Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm

Explanatory Note – Guidance to Reader

Acronyms

Term	Definition
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
DOHELG	Department of Housing, Environment and Local Government
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
GW	Gigawatt
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
MAC	Maritime Area Consent
MARA	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
MDO	Maximum Design Option
MW	Megawatt
OES	Onshore Electrical System
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PDA	Planning and Development Act
PDR	Planning and Development Regulations
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
RWCS	Realistic Worst Case Scenario
TJB	Transition Joint Bay

Appendix Explanatory Note

Background

The application for development permission for the Dublin Array project is being submitted under section 291 – Part XXI of the Planning and Development Act, Chapter III. The EIA provisions in Part X of the Planning Act shall apply to the application[1]. The project description chapter (Volume 2, Chapter 6) should be referred to for the final project details for which this application for development consent is being submitted.

The purpose of this appendix cover note is as follows:

(a) to acknowledge that in the years preceding the preparation of the planning application, a series of technical studies were commissioned by the Applicant to ascertain the relevant baseline scenario and inform the ultimate design of the proposed development; and

(b) to identify and explain why certain, limited, references remain in the technical studies appended to the planning application albeit the references are no longer relevant to the proposed development.

The *main reasons* the references/scope changed over time are (i) project evolution and (ii) developments in law and procedure that occurred in the intervening period between the carrying out of technical studies and the finalisation of the planning application. The *specific reasons* relevant to each reference/scope are set out in the table below. The reader of the relevant appendix should take this table into account in their review of the technical study.

For the avoidance of doubt, we confirm that where any refinement to the project during this period was deemed to require substantive amendments to any technical study, those amendments were made and the study up-dated accordingly. The only circumstance in which it was deemed not necessary to substantively amend the study was where the amendment required would not undermine the methodology, accuracy or conclusions of the technical study, insofar as the study is relevant to the EIAR, and where the study was originally prepared on a basis that was sufficiently precautionary to capture the change in circumstances, such that the conclusions remain equally valid today in the context of the relevant EIAR chapter. In this scenario, it was considered appropriate to capture the amendment within a table, explain it within a cover note, and append this to the relevant study.

[1] Section 317(1) of the Planning Act provides that Part X (environmental impact assessment) shall apply to proposed development to which Chapter III of Part XXI applies.

Applicability

This explanatory note is applicable to the following appendices within Volume 4 of the EIAR:

Appendix Number	Appendix Title
4.3.1-2	Technical Baseline Report - Physical Processes
4.3.1-2a	Geophysical and Geotechnical Desk Study for Dublin Array Wind Farm
4.3.1-3	Hydrodynamic Calibration and Validation Report
4.3.1-4	Spectral Wave Model Calibration and Validation Report
4.3.3-2	Marine Intertidal Ecological Survey, Shanganagh & Poolbeg, Co. Dublin
4.3.3-3	Fugro - WPM1, WPM2 & WPM3 - Main Array & ECR - Benthic Ecology Monitoring Report
4.3.3-4	Fugro – WPM1, WPM2 & WPM3 – Array Area & ECR – Environmental Features Report (Habitat Analysis Only)
4.3.3-5	Underwater Image Analysis
4.3.4-2	A Fisheries survey of the Kish and Bray Banks
4.3.5-2	Dublin Array OWF Marine Mammal Abundance Estimates 2019-2021
4.3.5-3	Estimating harbour porpoise abundance using spatial and temporal modelling
4.3.5-4	Boat based bird and marine mammal survey report June 2019 - September 2020
4.3.5-5	Boat based bird and marine mammal survey report October 2020 April 2021
4.3.6-8	Intertidal Bird Surveys at Two Potential Grid Connection Cable Landfall Locations - Winter 2019/20 and Autumn 2020
4.3.6-9	Intertidal Bird Surveys at Shanganagh WWTP – Winter 2023/24
4.3.10-2	Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm Winter Survey 2019
4.3.10-3	Marine Traffic Survey Report Summer 2021
4.3.10-4	Marine Traffic Survey Report Winter 2022
4.3.10-5	Vessel Traffic Survey Report Summer 2023
4.3.12-1	Instrument Flight Procedure Assessment
4.3.13-2	Stage One Geoarchaeological Report
4.3.13-3	Geophysical Survey 2021: Archaeological Report to support Detection Device Licence 21R00272
4.3.13-4	Intertidal Archaeological Survey

[2] Report previously submitted to support Detection Device Licence 21R0027 as part of the geophysical review of data collected under Foreshore Licence FS007029

