This was all done to seek feedback on the project plans and to support our ongoing engagement with local communities and stakeholders.

The consultation included briefings for Wicklow and Poolbeg stakeholders, a virtual consultation room, four public information days and engagement clinics. We also took an innovative approach to hear the voice of local young people, and also facilitated a local Transition Year workshop with Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole.

The Codling Wind Park team would like to thank all of those who attended the consultation events and provide their feedback.

Pat Sammon, External Affairs Manager at Codling Wind Park commented: "Everyone on the team was really impressed with the attendance and level of engagement at our public and youth consultation events. It was great to see such positivity towards the project. This was matched by a real desire to understand how it will work and to find out more about the opportunities Codling can provide at a national and local level. The feedback received is extremely useful and will help inform the next stage of development and ultimately improve the project for all involved."

One submission noted how there was excellent outreach to those affected in Wicklow throughout the consultation. Submissions described the Codling Wind Park team at the public events as "knowledgeable", "enthusiastic" and referenced how they were impressed with the engagement. For more information on our youth and public consultations from January click here.

We will be bringing more information into local communities again with our final public and youth engagement before the end of the year, and we encourage you to avail of the opportunity to meet with us and hear about the exciting developments at Codling Wind Park. More information about the engagements will be available closer to the time on our website and LinkedIn pages.

Wicklow Hospice Announced as Codling Wind Park Charity Partners

We are delighted to announce our continued partnership with Wicklow Hospice this year and look forward to supporting its excellent care and attention to people across our community here in Wicklow. We've seen first-hand the amazing work done within Magheramore and throughout the community which relies on funding and community support. In October, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services (OLH&CS), Wicklow are hosting a popular and important fundraiser at Greystones Beach. The 'Dip in the Nip' event which last took place in 2019 is making a welcome return with the support of Codling Wind Park and help from former Irish Rugby player and Wicklow Hospice ambassador, Shane Byrne. To take part, men, groups, clubs and workplaces are asked to raise at least €100 for Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Wicklow, all of which will go towards supporting the delivery of services and care in Wicklow Hospice.

Karen Gallagher, Interim Director of Fundraising & Communications at OLH&CS said: "Fundraising and community support continue to be the life blood of our work at Wicklow Hospice, whether that's in our in-patient facility which cared for 196 inpatients last year or through our Community Palliative Care Team, which made 3,285 visits to people's homes. Initiatives like Dip in the Nip help to ensure the continued provision and development of our services, so we urge the people of Wicklow and surrounds to come out and support it, whether that be through participation or sponsoring one of the brave participants". She added, "This year's event takes place on Sunday 8th October at 10.00am. The women of Wicklow are also asked to show their support by supporting friends or family taking part". For more information and to register for Dip in the Nip, please click here.

2. Codling Wind Park, Part of the Community

Codling Wind Park is committed to supporting local communities and enabling them to share the benefits of offshore wind energy. It's really important to us, that our neighbours benefit from the opportunities renewable energy brings, and we do our best to facilitate that locally. Here's a selection of some of the local events we have recently supported. If your event, club, or charity would benefit from Codling Wind Park sponsorship, please go to our website to complete the sponsorship form.

a) We had the pleasure of sponsoring and attending the Coláiste Chraobh Abhann Showstoppers Concert in Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow in February. Well done to all the students for organising this hugely successful sell-out show.

b) After a 3-year hiatus, the Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade, supported by Codling Wind Park made a very welcome return on the 17th of March.

c) Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns hosted a Festival of Remembrance for the 225th Anniversary of the 1798 Rebellion on Sunday 28th of May supported by Codling Wind Park.

Codling Wind Park Teams Up With Éire Óg Greystones

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting local community organisations across Wicklow, we were delighted to announce our sponsorship of Éire Óg Greystones' U15 Féile hurling team. This sponsorship followed the team's fantastic achievement in winning the county Féile competition and came ahead of their trip to Kilcotton Borris GAA club in Laois for a Regional Féile where they proudly represented Wicklow against clubs from other counties. Éire Óg Greystones, which can trace its roots back over 100 years to 1920, has approximately 1,500 members and around 35 different teams competing in hurling, camogie, gaelic football and ladies' football in Wicklow league and championship competitions. The club, which also acts as a vital community hub for children with disabilities as well as older members, was one of the first in the country to adopt the one club initiative, which combines camogie, GAA and LGFA under the one club model.and stakeholders.

Gráinne Fennell, our Community Engagement Manager said the project was delighted to support this vibrant and growing local GAA club. "It is a real honour for Codling to partner with a leading sporting and community organisation such as Éire Óg Greystones. The club, just like the wider GAA family in Wicklow and beyond, provides a wonderfully inclusive environment for young people of all ages and abilities to enjoy themselves while pursuing a healthy lifestyle and developing their sporting skills. In a wider sense Codling Wind Park is also about creating a safer and healthier environment for both current and future generations of our young people."

Jim Darcy, Head Coach of the U15 hurlers described the sponsorship as a wonderful boost to the players and the club in general. "The boys have had a great year – this was actually our first year entering Féile as a standalone club - but we want to build on that success for the club's future. Obviously, that comes with costs, and we wouldn't be able to provide the supports they or other teams in the club need without the backing of partners such as Codling Wind Park. We're catering for boys and girls of all ages across different levels and the numbers are growing massively. That's why we really appreciate this support from Codling, and we hope it will be the start of a long-term relationship between our young members and the project."

Wicklow's First #Pride Parade

We were proud and privileged to sponsor Wicklow's first ever #Pride parade on July 1st. It was such a fun, joyful and life-affirming day. Our support for #PrideMonth and LGBTQ+ communities doesn't stop there, we firmly believe on the project that generating a greener Ireland is better for our climate, for our energy security, and for human rights everywhere. By investing in renewable energy, we're helping to build a more sustainable, diverse and inclusive world. Conor Kirwan, Secretary of Wicklow Pride Festival, welcomed the sponsorship saying "Codling Wind Park's support has been incredible and the impact the parade and festival has had was immense. Thank you for supporting that, it's incredibly important. A huge day for Wicklow and laying down the foundations of a better future".

St Pat's GAA, Wicklow Town

Codling Wind Park was delighted to support a family day organised by St. Pat's GAA club in Wicklow, with Community Engagement Manager Gráinne on hand to make a presentation to John Smith, Chair of St. Pat's GAA Club in Wicklow town. John commented "A huge thank you to Codling Wind Park for their very generous sponsorship of our club. The project team presented a cheque at our Family Fun Day and Codling wind Park's sponsorship will make a huge difference to all of our teams and players".

Design a Tote Bag Competition

We were delighted to announce the winners of our 'Design a Tote Bag' competition that we ran with Coláiste Chraobh Abhann school in Kilcoole. The overall winner was Frances Simpson, and we were so impressed with the quality of entries that we also awarded two runner-up prizes to Ben Fenelon and Bella Arnold. They each received a tote bag featuring their very own design and Frances' bag design will be given out to the public at our next consultation event later this year. We would like to thank all the students who entered; we were so impressed with your creativity and attention to detail.

Sandymount Community Centre Launch

The team at Sandymount Community Centre hosted a 'Street Party' on the 11th of June to officially launch their centre, a vibrant hub for activities and community groups in the Sandymount and Ringsend areas. Jessica Ryan, the Community Centre Manager said, "The Sandymount Community Centre is delighted to have partnered with Codling Wind Park to officially launch the centre in our community. The work that Codling is doing is necessary and important and we hope that we can continue our relationship into the future!! The day was made all the more special and memorable to the community thanks to their generous donation!!"

Thanks to all of our suppliers, sponsorship recipients and local establishments supporting Codling Wind Park

Codling Wind Park Committed to Using Local Suppliers

It's important for us to source as many goods and services as we can in the Wicklow and Poolbeg areas and to use the local supply chain wherever possible. Throughout our current development phase and into the future construction and operational phases, there will be significant opportunities for contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, facilities, and service providers to work with us.

LOMAN CUSACK DESIGN

Some of the local suppliers we currently work with include **Loman Cusack Design** in Kilcoole Co. Wicklow. Loman's award-winning design agency supports us will all our information graphics and design helping us communicate as effectively as possible with you and all our stakeholders.

First Impression Print & Marketing Partners Tel: 0404 67624 www.pmp.ie

Oscar Christie of **PMP Print & Marketing Partners** in Charvey Way Business Park, Rathnew, Wicklow, is an established print house which provides us with all our printing needs. Oscar and his team produce exactly what we need in premium quality print with fast turnaround times and high-quality finish.

Michael Kelly is a professional photographer working out of Wicklow for many years. Mick has been with us to capture all of our community engagements; staff events and consultations and we look forward to working with Mick as the project progresses.

planetsound

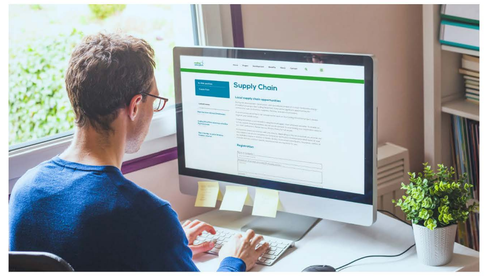
From event production, to live streaming to health and safety Mick Glynn and his team from **planetsound.ie** have supported us and thanks to Mick and his team, all of our engagement events have run smoothly and professionally.

Recently some members of our team attended a coffee-tasting morning at **McCabe's Coffee**, a local coffee business in Newtownmountkennedy.

McCABE'S CO. WICKLOW

Thanks to all at McCabe's who gave so freely of their time to tell us all about their business and sustainability initiatives. We look forward to working together and drinking more of your delicious coffee in the future.

If your business would like to be considered for work on the Codling Wind Park project, please complete the registration form on our website.



Codling Wind Park is committed to supporting local communities and enabling them to share the benefits of offshore wind energy. It's really important to us, that our neighbours benefit from the opportunities renewable energy brings, and we do our best to facilitate that locally.

3. Meet the Codling Team

Erlend Christensen, Our Offshore Licensing Manager

Erlend Christiansen is our Offshore Licensing Manager and also local to the proposed site for Codling Wind Park. He grew up in Wicklow Town and moved to Bray in 2016, after working on a variety of offshore projects all over the world. Read more about his career path to Codling Wind Park and the importance of his work.

Q. What's your role at Codling Wind Park?

A. I'm the Offshore Licensing Manager for the project, and my main focus over the last three years has been securing a range of marine consents and licences for the Codling Wind Park Project. This involved securing Foreshore Licenses, statutory sanctions and other marine consents that are required to enable site investigations and surveys to commence on the offshore site. The site investigations and offshore surveys are important as they are used to inform the project's EIAR / consent application and are also used to inform the design of the offshore infrastructure.

Q. What was your career path to Codling Wind Park?

A. My career began in the oil and gas industry. When I graduated with a BEng in Environmental Engineering from the University of Galway in 2009, we'd just gone into a recession! So I continued my studies and completed a Masters in Sustainable Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh.

My first job was as an Offshore Supervisor in the oil and gas sector. I worked on the construction (jacket installations) of oil and gas platforms all over the world: from the North Sea to the Indian Ocean and Australia. I was also an offshore grouting supervisor during the jacket installations on Belgium's Thornton Bank Phase 2. This was in 2012 and 2013 and was my first taste of offshore wind! I loved the travel. From an early age, I always wanted to work offshore; I did a lot of sailing from a young age – and my brothers and I navigated the waters around Africa and Europe on a sailing boat aged 23.

I switched to tidal energy after three years, working for an Irish company called Open Hydro. Here I led the marine operations for turbine installations in France, Canada, and the Orkney Islands. Then, after four years, I joined Eirgrid – Ireland's transmission system operator.

I was the offshore lead for developing the Celtic Interconnector Project, which is a planned power link to allow the exchange of electricity between Ireland and France. Here, I was responsible for managing delivery of the offshore EIA, marine surveys, route optioneering, crossings, cable burial studies and fishing liaison. I was here for three years before joining Natural Power Consultants.

I joined Natural Power in 2020, and after a few weeks, I was seconded into Codling Wind Park – and I've been here ever since! There were only ten or so of us on the project back then; now there are over 60 on the team, and it has been great to see the project progress and expand so successfully.

Q. What's a typical day like in your role?

A. For the delivery of the Foreshore Licence, I managed a team of about 20 consultants at Natural Power, and they complete the assessments and documentation as part of the licence applications – writing environmental reports, developing our Natural Impact Statements and so on. So I spend a lot of time working with them to ensure our work schedule is complete and on track.

A lot of my time is spent engaging with government departments, stakeholders and statutory bodies (Ports, Harbours, NPWS, UAU, the Marine Institute, Sea Fishers Protection Agency, Commissioners of Irish Lights and so on). We want to keep them up to date with our plans and address any concerns they might have ahead of securing licences or permits for marine works. I work very closely with our legal advisers too.

Q. Have you always been interested in renewables?

A. Definitely. At the age of 18, I chose to study Environmental Engineering to get into the renewables industry. From an engineering perspective, I always found the different technologies in renewables extremely fascinating. (Be it tidal, hydro, wave wind or solar).

It's also very satisfying to be part of a project that's leading the charge for offshore wind in Ireland. Codling Wind Park is a project that is helping us to achieve greater energy security and one that will significantly help Ireland to deliver our climate goals. This makes working in renewables very interesting

Q. Are there challenges in being one of the first projects?

A. Yes, there are always going to be challenges, especially as offshore wind is in its infancy in Ireland. But that's also a privilege – these are the kinds of challenges I love to work on. We have a very strong team at Codling Wind Park, supported by consultants like Natural Power and Tobin, so we all pull together to make sure we overcome any of the challenges that we are faced with.

Q. What's special to you about Codling Wind Park?

A. I'm from Wicklow town – I grew up here. And I've moved back to the Wicklow area after working overseas. I live in Bray now with my wife and our three young girls, so this project is in our backyard; we live close to the seafront, and we will actually be able to see Codling Wind Park from my home. Although it sounds like a cliché, by working on Codling Wind Park, we are helping to safeguard the environment for our kids and future generations, and this makes me tremendously proud to be part of a team that is helping to achieve this.

Q. What's the best thing about your job

A. The job diversity gives me great satisfaction, and I learn something new every day, either from my colleagues in the Codling project or from the wider industry, we're also a very passionate and driven team, and I feel we all get on very well together – we always have great craic when we get together!!

Q. Would you recommend a career in renewables to a young person?

A. Definitely. There are great opportunities in the offshore wind industry in Ireland and in renewables as a whole. There is currently a very strong market in Ireland, the UK and in Europe with strong commitment from governments to deliver their climate targets. With this commitment comes employment with a range of diverse and interesting employment opportunities. Looking forward, these opportunities will only increase.

We also have a great interview with our Fisheries Engagement Manager Courtney French, telling us about her career pathway to Codling Wind Park, the importance of her role on the project, and the initiatives she has put in place to support local fishers.

Fair Seas Conference

Our External Affairs Manager Pat Sammon attended the inaugural World Ocean Day Conference hosted by Fair Seas in Cork on June 8th. We welcomed the opportunity to have Codling Wind Park represented in the critical conversation regarding Marine Protected Areas in Irish Waters as we develop the offshore wind industry in Ireland. Pat said "It was great to hear from and meet with ocean advocates, government, and industry representatives as well as stakeholders at the conference. There was so much positivity about the immense potential of seas around our island to help us heal the planet and sustain communities". Thanks to Fair Seas for bringing together impactful speakers and thought leaders and for delivering a superb conference. We look forward to continuing the discussion further.

Global Wind Day

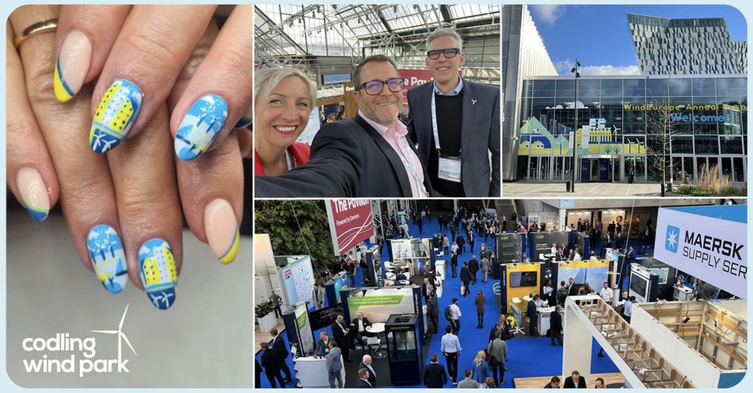
We celebrated Global Wind Day with colleagues in the wind industry on June 15th with the shared message of creating a cleaner, greener future by harnessing the power of wind. Check out our clip on LinkedIn which show some incredible drone footage of our local communities in Wicklow.

Wicklow RNLI Open Day

Codling Wind Park were proud supporters of the @RNLI Family Open Day in Wicklow. We sponsored the children's area and members of our team were there on the day to talk about the project and promote the RNLI's message of being water safe. Thanks to all those who attended and the organisers for hosting such a fantastic day.

Wind Energy Ireland's Offshore Conference

Engaging with other offshore wind projects, policy makers, suppliers and industry experts is important for our team and a great way to share and gain knowledge. Wind Energy Ireland recently hosted their Offshore Wind Conference at the Royal Convention Centre in Dublin, celebrating the start of Ireland's Offshore Wind Energy revolution. Members of Codling Wind Park team attended and after listening to a range of excellent speakers took part in lively discussions on the outcome of the country's first offshore wind auction and Irelands ability to lead the response to the global climate and energy crisis.



Wind Europe Conference

We turned out in style at the Wind Europe annual event recently held in Copenhagen where several team members had the opportunity to meet with industry colleagues and potential suppliers.

4. Did You Know?

Ireland has immense offshore wind potential and Codling Wind Park is proud to be working with the Government, state agencies and local communities to ensure that the significant benefits of Irish offshore energy can be delivered to the people of Ireland. In this section, we will share some industry and project facts as well as answer some of the questions we receive when out and about.

Do we really need more renewable energy and offshore wind?

Global warming is placing enormous stress on our environment. This is happening now, and we are seeing the results of widespread and rapid change as average global temperatures increase year on year. This warming of the planet is fuelled by increases in greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere which are mainly produced when we burn fossil fuels, from industrial processes, and emissions associated with land-use. This change impacts everyone in the world, and we all must adapt in some way to save the planet. Ireland's climate action targets commits us to achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. However, Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently reported that we will miss our emission reduction targets by a significant margin if we continue on the current path and immense change is required if we are to realise the opportunities and socio-economic benefits that can be delivered through decarbonisation.

The deployment of renewable energy systems including offshore wind is a core measure which will enable emissions reduction and help us to achieve our targets. Currently, around 40% of the electricity used in Ireland comes from renewable sources. However, under the Government's Climate Action Plan, this needs to hit 80% by 2030. Codling Wind Park alone can provide over 25% of the 5GW offshore wind target set out in Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 while also offsetting the equivalent of 1.7 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions.

Will the wind turbines spoil my view?

While many people see turbines as graceful symbols of our clean energy future, others express concern over their visibility from the coast. The Codling Wind Park turbines will be visible, they will be located approximately 13 kilometres away at the closest points and 22 kilometres at the furthest point from the shore. That is roughly the distance from Bray Head to Dún Laoghaire. A recent survey by Wind Energy Ireland, revealed that 79% of those polled are in favour of offshore wind energy use in Ireland with over 83% agreeing that offshore can support energy security in Ireland.

During our Public Consultation in January of this year, we met with the transition year students from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole. We were so impressed with the feedback and level of engagement. One of the comments in relation to the visibility of the turbines from a student was ***"Are there really people who are worried about what the turbines look like? If we don't do this, we, the next generation won't have a view to look at!"***

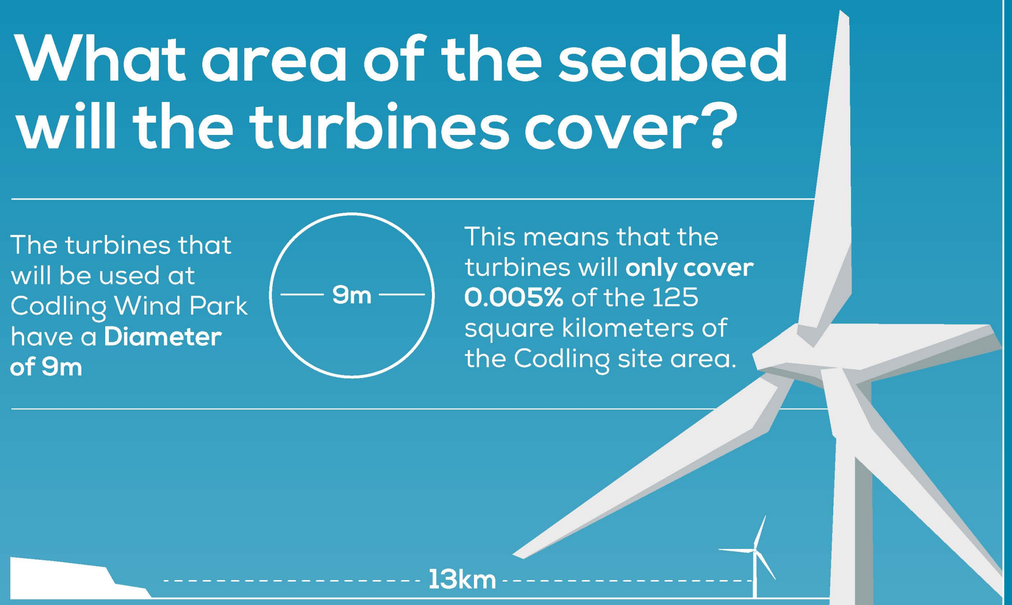
Assessing visual interactions is taken extremely seriously by the project and will be examined in detail in our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This assessment is done in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators. The EIA will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects in accordance with best practice and current guidance. All this information will be publicly available and subject to further assessment by the planning authorities.

codling wind park

What area of the seabed will the turbines cover?

