Oriel Windfarm Ltd

Oriel Wind Farm

Foreshore Licence Application for Marine Survey: Supporting Information

Issue 1 | 18 November 2021

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Document Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide supporting information to accompany an application by Oriel Windfarm Limited (Oriel) for a Foreshore Licence. It is to be read in conjunction with the application form, the Supporting Information for the Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Supporting Information for Stage 2 of for Appropriate Assessment and the Non Statutory Environmental Report.

2 Description of the Proposed Survey Works

2.1 Geophysical Survey

2.1.1 Scope of Work

The purpose of the geophysical survey is to determine the sediment conditions within the survey area in order to supplement the information gathered in the 2019 geophysical survey and previous INFOMAR surveys of the site. This additional data will be used to better understand the sub-surface structure, in particular the sub-surface stratigraphy, and to confirm the bedrock elevation. This will support the wind farm layout design, export cable routing and determine the construction methodology.

The objectives of the geophysical survey are to:

- Produce detailed bathymetric mapping;
- Obtain detailed seabed morphology;
- Identify the nature of the seabed;
- Acquire both shallow and deep geological cross-sections of the wind farm site; and
- Confirm the export cable route within the cable route corridor.

The geophysical survey will include bathymetric, side scan sonar, magnetometry and seismic sounding of the proposed site. Details of the exact survey equipment shall be made available prior to commencement of the works; however, it is envisaged that the geophysical data acquisition will involve the following acoustic-based techniques:

- Multibeam Echosounder (MBES) system for detailed bathymetric mapping;
- Side Scan Sonar for detailed seabed morphology and seafloor mapping;
- Magnetometer for detecting geomorphological anomalies and ferrous obstructions;
- Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP), both single and multi-sourcings, to identify and characterise the layers of sediment/rock underneath the seafloor along the cable route corridor;
- Ultra-high-resolution multi-channel seismic (UHRS) to identify and characterise the layers of sediment/rock underneath the seafloor within the windfarm site.
- Intertidal geophysical surveys including seismic, electrical resistivity and electromagnetic methods.

There may be the use of an ultra-short baseline (USBL) system to monitor the position of towed equipment. The USBL system consists of a multi-element transducer mounted on the hull of the vessel and a transponder attached to the towed equipment (e.g. side-scan sonar).

USBL equipment is widely used by offshore commercial and research vessels where positional accuracy of towed survey equipment is critical. The emitted pulses will be short pulse width 'pings', approximately in the range of 20-35kHz and with a source level of up to ~200dB re 1µPa @1m (peak).

The geophysical survey will comprise transects with a total length of circa 84km and a distance of 1km between each transect. The seismic source will detect the geological strata to a depth of 40m below the seabed (bsb).

2.1.1.1 Multibeam Echosounder (MBES)

The MBES system will be used to provide detailed bathymetric mapping throughout the survey area. An MBES is a type of sonar (acoustic surveying) used in seabed mapping wherein acoustic waves are used to indicate depth-to-seabed. The device is typically affixed to a vessel's hull or towed in its wake. The process is non-intrusive, and the device will not make contact with the seabed at any point. The Kongsberg EM710 may be taken as an indicative example of a MBES system to be used in the completion of these works and datasheet for the Kongsberg EM710 is included in Appendix A of the Non-Statutory Environmental Report. The equipment will operate within a frequency range of 70-100kHz with sound pressure levels in the range of 225-231dB re1µPa at 1 metre range.

2.1.1.2 Side Scan Sonar

The side scan sonar will be used to achieve detailed seabed morphology and seafloor mapping of the survey area. The survey is carried out using a sonar device attached to a vessel that emits fan-shaped pulses down towards the sea floor across a wide-angle perpendicular to the path of the sensor through the water. The intensity of the acoustic reflections from the seafloor of this fan shaped beam is recorded in a series of cross-track slices.

