



Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

Environmental Impact Assessment
Report

Preface (Revised March 2026)



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Glossary

| Term | Meaning |
|---|--|
| Arklow Bank Wind Park 1 (ABWP1) | Arklow Bank Wind Park 1 consists of seven wind turbines, offshore export cable and inter-array cables. Arklow Bank Wind Park 1 has a capacity of 25.2 MW. Arklow Bank Wind Park 1 was constructed in 2003/04 and is owned and operated by Arklow Energy Limited. It remains the first and only operational offshore wind farm in Ireland. |
| Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 – Offshore Infrastructure | “The Proposed Development”, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Offshore Infrastructure: This includes all elements under the existing Maritime Area Consent. |
| Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 (ABWP2) (The Project) | <p>Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 (ABWP2) (The Project) is the onshore and offshore infrastructure. This EIAR is being prepared for the Offshore Infrastructure. Consents for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure (Planning Reference 310090) and Operations Maintenance Facility (Planning Reference 211316) has been granted on 26th May 2022 and 20th July 2022, respectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Offshore Infrastructure: This includes all elements to be consented in accordance with the Maritime Area Consent. This is the subject of this EIAR and will be referred to as ‘the Proposed Development’ in the EIAR. Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure: This relates to the onshore grid infrastructure for which planning permission has been granted. Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF): This includes the onshore and nearshore infrastructure at the OMF, for which planning permission has been granted. Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 EirGrid Upgrade Works: any non-contestable grid upgrade works, consent to be sought and works to be completed by EirGrid. |
| Array Area | The Array Area is the area within which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), the Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), and associated cables (export, inter-array and interconnector cabling) and foundations will be installed. |
| Cable Corridor and Working Area | The Cable Corridor and Working Area is the area within which export, inter-array and interconnector cabling will be installed. This area will also facilitate vessel jacking operations associated with installation of WTG structures and associated foundations within the Array Area. |
| Landfall | The area in which the offshore export cables make landfall and is the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling. |
| Maritime Area Consent (MAC) | A consent to occupy a specific part of the maritime area on a non-exclusive basis for the purpose of carrying out a Permitted Maritime Usage strictly in accordance with the conditions attached to the MAC granted on 22 nd December 2022 with reference number 2022-MAC-002. |
| Permitted Maritime Usage | The construction and operation of an offshore windfarm and associated infrastructure (including decommissioning and other works required on foot of any permission for such offshore windfarm). |
| The Application | The full set of documents that will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in support of the consent. |
| The Developer | Sure Partners Ltd. |

Acronyms

| Term | Meaning |
|---------------------|---|
| ABP | An Bord Pleanála |
| ACP | An Coimisiún Pleanála |
| ABWP1 | Arklow Bank Wind Park 1 |
| ABWP2 | Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 |
| EIAR | Environmental Impact Assessment Report |
| GW | Gigawatt |
| HVAC | High Voltage Alternating Current |
| MAC | Maritime Area Consent |
| MW | Megawatt |
| OGI | Onshore Grid Infrastructure |
| OMF | Operations and Maintenance Facility |
| OSP | Offshore Substation Platform |
| RFI | Request for Further Information |
| SPL | Sure Partners Ltd. |
| WTG | Wind Turbine Generator |

Units

| Unit | Description |
|------|-------------|
| km | Kilometre |
| MW | Megawatt |
| GW | Gigawatt |
| kV | Kilovolt |

1 Preface

Summary of Changes

The Preface has been updated to reflect changes since submission of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) (now An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)) in June 2024. All references to ABP, should be considered ACP throughout the document.

The changes that have been made are in response to the Request for Information (RFI) that was received by the Developer and matters that have been raised therein. It is confirmed that the information in this Chapter is relevant and appropriate at the point of submission (i.e. March 2026).

In summary, the following amendments have been made to this Chapter (please note that this is non-exhaustive):

This chapter have been adjusted to ensure consideration of the latest information as appropriate to ensure consistency and accuracy including Sections 1.1 and 1.2.