The turbines that will be used at Codling Wind Park have a **Diameter of 9m**

This means that the turbines will **only cover 0.005%** of the 125 square kilometers of the Codling site area.



The closest turbine will be **13 kilometers** offshore and the furthest is **22 Kilometer**

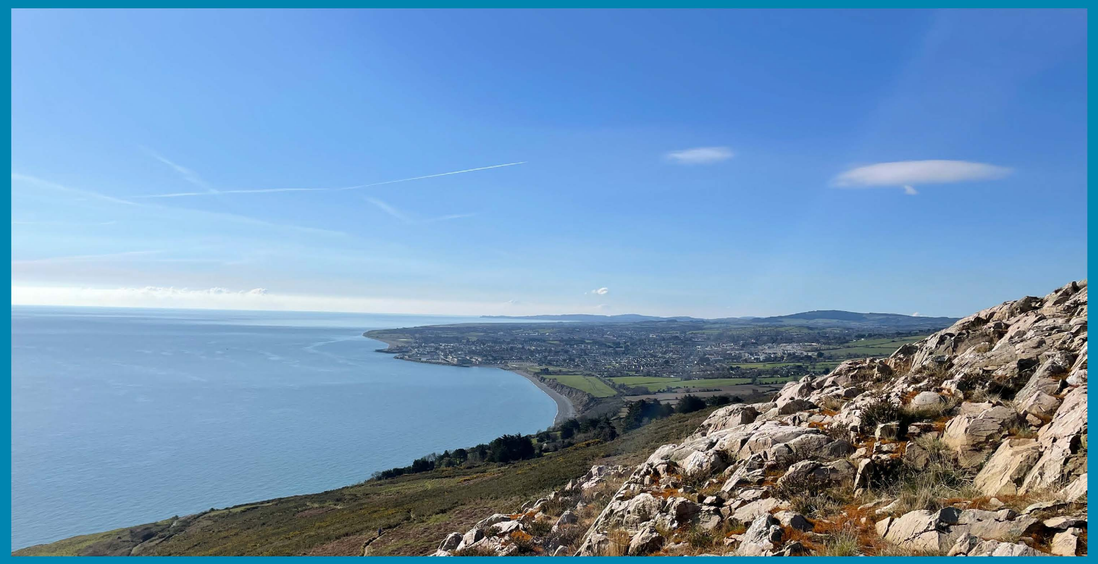
Key facts

Total installed capacity **=1,300** megawatts (MW)

Contributing significantly to Ireland's target of generating **5 GW from offshore wind** by 2030

Clean electricity for the equivalent of over 1 million Irish homes every year

Offset up to **1.7 million tonnes** of CO2 each year



What is the ORESS auction?

Six offshore wind projects were issued Maritime Area Consents (MACs) in December 2022. The projects underwent the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) qualification process, and then bid in their price to the auction which was overseen by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Ireland's independent energy and water regulator. The key point here is that in this auction, it is the lowest price that wins. The results of the auction provided four projects with a combined capacity of 3GW with a route to market for the electricity they produce. In simple terms, the four projects agreed a price with the customer for the electricity they will produce and the customer, in this case the Irish grid, agreed to purchase that electricity. The auction was designed to drive competition between bidders. The lower the price they bid the better their chances of succeeding. This meant the customer, ultimately the Irish consumer, paid a lower price. The hugely competitive price secured, at an average of €86.05/MWh, is one of the lowest prices paid by an emerging offshore wind market in the world. Just to compare, the average wholesale electricity price in Ireland over the past 12 months was in excess of €200/MWh. It is expected that this price will save Irish electricity consumers hundreds of millions of euros per year.

Codling Wind Park was one of the successful projects in Ireland's first ORESS auction. Minister Eamon Ryan said it was a "breakthrough moment" for Ireland's offshore wind future. He also said it is "a hugely positive story not just for Irish energy consumers, but for Ireland as a whole. The results are further evidence of what many of us have known for a long time; that we, as a nation, can develop and produce enormous quantities of clean energy - securely and at low cost,"

5. Getting in Touch

Through everything we do on the Codling Wind Park project, our ambition is not only to develop a project which Ireland can be proud of, but to go even further and help create the right conditions for the development of a strong and sustainable offshore wind industry in Ireland. An industry that will bring benefits to the country and environment for generations to come.

Listening to and engaging with the public and all our stakeholders is an important part of this.

There are multiple options to get in touch with us, ask questions, provide feedback or even just to stay in touch as our plans develop. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

General enquiries

Email us at
contact@codlingwindpark.ie

Phone us on
087 1011 473

Available during working hours. If the line is busy, just leave a message and we will get back to you.

Postal address
Codling Wind Park Ltd
Trintech Building
2nd Floor
South County Business Park
Leopardstown
Dublin
D18 H5H9

Pat Sammon

External Affairs Manager

pat.sammon@codlingwindpark.ie

Pamela McCann

Communications Projects Manager

pamela.mccann@codlingwindpark.ie

Courtney French

Fisheries Engagement Manager

courtney.french@codlingwindpark.ie

Appendix B.4 Fisheries Newsletter #1: March 2022

codling wind park

Fisheries
Update Newsletter

March 2022

Generating a greener Ireland

Welcome to our Fisheries Update Newsletter, which we will use in the months and years ahead to provide up-to-date information on our planned activities on the Codling Wind Park project. We will also use it to respond to questions and concerns you raise with us during face-to-face meetings, ensuring you all get the same information from us at the same time.

In this first edition of the newsletter, the focus is on two main items: (1) our proposed Operations and Maintenance Base (OMB) at Wicklow Harbour and (2) responding to the questions you asked during the information evening meetings we had with you last November.

Codling Wind Park is a renewable energy project of strategic national importance and it is our intention to develop it in a way that local communities can feel part of, including the fishing community. Throughout last year, our Fisheries Liaison Officer, Mark O'Reilly, met with most of you many times on the quaysides in Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and Dún Laoghaire. In November, along with other colleagues from the Codling team, I met with many of you for the first time in Arklow, Wicklow and Dún Laoghaire, which we appreciated.

A few weeks ago, Mark and I, along with our Operations and Maintenance Manager, Andy Kay, held further quayside meetings, this time to get your feedback on our early thinking around the OMB facilities at Wicklow Harbour. Again, these meetings were very helpful, and we were grateful for your time. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to engage and consult, doing our best to keep everyone involved and updated on the progress being made at the OMB and on the project overall. We will be seeking your input and feedback and listening to your views, as we try to progress our plans in a collaborative way.

The offshore wind industry might be new to Ireland, but it is well-established in other countries, such as the United Kingdom. Our team has extensive experience of working in these markets, and of developing, designing and delivering offshore wind farms in partnership with local communities, including marine users and existing industries, such as fishing.

We know there is a long and proud tradition of fishing off the coast of County Wicklow. We respect this tradition and want to work with you and others to ensure it continues to thrive alongside the emerging offshore wind industry here.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful. In addition to this and future engagement and consultation, you can also get in touch with us at any time. Full contact details are provided at the end.

Is mise, le meas,

Denise

Denise Horan
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Note:
Throughout this newsletter, we use the collective term 'fishers' rather than the traditional term 'fishermen' when referring to all those involved in the fishing industry. This recognises that both men and women are actively involved in fishing.

Operations & Maintenance Base

In November, we announced that Wicklow Port has been confirmed as the preferred home for Codling Wind Park's Operations and Maintenance Base (OMB), the long-term facility from which the offshore wind farm will be operated and serviced.

This will bring a major economic boost to the area, with significant investment to be made in the development of the port facilities, the creation of 75 new, long-term, local jobs, retraining and apprenticeship opportunities, together with opportunities for local businesses to support the planning, design, construction, and ongoing operation of the new base.

What is the Operations & Maintenance Base?

The OMB will provide offices, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities to permit the safe operation and maintenance of Codling Wind Park over its expected operational lifetime of 30 years. The OMB will be constructed and commissioned during the wind park construction phase and will be ready in advance of operations starting.

While we do not yet know the location or design of these facilities within Wicklow Harbour, we are likely to require the following:

1. O&M building (offices, meeting rooms and welfare facilities for operational personnel as well as a remote surveillance, operation, and marine control room for the wind park)
2. Warehousing
3. Car parking area
4. Berthing space for 2-3 crew transfer vessels (CTVs), each approximately 27m long
5. Pontoon(s) to allow CTVs to berth and mobilise easily
6. Quayside davit crane
7. Fuel storage and water discharge tanks
8. Potentially, a communications mast

Current activities

As discussed with those we met on the quayside in January, we have been looking at various options in the harbour in recent months, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council. We recognise that it is already a busy harbour, and our objective is to identify potential areas in which our facilities can be accommodated with minimum disruption to existing harbour users.

Vessel berthing areas on both the North and South Quays have been identified as early possibilities, with the South Quay quickly emerging as having greater potential. However, following the very constructive feedback we received from you on the quayside in January, we are now considering a wider range of options.

Next steps

Throughout 2022, further work will take place to assess each of the options identified. Then conceptual and detailed designs will be prepared, setting out what a shortlist of these options might look like. These proposals will be shared publicly through a public consultation process and your specific feedback will also be invited.

As per the Irish Planning and Development Regulations 2001–2020, the OMB will require an approved planning application prior to commencement of construction works. The planning application will be prepared in accordance with the regulations and submitted to Wicklow County Council for approval. An Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed development will also be completed and submitted in support of the planning application.

Timeline

As with all major development and construction projects, timelines can change. However, currently, it is our intention to submit a planning application for the OMB in 2023 or 2024, following completion of consultation on the various design concepts and selection of the most appropriate one.

Subject to planning permission, it is hoped to commence construction in 2025, with the construction phase expected to last for approximately one year.

Nearshore Survey Work in 2022

In the coming months, we expect to undertake a relatively small geotechnical survey within our designated Foreshore Licence area. This will be a nearshore survey and will not extend to, or include, the Codling Bank.

Further information will be shared and discussed with you in advance of any work commencing. In addition, an appropriate Marine Notice will be issued.

75

Number of long-term, local jobs associated with the Operations and Maintenance Base.

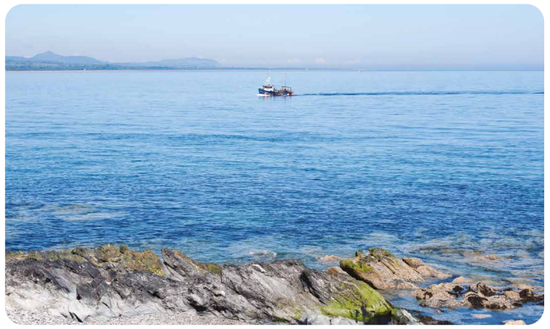
Answering Your Questions

When we held our information evenings last November, you raised many questions, which we committed to responding to in due course. Below is a list of all the questions which were for us to answer, plus our responses. Some additional questions raised were for Wicklow County Council and we have passed these onto the local authority.

	Question	Answer
1	Is it correct that only three berthing spaces will be required as part of the OMB facilities? (It has been suggested that up to seven might be needed, due to the size of the wind farm).	**Yes, this is correct. During the operational phase of the wind farm, no more than three vessels will be required to transport maintenance teams offshore.**
2	Wicklow Port is already full and there is no room for any more boats or berthing spaces. Boats are already tied up three abreast in some places, which is breaking the harbour bylaws. Will the additional spaces required by the OMB further impact fishers?	**Codling Wind Park is seeking to develop an area of the port that is not currently used for berthing, thereby increasing the overall capacity of the port, without increasing congestion or displacing any existing vessels from their current berthing spaces.**
3	Will the new infrastructure and changes required within one part of the harbour negatively impact on conditions in other parts?	**Codling Wind Park's objective is to increase the capacity of the port to accommodate our vessels without negatively impacting the conditions within the harbour.**
4	Fishers are concerned that they will be displaced if Codling Wind Park builds its OMB in Wicklow. Will there be any displacement?	**Codling Wind Park is seeking to develop an area of the port that is not currently used for berthing, thereby increasing the overall capacity of the port without displacing any existing vessels from their berthing spaces.**

We are determined to ensure that there is regular, ongoing, and transparent engagement between ourselves, Wicklow County Council and fishers.

	Question	Answer
5	If fishing boats have to move because of the OMB, will fishers be compensated?	**One of the key criteria for the Codling Wind Park team in selecting the most suitable location for the OMB facilities at Wicklow Harbour is minimising disturbance to existing harbour users. It is our intention to work with Wicklow County Council and all other relevant stakeholders, including fishers, to find a location that best meets this requirement and allows our activities to take place alongside those of existing users.**
6	Will Codling Wind Park buy fishers' boats?	**It is not the intention of Codling Wind Park to buy any fishers' boats. Our desire is to work side by side with fishers and all other harbour users, ensuring all activities can take place simultaneously, safely, and efficiently.**
7	Will the creation of a new pontoon at the South Quay weaken the ability of the South Quay to act as a breaker during bad weather, leading to waves washing up onto the road?	**We do not yet know in which area of the harbour we will seek to locate our facilities. However, any pontoons or other structures that might be required will be fully assessed for suitability to local conditions during the design stage of the work.**
8	Will there be any vibration from the turbines and the cables under the sea, which could impact fish and whelk stocks in the area?	**No vibration is expected from installed turbines or cables, and cables will also be protected from movement by a cable protection system (typically achieved by cable burial). All project components will be assessed as part of the project design process to ensure that when constructed they remain within prescribed and consented limits. Some temporary noise and vibration may be expected during installation of the wind turbines and subsea cables for Codling Wind Park. This will be assessed as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), which will be undertaken by independent technical specialists and will be informed by detailed underwater noise and vibration assessments.**
9	What impact will the cable lines around the base of the turbines have on whelk and local species?	**During the cable installation process, some temporary disturbance to benthic species (such as shelled animals and crustaceans) is anticipated, associated with the laying of cables or cable protection materials for the project. This will be assessed as part of the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), which will be undertaken by independent technical specialists. Cable installation studies will be conducted by our project engineers, and subsea cables that connect the turbines will be buried to sufficient depth to minimise any long-term effects on local species, wherever possible. Any cables that cannot be buried to sufficient depth will be protected using appropriate cable protection materials. We are also looking to incorporate appropriate features into cable protection materials to encourage habitat development, including for whelk and other benthic species.**



Fishers will be consulted and kept informed of any proposed activities which may have an impact on their activities.

Answering Your Questions

	Question	Answer
10	Will noise from the turbines be audible on shore?	It is not expected that noise from operational turbines of the Codling Wind Park project will be audible on shore. This is due to the distance of the offshore wind farm from the shore, combined with the levels of ambient (existing) noise at the coast. However, the potential for turbines to generate noise will be assessed as part of the project's EIA and a detailed noise study will be undertaken by independent technical specialists to inform noise assessments.
11	What kind of sediments etc. are expected to be found when dredging begins, and how will this be dealt with?	Codling Wind Park will not be undertaking any dredging in Wicklow Harbour. All such work will be undertaken by Wicklow County Council, as will any necessary sediment and seabed assessments, which will be completed in advance.
12	What engagement and consultation will take place with fishers, and when, in terms of the options being considered for the OMB, forthcoming surveys and construction?	In response to the many questions raised during our information evenings in November 2021, we undertook further engagements in January to outline the early-stage options we are considering for our OMB facilities at Wicklow Harbour. We will also share details of our planned offshore survey activities for 2022 once sufficient information is available. In relation to the construction of Codling Wind Park, it is our intention to engage with you on an ongoing basis in advance of this, to share plans and options and to gather valuable feedback.
13	Will Codling Wind Park provide advance notice to fishers of all proposed activities which may impact their livelihoods, e.g., offshore surveys, construction, and operations?	Fishers will be consulted and kept informed of any proposed activities which may have an impact on their activities. Information will be made available directly to you, on our website and via the project's Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Fisheries Liaison Officer.
14	Will Codling Wind Park provide details of any exclusion zones required, at the various stages of the project, and clearly communicate these in writing to fishers?	Generally, there is no reason why fishing (including mussel activities) and offshore wind farms cannot co-exist, and fishing continues today in and around many offshore wind farms in many parts of the world. Following construction of the wind farm, no exclusion zones are proposed to be implemented above cables or within the development area. During site investigations and construction activities, temporary exclusion or safe passage zones surrounding vessels and infrastructure under construction are likely, which will be clearly communicated to fishers well in advance.

1-1.5km

Turbines will have significant separation distances between them, in the region of 1-1.5km.

	Question	Answer
15	What is the risk to fishing boats of a potential collision with the turbines, when Codling Wind Park is in operation?	We anticipate the risk of a collision with the turbines to be very low. Codling Wind Park are using the services of an independent marine traffic consultant who will prepare a detailed Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA), which will inform the risk to fishing and shipping. All turbines will be visible, lit appropriately in line with Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL) requirements, charted, and mapped on navigation plotters etc. The turbines will also have significant separation distances between them, in the region of 1-1.5km.
16	If there were a collision between a fishing boat and a turbine, would fishers be pursued for damages, and would an exclusion zone be introduced around the turbines?	As mentioned in response to question 15, we anticipate the risk of a collision with the turbines to be very low. Codling Wind Park are using the services of an independent marine traffic consultant who will prepare a detailed Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA), which will inform the risk to fishing and shipping. All turbines will be visible, lit appropriately in line with Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL) requirements, charted, and mapped on navigation plotters etc. The turbines will also have significant separation distances between them, in the region of 1-1.5km. What might happen in the very unlikely event of a collision is not something we can speculate on at this stage, as the process for addressing such incidents would be led by the appropriate statutory authority, not by any individual project.
17	Will Codling Wind Park provide clarity around the Health and Safety protocols required when the wind farm is operational? (For example, in relation to collision risks)	For all maritime activities, both leisure and professional (private and commercial) there is existing legislation in place governing how to operate when offshore. Seafarers must adhere to marine legislation already in place, which includes a responsibility placed upon vessel owners/users to ensure that they do not pose a risk or cause a collision. In addition to existing legislation, Codling Wind Park will have the following measures and mitigations in place for the duration of the operations and maintenance phase: • Emergency Response Plan • Navigation lights at strategic locations • Notice to mariners and area/turbine/offshore sub-station locations clearly defined on marine charts • Defined shipping lanes (if applicable)
18	Can Codling Wind Park provide more detail on the new jobs which will be created and give re-assurance of the number of jobs being predicted?	Construction of the new base, which is currently expected to get underway in early 2025, will see the creation of around 40 temporary jobs. During the operations phase, we expect to create a further 75 new, long-term, local jobs at the Operations & Maintenance base. The breakdown of these jobs will be as follows: **Operating and maintaining the wind turbine generators (WTG)** • 47 jobs in total • Includes 40 WTG Service Technicians • A range of managerial and supervisory jobs **Asset Management** • 28 jobs in total • Includes 20 managerial and engineering roles • 8 back-office support roles

Answering Your Questions

	Question	Answer
19	Will Codling Wind Park receive preferential treatment from Wicklow County Council to the detriment of fishers?	Codling Wind Park will be subject to the same regulations, by-laws and engagement protocols when dealing with Wicklow County Council as all other harbour users.
20	Is there a disconnect between Codling Wind Park, Wicklow County Council and the fishers?	We are determined to ensure that there is regular, ongoing, and transparent engagement between ourselves, Wicklow County Council and fishers. If three-way engagements between Codling Wind Park, Wicklow County Council and local fishers are required we will be more than happy to facilitate and participate. We will also continue to engage separately with Wicklow County Council in their capacity as both the local authority and custodians of Wicklow Harbour. Likewise, we will engage separately with fishers as important users of the harbour.
21	Why are representatives from Wicklow County Council not present at all meetings between Codling Wind Park and fishers?	While we invited Wicklow County Council to the information evenings we hosted in November, it is a matter for them to choose how and when they engage with their stakeholders. If three-way engagements between Codling Wind Park, Wicklow County Council and yourselves are required in the future, we will be more than happy to facilitate and participate.
22	Some fishers believe that this is a 'done deal' between the Government and Codling Wind Park, and that the project will get the go-ahead, with no regard for fishers. Is this true?	There is no 'done deal' between the Government and Codling Wind Park. For Codling Wind Park to proceed, it will require planning consent from An Bord Pleanála, and to be successful in the competitive offshore wind RESS auction, expected to open towards the end of 2022. We will continue to communicate, engage, and consult with you and other marine users as the project develops and progresses, sharing information and encouraging feedback and input.

Getting in touch

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us. In addition to planned public consultation later this year, you can contact us in the following ways, at any time:

Denise Horan

Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Phone
+353 87 126 9111

Email
denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie

Mark O'Reilly

Fisheries Liaison Officer

Phone
+353 85 1399 000

Email
flo@codlingwindpark.ie

Liz Dillon

Community Liaison Officer

Phone
+353 8710 11473

Email
liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie

Appendix B.5 Sustainable Fishers Charter

codling wind park

Codling Wind Park Sustainable Fishers Charter

Introduction

Codling Wind Park is one of the most important climate action projects in Ireland. The project will deliver significant benefits for the communities near us, the climate and the wider country.