Terminology Changes

Referred to within Appendix 4.3.1-2	Revised project terminology	Comment
Realistic Worst Case Scenario (RWCS)	Maximum Design Option	This technical appendix was prepared using a 'Realistic Worst Case Scenario' (RWCS). The term 'realistic worst-case scenario' is replaced by the maximum design option (MDO), as defined in the project description chapter (Vol 2, Chapter 6). In all instances, the RWCS is comparatively more precautionary than the MDO. As such, the results show that the MDO will have lower impacts than those described for the RWCS. The respective technical appendices outline the parameters and assumptions used for the assessment, including that of the RWCS.
Innogy and/or Innogy Renewables Ireland and/or Saorgus Energy Ltd, and/or RWE	Kish Offshore Wind Limited and Bray Offshore Wind Limited.	The Applicant/Prospective Applicant for permission under section 291 of the PDA is Kish Offshore Wind Limited on behalf of Kish Offshore Wind Limited and Bray Offshore Wind Limited. All references to the 'Applicant' or Innogy should be understood to mean the Applicant for permission under section 291.
Array field or Proposed Wind Turbine Array Area or proposed wind farm array	Array area	The Array area is defined as the 'area within which the WTGs and OSP's will be located', which corresponds to the boundary of the Array area in MAC Reference 2022-MAC-003 & 004. The terms 'array field', 'Proposed Wind Turbine Array Area' and 'proposed wind farm array' relate to the same area as the array area and should be understood to mean the array area.
Department of Housing, Environment and Local Government (DOHELG)	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).	The Department of Housing, Environment and Local Government (DOHELG) was renamed the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in September 2020. All references to DOHELG should be read to mean DHLGH.

Project Detail Changes

Note that the below table is not an exhaustive list of every single project detail that evolved between project iteration and finalisation, however it captures all of the pertinent project details that have evolved.

Referred to within Appendix 4.3.1-2	Revised project terminology	Comment
Poolbeg	N/A	This technical appendix was prepared considering a number of possible Export Cable Corridors (ECCs), including options relating to making landfall at the Poolbeg Peninsula, in Dublin. However, this is not a landfall option. The proposed ECC is at Shanganagh Cliffs, Shanganagh (see Vol 2 Chapter 6: Project Description). Please disregard information within the technical appendix as it relates to a possible Poolbeg ECC and landfall option.
Study area	N/A	Where the term 'study area' is used, please note that it refers to the area utilised to inform the technical appendices, and not those which are used throughout the respective EIAR chapters. The study area referred to in the modelling encompasses areas subsequently refined through more detailed design iterations and are wider than those which inform the EIAR. For example a possible ECC and landfall at Poolbeg is not a landfall option in the EIAR. Notwithstanding, the study area used to conduct the modelling encompasses the refined proposed ECC which makes landfall at Shanganagh Cliffs. As such, only the results of the modelling as they relate to the ECC which makes landfall at Shanganagh Cliffs are relevant for this assessment. Any information relating to an ECC option which makes landfall at Poolbeg, including figures, can be disregarded.
Export Cable Area of Search	Offshore Export Cable Corridor	This technical appendix was prepared considering a number of possible Export Cable Corridors (ECCs) within an Export Cable Area of Search, including options relating to making landfall at the Poolbeg Peninsula, in Dublin. The Export Cable Area of Search encompasses the proposed refined ECC option which is proposed to make landfall at Shanganagh Cliffs, Shanganagh. As such, the Export Cable Area of Search is deemed appropriately conservative,

Referred to within Appendix 4.3.1-2	Revised project terminology	Comment
		comparable to the proposed refined offshore ECC option. Please disregard information within the technical appendix as it relates to areas within the Export Cable Area of Search beyond that which makes landfall at Shanganagh.
Proposed electrical generating capacity of up to 1 GW	Proposed electrical generating capacity of up to 824 MW	This technical appendix was prepared to consider an electrical rating output capacity of up to 1 gigawatt (GW) (1000MW). However, the design flexibility opinion[3][4] as provided by ABP recognises that the electrical generation capacity of the OWF is proposed to be between 600 megawatt (MW) to 900 MW.

Figures within some of the older technical appendices do not depict the refined project details i.e. the redline including the refined Offshore ECC, but rather the wider study area that encompassed all options prior to the design iteration and refinement.

Notwithstanding the above, the information and analyses provided within the technical appendices are still considered accurate (and conservative) with respect to the refined project description, design options etc.

[3] ABP Reference ABP-318552-23, design flexibility opinion dated 22nd March 2024. Section 287B of the PDA was brought into operation on 1st October 2022, (S.I. No. 487/2022 - Planning And Development, Maritime And Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 (Commencement Of Certain Provisions) (No. 2) Order 2022) however the relevant rules and procedures for obtaining a design flexibility opinion were not made by the Minister until 31st December 2023 (S.I. No. 655/2023 – Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2023).

[4] ABP subsequently exercised its power of correction pursuant to section 146A of the PDA, to confirm that the 'prospective applicant' in the opinion is Kish Offshore Wind Limited on behalf of Kish and Bray Offshore Wind Limited (and not RWE Renewables Ireland Limited as erroneously stated in the opinion).