Associated cross-references and paragraph numbering have been updated, as appropriate, to reflect the changes listed above.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 (ABWP2) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Proposed Development’) is a proposed offshore windfarm situated on and around Arklow Bank in the Irish Sea, approximately 6 to 15 km to the east of Arklow in County Wicklow.
- 1.1.1.2 ABWP2 is made up of both onshore and offshore components. The Proposed Development is the offshore infrastructure and comprises the Array Area (the area within which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), the Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), and associated cables (export, inter- array and interconnector cabling) and foundations will be installed) and the Cable Corridor and Working Area (the area within which export, inter-array and interconnector cabling will be installed. This area will also facilitate vessel jacking operations associated with installation of WTG structures and associated foundations within the Array Area).
- 1.1.1.3 The Array Area is located on and around the Arklow Bank and covers an area of approximately 63.4 km². The proposed Cable Corridor and Working Area will extend from this area to a landfall approximately 4.5 km to the north of Arklow at Johnstown North (section 1.3).
- 1.1.1.4 An existing windfarm of seven turbines with a capacity of 25.2 MW which were constructed on Arklow Bank in 2003/04 is owned and operated by Arklow Energy Limited (ABWP1). It remains the first and only **operational** offshore windfarm in Ireland.
- 1.1.1.5 A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) (Ref:2022-MAC-002) was granted in respect of the Proposed Development in December 2022. Sure Partners Ltd (the Developer) have prepared a planning application for the Proposed Development which has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.1.1.6 The maximum power generation output from the Proposed Development will be 800 MW. This means that the Project will be able to make a significant contribution to Ireland’s climate action target of at least 5 GW of offshore wind by 2030, and to Ireland’s national and local economy.

1.2 SSE plc and SSE Renewables

- 1.2.1.1 Sure Partners Ltd (SPL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Plc and is the Developer for the Proposed Development. SSE plc is the leading generator of renewable electricity in the UK and Ireland. It develops and operates low-carbon infrastructure supporting the net zero transition, including onshore and offshore wind, hydro power, electricity transmission and distribution grids and efficient gas-fired generation, alongside providing energy products and services for businesses. ~~UK-listed~~ FTSE 100 listed, SSE is a major contributor to the UK and Ireland economies, employs 12,000 people and is real Living Wage and Fair Tax Mark accredited.
- 1.2.1.2 SSE Renewables is ~~part of the SSE plc Group and is~~ a leading developer, ~~and operator and owner~~ of renewable energy generation, focusing on onshore and offshore wind farms, hydro-electric power and flexible storage technologies. It is part of electricity infrastructure company SSE plc, a FTSE-100 company with operations across the UK and Ireland, ~~with a portfolio of around 4 GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Its strategy is to drive the transition to a net zero future through the world-class development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets.~~ and a presence in carefully selected international markets. In Ireland, SSE is investing over €1 billion in critical electricity infrastructure across the five years to 2030 to deliver secure and affordable homegrown energy. SSE now supplies power to almost 750,000 homes and businesses nationwide each year and directly employs more than 1,300 people throughout the island of Ireland.
- 1.2.1.3 SSE's investment in low-carbon infrastructure and associated activities make a significant contribution to the Irish economy. Latest economic impact data tracked by professional services firm PwC shows SSE made an estimated €1.1bn contribution to GDP in Ireland in 2024/25, supporting 5,190 jobs (an increase from 4,450 jobs supported in the previous year).
- ~~1.2.1.3 Since entering the Irish energy market in 2008, SSE have invested significantly in their Irish businesses, with a total economic contribution of over €1.2bn in the last three years, supporting over 2,400 jobs in 2022/23. SSE Renewables owns 726 MW of onshore wind capacity across 27 windfarms on the island and operates a total of over 1,000 MW. This includes Galway Wind Park, Ireland's largest and best performing onshore windfarm (co-owned with Greencoat Renewables).~~
- ~~1.2.1.4 SSE Renewables operational offshore wind portfolio consists of two offshore joint venture sites in the UK, Beatrice (588 MW) and Greater Gabbard (504 MW), both of which it operates on behalf of its asset partners.~~
- 1.2.1.4 ~~1.2.1.5~~ SSE Renewables ~~has the largest offshore wind development pipeline in the UK and Ireland at over 6 GW, of which around 3 GW is in construction or consented. It is currently constructing~~is delivering clean power assets to increase SSE's operational renewable generation capacity as part of this investment drive. This includes delivery of the world's largest offshore ~~windfarm~~wind farm in construction, the ~~3.6 GW~~3.6GW Dogger Bank Windfarm in the North Sea, a joint venture with Equinor. It has ~~also completed building Scotland's largest offshore windfarm, the 1.1 GW Seagreen Offshore Windfarm in the Firth of Forth, which is a joint venture with Total.~~Wind Farm, and progressing the company's 10GW pipeline of offshore wind projects including the 800MW Arklow Bank Wind Park 2. SSE Renewables also owns and operates 800 MW of onshore wind capacity from 32 sites across Ireland including the 174MW Galway Wind Park in Connemara and the 73MW Slieve Kirk Wind Park outside Derry City.