As the largest Phase I offshore wind energy project it is critical to:

1. **The delivery of Ireland's 2030 climate targets.**
2. **Securing Ireland's own supply of clean, renewable energy.**
3. **The delivery of the greatest possible range of national and community benefits from Ireland's flagship green energy project.**

We are committed to operating in an ethical manner at all times and to conduct our business in full accordance with the laws of the land and best international practice and standards. The aim of this Charter is to outline how CWP will conduct its business in a responsible manner and the demands we will put on ourselves and our stakeholders, including fishers, in all our engagements.

Our Priorities

Everyone in Codling Wind Park is committed to powering a renewable energy transition to help Ireland secure its own supply of clean energy and help future generations live on our planet.

We aim to drive a fair and inclusive energy transition by enabling communities to share the benefits of offshore energy. We will do this through:

- **Enabling Ireland to cut carbon emissions by 2 million tonnes annually.**
- **Helping deliver national climate objectives .**
- **Actively working to avoid or minimise impacts from the project on people and the environment, and support biodiversity.**
- **Delivering a range of benefits to local communities and organisations.**

Charter Commitments

We at Codling Wind Park recognise the important custodial and leadership role we have in the Codling Bank. This means building a sustainable, long term partnership with other longstanding stakeholders of the Codling Bank. It also means working with fishers and other stakeholders to avoid or minimise impacts on people and the environment, and support biodiversity.

Our Sustainable Fisheries Charter provides guidance for us to deliver on these objectives. It describes what is important to us, what we want to stand for, our values and our approach to fishers, other key stakeholders on the Codling Bank and the natural environment.

For further details please contact:

Fisheries Engagement Manager

Courtney French

Courtney.french@codlingwindpark.ie

0873773194

The Codling Fisheries Charter

1. **Funding:** We are committed to supporting the fishers community who operate on the Codling Bank including the provision of a dedicated Fishers Fund of €500,000. The fund will have a €100,000 annual budget directed to different initiatives for the next five years, to support the fishing industry and long-term sustainable fishing on the Codling Bank.
2. **Engagement:** Codling Wind Park is committed to engaging with fishers and Codling Bank stakeholders in an open, transparent and honest way.
3. **Communications:** Codling Wind Park will communicate regularly with fishers and other Codling Bank stakeholders.
4. **Facilitation, Demonstration and Reassurance.** Codling Wind Park will facilitate visits of fishers to fishing areas in other relevant locations to exchange experiences, and, demonstrate and explore how successful co-existence between fishers and offshore energy can be achieved.
5. **Monitoring:** Codling Wind Park commits to pre and post construction monitoring of whelk and other key species on the Codling Bank.
6. **Marine life diversity:** Given the decline in marine life diversity and numbers in the past twenty years, Codling Wind Park is examining design options to support biodiversity across the Codling Bank.
7. **We will actively work to avoid or minimise impacts from the project** on people and the environment, and support biodiversity on the Codling Bank and environs.

About Codling Wind Park

Codling site and project parameters

Location:
13-22km from shore between Greystones and Wicklow Town

Site size:
125km2

Number of turbines:
up to 100

Maximum tip height:
320m

Maximum export capacity:
1450MW

Preferred Operations and Maintenance base:
Wicklow Port

Grid connection location:
Poolbeg, Dublin

Project contribution

Largest of the six Phase One projects

One of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade

Contribution: sufficient electricity to power up to 1.2 million homes

About EDF Renewables Ireland

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies, operating in more than 20 countries around the world. Through its investment and innovative approach to renewable energy projects it is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

The Irish team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by more than 400 colleagues in the UK.

In addition to the 50% interest in Codling Wind Park which EDF Renewables Ireland acquired in 2020 the company is the sole owner of Wexford Solar, which includes eight solar projects across Ireland and has an Irish onshore development pipeline of almost 1GW.

In the UK, EDF Renewables has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and two battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW).

For further information visit www.edf-re.ie.

About Fred. Olsen Seawind

Fred. Olsen Seawind AS is an established offshore wind developer building on Fred. Olsen Renewables' 25 years wind track record, market presence and portfolio.

Fred. Olsen Renewables was involved in Codling from 1999 to 2022, when it was transferred to Fred. Olsen Seawind

Utilising the extensive experience in Scotland gained through over 25 years of development, construction, and operation of onshore wind Fred. Olsen Seawind is committed to progressing offshore wind projects in Ireland, Norway and Scotland and is exploring opportunities in new markets.

For further information visit www.fredolsenseawind.com.

Appendix B.6 Brochure: Public Consultation #1

Welcome to the Codling Wind Park public exhibition

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us to find out more about this flagship renewable energy project for Ireland.

Engagement and dialogue are very important to us. This is the first of a number of consultation opportunities, designed to keep local residents and other interested parties up to date and to encourage feedback as we progress the development of Codling Wind Park.

In line with current COVID-19 guidelines, this exhibition is taking place online to ensure the safety of our employees and the local communities within which we operate. During further planned consultations, we hope that we will be able to engage and meet with you in person.

Your feedback is very important to us as we continue to shape and design the project.

Please take your time viewing the information we have included and let us know if you have any questions or comments. There are a number of ways you can get in touch with us, which you can see in the circles pulled out on this screen.

The purpose of this exhibition is to introduce the Codling Wind Park project by providing the latest information, covering the following areas:

Leave feedback at the end of this exhibition or via the Codling Wind Park website **codlingwindpark.ie**

Email our Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, at **liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie**

All the information presented here today, as well as additional project information and contact details, can be viewed online at

codlingwindpark.ie.

We look forward to hearing from you. Phone us on 087 1011473

codling wind park

What is Codling Wind Park?

Fred. Olsen Renewables

- Involved in renewable energy sector for 25 years.
- Developer and owner/operator with extensive experience and execution track record.
- Delivered 11 onshore wind farms with 700MW capacity (530MW in Scotland) and close to 4GW of onshore and offshore assets in development.

EDF renewables

- A world leader in renewable electricity.
- Over 13.8 gigawatt (GW) installed capacity worldwide in more than 20 countries
  - North America 5.2GW
  - Europe 4.6GW
  - Rest of the world 4GW.
- Strategic plan to increase total renewable capacity to 50GW by 2030.

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, set in an area called Codling Bank, approximately 13 kilometres at its nearest point off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

It is being developed by Codling Wind Park Ltd., a 50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Renewables and EDF Renewables. Both companies are leading developers, owners and operators of renewable energy assets, with many years of global experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector.

Codling Wind Park is a combination of what was initially proposed as two projects, with a total project area of approximately 125 km².

- The combined maximum total energy output of both projects was up to 2.1GW.
- The combined total number of wind turbines across both projects was up to 440.

Significant advances in wind turbine technology, combined with considerable reductions in the cost of energy from offshore wind, means that Codling can now be developed as one project with a greatly reduced number of wind turbines while optimising the renewable electricity production from the site.

The current expectation and design for the offshore part of the wind farm is:

- a total installed capacity of between 900 megawatts (MW) and 1,500 megawatts (MW)
- up to 140 wind turbines
- individual wind turbine capacity between 11MW and 16MW
- individual wind turbine tip heights between 250 metres and 320 metres.

With wind speeds of 9.7 m/s at 130 metres above sea level and shallow waters with depths ranging from 10 to 25 metres, the Codling Bank area is well suited to deliver a low-cost renewable energy project.

The final decision on the wind farm layout, including the size and number of wind turbines, has not yet been made. There are a number of ongoing survey activities and an environmental impact assessment which will help to inform this decision, along with further public engagement and consultation. Our aim is to balance the technical, commercial and environmental considerations to deliver the best project – one of which Ireland can be justifiably proud.

1,500MW
A total installed capacity of between **900MW** and **1,500MW**

Turbines
Maximum **140** turbines

Capacity
Individual turbine capacity between **11MW** and **16MW**

Size
Individual wind turbine tip heights between **250 metres** and **320 metres**

Your feedback really can help to shape the project.

The need for Codling Wind Park

In 2019, Ireland published its Climate Action Plan (CAP), which recognises that Ireland must significantly step up its commitments to tackle climate disruption and achieve its decarbonisation goals.

Within the CAP, Ireland aims:

- to be carbon neutral by 2050
- to double the amount of electricity it produces from renewable energy from 35% in 2020 to 70% by 2030.

To help reach these goals, the Irish Government has committed, in its 2020 Programme for Government, to achieving 5GW of electricity from offshore wind by 2030. It has also identified an initial group of seven projects, including Codling Wind Park, which can progress their activities while the new Marine Planning and Development Management Bill is being finalised. With a potential capacity of 1.5GW, Codling Wind Park will be the largest of these projects and will make a significant contribution to meeting the Government's 2030 ambitions.

In addition to supporting delivery of the country's climate action targets, Codling Wind Park will also help reduce Ireland's reliance on imported fossil fuel-based energy and significantly improve energy security.

Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of 70% of Irish households – 1.2 million in total – with clean, indigenous, low-cost electricity, and save almost 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Offshore wind has fast become a mature form of generating electricity in many countries around the world. The UK, for example, is a world leader with around 20 years' experience.

Costs have fallen significantly in recent years, making offshore wind a highly competitive, viable and sustainable source of renewable electricity.

Excellent wind speeds in the Irish sea and favourable foreshore conditions provide an ideal environment for generating carbon emission free, low-cost electricity offshore, therefore offering Ireland the opportunity to become a global leader in renewable electricity.

Government commitments

- Carbon neutral by 2050
- Double the amount of renewable electricity by 2030
- 5GW of offshore wind generation by 2030

Codling contribution

- Power to 70% of Irish households
- Low-cost energy for Irish consumers
- Save almost 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year

codling wind park

Community and wider benefits of Codling Wind Park

Codling Wind Park will deliver many benefits, which can be broadly categorised under three headings: **Environmental, Economic** and **Social Benefits.** Through the development of the project, the Codling Wind Park partners aim to maximise the benefits and learnings under each of these headings, in order to support the development of the wider offshore wind industry in Ireland.

Environmental

70% renewable
Contributing significantly to Ireland's target of generating 70% of electricity from renewables by 2030, including 5GW from offshore wind.

1.2 million Irish homes
Clean electricity for the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes every year – more than 70% of all households.

Carbon emissions
Saving of almost 2 million tonnes of harmful carbon emissions annually.

Fossil fuels
Reducing Ireland's reliance on imported fossil fuels and providing a secure, low-carbon, indigenous electricity supply.

Economic

Investment
Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, delivering substantial benefits for the regional and national economy.

1,000 jobs
More than 1,000 jobs during construction.

Local jobs
Approximately 70 new, full-time local jobs during the operational phase of the project.

Local ports
Opportunities for local ports and quayside facilities during construction and for operations and maintenance purposes.

Social

Multi-million Euro
Community Benefit Fund for local communities and marine stakeholders.

Collaboration
Decisions on how best to use these funds will be taken in partnership with local communities.

Lasting legacy
Funds tailored to meet community needs, delivering sustainable benefits and a lasting legacy.

Job creation
Supporting the development of a local supply chain and job creation.

Tourism
Opportunity for local communities to harness the eco-tourism potential of offshore wind.

Workforce
Training, upskilling and development opportunities for local workforce.

Environment
A cleaner and healthier environment for all.

codling wind park

How electricity is generated from offshore wind

Wind energy

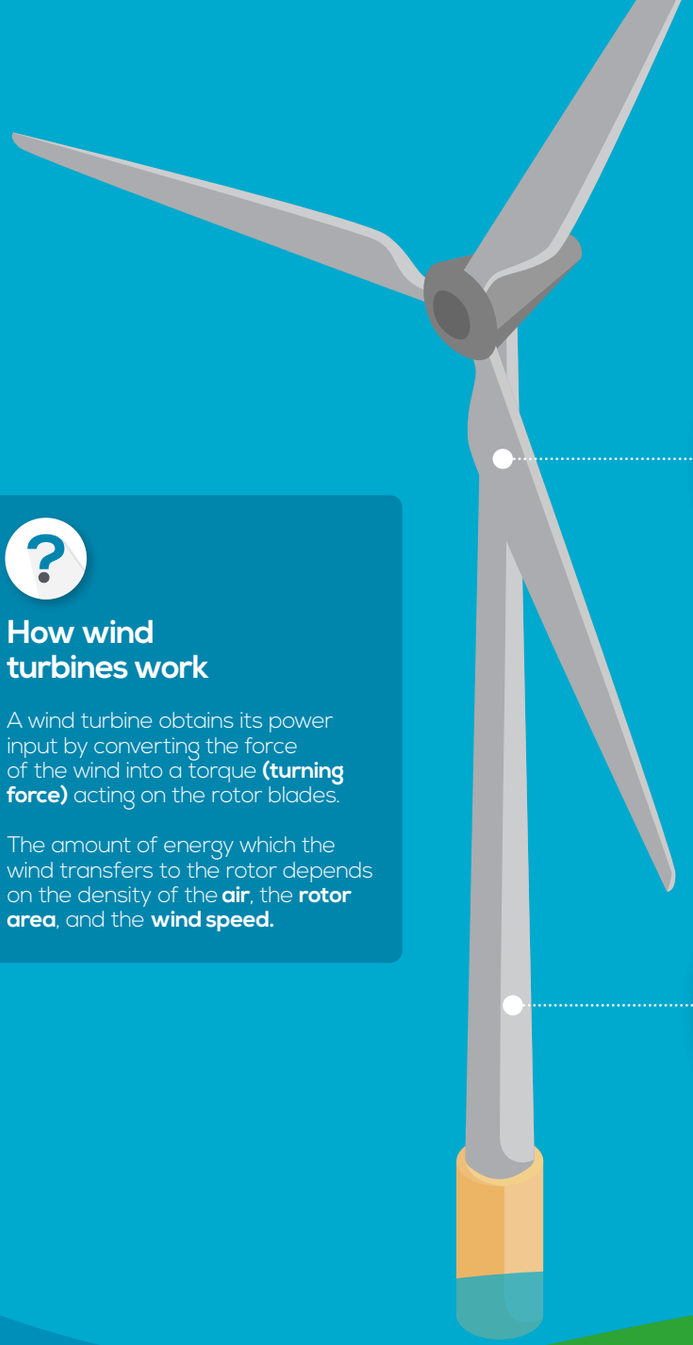
Wind energy is a type of renewable energy that uses the natural power of the wind to generate electricity, through the use of wind turbines. Individual wind turbines can generate electricity on a small scale – to power a single home, for example. Or a large number of wind turbines can be grouped together – known as a wind farm – to generate electricity on a much larger scale.

Offshore wind farms are usually larger than those onshore and they can produce much more electricity. They also benefit from higher and more consistent wind speeds.

How wind turbines work

A wind turbine obtains its power input by converting the force of the wind into a torque **(turning force)** acting on the rotor blades.

The amount of energy which the wind transfers to the rotor depends on the density of the **air**, the **rotor area**, and the **wind speed.**



The rotor and blades spin the main shaft and gearbox which spins the generator, resulting in electrical output.

Each wind turbine is made up of a number of individual parts, all of which perform specific roles in capturing and optimising the electricity generated from the wind.

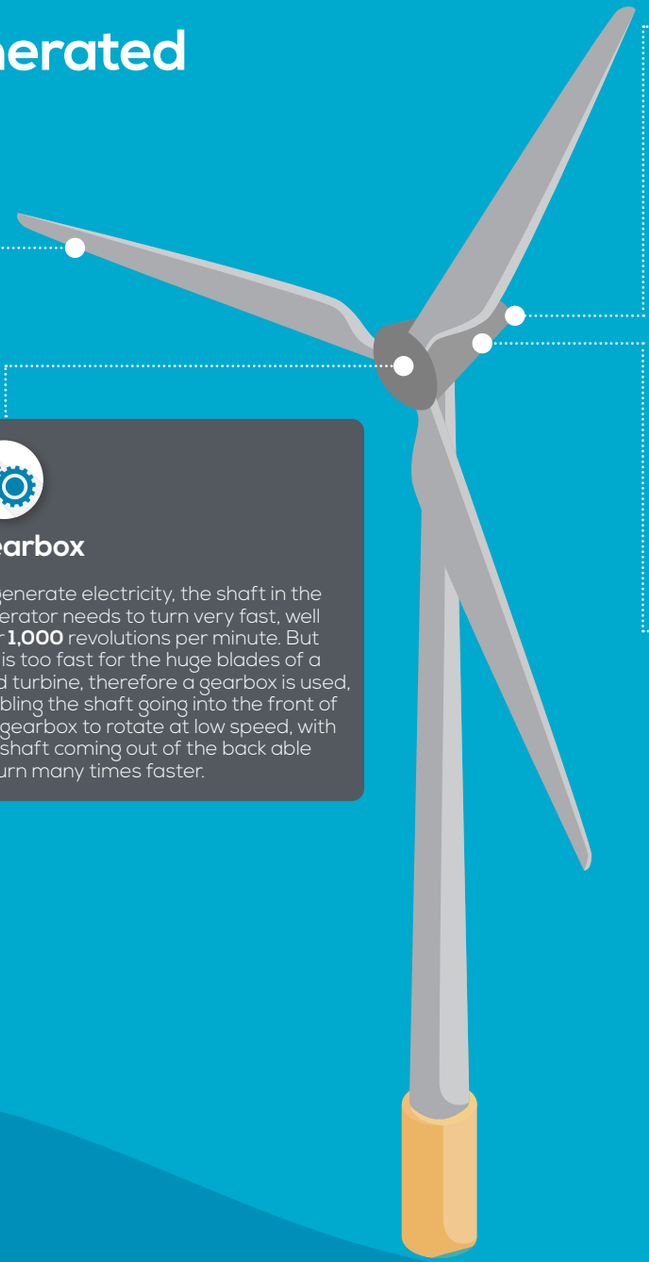
codling wind park

How electricity is generated from offshore wind

Wind turbine blades

Blades are typically made from fibreglass and epoxy resin, although there are variations between designs, with some using carbon fibre and others using polyester resins. Around two thirds of blades are manufactured in-house by the wind turbine manufacturer, including most offshore blades.

For the wind turbine blades to rotate, the face of the turbine must point into the wind. Because each blade of the wind turbine is angled in a special way – like an aeroplane's wing – a force known as a 'lift' is generated on one side, and the blades start to spin round. A sensor on the roof of the nacelle constantly monitors the wind direction and speed to make sure the wind turbine keeps pointing into the face of the wind.



Gearbox

To generate electricity, the shaft in the generator needs to turn very fast, well over **1,000** revolutions per minute. But this is too fast for the huge blades of a wind turbine, therefore a gearbox is used, enabling the shaft going into the front of the gearbox to rotate at low speed, with the shaft coming out of the back able to turn many times faster.

Nacelle

The nacelle supports the three blade bearings and transfers the reaction forces from the blade bearings to the main shaft. It includes a main structure and three stiffening plates (one per blade). All components are made of cast iron. The hub structure also provides support for the pitch system supplying the interfaces for pitch cylinders and for blade bearings. When the wind direction alters, the nacelle is rotated by hydraulic motors so that the rotor blades face into the wind to maximise the energy captured.

Electricity transmission

The electrical energy produced by the wind turbines is transmitted through subsea cables to an offshore substation. Here the electricity is converted to a higher voltage, before being delivered via underground cables to an onshore substation (operated by the national electricity provider) and subsequently transmitted to homes and businesses through the national electricity grid.
In Ireland, EirGrid operates the flow of power on the grid and plans for its future, while ESB Networks is responsible for carrying out maintenance, repairs and construction on the grid.

Electricity generator

The shaft coming out of the gearbox is connected to a generator. Electricity is produced when a magnetic field rotates within the stator (the static part of the generator). The different generator concepts produce this magnetic field in different ways but ultimately produce electricity using the same principles.
The most common generators produce power at **690v,** which is transformed within the wind turbine to a higher voltage, usually **33kV** or **66kV.**

Wind turbine anemometer

An 'anemometer' measures the wind speed, so that the turbine can brake if it's turning too fast. The primary braking system for most modern wind turbines is the aerodynamic braking system, which essentially consists in turning the rotor blades about 90 degrees along their longitudinal axis.

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How will Codling Wind Park be constructed offshore?

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling Wind Park could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete. The offshore construction of Codling and key components will include:

Installation of subsea export cables, connecting the offshore substations to the shore.

Installation of subsea array cables, linking the wind turbines to the offshore substations.

The erection of up to 140 wind turbine generators (WTGs) and supporting foundations. Each WTG will consist of a tower section, nacelle and three rotor blades.

Construction of up to 3-4 offshore substations (OSPs) and supporting foundations.

The offshore wind farm is at an early stage of design. Environmental data has already been gathered over a number of years. This work will be added to during 2021 and beyond.

The design of Codling will be further refined as part of the consenting process, including ongoing consultation and engagement with local communities, statutory consultees, regulators and other project stakeholders.

Another phase of engagement and consultation will take place in the summer, during which further updates will be shared as the development of the project progresses. A third phase will take place prior to the submission of our planning application.

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How will Codling Wind Park be constructed onshore?

