Chapter 15 Addendum:
Marine Archaeology

ORIEL WINDFARM
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ORIEL WIND FARM PROJECT

Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Addendum
Chapter 15 Addendum: Marine Archaeology

MDR1520C
EIAR– Chapter 15 Addendum
A1 C01
December 2025

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15 CHAPTER 15 ADDENDUM – MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY

15.1 Introduction

This Addendum provides information to supplement the assessment of marine archaeology presented in chapter 15: Marine Archaeology (Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) volume 2B) (2024). It has been prepared in response to a Request for Further Information (RFI) from An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) (formerly An Bord Pleanála) regarding the planning application (case reference ABP-319799-24) for the Oriel Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as "the Project").

Table 15A-1 outlines the specific information requested according to the referencing used in the 'Schedule-Further Information Request' provided by ACP. Table 15A-1 also indicates where the corresponding information / responses can be found within this Addendum to chapter 15: Marine Archaeology (EIAR volume 2B) and provides a concluding statement on any resulting updates or changes to the assessment presented in the EIAR (2024).

The heading sections and subsections in this Addendum use the same headings from chapter 15: Marine Archaeology (EIAR volume 2B). The reader is directed to review the information presented in this Addendum alongside the assessment presented in the EIAR chapter.

A geophysical survey of the offshore wind farm area and cable corridor was completed in 2022 and the data has been assessed by a suitably qualified archaeologist in 2025. The results of this assessment are also considered in this Addendum.

Table 15A-1: Further information requested on Marine Archaeology and details on Applicant's response.

Reference	Further Information Request	Response / Reference where information is presented	Concluding statement on assessment
Marine Archaeology			
13	The Board notes that no specific intertidal archaeological study, including metal detection, has been undertaken at the proposed landfall as recommended in the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment Oriel Wind Farm, Dundalk Bay off Dunany, Co. Louth (Annex 2 of Appendix 15-01: Marine Archaeology Technical Report). Given the potential for finds and sites or isolated remains/features dating to the prehistoric period or later as detailed in Section 26.10.1 of the EIAR, the applicant is requested to carry out an archaeological survey of the proposed landfall at Dunany Point, which includes metal detection.	Appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum), provides the results of the intertidal archaeological survey of the proposed landfall at Dunany Point, which was carried out by ADCO in January 2025. A summary of this survey is presented in Table 15A-2. An update to the baseline environment as a result of the intertidal archaeological survey is presented in section 15.7 of this Addendum. Mitigation measures recommended as a result of this survey have been included in an update to section 15.10.5 of this Addendum. It should be noted, however, that these measures were previously recommended in the cultural heritage assessment presented in the EIAR (see measures under AAP1 – Dunany Demesne and Beach under section 26.10.5 of chapter 26: Cultural Heritage (EIAR volume 2C)). They have been included in this Addendum as they are also relevant to updated survey information presented.	The metal detection survey observed target features at the landfall location and environs, but none of these targets were considered archaeologically significant, comprising mostly aluminium cans and lost fishing lures (see section 4.5 of appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum)). The findings of this survey have not resulted in any change to the conclusion of the assessment presented in chapter 15: Marine Archaeology (EIAR volume 2B). Additionally, the findings of this survey have not resulted in any change to the conclusion of the assessment presented in chapter 26: Cultural Heritage (EIAR volume 2C), which considered the intertidal area above the low water mark. An Addendum to chapter 26 is included in the EIAR Addendum (see chapter 26 Addendum: Cultural Heritage (EIAR volume 2C Addendum)). The intertidal survey report set out a number of recommendations, including archaeological management measures at the landfall location (see section 6 of appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report). These are included in section 15.10.5 of this Addendum

15.2 Purpose of this chapter

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.3 Study area

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.4 Policy context

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.5 Consultation

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.6 Methodology to inform the baseline

15.6.1 Desktop study

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.6.2 Site-specific surveys

Table 15A-2 provides details of the additional survey data that was undertaken / available since the Project application was submitted in May 2024.

An application for a Detection Device and Dive Survey Licence was submitted to the Licencing Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 13 November 2024 in order to facilitate this intertidal archaeological survey.

The intertidal archaeology survey of the landfall location was carried out by ADCO on 13 January 2025, which included a metal detector survey during Low Water. A full description of this survey and subsequent results are presented in appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum).

Table 15A-2: Summary of site-specific survey data.

Title	Extent of survey	Overview of survey	Survey contractor	Date	Reference to further information
Intertidal archaeology survey of the landfall location	Intertidal area at Dunany, Co. Louth, extending approximately 830 m north-south along the foreshore and 270 m east-west.	Intertidal archaeology survey of the landfall location using cameras and hand-held metal detectors.	ADCO	2025	Appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum)
Geophysical survey	Offshore wind farm area and cable corridor.	Geophysical survey of the offshore wind farm area and cable corridor.	GTec XOcean	2022	Appendix 15-3: Marine Geophysical Surveys 2022 - Archaeological Interpretation Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum)

A further geophysical survey of the offshore wind farm area and cable corridor was completed in 2022 and the data has been assessed by a suitably qualified archaeologist and was forwarded to the NMS for review (as required by the conditions of the Foreshore Licence). Any changes to the baseline will be subject

to further consultation with the NMS and any mitigation will be discussed and agreed in advance of further geotechnical surveys and construction.

15.7 Subtidal baseline environment

The following text provides a description of the intertidal baseline environment following completion of the intertidal survey in January 2025. An application for a Detection Device and Dive Survey Licence was submitted to the Licencing Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 13 November 2024 in order to facilitate this intertidal archaeological survey.