1.3 Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

- 1.3.1.1 ABWP2 is made up of both onshore and offshore components (Figure 1.1). This EIAR is being prepared for the Offshore Infrastructure. The key onshore and offshore infrastructure is set out as follows:
- Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 – Offshore Infrastructure:

- The offshore infrastructure will comprise either 5653 or 47 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and two Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), to which the turbines will be connected by a network of inter-array cabling. The OSPs will transform the electricity generated by the wind turbines to a higher voltage. The power will be transmitted to shore from the offshore substation platforms using two high voltage alternating current (HVAC) offshore export cables.
- Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 – Onshore Grid Infrastructure:
 - In May 2022, ABP granted planning approval (Case Reference: 310090) to develop the onshore grid connection infrastructure (OGI). The OGI includes a 220 kV substation at Shelton Abbey, with an associated connection from the new substation to the existing National Electricity Transmission Network. The consented development also includes an underground cable route and associated infrastructure connecting the substation to the landfall point at Johnstown North (approximately 4.5 km north of Arklow harbour), where it will meet the proposed offshore export cables connecting to the Proposed Development.
- Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 – Operational and Maintenance Facility:
 - In June 2022, the Developer received planning permission from Wicklow County Council (Planning Register Reference: 21/1316) to develop an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) at South Dock, Arklow Harbour. The building and associated pontoon and ancillary infrastructure will serve as the support base for the Project throughout its operational lifetime and will support around 80 long term local jobs. This facility will also incorporate a Sustainable Education Centre.

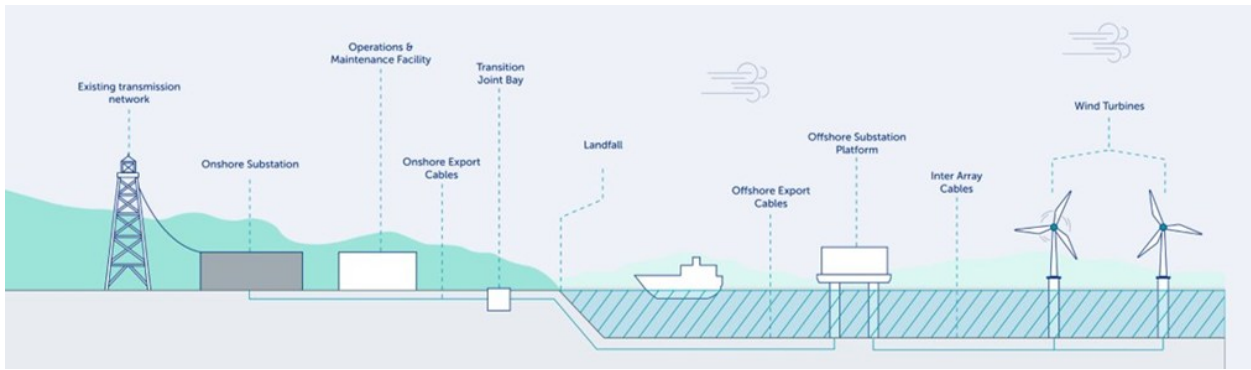


Figure 1.1: Schematic of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

1.4 EIAR for the Proposed Development

1.4.1.1 This EIAR for the Proposed Development is presented in **threefour** volumes, as follows:

- Volume I: EIAR Non-Technical Summary;
- Volume II: EIAR Main Report; ~~and~~
- Volume III: EIAR Technical Appendices; ~~and~~
- [Volume IV: Supporting Information.](#)