The key onshore infrastructure and construction activities for Codling Wind Park will include:

Electrical grid infrastructure

- Landfall site(s) with associated transition pits to connect the offshore and onshore cables.
- Onshore 220 kV underground cables.
- Onshore 220 kV substation(s), compound(s) and transformer stations (if required) which may connect into the existing onshore transmission systems at Poolbeg, Carrickmines and Ballybeg.

Operations and Maintenance infrastructure

- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facilities to support the offshore wind park. These will include a building/ warehouse, laydown areas, quayside cranes, parking and marine works such as pontoons for maintenance vessels.
- General works associated with the above or as necessary for the construction, operation and final decommissioning of Codling, including all ancillary development.

Latest updates

- Work continues to establish the most suitable locations for both the electrical grid infrastructure and the O&M infrastructure.
- Codling is currently assessing multiple options in terms of engineering, environmental and land use planning characteristics.
- Codling hopes to confirm the final onshore locations and provide additional information during the two further phases of consultation later this year.

All construction areas related to the works required at the landfall and along the cable route will be restored to their original condition following the completion of the works, where feasible.

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How will Codling Wind Park be constructed onshore?

There will be subsea export cables from the wind farm to the coast, where they will make landfall by way of an underground transition joint and travel from the landfall point inland, towards the ultimate connection point by way of underground cables.

A number of connection points to the grid are being considered at Poolbeg, Carrickmines and Ballybeg.

We are also in the process of identifying and assessing a number of landfall locations along the coastline, in order to identify the best option for each connection point.

Further information on the study areas for the siting of the landfalls, underground cable routes and substations will be set out in our Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, which will be published in March. This will be available for public viewing on our website:

www.codlingwindpark.ie

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Environmental studies

The Codling Wind Park project partners, EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables, have a strong track record of appropriate and environmentally responsible development.

Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued at specific times since then. More recently the focus has been on building up a good understanding of the baseline environment in relation to the receptors that will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These receptors include birds, marine mammals, fish populations and marine archaeology. Onshore ecological surveys are due to commence this spring.

The Environmental Impact Assessment process

A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken to assess the impacts of the project on a range of ecological and anthropogenic receptors. The results from these assessments are reported in an EIA report, which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

The assessment methodologies used are informed by consultations and a range of guidance documents and best practice principles from recognised Irish and international sources, including An Bord Pleanála, the Environmental Protection Agency, relevant Government departments and the European Commission.

Details of the proposed environmental approach offshore and the works we will undertake as part of the assessment process are contained in our offshore Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

Details of the proposed environmental approach onshore will be described in the onshore Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report due to be released in March.

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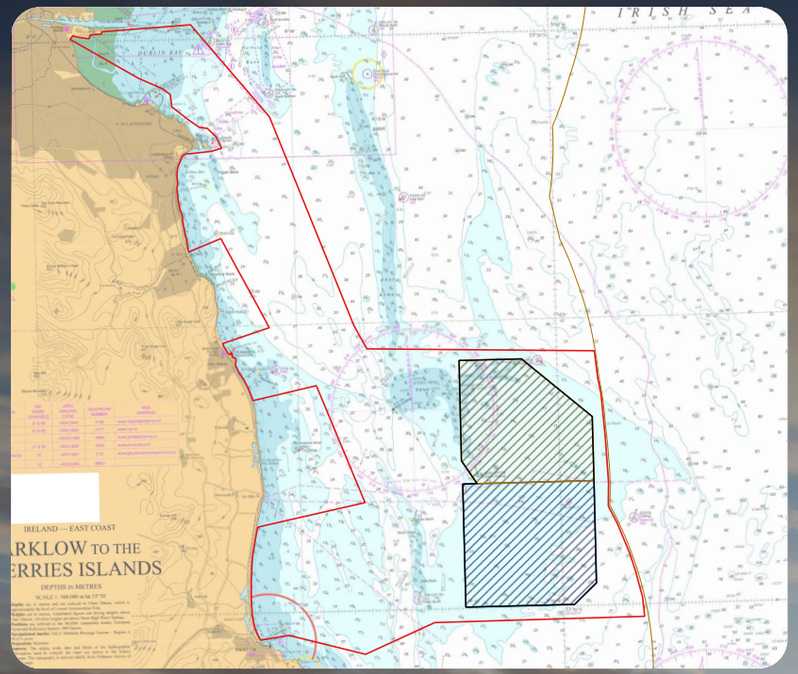
Environmental studies

Offshore studies

In early February, Codling was granted a foreshore site investigation licence by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, allowing further environmental and technical surveys and investigations in support of the EIA to commence.

The surveys will take place across the area shown in the image on the right (defined by the red line), which includes the project site, plus corridors for export cable routes to shore.



These surveys are necessary to:

- Determine suitable cable landing points.
- Inform the technical and electrical design and layout of the project, including methodologies for laying and burying cables, substation and landfall site selection.
- Better understand the ground conditions to inform foundation design and choice.
- Collect information on waves and tides across the site through deployment of wave buoys and current measurement instrumentation.
- Identify and manage risks and any technical, environmental, and socio-economic constraints across the site.
- Collect environmental data that will be assessed and submitted in the EIA report as part of the application for consent.

Marine surveys

1. Geophysical surveys: the purpose of which is to describe the physical features of the seabed which includes water depth, definition of seabed structures (e.g. sand waves), identifying sediment type and distribution (sand, mud, gravel, rock) both on and below the seabed, and potential archaeological features.
2. Geotechnical surveys: whereby samples of the seabed are collected. These include grab/core sampling, boreholes and cone penetration testing (CPT).
3. Metocean surveys: carried out to gain an understanding of the meteorological and oceanographic conditions that exist on Codling Bank.
4. Ecology and ornithology: undertaken to consider the biological environment and will include:
   - fish and seabed habitat
   - marine mammals
   - birds.

Onshore studies

The onshore elements for which environmental assessments will be undertaken will include landfall site(s) and associated transition joints to connect the offshore and onshore cables, onshore underground cables, temporary construction areas, onshore project substation(s), and cables connecting the onshore project substation to an existing transmission grid substation(s).

Studies and surveys are required to further define the onshore aspects of the project, and a scoping report detailing these elements is currently being developed. Consultation on this will be undertaken with the relevant bodies once this has been completed and it will be made available on our project website: **www.codlingwindpark.ie**

The surveys to be undertaken this year will inform impact assessments in the following areas:

- Ecology
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Geology and soils
- Landscape and visual
- Traffic and transport
- Noise and vibration
- Amenity and community aspects.

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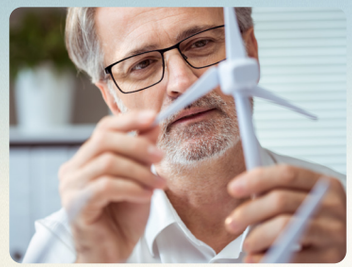
Next steps



The year ahead

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken.

The project team's aim is to submit onshore and offshore planning applications to An Bord Pleanála in late 2021 or early 2022, and to submit a single EIA report in support of these applications.

Consultation and engagement will form an important part of both of these processes, and we will be holding three phases of public consultation – of which this is the first – over the next 12 to 15 months.

The consenting process

In order to proceed, there are various consents that the Codling project must secure. The final consenting regime is not yet confirmed in detail, but the main permissions required are expected to be:

- foreshore investigation licence (under the Foreshore Act 1933) – granted in February 2021
- Maritime Area Consent (under the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (MPDM))
- onshore and offshore planning permission/consent(s).

In May 2020, Codling was confirmed as having Relevant Project status – now referred to as Phase 1 status – under the Transitional Protocol published as part of the proposed MPDM Act.

Once the act is enacted (which is expected by mid-2021), Codling's Phase 1 project status will allow it to apply for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC).

This MAC is expected to be conditional on a successful planning application being secured by the project from An Bord Pleanála (ABP), and is therefore called a Conditional MAC.

The consent applications and Conditional MAC will allow Codling Wind Park to participate in the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) – a competitive auction process.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be produced to inform a planning application for the project. If successful, Codling will be awarded planning development consent under the MPDM, leading to the completion of one of the conditions of the MAC.

Connection and route to market

A connection to the Irish Electricity Transmission System will be required to allow the project to supply its renewable electricity to Irish electricity consumers and this is being progressed with EirGrid to determine the most appropriate location for a connection point(s).

The project will also take part in a RESS auction to secure a RESS contract to provide a fixed price and fixed duration contract for the electricity produced by the wind farm. This will be a competitive auction process where RESS contracts will be awarded to the offshore wind projects that can offer the lowest electricity prices, thereby supporting the projects that offer the lowest cost.

Construction

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

codling wind park

Key contacts and people

Through everything we do on the Codling Wind Park project, our ambition is not only to develop a project which Ireland can be proud of, but to go even further and help create the right conditions for the development of a strong and sustainable offshore wind industry in Ireland. An industry that will bring benefits to the country and environment for generations to come.

Listening to and engaging with the public and all our stakeholders is an important part of this.

As we progress our Environmental Impact Assessment and planning application work over the course of the next year, we will continue to carry out extensive community and stakeholder engagement.

This will include:

- three phases of public consultation (of which this is the first)
- public exhibitions (online and physical, in line with COVID-19 guidelines)
- webinars involving members of our Codling Wind Park team
- information clinics for local communities (in line with COVID-19 guidelines)
- a dedicated project phone line **(087 1011473)**
- a dedicated project website **(www.codlingwindpark.ie)**
- individual and small group briefings and meetings (in line with COVID-19 guidelines)
- regular project newsletters
- ongoing availability of our local engagement team.

Liz Dillon
Community Liaison Officer
liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie

Denise Horan
Stakeholder Engagement Manager
denise.horan@codlingwindpark.ie

Trudy McIntyre and Mark O'Reilly
Fisheries Liaison Officers
flo@codlingwindpark.ie

These options offer multiple opportunities for you to view and provide feedback on our plans as they take shape – and we strongly encourage you to do so.

You will also have an opportunity to make submissions to the consenting authorities, once we have submitted our final applications.

Tell us what you think

Why not start your personal engagement with us today by completing our feedback form (at the next station in our virtual exhibition room) and telling us what you think so far?

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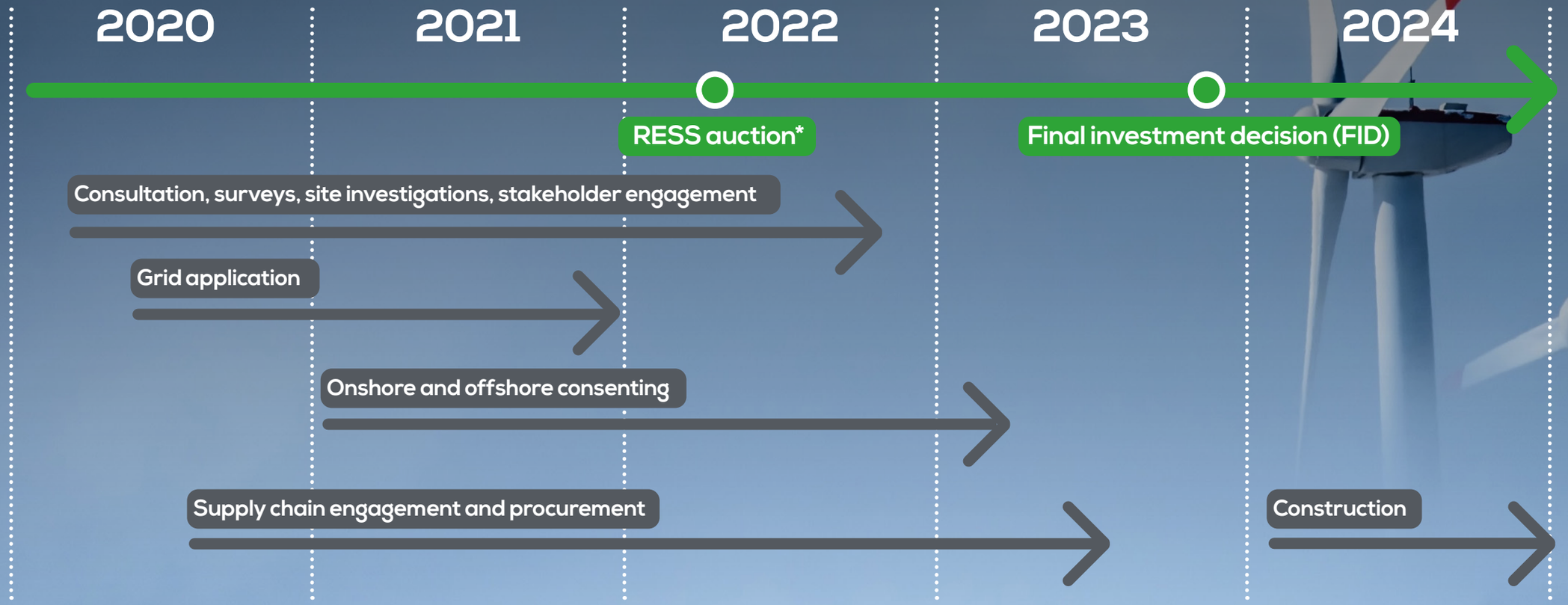
Project timeline



***RESS** = Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

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Key facts

Developed by Codling Wind Park Ltd

A 50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Renewables and EDF Renewables.

Fred. Olsen Renewables

EDF renewable energy

13–22 km
Distance from shore, off the Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

1,000
Minimum number of jobs during construction.

70
Number of full-time, long-term jobs.

1,500MW
Maximum generating capacity of the project.

70% renewable
Contributing significantly to Ireland's target of generating 70% of electricity from renewables by 2030, including 5GW from offshore wind.

1.2 million
Number of Irish homes that could be provided with renewable electricity.

2 million
The equivalent number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

140
Maximum number of turbines.

320m
Maximum tip height of turbines.

16MW
Maximum individual capacity of each turbine.

125 km²
Overall size of project site.

25–30 years
Anticipated operating life of the wind farm.

Appendix B.7 Brochure: Public Consultation #2

Welcome and project overview

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for our second phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park development.

Watch our latest video here

Context and need

With the potential to provide power for up to 1.2 million Irish homes, Codling Wind Park is the largest Phase One offshore renewable energy project in Ireland and will be essential to achieving national renewable energy and climate action targets. When developed, it will be the largest offshore wind farm off the Irish coast.

What is Codling Wind Park?

Codling Wind Park is an offshore wind farm proposed to be developed in the Irish Sea, approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The project is a 50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind and EDF Renewables. Both companies are leading developers, owners and operators of renewable energy assets, with many years of global experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector.

When will it be built?

Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents, the project could be ready to commence construction in 2026. Construction is expected to take in the region of three years to complete, which means that the wind farm could export power to the Irish grid system by 2028.

> Image by Megan, from Glebe NS, Wicklow Town

Welcome and project overview

EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies, operating in more than 20 countries around the world. The Irish team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by more than 400 colleagues in the UK.

In addition to its 50% interest in Codling Wind Park, EDF Renewables Ireland is the sole owner of Wexford Solar, which includes eight solar projects across Ireland, and has an Irish onshore development pipeline of almost 1GW. In the UK, EDF Renewables has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and two battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW).

For further information visit **www.edf-re.ie**.

About Fred. Olsen Seawind

Fred. Olsen Seawind AS is an established offshore wind developer building on Fred. Olsen Renewables' 25 year wind track record, market presence and portfolio.

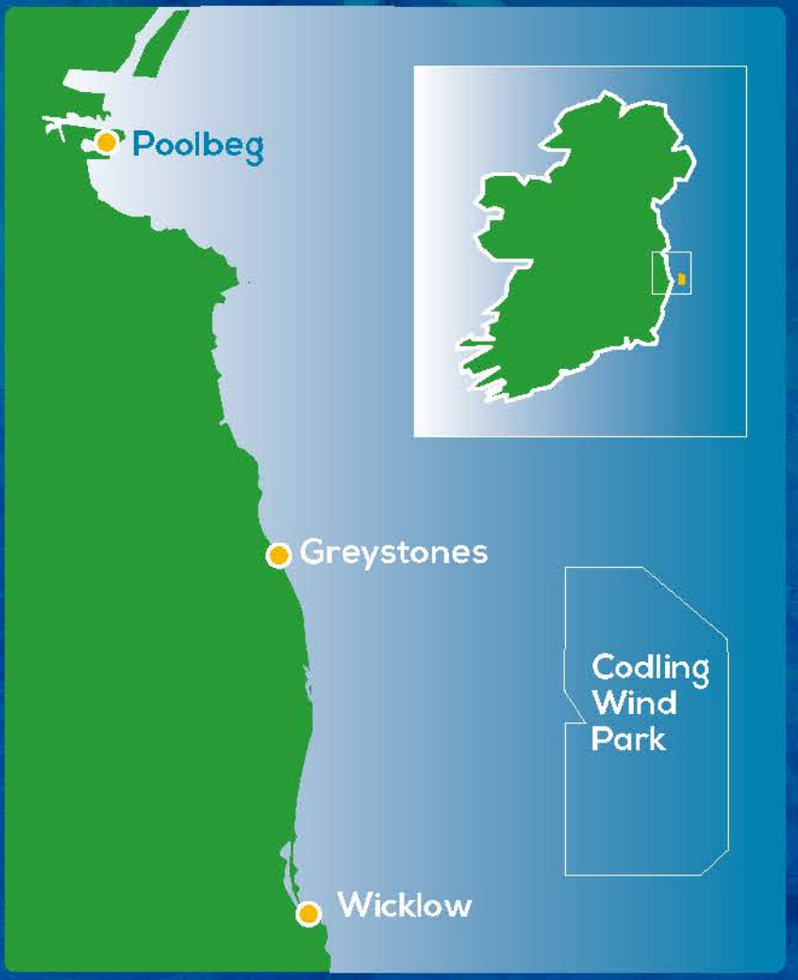
Fred. Olsen Renewables was involved in Codling from 1999 to 2022, when it was transferred to Fred. Olsen Seawind.

Utilising the extensive experience in Scotland gained through over 25 years of development, construction and operation of onshore wind, Fred. Olsen Seawind is committed to progressing offshore wind projects in Ireland, Norway and Scotland and is exploring opportunities in new markets.

For further information visit **www.fredolsenseawind.com**.

› Image by Megan, from Glebe NS, Wicklow Town

› Project site map



Project overview and benefits at a glance

Key project facts

Location
Off the coast of County Wicklow, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

1,450 MW
Maximum volume of electricity that will be generated by the wind farm.

13-22km
Distance from the offshore wind farm to the coastline.

125km^2
Size of proposed offshore wind farm development area.

320m
Maximum offshore wind turbine tip heights.

100
Maximum number of wind turbines to be installed.

Project benefits

80%
Critical to achieving Ireland's target of 80% of our electricity from renewable energy by 2030.

Community fund
Multi-million Euro annual community benefit fund.

2 million tonnes
Annual carbon dioxide savings potential of the project.

Carbon neutral
Essential to Ireland being carbon neutral by 2050.

Jobs
Creation of over 1,000 construction jobs and 75 long-term operations and maintenance jobs.

Investment
One of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade.

Security
Supporting Ireland's future energy security.

1.2 million
Enough clean, low-cost energy for up to 1.2 million Irish homes.

Consultation process and how to get involved

Ongoing engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including the communities closest to the project, is important to us and we are committed to doing it at every stage of the project's lifecycle.

Our commitment to consultation

Providing opportunities for consultation and feedback is equally important to us, and we have committed to three phases of non-statutory consultation before submitting our planning application. The first, which presented an introduction to the project, took place in March 2021. To learn more about our first consultation and the feedback we received, please read our Phase One Consultation Feedback and Response Report on **codlingwindpark.ie/consultation engagement/**

Since our first public consultation, we have advanced the project significantly, and we are now in a position to present an updated set of project proposals and seek your feedback on these.

We will review all feedback received through this consultation process, as well as from our ongoing information clinics, meetings with local representatives, liaison with the fishing and maritime community and engagement with the wider local community to ensure that we develop our proposals in the best way possible. The findings from our environmental, technical and feasibility studies will also feed into this process.

Operations and Maintenance Base

In November 2021, Wicklow Port was announced as the preferred location for an Operations and Maintenance Base (OMB) for Codling Wind Park. It is the closest port to Codling Wind Park (approximately 13km at the closest point).

It is anticipated that an OMB would provide offices, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities, as well as an operations control centre, to facilitate operations and maintenance services for the wind farm during the operations phase as opposed to alternatives like offshore service vessels. There is the potential for up to 75 new, long-term, local jobs across maintenance, engineering, administration, and other roles associated with the OMB. It would also provide training and apprenticeship opportunities in the local area, as well as opportunities for local businesses to support the planning, design, construction, and ongoing operation of the OMB.

As the project team are still working to identify and assess the most suitable location and design for the base at Wicklow Port, the OMB does not form part of this consultation process. The OMB will be subject to a separate period of public consultation once plans have been drafted, prior to the submission of a planning application. Details of this consultation process will be advertised extensively in advance.

This consultation

This phase of consultation will run for four weeks, starting on Wednesday 11 January 2023 and continuing until Wednesday 8 February 2023. During this consultation, we would like to hear your views on our updated project proposals, including on the following topics:

- The proposed **design of the offshore and onshore elements** of the project.
- Our **Environmental Impact Assessment** studies for our onshore and offshore work.
- How we should work with and **deliver benefits in the local community**.
- How we should continue to engage with the **fishing community**.
- Any other thoughts you have on the project.