Intertidal baseline

Dunany Point forms the southern reach of Dundalk Bay and includes a section of coastal cliff that stands 8 - 10 m above the foreshore, north of the planning application boundary. The coastal cliff is comprised of Quaternary Age glacial sediment that consists mainly of muddy sediments forming part of the Dunany Ridge moraine, which served as the southernmost extent of glaciomarine conditions in the Irish Sea Basin during the last deglaciation.

Within the Project area, the beach has a berm formed by pebbles that rises above the foreshore and the High Water Mark (HWM), approximately 8 m wide and 1 m high. The foreshore falls away below the berm, with a carpet of pebble that continues a further 12 m in width before giving way to a gently sloping sandy bed exposed at Low Water and reaching out to sea. Landward of the berm, a steep grass-covered scarp measuring some 2 m in height gives way to grassy fields inland.

The topography changes to the north at Dunany Point, outside the Project area, where the glacial moraine that forms Dunany Point rises higher, and a sea cliff has formed above the foreshore.

The foreshore itself is a boulder field, filled with small rock, determined by geologists to be glacial erratics, which have fallen onto the beach as the Point is progressively eroded inland by the sea. The boulder field appears to be quite shallow in depth, which is in keeping with the suggestion that the stone is derived from the moraine cliff as it is eroded inland.

The access laneway to the beach occupies a cut through the ground surface on either side and slopes seaward as it approaches the beach. A tarmacadamed surface is in disrepair and reveals a gravel/pebble base.

While a range of cultural heritage sites were identified in proximity to the proposed landfall location at Dunany Point, there are no known sites within the planning application boundary at the landfall location.

The metal detection survey observed target features at the landfall location and environs, but none of these targets were considered archaeologically significant, comprising mostly aluminium cans and lost fishing lures (see section 4.5 of appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum)).

There is no exposure within the planning application boundary, or within the vicinity, of evidence for submerged landscape, in the form of expanses of peat or ancient woodland stumps. There is no indication of former shipwreck, either as pieces of broken-up vessels or artefacts associated with a ships' assemblage.

15.7.1 Seabed topography

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.7.2 Submerged prehistoric archaeological potential

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.7.3 Maritime archaeology

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.7.4 Desktop study

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.7.5 Geophysical survey

A further geophysical survey of the offshore wind farm area and cable corridor was completed in 2022 and the data has been assessed by a suitably qualified archaeologist (see appendix 15-3: Marine Geophysical Surveys 2022 - Archaeological Interpretation Report (EIAR volume 2B Addendum)). Table 15-10: Proposed AEZs in chapter 15: Marine Archaeology (EIAR volume 2B) has been updated in this Addendum to reflect the results of this assessment (Table 15A-3).

15.7.6 Geotechnical investigations

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.7.7 Future baseline scenario

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.7.8 Data validity and limitations

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.8 Key parameters for assessment

15.8.1 Project design parameters

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.8.2 Measures included in the Project

Following the interpretation of the geophysical assessment in 2022, changes have been made to the AEZ (Archaeological Exclusion Zones) of historical features, as shown in blue text in Table 15A-3 below. Some historical features have also been delisted and a new feature (E022. E023) has also been added. This new feature is located in the offshore cable corridor.

Table 15A-3: Proposed AEZs within the Project.

ID	Description	Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing	AEZ (m)
W00248	The recorded location of the *Topaz*.	53.8702	-6.1764	-	-	~~100~~ 150 m from centre point
W00276	Recorded location of an unnamed wreck site identified in the desktop data.	53.86722	-6.17444	-	-	~~100~~ AEZ not required
W11435	Corresponds with live UKHO record 5867 and is described as a wreck measuring 5m in length.	53.91814	-6.03577	-	-	100 m
sss087	a piece of debris that measures 3.3 m in length	-	-	693154	5974937	~~100~~ AEZ not required as not a historic feature
E022, E023	Debris, snag point	-	-	686496	5974400	50 m from centre point

15.8.3 Impacts scoped out of the assessment

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.9 Impact assessment methodology

15.9.1 Overview

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.9.2 Impact assessment criteria

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.10 Assessment of significance

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.10.1 Removal or disturbance of near surface seabed sediments leading to effects on prehistoric land surfaces, wreck sites and artefacts

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.10.2 Removal or disturbance of deeply buried sediments leading to effects on prehistoric land surfaces

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.10.3 Disturbance of sediment causing sediment deposition on the seabed resulting in potential effects on archaeological receptors

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.10.4 Alteration of sediment transport regimes

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.10.5 Mitigation and residual effects

Archaeological monitoring of the excavation works across the intertidal zone, at the transition joint bay, and inland for the onshore cable route will be required. In addition, archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping to provide the temporary works compound and all associated supporting ground-disturbance works is required. These measures are also recommended in section 26.10.5 of chapter 26: Cultural Heritage (EIAR volume 2C). Further archaeological management measures are also proposed and these are set out in appendix 15-2: Intertidal Archaeology Survey Report.

15.10.6 Future monitoring

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.11 Cumulative impact assessment

An updated Cumulative Impact Assessment is provided in appendix 3-2 Addendum: Cumulative Impact Assessment Report (EIAR volume 2A Addendum). The assessment concludes that there is no change to the cumulative assessment provided in chapter 15: Marine Archaeology (EIAR volume 2B).

15.12 Transboundary effects

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.13 Interactions

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

15.14 Summary of impacts, mitigation measures and residual effects

No changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.

References

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 15: Marine Archaeology.