Consultation process and how to get involved

You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

- **Virtual Consultation Room**

  Our Virtual Consultation Room will be live throughout the consultation duration. Here you will find all the project information, and the option to provide your feedback online.

- **In person**

  We will be holding four physical exhibitions throughout January where you can meet the team and provide feedback. Details of these exhibitions can be viewed on our website, **www.codlingwindpark.ie**

- **By email:**

  contact@codlingwindpark.ie

- **Call our information line:**

  087 1011 473

- **By post:**

  Please fill out our feedback form and return to:
  Codling Wind Park Ltd.
  Trintech Building
  2nd Floor
  South County Business Park
  Leopardstown
  Dublin
  D18 H5H9

What happens next?

Following this consultation, your feedback will be reviewed by the project team and considered as part of our ongoing project development work.

A public consultation report, summarising the feedback received as part of this consultation, as well as responses from the project team, will be completed and made available to the public on the Codling Wind Park website.

A third phase of public consultation will be held later in 2023 before we submit our development permission application to An Bord Pleanála.

Your feedback is important to us

Project status

Significant progress has been made across a number of fronts as we continue to develop Ireland's largest Phase One offshore wind farm.

1,450MW

Maximum capacity of the wind farm

Since our first phase of consultation, we have:

- conducted offshore site investigation works and characterisation surveys on the wind farm site and along the proposed cable route corridors;
- selected Wicklow Port as the preferred location for our Operations and Maintenance base (OMB);
- grown the size of the project team to approximately 60 full-time people, across a range of disciplines and areas of expertise;
- continued our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the communities closest to the project and initiated monthly information clinics at three locations in Wicklow;
- engaged with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on our environmental assessment plans..

Below is more detail on some other specific milestones and activities achieved by the project in recent months, as we prepare to participate in the first government Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) in the next couple of months and to submit our development permission application later this year.

Grid Connection Assessment

Following detailed engagement with EirGrid over a period of 24 months, in November 2022, Poolbeg was formally confirmed by EirGrid as the location for our grid connection. Our maximum export capacity (MEC) was also confirmed at 1,450MW. This is the maximum amount of electricity we will be able to transmit into the Irish grid from the Codling Wind Park wind turbines.

These decisions have allowed us to further develop the proposed design and layout of the project.

Maritime Area Consent

In June of last year, Codling Wind Park applied to the Government for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC). In October, another significant milestone was recorded on the project when we received notification from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications that our application was successful. Receipt of the MAC, together with our Grid Connection Assessment, will allow us to participate in ORESS later this year, and then to submit a development permission application to An Bord Pleanála.

Surveys and environmental studies

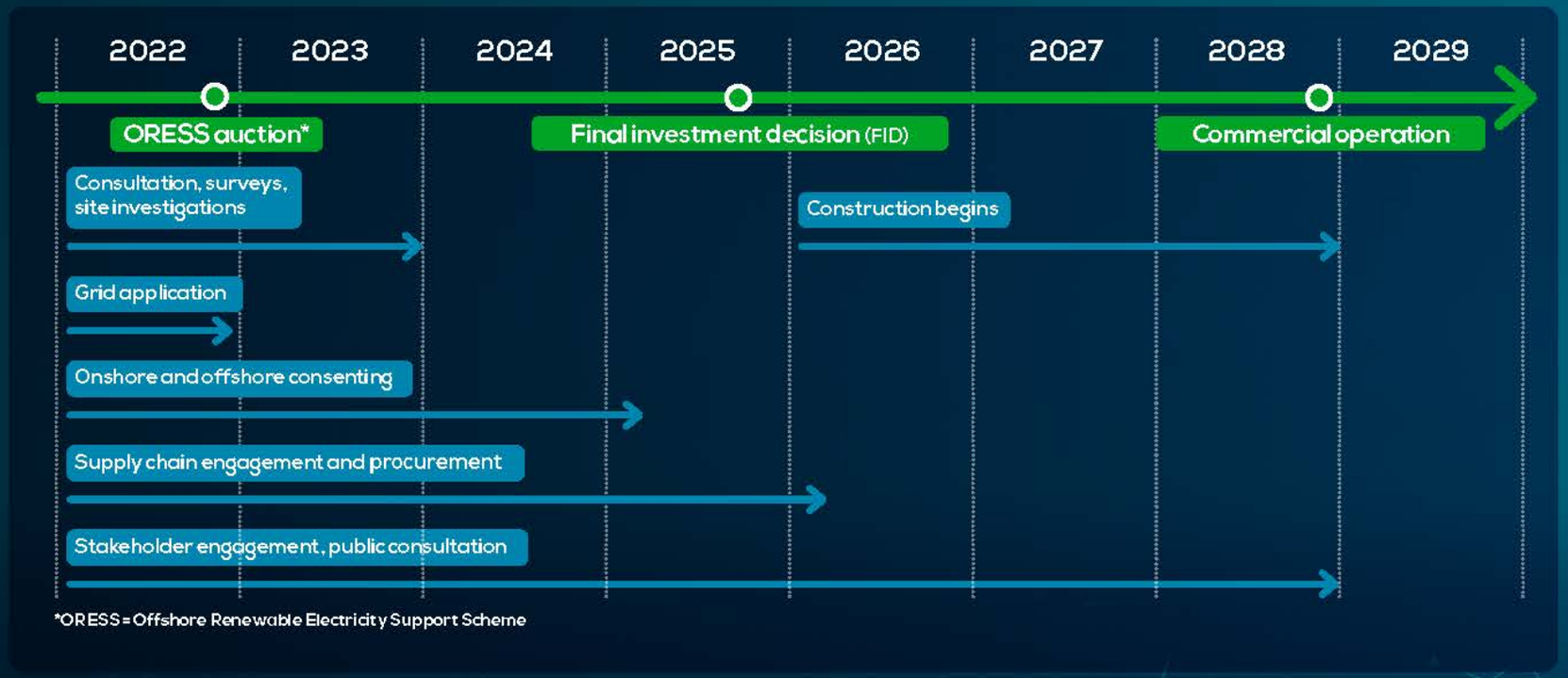
Surveys and environmental studies in support of the project, both onshore and offshore, are an important part of the environmental assessment process. Some of these activities – such as ornithology surveys – have been ongoing for many years. Onshore, we have also commenced other surveys including habitat (flora and fauna), protected species, geotechnical, baseline noise and archaeological surveys.

Offshore, a number of studies and surveys – geophysical, geotechnical, ecological and metocean – have been undertaken in recent years.

These onshore and offshore surveys and studies provide important technical and environmental data that will help provide a more detailed understanding of the existing environment in our development areas.

This information will be used to inform the design of the project and our environmental assessment, our EIA process and the design of our wind farm array, offshore cable route, landfall point and onshore works.

Project status



*ORESS = Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

What is a Phase One project?

In May 2020, the Government designated six offshore wind projects, which were already in development for some time, as 'Relevant Projects' in the context of the Maritime Area Planning Bill, which was then being developed and is now enacted. These projects – including Codling Wind Park – are now called Phase One projects, and will be prioritised through the new offshore consenting, grid and ORESS regimes, in order to deliver the Government target of 7GW of offshore wind by 2030.

What is ORESS?

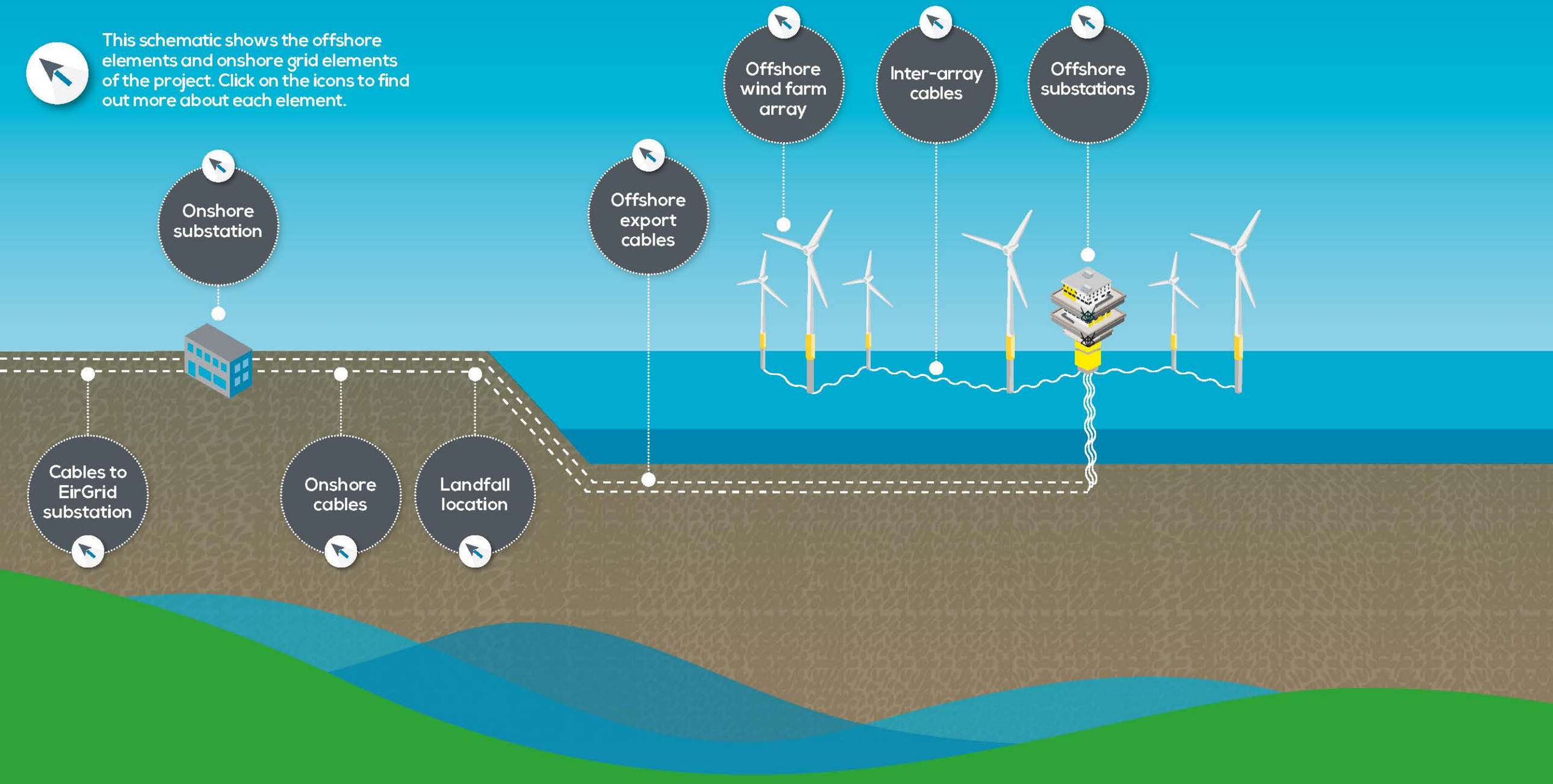
The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) is a government initiative that provides support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland. ORESS has a primary focus on cost effectiveness but also has a range of other objectives including community support, increasing energy security and sustainability. Support under ORESS is allocated by way of auctions, where projects compete for a certain amount of electricity generation capacity. Those that are successful receive a guaranteed price for the electricity generated for a 20-year period.

What is a Maritime Area Consent?

A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) is a new requirement for marine-based projects which came into effect in December 2021 following the enactment of the Maritime Area Planning Act. It is designed to replace the old foreshore lease process to give projects permission to occupy the seabed. In order to compete in the ORESS auction and apply for development permission, a project must have a MAC in place.

Key elements of the project

This schematic shows the offshore elements and onshore grid elements of the project. Click on the icons to find out more about each element.



Offshore wind farm array and offshore substations

The Codling Wind Park offshore wind farm array will be located approximately 13–22km off the coast of Co. Wicklow. The overall size of the array site is 125km².

> Project site map

Wind turbines and array layout

It is proposed that up to 100 wind turbines could be installed in the proposed wind turbine array site to meet our maximum export capacity. Developments in wind turbine technology, combined with a more detailed understanding of the array site, has enabled us to refine the offshore proposals that were presented at our first public consultation.

We had previously proposed up to 140 wind turbines as part of the project, but we are now considering a maximum of 100, with a maximum blade tip height of 320m. This is, in large part, down to our commitment to ensuring that environmental considerations are at the forefront of our design and planning.

Offshore wind turbines are larger than those used on land, in order to produce more electricity and take advantage of higher and more consistent wind speeds offshore.

We are currently considering two scenarios for the array layout, dependent on the wind turbine heights and generating capacity of each. The higher the capacity per wind turbine, the fewer wind turbines we will need to use in order to generate the desired amount of electricity.

Each wind turbine is expected to be supported on a monopile or jacket foundation. The foundation type will be confirmed during the design phase.

Next steps

Further refinement of the proposed array layouts will take place over the coming months, which will require a balance of technical and environmental considerations. The key environmental considerations that inform the design include landscape, seascape and visual impacts, seabirds and their populations, navigational safety and commercial fishing. It is possible that we will seek consent for two array layout options, with the final layout to be decided upon closer to the start of construction and in line with our planning conditions.

100

Maximum number of proposed wind turbines

320m

Maximum height of wind turbines

This consultation

We would like to hear your feedback on the offshore array based on the information provided and photomontages presented. Please note that we are not seeking a preference for one option over the other, as the final layout may be a combination of elements from both or we may seek consent for two layout options. Feedback on specific elements of each layout would therefore be appreciated.

We would also welcome your views on the View Point locations and if you think other public locations should also be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Offshore wind farm array and offshore substations

Offshore substations

Within the array site, up to three offshore substations will be installed. The purpose of these substations is to collect the power from the wind turbines and convert it to a higher voltage for transmission – via the export cables – to shore. This ensures that as little energy as possible is lost as the electricity is brought ashore.

Each offshore substation is expected to be supported on a monopile or jacket foundation. The foundation type will be confirmed during the design phase.

A typical offshore substation may be around 35 metres long, and 20 metres wide. Including their foundations, they generally have an overall height of around 40 metres.

Inter-array and interconnector cables

Inter-array cables will connect each wind turbine to one of the offshore substations, which are connected together by interconnector cables. Installation of the cables will likely involve jetting, trenching or ploughing, and will involve both seabed preparatory works and installation works. The cables are expected to be buried to a depth of approximately 1-1.5m below the seabed. Where this is not possible, additional measures will be put in place to ensure the cable is protected.

Visual impact of the wind turbines and offshore substations

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we are undertaking a Seascape/Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) to see how the wind turbine array and offshore substations will look from different locations on the coast. The SLVIA will identify, predict and evaluate the potential effects on the seascape, landscape and visual resource.

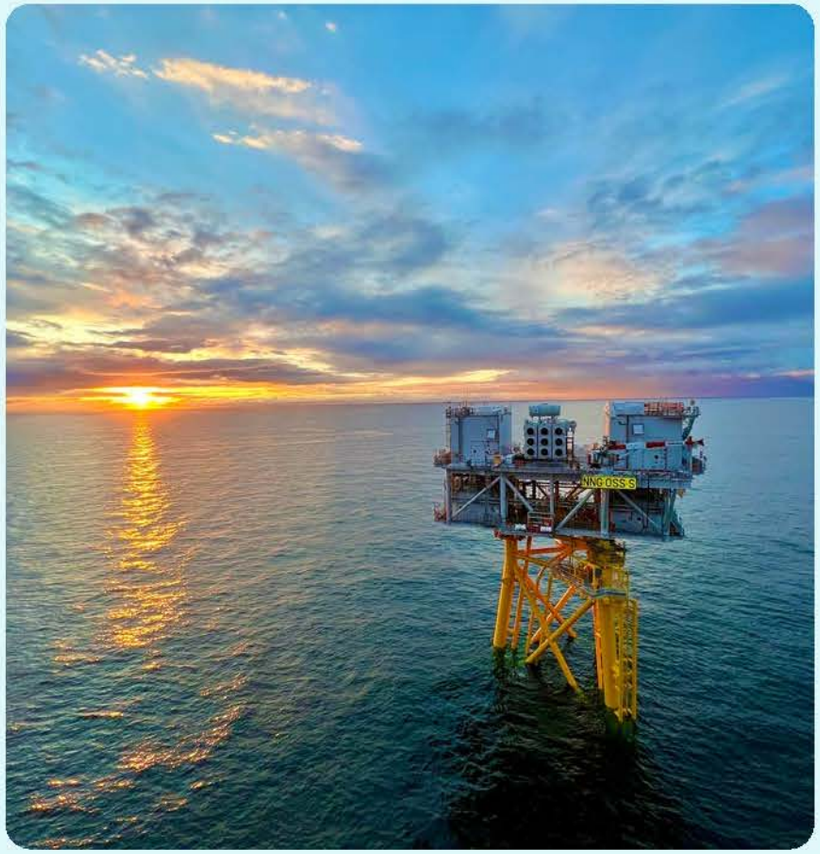
We have prepared photomontages for 10 viewpoints, to ensure broad coverage along the coastline. These photomontages use two different layout options which we are currently exploring. To view these photomontages, click on the link on the left of this information board or visit our separate 'Photomontages' section.

The assessment will also include consideration of the potential impacts on other marine users and the cumulative impacts of other regional projects in accordance with the relevant guidance and legislation.

Click here to view the Photomontages from 10 different viewpoints

› EDF Renewables Teesside Offshore Wind Farm

› Substation Visual Westermost Rough



› Race Bank Offshore Substation

Offshore export cables

In order to transport the electricity generated by the wind turbines at Codling Wind Park to shore, we will need to lay export cables between the offshore substations and a landfall point onshore.

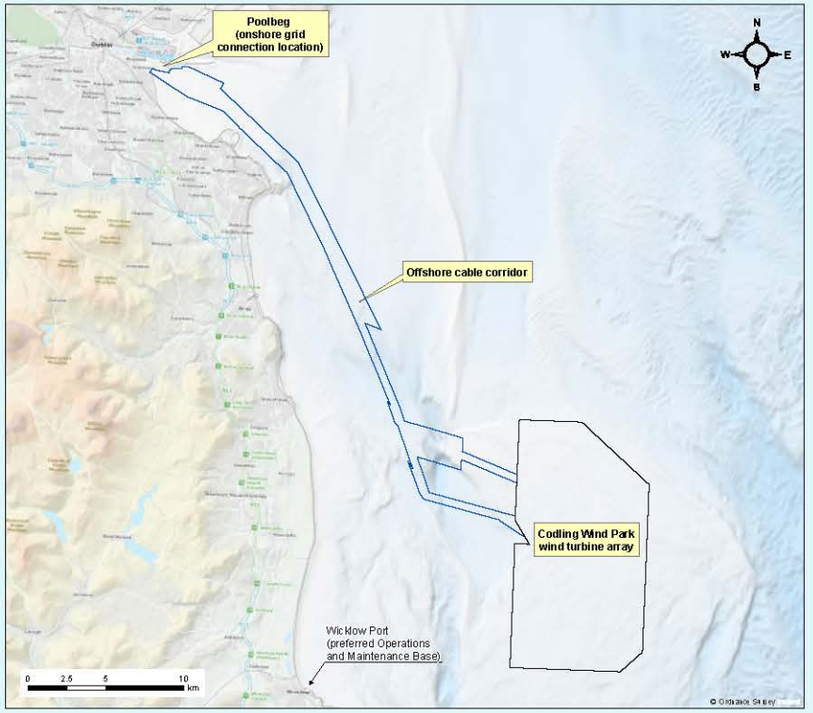
As EirGrid has now confirmed Poolbeg as our grid connection location, our investigation efforts are solely focusing on an export cable route corridor, within which up to three cables will be located. These cables will connect the offshore substations to a landfall point at Poolbeg, which is discussed in the 'Onshore elements of the project' section of this exhibition.

The export cable corridor is dictated by the preferred cable landfall area, and technical and environmental considerations such as seabed conditions and seabed habitats. Further consideration will be given to the alignment of the three cables within the proposed corridor to minimise environmental impacts, including on archaeological features and benthic habitats. Installation of the offshore export cables will likely involve jetting, trenching or ploughing, and will involve both seabed preparatory works and installation works at the landfall site and in the Dublin Bay intertidal area. Additionally, any services (e.g. gas, electricity and water) which cross Dublin Bay will have necessary preparations and protection.

The export cables are expected to be buried to a depth of approximately 1-2m below the seabed. Where this is not possible, additional measures will be put in place to ensure the cables are protected.

Interactions between the export cables and environmental features, such as protected sites, will continue to be considered in the design of the project, and will be carefully assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) process. Any necessary mitigation and monitoring measures will be identified through these assessments.

It is expected to take approximately 24-30 months to complete works on laying the export cables.



› Cable corridor boundaries

This consultation

During this consultation we are looking for feedback on what we may need to consider as we continue to develop plans for our export cable corridors.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Landfall location and onshore cable route

Although the wind farm will be located offshore, in order to transmit the clean electricity generated at Codling Wind Park to Irish homes and businesses, a connection into the national grid is needed.

When the grid connection exploration process began originally, we had three potential connection locations to explore. As presented at the last public exhibition, these were Ballybeg in Co. Wicklow, Carrickmines in Co. Dublin and Poolbeg in Dublin City. We carried out an initial examination of potential offshore and onshore export cable route options to get to each location, including potential landfall and onshore substation locations for each option.

However, following extensive consultation with EirGrid – the operator of the electricity transmission system – and the conclusion of a formal Grid Connection Assessment, our grid connection to the Poolbeg 220kV substation in Poolbeg in Dublin was confirmed last year. Poolbeg is already a strategic grid connection node for generation in Dublin, has the necessary capacity for this development (a capacity of 1,450MW was identified by EirGrid in an offshore capacity report), and is a key part of EirGrid's Dublin upgrade works.

To facilitate the transmission of electricity into the national grid at Poolbeg, some key elements of the project will need to be developed in, and in the vicinity of, the Poolbeg peninsula.

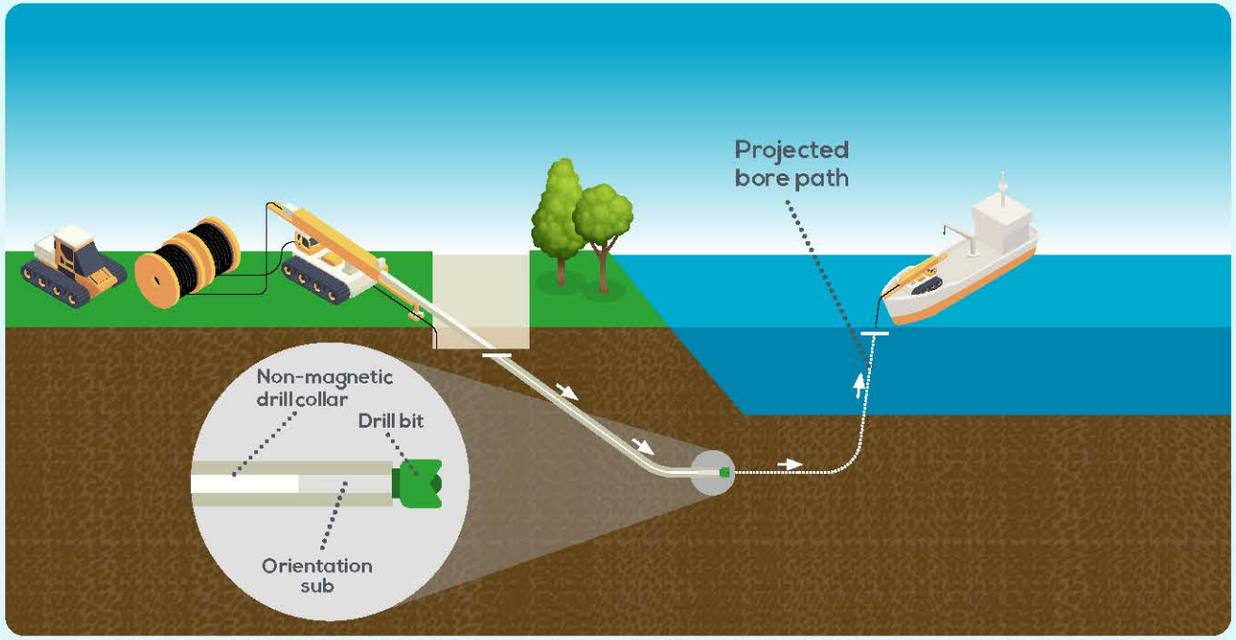
Landfall location

Firstly, electricity generated at the offshore wind farm array will be brought onshore, via export cables, at a point known as the landfall. An extensive site selection process was undertaken which examined the feasibility of 12 potential landfalls within the southern Dublin Bay area and the Liffey from a technical, economic, environmental, socio-economic and deliverability perspective.

The site selection identified an area on the southern side of the Poolbeg peninsula (see map) as the best performing landfall for Codling Wind Park. This landfall site benefits from its proximity to the preferred onshore substation site, helping to minimise onshore cable routing distances and associated disturbance to the environment and local communities. The site also has favourable conditions for construction, including appropriate space for a temporary compound, no conflicts with other utilities and no major construction obstacles. Furthermore, the site benefits from existing access via Shellybanks Road and South Bank Road, minimising the need for site access works that may otherwise be required.

Three export cables will need to be brought ashore, connecting the offshore wind farm to onshore infrastructure. It is currently anticipated that cables will be installed at landfall points using one of two methods:

- Open-cut trenching installation
- Trenchless techniques such as horizontal directional drilling.



› A representation of how horizontal directional drilling works

Landfall location and onshore cable route

Once ashore, the offshore cables are jointed to the onshore cables in three underground chambers, known as Transition Joint Bays (TJBs).

Once construction is complete, the area where the TJBs are located will be restored and the only above ground infrastructure that will be visible will be manhole covers at each TJB location. These are needed for maintenance access.

We are in the process of identifying the most suitable installation method, as well as construction compound and access arrangements for our landfall point. Full details of these proposals will be presented in our planning application. The project is conscious of the proximity of the site to environmentally sensitive areas including the South Dublin Bay SAC and River Tolka Estuary SPA.

A number of surveys and investigations have been undertaken and a thorough impact assessment is being carried out in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This includes developing mitigation measures to minimise impacts and ensure that our proposals are fully compliant with all national and European legislation. All the cables will be buried with no above ground features expected post construction.

Onshore cables and route options

Onshore cables will be installed to transport the electricity from landfall to Codling Wind Park's proposed onshore substation. The project is undertaking onshore cable route assessment studies to identify potential options for the onshore cable route. Six potential route options were assessed against a number of criteria, including technical, economic, environmental, deliverability and socio-economic considerations, whilst also seeking to minimise disruption to local communities and take account of other existing utilities on the Poolbeg peninsula.

Based on their scores against these criteria, three emerging preferred options have been selected and are now being considered in further detail to fully assess their suitability. The corridors being looked at for these three potential routes can be viewed on the 'Onshore grid infrastructure locations' map in our 'Maps' section elsewhere in this exhibition.

The assessments have also confirmed the cable route option from the new substation site at Pigeon Park to the connection point at EirGrid's existing Poolbeg 220kV substation.

› Open-cut trenching equipment, referenced on previous board

Click here to view relevant maps

Onshore substation

Transmitting electricity from Codling Wind Park into the national grid requires a new onshore 220kV substation to be built by us in the Poolbeg area. This substation will prepare the electricity to the appropriate specifications for delivery to EirGrid's 220kV substation at Poolbeg.

Our current proposals

A site adjacent to Pigeon House Harbour, on the west side of the Poolbeg peninsula, has been identified as the most appropriate location for the substation. This site was selected by Codling Wind Park following a site selection process which considered 11 possible locations in and around the Poolbeg peninsula to identify the most suitable and available area for the substation.

Key considerations that informed the site selection process include land availability, location of existing utilities, distance from landfall and the existing EirGrid substation, and environmental and socio-economic receptors. The area is close to the proposed landfall, so onshore cabling can be kept to a minimum. This will minimise disruption to residents and amenities and reduce the potential environmental impacts from the cables.

Photomontages from surrounding viewpoints have been prepared for an indicative size of the substation building on the site. These photomontages are based on the anticipated maximum building and equipment heights for the onshore substation.

The proposed onshore substation site is approximately 1.5 hectares, (around the size of one-and-a-half football pitches), which will be large enough to accommodate the required electrical infrastructure for Codling Wind Park. It is expected that onshore construction works, including the substation and the landfall point, will take approximately 24-36 months to complete.

Click here to view the Photomontages from 2 different viewpoints

A new onshore 220kV substation will be built in Poolbeg

This consultation

During this consultation we are looking for feedback on what we may need to consider as we continue to develop the detailed design for our onshore works, including the substation.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process assesses the potential effects, be they positive, neutral, or negative/adverse, on the environment, people and local communities which may arise from the development. The Appropriate Assessment process considers the potential effects on European sites designated as part of the European Natura 2000 network.

The outcomes will be presented in an EIA Report (EIAR), and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which will be submitted to the consenting authority in support of the planning applications.

The EIAR will also set out the mitigation measures proposed by the project to reduce the significance of negative effects, and proposals to monitor the environment before, during and after construction as required. It will also consider the cumulative impacts of other regional projects in accordance with the relevant guidelines and legislation.

The EIAR presents the results of significant and systematic assessments of the predicted impact of a proposed project on the environment. The EIAR considers a range of topics, with the EIA team undertaking rigorous assessment in respect of each.

These topics include:

- Population
- Human health
- Biodiversity (aquatic and terrestrial)
- Land and soils
- Water and flood risk
- Air quality
- Climate (carbon balance assessment)
- Noise and vibration
- Onshore archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage
- Landscape and visual
- Traffic and transport
- Material assets
- Physical processes
- Benthic and intertidal ecology
- Offshore bats
- Fish and shellfish ecology
- Marine mammals and reptiles
- Marine water quality
- Marine ornithology
- Commercial fisheries
- Shipping and navigation
- Aviation, military and communications
- Marine archaeology
- Other marine users
- Seascape, landscape and visual impacts
- Waste and resource management

› LB Jill on site plus AMS Panther

A complete and comprehensive EIAR is important to ensure that the impact of a project on the environment is understood before permission for development is granted.

It also identifies mitigation measures, where appropriate, to contribute to environmental protection.

This consultation

We are endeavouring to deliver an EIA and AA that consider all the possible impacts of the project on the environment. We want to hear your feedback on the EIA and AA processes, and would welcome any comments, queries or concerns that you may have in relation to the project under any of the above headings.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Environmental Impact Assessment process

The EIA and NIS process considers the potential impacts, but it also examine the current circumstances (or 'baseline') and models likely impacts of the project across a number of receptors.

A key consideration is how we will avoid, minimise or mitigate those impacts wherever possible. It will also consider the cumulative impacts of other regional projects in accordance with the relevant guidelines and legislation.

The process is iterative: as we receive feedback and further data, the project design is refined to ensure we can deliver important renewable energy, balanced with good design and mitigation of potential impacts.

We are here

Screening

Is an EIA required?

Scoping

What should the EIA cover?

Baseline description

- Data sources
- Site-specific surveys
- Modelling

Impact prediction

Examination of potential impacts and to reduce negative impacts through project design

Impact assessment and mitigation identification

Assessment of potential impacts and measures to remove or reduce negative impacts and enhance positive ones

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

Submission of EIAR as part of development permission application

Determination

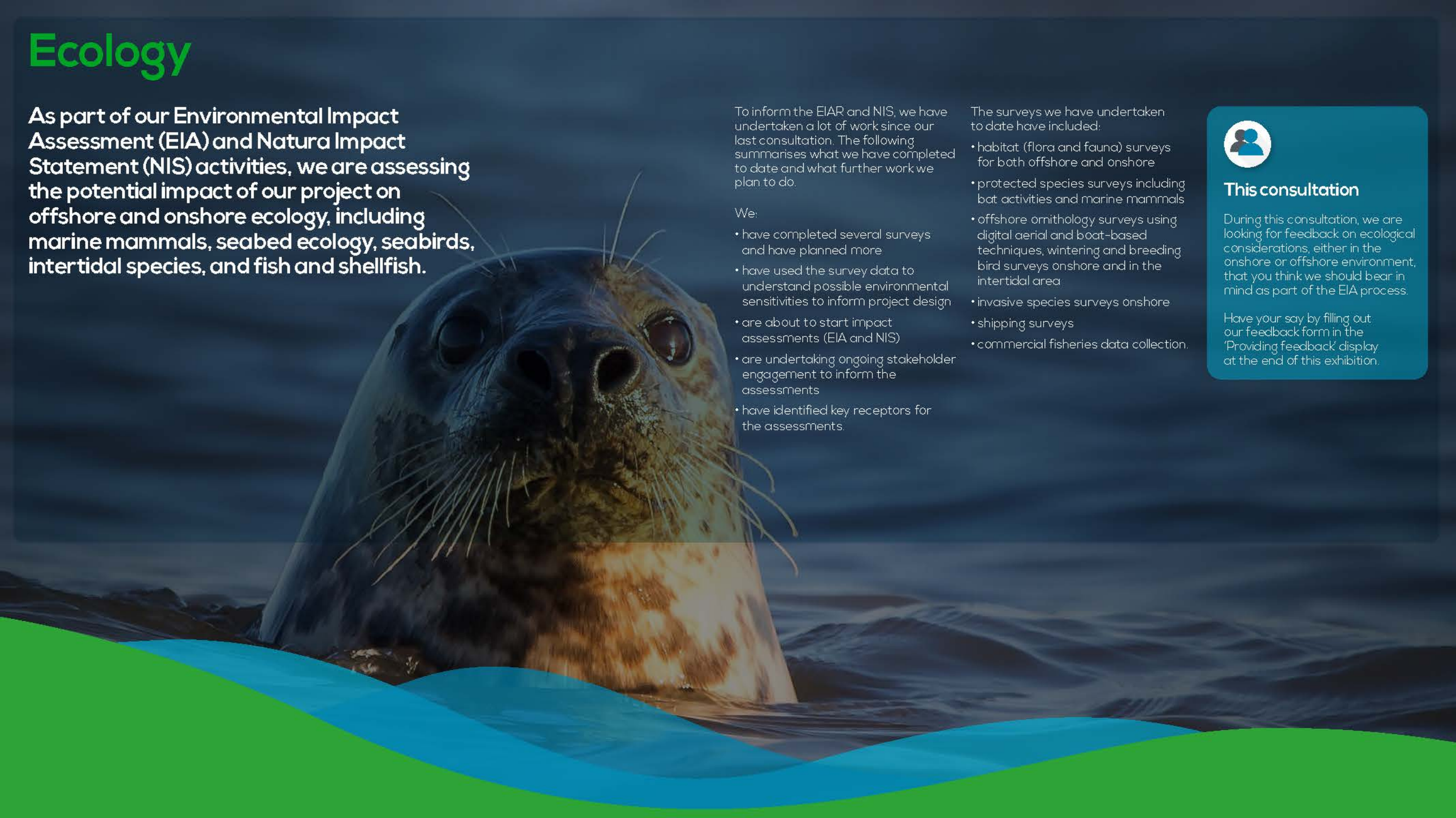
The consenting authority examines and determines the development permission application

EIAR follow-up

Implementation of monitoring and mitigation commitments, and environmental management during construction

Ecology

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) activities, we are assessing the potential impact of our project on offshore and onshore ecology, including marine mammals, seabed ecology, seabirds, intertidal species, and fish and shellfish.



To inform the EIAR and NIS, we have undertaken a lot of work since our last consultation. The following summarises what we have completed to date and what further work we plan to do.

We:

- have completed several surveys and have planned more
- have used the survey data to understand possible environmental sensitivities to inform project design
- are about to start impact assessments (EIA and NIS)
- are undertaking ongoing stakeholder engagement to inform the assessments
- have identified key receptors for the assessments.

The surveys we have undertaken to date have included:

- habitat (flora and fauna) surveys for both offshore and onshore
- protected species surveys including bat activities and marine mammals
- offshore ornithology surveys using digital aerial and boat-based techniques, wintering and breeding bird surveys onshore and in the intertidal area
- invasive species surveys onshore
- shipping surveys
- commercial fisheries data collection.

This consultation

During this consultation, we are looking for feedback on ecological considerations, either in the onshore or offshore environment, that you think we should bear in mind as part of the EIA process.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Offshore ecology

Our surveys and assessments allow us to gain an understanding of how marine life and bird populations interact with the project area, including their use of the area and movement patterns.

Extensive surveys on birds and marine mammals have been completed for the project, including aerial surveys. The results of these surveys will be presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be submitted as part of the planning application. Assessments to date have identified a number of species in the area, including species of national and regional conservation interest, which will be subject to detailed assessment and mitigation measures.

Birds

As part of our EIA and NIS, we are undertaking a marine ornithology assessment which will consider the potential impact of the project on seabirds, migratory birds, intertidal species, species on the onshore cable route and at the substation, and species in the River Liffey.

We have now completed two years of digital aerial surveys, a long series of boat-based surveys and preliminary collision risk monitoring to understand potential effects for offshore birds, and to refine the project design. The surveys have identified that several seabird species use the wind turbine array site including kittiwakes, guillemots, Manx shearwaters and razorbills. We are now working to identify if there will be any displacement impacts on relevant species.

We have completed two years of intertidal surveys around the proposed landfall areas, including monitoring of a significant colony of migratory terns in the South Dublin Bay area.

We will also consider the potential impacts of the other species that use the River Liffey.

We will aim to minimise impacts through design, and, where required, identify mitigation which will be implemented during construction and operation.

Marine mammals

We have carried out marine mammal surveys of the array area, the results of which will be presented in the EIAR and NIS. These surveys considered species including whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals. The EIA will consider how they interact with the development areas in terms of movement and area usage, and how they may potentially be impacted by the development.

Over the coming months the marine mammal team will continue to support the refinement of the project based on the outcomes of the surveys and will introduce appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures to minimise potential impacts, where required.

Benthic (seabed) ecology

We are undertaking a benthic (seabed) ecology assessment which will consider the potential impact of the project on benthic habitats.

To date, we have completed benthic subtidal and intertidal surveys to inform the assessment and have found the area to be relatively varied with areas of hard ground and cobbles and areas of soft sediment, with a number of different organisms present throughout the array and cable corridor areas.

Our next steps will be to complete the assessment and build measures into the design and cable routing processes which minimise the risk of any potential impacts. Where potential impacts remain, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed.

Fish and shellfish ecology

We are undertaking a fish and shellfish ecology assessment which will consider the potential impact of the project on fish and shellfish species. To date, we have engaged with statutory and non-statutory bodies to obtain feedback for an initial scoping approach. We have agreed our proposed approach to the EIA assessment and additional data such as eel monitoring reports have been provided to inform the baseline. We are continuing to refine the project based on our findings, including on underwater noise and physical process modelling.

Onshore ecology

We recognise the importance of this ecological environment at Poolbeg. As part of our onshore assessments, we have commenced survey work and have undertaken:

- **habitat (flora and fauna) surveys**
- **protected species surveys including bat activity and otter surveys**
- **wintering and breeding bird surveys**
- **invasive species surveys.**

We have also been consulting with stakeholders including National Parks & Wildlife Services, Dublin City Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland. Findings from our surveys and consultations will be integrated into our assessments.

For the landfall and onshore cable route, many of the lands will be fully reinstated once the construction works are completed.

Where possible, we will seek to implement biodiversity enhancements, such as planting native hedgerow and tree species.

Bats

We have completed bat activity surveys over the last two years. Three bat species have been recorded: Soprano pipistrelle, Common pipistrelle and Leisler's bat. They were recorded foraging and commuting in the onshore areas.

Otters

Otters have been observed in the Poolbeg area and, as part of our onshore surveys, we have been recording any signs of this species.

Birds

Ornithology is also a consideration for our onshore infrastructure. In addition to undertaking breeding and wintering bird activity surveys at Poolbeg, we've also undertaken surveys to gather additional information on the peregrine falcon, the brent geese using the onshore feeding grounds near the Irishtown Nature Park and the breeding tern colonies near the onshore substation site.

In developing our onshore infrastructure, we will aim to minimise impacts through design, and, where required, identify mitigation which will be implemented during construction and operation.

Heritage and archaeology

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will be assessing the interaction between the project and the following onshore and marine archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage features:

>Marine Archaeology Survey

- known onshore and marine archaeological assets and areas of archaeological potential;
- designated architectural heritage and other significant architectural heritage;
- previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural remains;
- designations or sensitivities related to folklore and heritage.

Offshore archaeology and heritage

The offshore EIA will consider seabed prehistory, maritime archaeology, aviation archaeology and intertidal heritage assets. We have begun an archaeological assessment of geophysical and geotechnical survey datasets of the seabed and completed coastal walkovers and metal detection surveys to identify potentially unrecorded archaeological features.

This will enable us to determine the nature, extent and significance of the marine and maritime historic environment within the proposed development areas.

Onshore archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage

The Poolbeg area is situated on lands reclaimed from intertidal areas going back to the 1700s and there are a number of designated archaeological and architectural heritage-related assets within the area. The line of a harbour wall associated with Pigeon House Harbour also runs east to west, along the boundary of the proposed onshore substation site. This was identified from a review of old Ordnance Survey maps and site walkovers. As part of our onshore EIA, we will be considering potential impacts associated with the onshore infrastructure on these and other features.

Next steps

The next steps will be to continue to inform the design of the project, complete the onshore and marine archaeological assessments and develop mitigation measures to minimise any potential impacts on archaeology and heritage features. A Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries will be implemented during construction to mitigate the risk to any previously unrecorded archaeological remains. The EIA will be undertaken in line with appropriate guidance, and results will be presented in the EIA Report, which will be submitted in support of the development permission applications.

This consultation

During this consultation, we are looking for feedback on cultural, heritage or archaeological features in the onshore and offshore environment that you think we should consider as part of the EIA process.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Navigation and safety

Navigation and maritime safety within and around the offshore array are key considerations of the project.

> EDF Renewables Teesside Offshore Wind Farm

We are working closely with stakeholders from across the maritime sector to ensure that our project is delivered in line with all relevant legislation.

As part of our Environmental ImpactAssessment (EIA), Codling Wind Park are using the services of an independent marine traffic consultant who will prepare a detailed Navigation Risk Assessment which will consider the potential impact of the project on marine users in transit including commercial, recreational,and fishing vessels. This assessment will support the Shipping and Navigation Assessment within the EIA.

To date we have completed extensive baseline data collection, including surveys required by the regulators, to define traffic movements within the area and are currently processing the results. We anticipate the risk of a collision with the wind turbines to be very low. The Navigation Risk Assessment will inform any potential risk to fishing and shipping and serve to identify mitigation options to be employed.

All wind turbines will be visible, lit appropriately in line with Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL) requirements, charted, and mapped on navigation plotters etc. The wind turbines will also have significant separation distances between them, in the region of 1-1.5km.

The next step will be to identify the baseline before assessing it against the potential impact of the project, both in a current and future case environment. This includes running a Hazard workshop, involving identified users of the area, to provide local context input into that impact assessment.

1-1.5km

Approximate space between wind turbines

This consultation

We are keen to hear from stakeholders in the maritime sector who may have valuable insight into how the project can ensure safety and ease of navigation throughout the construction and operation of the offshore wind turbine array.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Traffic, noise and lighting

Traffic

During construction, there will be a temporary increase in traffic levels on the road network in the vicinity of the planned works at Poolbeg, in order to bring equipment, materials and personnel to and from the working areas. The potential impacts from the construction traffic will be assessed against current traffic conditions in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In order to establish these conditions, we plan to collect data on existing traffic flows around Poolbeg, in consultation with stakeholders, including the local authorities.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared in collaboration with the local authorities and local community ahead of any construction commencing. The CTMP will set out the measures that we will implement to manage and minimise traffic and transport-related effects resulting from the construction of Codling Wind Park and the associated onshore works.

Some of the options we are examining include opportunities to reduce the number of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements, for example through the use of barges and port deliveries.

During the operational phase of the project, it is expected that the onshore substation will be unmanned. The traffic generated during the operational phase will be minimal, with a small number of trips to the substation for inspection, monitoring and maintenance purposes.

Noise

Onshore works

As part of our EIA, we will be assessing the potential noise and vibration impacts associated with the construction of the onshore infrastructure. Our assessment will be informed by baseline noise monitoring that we will undertake at a number of representative noise sensitive receptors in the Poolbeg area. If required, mitigation measures will be put in place, so that the onshore infrastructure can be constructed within acceptable noise limits. Mitigation may include the temporary establishment of acoustic screens and the management of working hours and delivery times.

We will also be assessing noise impacts associated with the operation of the onshore substation. Predicted noise levels will be included within the EIA and, if required, we will consider mitigation such as refinements to the positioning of noise-generating equipment and acoustic housing to reduce noise levels to acceptable limits.

Offshore works

It is not expected that noise from the operational wind turbines will be audible over ambient noise levels onshore. However, the potential for wind turbines to generate noise will be further considered, and if required, assessed as part of the EIA.

Lighting

Onshore works

During construction, the onshore working areas will need to be appropriately lit to support safe working conditions. A lighting study will be undertaken as part of the EIA to determine how temporary light pollution from site can be minimised and managed to reduce overspill on adjacent areas.

At the onshore substation, lighting will be designed to comply with EirGrid specifications. Directional light fittings will be incorporated into the design to minimise any light pollution in the surrounding environment.

Offshore works

It is necessary to install aviation lighting, navigation lighting and operations and maintenance lighting on the wind turbines and offshore substations to ensure safe conditions for other sea users and aircraft once the wind farm is operational. The type of lighting, and the potential impacts from the lighting on landscape, seascape and visual receptors will be assessed in the EIA.

This consultation

We wish to assure stakeholders that we will be rigorously assessing the potential for impact of traffic, noise and lighting from the wind turbines, substations, and operations and maintenance of Codling Wind Park, and putting mitigation measures in place to address these if needed. However, if you have any specific issues or concerns, we encourage you to let us know.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition..

Air quality, soils and geology, and hydrology

Air quality

The potential air quality impacts associated with the construction of the onshore infrastructure will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This assessment will focus on the main sources of pollutants, including dust and traffic-related emissions, and will identify mitigation measures to help minimise any negative effects on air quality.

Soils and geology

The potential impacts that the construction and operation of the project will have on the surrounding geological environment will be assessed in the EIA. The assessment will focus on earthworks, installation of piles, trenching and horizontal directional drilling to install the underground cables. We will seek to minimise impacts through the design of the project, and if required, we will also propose further mitigation measures that can be implemented during construction in the project's Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Hydrology and Flood Risk Assessment

The potential impacts on the surface water and groundwater environment will be assessed in the EIA. The project has undertaken site investigation works to gather information on the existing water environment, which has included water monitoring and collection of samples for analysis. Further site investigation works will be undertaken over the coming months.

The EIA will focus on the activities that could impact the existing water environment, such as surface water run-off, drainage and spillages of hazardous materials. We are seeking to minimise impacts through the design of the project, and a Construction Environmental Management Plan will be developed which will detail the mitigation measures to be implemented during the construction and operation of the project to minimise risks.

A Flood Risk Assessment will also be prepared, which will consider flood risk both to and as a result of the Codling Wind Park project. Measures required to reduce flood risk will be considered as part of the project design, including surface water drainage systems and measures to reduce the risk of coastal flooding from the Irish Sea.

This consultation

We wish to assure stakeholders that we will be rigorously assessing the potential mpacts of the project on air quality, soils and geology, hydrology and putting mitigation measures in place to address these if needed. However, if you have any specific issues or concerns, we encourage you to let us know.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Fisheries

Understanding and mitigating the potential impact of Codling Wind Park on commercial fishing and other marine activities is one of our key priorities.

As such, the design of the project has been amended based on the fisheries data we have received to date. We want to engage and work with the fishing and marine communities to ensure we have sufficient information to minimise any potential impacts.

As part of our EIA, we are undertaking a commercial fisheries assessment which will consider the potential impact of the project on commercial fisheries.

We wish to work in collaboration with the local fishing industry and the long-term aim is for co-existence, whereby both our industries are able to operate harmoniously in the same area of sea. In the weeks and months ahead, we will therefore continue to engage and consult, seeking input and feedback to ensure the views of the fishing community are understood.

The proposed wind turbine layouts presented at this consultation have been designed to minimise impacts and to avoid areas of high fishing density where practical; this design refinement work will continue, with the aim of further reducing impacts where practicable.

Following construction of the wind farm, it is anticipated that no exclusion zones will be implemented above the subsea cables or within the array site (subject to legislation) for static fishing.

Construction and installation

During site investigations and construction activities, temporary safety zones are likely to be implemented in line with health and safety legislation and will be clearly communicated to fishers and other marine users well in advance.

During the construction and cable installation process, it is anticipated that there may be some temporary disturbance to fish and shellfish species. This is being assessed as part of the project's EIA and Appropriate Assessment (AA), which will be undertaken by independent technical specialists.

Subsea cables that connect the wind turbines, and that connect the wind farm to the landfall location, will be buried to sufficient depth to minimise any long-term effects on local species, wherever possible. Any cables that cannot be buried to sufficient depth will be protected using appropriate cable protection materials.
We are also looking to incorporate appropriate features into cable protection materials to encourage habitat development, including for whelk and other benthic species.

We will continue to engage with the local fishing industry on an ongoing basis, and in particular in advance of activities, to share proposed plans and options and to gather valuable feedback.

Further information can be found by contacting our Fisheries Engagement Manager on: **flo@codlingwindpark.ie.**

This consultation

We would like to hear feedback from stakeholders in the fishing and marine communities on how you think we can effectively co-exist with fisheries throughout the construction and operational phases of the project.

We are also interested to hear ideas from the fishing community on how the Community Benefit Fund could support initiatives that enhance the fishing industry locally and help to ensure its long-term sustainability. Ideas on other potential collaboration opportunities are also welcome.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Community engagement and benefits

Working with the communities closest to the project is an important part of how we want to develop Codling Wind Park.

We are committed to developing the project in the right way, bringing benefits to the environment, the economy and local communities for generations to come.

As well as the wider benefits offered by Codling Wind Park in terms of reduced energy costs, greater energy security and reduced carbon emissions, communities closest to the project – including those from Greystones to Wicklow Town and the communities in the Poolbeg area – also stand to benefit through different community initiatives.

Community Benefit Fund

A key feature of the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) is that all offshore wind projects will establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of the local community.

Codling Wind Park will establish a Community Benefit Fund which will be available to the communities closest to the project. The boundaries for this fund have not yet been defined, but there will be extensive consultation locally as part of this definition process.

A local Community Fund Committee will also be established, to oversee the management of the fund, in conjunction with an experienced, independent Fund Administrator.

This consultation

We welcome all feedback on our community/planning gain initiatives, Community Benefit Fund, and sponsorship opportunities.

In particular, we welcome your feedback on how the Community Benefit Fund can work for the community, including the type of activities and groups it might support, how access to funding can be made as fair as possible, and who should be involved in making decisions on how funding should be distributed.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Community engagement and benefits

This will be an annual, multi-million Euro fund available to communities and groups across the project area, which will support the delivery of sustainable community benefits and create a positive legacy. It will last for the 20-year duration of the ORESS contract.

The full ORESS Terms and Conditions, including details of the Community Benefit Fund and its proposed operation, can be found on the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications website here.

Sponsorship

Codling Wind Park is delighted to be providing ongoing support to local communities. We have already established a number of partnerships and sponsored a range of initiatives, including a new defibrillator for Greystones Marina, water refill stations at Wicklow Tennis Club, two new kayaks for Greystones Kayaking Club, jerseys for two local GAA teams and support for the Taste of Wicklow Food Festival and the Taste of Greystones Regatta.

In 2021, we identified Wicklow Hospice as a charity partner and have supported their excellent work through fundraising events and donations.

Picture captions

Top left
Ms Lally and Sarah-Jane from 6th Class in St Kevin's NS, Greystones, testing out Sarah-Jane's wind turbine.

Top right
Members of the Codling Wind Park team, completing a sponsored hike up the Little Sugar Loaf in support of Wicklow Hospice.

Bottom left
Liz Dillon, Codling Wind Park, at Taste of Wicklow.

Bottom right
Two new kayaks, sponsored by Codling Wind Park, being presented to Greystones Rowing Club.

Economic benefits

Codling Wind Park represents one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade. The development and operation of Codling Wind Park is set to generate a large number of jobs and support local and national economic development.

Around 1,000 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase of the project, including development of the offshore and onshore components of the project.

A total of 75 new, local, long-term jobs will be created.

A total of 115 jobs are expected to be created through the construction and operation of Codling Wind Park's Operations and Maintenance base in Wicklow Port. The new facility will see the creation of 75 new, long-term, local jobs in a variety of maintenance, technician, engineering, administration, and other roles. Construction of the new base will see the creation of an additional 40 temporary jobs.

In addition to employment, the project is also expected to generate significant training and development opportunities. The project has been engaging with Wicklow County Council, Kildare-Wicklow Education and Training Board, IT Carlow, the South-East Technological University and other education providers, as well as with agencies and industry bodies such as Enterprise Ireland and Wind Energy Ireland to explore opportunities for collaboration in the areas of training courses, apprenticeships and other initiatives. This will continue as the project progresses and will also involve the large "Tier 1" (or main) contractors that will be appointed to build the project.

Supply chain

During the development, construction and operational phases of a major energy infrastructure project like Codling Wind Park, there will be significant opportunities for contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers and facilities and service providers.

Once the Tier 1 contractors have been appointed, we will arrange engagement events to introduce them to the Irish supply chain and their capabilities.

We would like to hear from businesses who would like to be considered for work on the Codling Wind Park project. If you would like to learn more, please register your details on our website, www.codlingwindpark.ie or speak to a member of the Codling Wind Park team.

This consultation

We want to hear any thoughts you may have on the employment, training, or supply chain opportunities that could be presented by Codling Wind Park.

Have your say by filling out our feedback form in the 'Providing feedback' display at the end of this exhibition.

Ongoing engagement and next steps

Thank you for visiting our exhibition, we hope you found it informative. We would like to invite you to complete a feedback form to provide us with any information you think relevant to our project development process.

We will consider all feedback received as project development continues.

Environmental assessments and project design will continue in the coming months. Later this year, Codling Wind Park will participate in the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) process, and following this, the aim is to submit a development permission application to An Bord Pleanála for the project. We will hold a third phase of public consultation in advance of this, during which we will share our latest plans. This will provide an opportunity for the public to see how their feedback has been considered.

Listening to and engaging with the public and all our stakeholders is an important part of the development of our project at all stages, not just during public consultation.

The Codling Wind Park team remains available to speak to anyone who has any questions and wishes to learn more about the project. We will continue to attend community and industry events and to engage with our stakeholders in the local community in the months and years ahead.

To sign up for project updates, book an appointment at one of our information clinics, or view the latest project news, please visit our website at www.codlingwindpark.ie.

Read our latest newsletter

You can also continue to contact us by email and by phone at:
contact@codlingwindpark.ie

Phone: 087 1011 473

Or speak to a member of our project team:

Pat Sammon
External Affairs Manager
pat.sammon@
codlingwindpark.ie

Courtney French
Fisheries Engagement Manager
courtney.french@
codlingwindpark.ie

Gráinne Fennell
Community Liaison Officer
grainne.fennell@
codlingwindpark.ie

APPENDIX C SAMPLE MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE REPORT

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Sample Media Coverage

Local and national media play an important role in raising awareness of the project and promoting opportunities and activities to project stakeholders and the general public. The project generated extensive newspaper coverage in national newspapers as well as online and in local press.

From December 2020 to date, CWP's media monitor estimates that there have been approximately 830 stories about CWP or stories in which CWP has been prominently referenced, including print (328), online (431), radio (68), and TV (3) with a combined potential reach of 68.3 million.

CWP has also secured several radio interviews with project team members to promote the non-statutory public consultations and announce project news.

Plates 1 to 4 below, display a sample of this coverage throughout project development.

THE IRISH TIMES

Business

Wind farm developers pledge €500,000 to local fisheries industry

Codling Bank developers earmark cash to boost inshore and offshore industry in and around site of proposed wind farm over next five years

Expand

Codling Wind Park has published a fisheries code of practice to guide its dealings with the fishing industry. File photograph: iStock

Barry O'Halloran

Tue May 02 2023 - 05:02

Backers of the Codling Wind Park off the east coast have pledged €500,000 to aid the local fishing industry.

French giant EDF Renewables and Norway's Fred Olsen Seawind plan a €2 billion wind farm off the Wicklow coast, one of several projects in the pipeline for the Irish Sea.

The joint venture has earmarked €500,000 to support the fishing industry operating in and around the Codling Bank area of the Irish Sea, which it will pay over five years. Codling Wind Park is in talks with industry representatives and has asked them for proposals on how the cash should be used. The wind farm developers say the cash can be used to support inshore and offshore fishing in the area.

Plate 1 Irish Independent coverage of the project's fishers fund and sustainable fishers charter in December 2023

Irish Independent News Opinion Business Sport Life Style Ent

News Sport Business Lifestyle Wicklow & District Arklow Bray West Wicklow

Codling Wind Park says Wicklow people should begin thinking about benefit fund projects

EDF Renewables off-shore wind farm at Teeside.

Myles Buchanan

Wicklow People

Tue 12 Dec 2023 at 09:00

Councillors were updated on the status of the Codling Wind Park in a presentation held during December's monthly meeting of Wicklow County Council, including details of the Community Benefit Fund.

Plate 2 The Irish Times and Wicklow People coverage of the project presenting an update at a Wicklow County Council meeting in December 2023

THE IRISH TIMES

Business

Proposed wind farm off Wicklow further reduces maximum turbine number to 75

Codling Wind Park developers reveal final design of Irish Sea project to be submitted for planning approval this summer

Expand

Scott Sutherland, project director, Codling Wind Park: 'We have listened to the people of Wicklow Ringsend and Poolbeg and incorporated their feedback into the design where possible.' Photograph: Julien Behal

Laura Slattery

Fri Apr 05 2024 - 06:00

Developers behind plans for the Republic's biggest offshore wind farm are further cutting the number of turbines that will be required for the project.

The project team for Codling Wind Park, a proposed power plant off the coast of Wicklow, said its first phase will now need 75 turbines, some 83 per cent lower than the original estimate of 440.

Plate 3 The Irish Times covering the final design and community benefit fund announcement in April 2024

Irish Independent News Opinion Business Sport Life Style Enter

Codling Wind Park to share plans with Wicklow residents before planning submitted

Teesside offshore wind farm, operated by EDF Renewables.

Tom Galvin

© Bray People

Fri 10 May 2024 at 06:00

Codling Wind Park, which recently announced a 25pc reduction in the number of turbines required for the project off the coasts of Greystones and Wicklow town, is

Plate 4 The Irish Independent and Bray People sharing plans for the project's public engagement in May 2024

Social Media

CWP established a social media presence on relevant channels in 2021 to engage with stakeholders via LinkedIn and YouTube. These platforms are still utilised to share important project information and updates, and to promote events during focused periods of public consultation. CWP also encourages consultees to attend online consultation events / webinars, and to provide feedback via the dedicated social media channels.

Codling Wind Park has developed a successful platform on LinkedIn with over 6,000 followers accumulated to date.

Social Media Coverage 2022 and 2023

The number of followers and engagement with the page had grown considerably in 2023 with a 32% increase in followers in 2023 compared to 2022. The platform is used to keep stakeholders and public informed about project milestones and achievements, events CWP are hosting and attending as well as engagements in the community through sponsorships and donations. It is noted that engagement via video or document sharing which are hosted on the codlingwindpark.ie webpage and/or our YouTube channel doubled in 2023 compared to 2022. This in turn increased the average engagement rate to 8.6% where the industry benchmark is 1-5%.

The table below outlines the key statistics from the CWP LinkedIn page from 2022 and 2023.

Table 1 key statistics from the project's LinkedIn page from 2022 and 2023

CWP LinkedIn Data	2023	2022	% Change year on year
Followers	4,984	3,776	32%
New Followers	1,431	1,311	9%
Page Views	6,053	5,618	8%
Unique Visitors	2,421	2,114	15%
Posts	85	83	2%
Average Engagement	9	5	65%
Clicks	13,472	8,798	53%
Reactions	5,264	4,674	13%
Comments	116	70	66%
Reposts	195	127	54%
Video Views	6,552	3,668	79%

The followers of the page for 2023 are illustrated in Figure 1 below. The peak in new followers in May, July and November relate to the ORESS announcement, a team blog and the project directors blog respectively.

A sample of the posts which saw the highest level of engagement in 2023 are displayed below.

Plate 5 Codling Wind Park Summer 2023 Newsletter post on LinkedIn

Codling Wind Park
4,894 followers
8mo •

We have some big news from the project... We're creating a dedicated €500,000 Fisheries Fund to support the local fishing industry and we're the first developer in Ireland to publish a Sustainable Fisheries Charter.

The fund will support opportunities for fishers associated with the Codling Wind Park. The charter commits the project to engaging fairly with fishers, boosting marine biodiversity and facilitating sustainable fishing practices.

We are the only offshore wind project in Ireland to have a dedicated Fisheries Engagement Manager, Courtney French. She and her support team have liaised with local fishers on the creation of this fund, the charter and other ways in which we can support the industry.

She says: "We want to help support long-term sustainable fishing on the Codling Bank. This fund will provide financial support for initiatives that could benefit all local fishers. We look forward to collaborating with the fishing community on the terms of reference for this fund and seeing the initiatives proposed come to fruition."

Read more at https://lnkd.in/e2GTqv6q

@Wind Energy Ireland #GeneratingGreenerIreland #SupportingCommunities #Fisheries #InvestingInIreland

Plate 6 LinkedIn post announcing the sustainable fishers charter and fishers fund.

Codling Wind Park
4,894 followers
1mo •

We're proud to have sponsored the 2023 Wicklow Business Awards, which took place last night.

The Business Achievement Awards recognise excellence in Wicklow – and it was inspiring to see so many businesses at the awards, representing all types of sectors in the area, from hospitality to digital and sustainability (the award we also sponsored).

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks a million to the **Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce** for hosting a fantastic evening.

Pictured here:
Left: Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; Elizabeth McCann and Pat Sammon from Codling Wind Park; Stephen Delaney, President of the Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce; and Erlend Christiansen from Codling Wind Park
Top right: Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health; Elizabeth McCann and Pat Sammon from Codling Wind Park
Bottom right: Stephen Delaney, President of the Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce; Steven Matthews, Wicklow TD; and Pat Sammon from Codling Wind Park

#Sustainability #GeneratingGreenerIreland #Wicklow #SupportingSmallBusinesses #Awards

Plate 7 LinkedIn post sharing Codling Wind Park Sponsor 2023 Wicklow Business Awards November 2023

Social Media Coverage 2024

The transition to more video-based information sharing via LinkedIn significantly improved the reach and engagement for project information. To support the phase 3 public consultation and engagement events in Dublin and Wicklow, the project ran an advertising campaign on LinkedIn to target people living in the communities local to the project. The results of the 52-day campaign measured 615 new LinkedIn followers translating to an increase of 273%. There were 2,543 LinkedIn page views and 896 unique visitors, an increase of 107%. A total of24,833 video views and 7,307 clicks on the shared posts was recorded.

The highest performing posts are displayed below.

Plate 8 The projects final design and community benefit fund announcement received the most impressions, clicks, likes and comments.

Plate 9 The project developed an animation to describe hoe Codling Wind Park will deliver power for Ireland.

Codling Wind Park
5,681 followers
2w •

Thanks to everyone who has come along so far to our exhibition today at Sandymount Community Centre.

The team have really enjoyed showcasing the final design of the project to attendees and demonstrating the VR experience.

We've already met **Ivana Bacik**, Labour Party Leader and TD for Dublin Bay South (top right pic), as well as **Denise M.** and her colleagues from **TOBIN CONSULTING ENGINEERS (UK) LIMITED** (bottom right pic).

We're open until 7pm today so if you're in the area, come along to find out more!

Innovision Media Limited #GeneratingGreenerIreland #Community #Dublin #OffshoreWind

Plate 10 Information on the Sandymount public engagement event in May 2024 received the highest engagement.

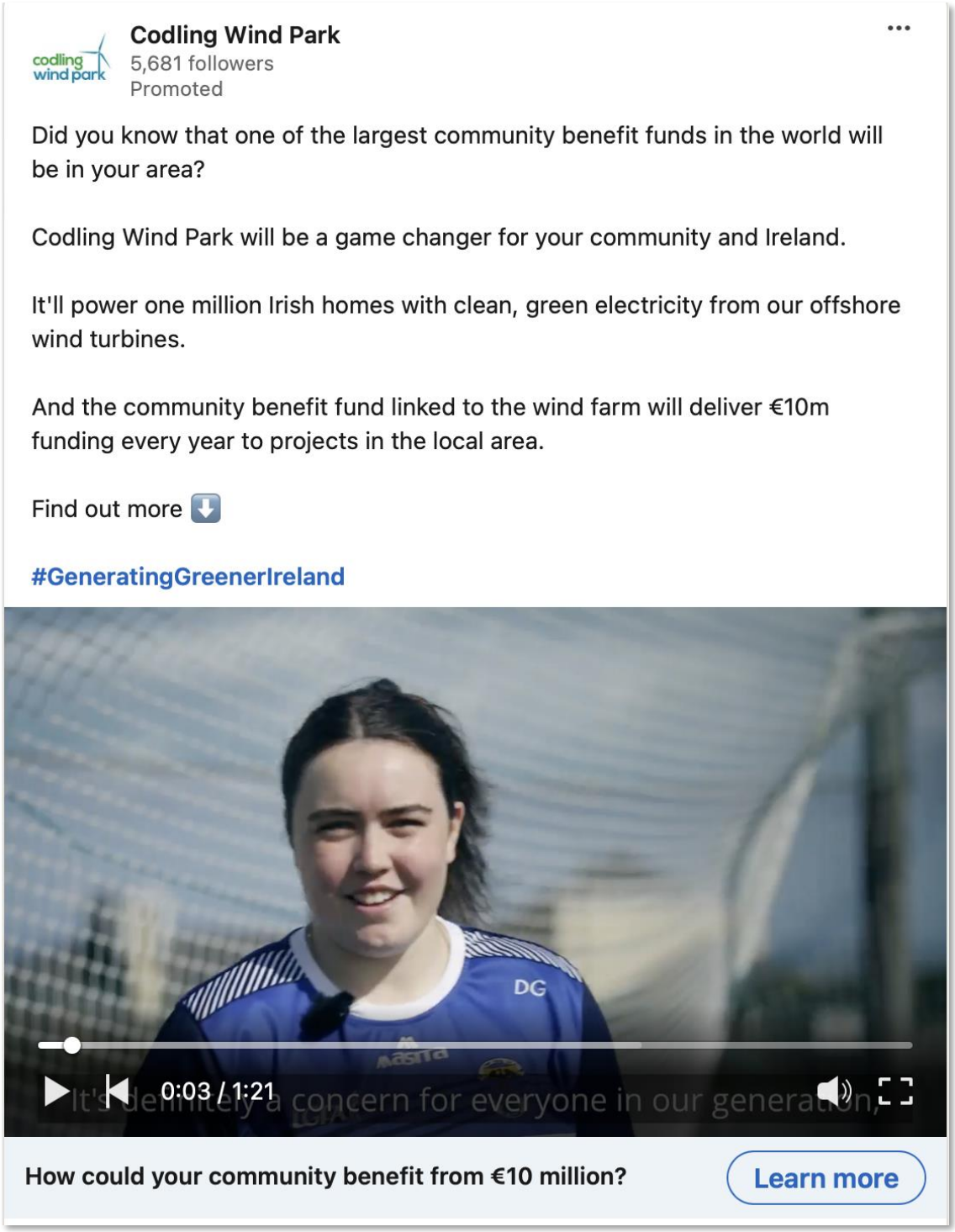

Plate 11 The most viewed film focusing on community members and benefits was viewed 1,296 times.

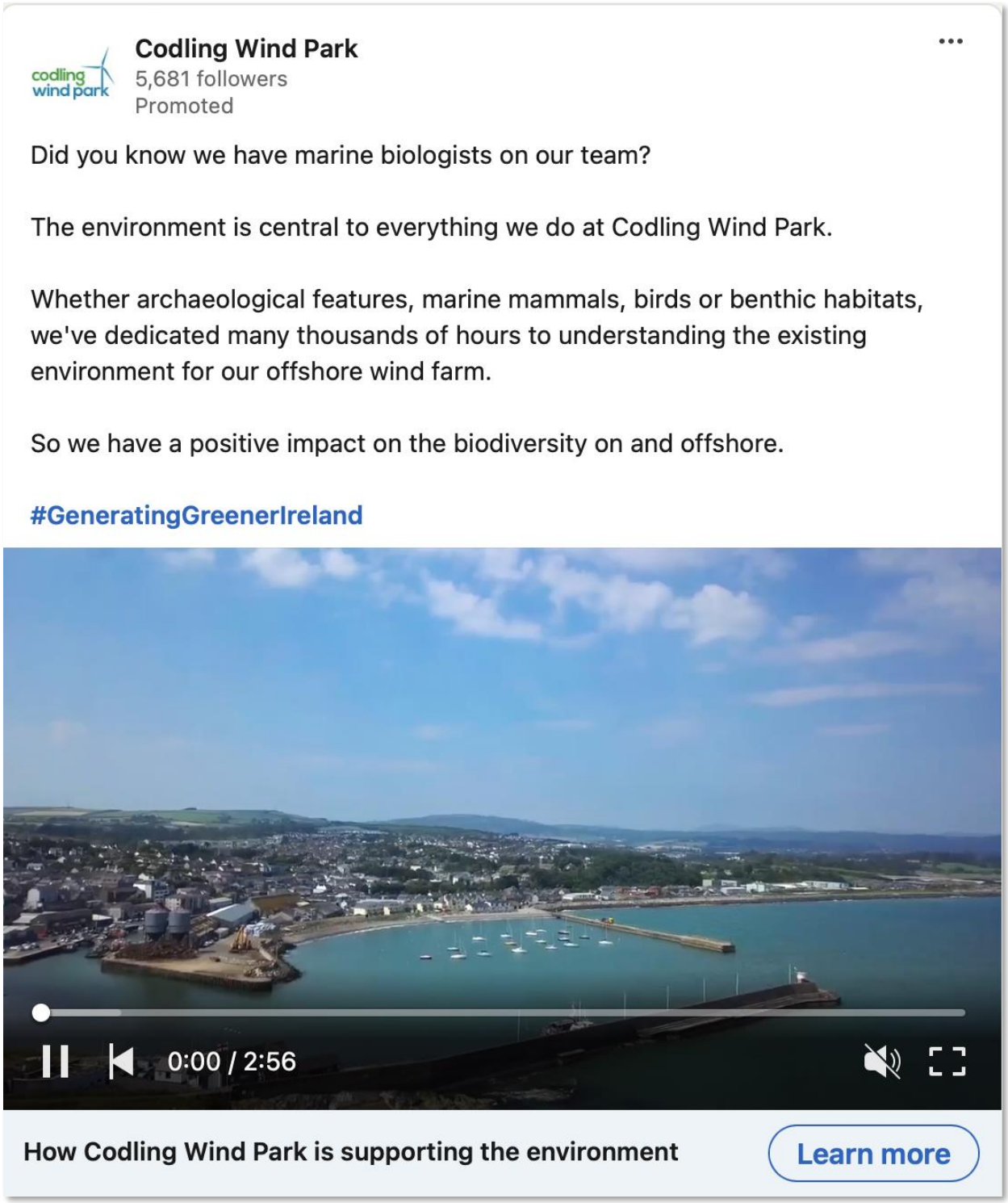

Plate 12 The projects film with a focus on the environmental impact data and team involved received the most clicks.

APPENDIX D PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

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1. Non-Statutory Public Consultation # 1 Newspaper Advertisement

Full page colour Advertisements were placed in all local papers:

- Wicklow Times, 27 February 2021,
- Wicklow People, 3 March 2021,
- Wicklow Voice, 8 March 2021.

An introduction to the Codling Wind Park project

Dear community members,

I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Arno Verbeek and I am Project Director for the Codling Wind Park project, a proposed offshore wind farm approximately 13km off the coast of Wicklow, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

Codling Wind Park could provide enough locally-produced, low-cost renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes. This will make a significant contribution to the Irish Government's commitment to generating 70 per cent of Ireland's electricity from renewable energy by 2030. It will also go a long way towards enhancing Ireland's energy security, by reducing our dependence on imported energy.

Together with an excellent team of 40 people with expertise across a range of technical, environmental and social disciplines, we are currently in the early stages of planning what could be Ireland's flagship offshore wind project. Throughout 2021 we will be undertaking a range of site investigation works and offshore surveys to help us prepare an environmental impact assessment of the proposed project. This will be in preparation for a planning application, which we hope to submit at the end of this year or early next year.

"It is important to us that you, the local communities, are involved in the project and help us to shape it."

As we progress this work, we will be engaging regularly and openly with local communities and providing several opportunities for you to view our plans and provide feedback. I am writing this letter to you today to make you aware that the first of these opportunities is about to begin.

For a four-week period starting on Monday, March 1, you will be able to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide your feedback to us, which is most important. Below you will find specific details on the timings and ways of accessing this engagement and consultation process.

Though nationally significant, Codling Wind Park will also be a local project and it is important to us that you, the local communities, are involved in it and help us to shape it.

This is the first of many opportunities you will have to see how our project is progressing and to share your feedback with us. As Covid-19 restrictions ease in the months ahead, we hope to return to face-to-face meetings and to also have physical exhibitions at a range of local venues. I look forward to meeting with many of you as part of these future engagements.

Codling Wind Park is at the start of its journey.

I hope you will be part of this journey with us so that together we can create something that benefits Wicklow and Ireland for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

Arno Verbeek

Arno Verbeek
Project Director
Codling Wind Park

Virtual Codling Wind Park Exhibition

Accessible via the project website, **www.codlingwindpark.ie,** this online exhibition will contain a number of exhibition boards with information about different aspects of the project. It will also contain some useful visuals, such as a map of the project site and early stage, indicative photomontages of the wind turbines from a range of coastal locations, and information for you to download and read at a later date. Finally – and most importantly – it will contain a feedback survey, through which you can provide us with your thoughts on the project to date.

This will be live from Monday, March 1 and will run until Sunday, March 14.

Codling Wind Park Webinars

During these two webinars, senior representatives of the project will provide a live online presentation of different aspects of the project. Those who attend will be able to submit questions via the chat box in the webinar and as many of these questions as possible will be answered during the live session.

The webinars will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday March 9: 7–8pm
Thursday March 11: 7–8pm

Details on how to register are available on our website, **www.codlingwindpark.ie.**

Information Clinics

We realise that having viewed the virtual exhibition, you may have some questions. To discuss these, members of the project team will be available for virtual calls with individuals and organisations between March 15 and March 27.

Appointments – including some in the evening and at the weekend – can be booked using our online calendar on **www.codlingwindpark.ie**. To book by phone, call our Community Liaison Officer **Liz Dillon on 087 101 1473**.

codling wind park

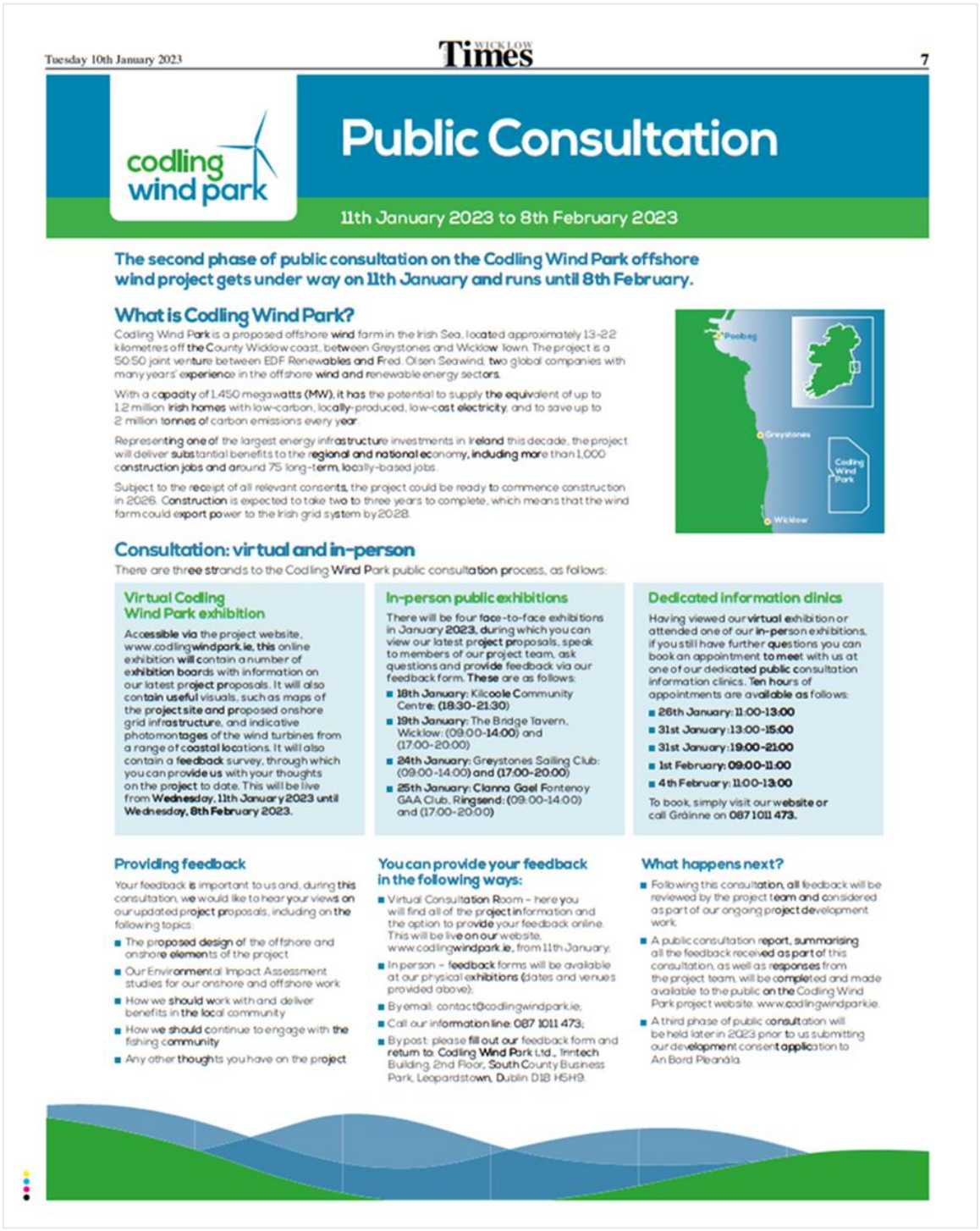
generating a greener Ireland

codlingwindpark.ie.

2. Non-Statutory Public Consultation #2 Newspaper Advertisement

Full page colour advertisements to promote the second non-statutory public consultation were placed in:

- Wicklow and Bray People, 9, 16 and 23 January 2023,
- Wicklow Voice, 3, 10 and 17 January 2023,
- Wicklow Times, 10 and 17 January 2023.



Tuesday 10th January 2023 — Wicklow Times — 7

codling wind park

Public Consultation

11th January 2023 to 8th February 2023

The second phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park offshore wind project gets under way on 11th January and runs until 8th February.

What is Codling Wind Park?

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, located approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The project is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind, two global companies with many years' experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sectors.

With a capacity of 1,450 megawatts (MW), it has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save up to 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and around 75 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents, the project could be ready to commence construction in 2026. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete, which means that the wind farm could export power to the Irish grid system by 2028.

Consultation: virtual and in-person

There are three strands to the Codling Wind Park public consultation process, as follows:

Virtual Codling Wind Park exhibition

Accessible via the project website, www.codlingwindpark.ie, this online exhibition will contain a number of exhibition boards with information on our latest project proposals. It will also contain useful visuals, such as maps of the project site and proposed onshore grid infrastructure, and indicative photomontages of the wind turbines from a range of coastal locations. It will also contain a feedback survey, through which you can provide us with your thoughts on the project to date. This will be live from **Wednesday, 11th January 2023 until Wednesday, 8th February 2023.**

In-person public exhibitions

There will be four face-to-face exhibitions in January 2023, during which you can view our latest project proposals, speak to members of our project team, ask questions and provide feedback via our feedback form. These are as follows:

- **18th January:** Kilcoole Community Centre: **(18:30-21:30)**
- **19th January:** The Bridge Tavern, Wicklow: (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)
- **24th January:** Greystones Sailing Club: (09:00-14:00) **and (17:00-20:00)**
- **25th January: Clanna Gael** Fontenoy GAA Club, **Ringsend:** (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)

Dedicated information clinics

Having viewed our virtual exhibition or attended one of our in-person exhibitions, if you still have further questions you can book an appointment to meet with us at one of our dedicated public consultation information clinics. Ten hours of appointments are available as follows:

- **26th January: 11:00-13:00**
- **31st January: 13:00-15:00**
- **31st January: 19:00-21:00**
- **1st February: 09:00-11:00**
- **4th February: 11:00-13:00**

To book, simply visit our website or call Gráinne on **087 1011 473.**

Providing feedback

Your feedback is important to us and, during this consultation, we would like to hear your views on our updated project proposals, including on the following topics:

- The proposed design of the offshore and onshore elements of the project
- Our Environmental Impact Assessment studies for our onshore and offshore work
- How we should work with and deliver benefits in the local community
- How we should continue to engage with the fishing community
- Any other thoughts you have on the project

You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

- Virtual Consultation Room – here you will find all of the project information and the option to provide your feedback online. This will be live on our website, www.codlingwindpark.ie, from 11th January;
- In person – feedback forms will be available at our physical exhibitions (dates and venues provided above);
- By email: contact@codlingwindpark.ie;
- Call our information line: **087 1011 473;**
- By post: please fill out our feedback form and return to: **Codling Wind Park** Ltd., Trintech Building, 2nd Floor, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin D18 H5H9.

What happens next?

- Following this consultation, all feedback will be reviewed by the project team and considered as part of our ongoing project development work.
- A public consultation report, summarising all the feedback received as part of this consultation, as well as responses from the project team, will be completed and made available to the public on the Codling Wind Park project website: www.codlingwindpark.ie.
- A third phase of public consultation will be held later in 2023 prior to us submitting our development consent application to An Bord Pleanála.

3. Non-Statutory Public Engagement #3 Newspaper Advertisements

Full and half-page colour advertisements to promote the third non-statutory public engagement were placed in local newspapers in advance of all three events in Wicklow Town Library, Sandymount Community Centre and Greystones Town.

- Wicklow People, 3 April 2024,
- Bray People, 3 April 2024,
- Southside People, 28 April,
- Greystones Guide (local digital newspaper) full month of May 2024,
- Wicklow Times, 11 May (online), 13 May (print) 2024,
- Wicklow People, 8 May 2024,
- Bray People, 8 May 2024

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Climate Project Update

Location: Wicklow Town Library

Date: 16th, 17th, and 18th April 2024

Time: 10 am to 4 pm

We invite you to visit us and get exclusive updates on Codling Wind Park in advance of submitting our planning application

What to expect:

- **Explore the final designs** of the offshore wind park, including turbine numbers and layout.
- **Learn about the Community Benefit Fund** and how you will access funding.
- **Immerse yourself in the vision of Codling Wind Park** using state-of-the-art virtual reality headsets and engaging video materials.
- **See firsthand** how this project is shaping Ireland's sustainable future.

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For more information, visit **www.codlingwindpark.ie**
or contact us at **contact@codlingwindpark.ie**
Follow us on LinkedIn for updates and announcements.

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Climate Project Update

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Location: Sandymount Community Centre, D04 CP80

Date: 1st May, 2024

Time: 1 pm - 7pm

We invite you to visit us and get exclusive updates on Codling Wind Park in advance of submitting our planning application.

What to expect:

- **Explore the final designs** of the offshore wind park, including turbine numbers and layout.
- **Learn about the Community Benefit Fund** and how you will access funding.
- **Immerse yourself in the vision of Codling Wind Park** using state-of-the-art virtual reality headsets and engaging video materials.
- **See firsthand** how this project is shaping Ireland's sustainable future.

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Follow us on Linkedin for updates and announcements.

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Climate Project Update

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Location: Ireton's shop, Killincarrick Road, Greystones, A63 V096

Dates: May 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th

Time: 11 am - 3 pm daily

We invite you to drop-in and visit the team to get exclusive updates on Codling Wind Park in advance of submitting our planning application.

What to expect:

- **Explore the final designs** of the offshore wind park, including turbine numbers and layout.
- **Learn about the Community Benefit Fund** and how you will access funding.
- **Immerse yourself in the vision of Codling Wind Park** using state-of-the-art virtual reality headsets and engaging video materials.
- **See firsthand** how this project is shaping Ireland's sustainable future.

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