When stitched together along the direction of motion, these slices form an image of the sea bottom within the swath (coverage width) of the beam. The equipment will operate within a frequency range of 100-500kHZ with source levels at 235dB re 1µPa at 1 metre range.

2.1.1.3 Magnetometer

A magnetometer detects ferrous objects and as such is used to locate and identify ferrous objects on or buried in the seabed within the range of the magnetometer. The device precisely measures the earth's magnetic field and detects any anomalies, which represent ferrous objects such as lost anchors, sunken ships and buried pipes. The magnetometer is typically towed behind a survey vessel or affixed to a vessel's hull. The process is non-intrusive, and the device will not make any physical contact with the seabed at any point. The G-882 Marine Magnetometer may be taken as an indicative example and datasheet for this device in included in Appendix A of the Non Statutory Environmental Report.

2.1.1.4 Sub-Bottom Profiler (SBP)

This device uses reflection seismology to give a 2D image of the sub-seabed geology. It is typically towed behind the vessel during survey works or affixed to the vessel's hull. The process is non-intrusive, and the device will not make any physical contact with the seabed at any point.

The Innomar SES-2000 Quattro Parametric Sub-Bottom Profiler may be taken as an indicative example and the datasheet for this device is included in Appendix A of the Non-Statutory Environmental Report. The shallow sub-bottom profiler system will be used within the cable route corridor and will have the following general specifications:

- Fundamental frequency between 2kHz and 20kHz;
- A vertical resolution better than 0.2 metres;
- Penetration of 5 metres.

The profiler will be supplied with the following recorders and peripheral processing equipment:

- Fire control unit;
- Time varied gain;
- Swell filter;
- Bandpass or Time Varying Filters (TVF).

2.1.1.5 Ultra-high-resolution multi-channel seismic (UHRS)

Commonly used variants of this technology are known as "Sparkers" and "Boomers". It will have the following characteristics as a minimum:

- repeatable source;
- fundamental frequency between 1kHz and 3.5kHz;
- broadband width in excess of 2.5kHz at -10db;
- vertical resolution better than 0.5 metres;
- penetration 50 metres;
- variable energy levels 100-1000 Joules;
- record length suitable for the maximum depth required (250ms);
- sampling rate 0.25ms.

A multi-channel hydrophone streamer shall be supplied. The streamer should be neutrally buoyant or controlled, well maintained and free of air bubbles. The hydrophone should have a response appropriate to the source used but should generally have a flat response between 500Hz and 10kHz. The streamer should have at least 16 channels and be 50m long. A tail buoy with a radar reflector will be used to mark the streamer.

2.2 Geotechnical Survey

2.2.1 Scope of Work

The purpose of the geotechnical survey is to provide relevant information about the stability of the soil to a depth below which possible existence of weak formations will not influence the safety or performance of the wind turbine and its support structure.

The geotechnical survey will include 27 no. deep investigation locations and 41 no. shallow investigation locations.

Drawing number FL005 provides a more detailed overview of the geotechnical works.

2.2.1.6 Boreholes

Some 27 No. deep investigations will be carried out at proposed structure locations (25 wind turbine locations and two options for the offshore substation location). Each deep investigation location may require up to 3 drilled boreholes with a target depth of 50 m below the seabed. Thus, up to 81 geotechnical boreholes may be drilled. Drawing number FL005 shows the locations of the boreholes within the windfarm site.

The equipment used to drill the boreholes will follow the ISO and API technical specifications for drilling equipment and at a minimum will have:

- A heave motion compensator system on board (seabed frame and/or drill string) with a minimum heave compensation of 1.5m;
- Capability of mud production to different densities (when mud production is required for the works). The mud shall be water or bio-degradable organic polymer.

A detailed description of the soil types, and the in situ geotechnical properties determined for the boreholes will be recorded in the boring log to characterise the strata.

Coring and sampling will be done in general accordance with EN ISO22475-1 Geotechnical Investigation and Testing. Rotary coring equipment, such as Geobor-S is expected to be utilised.

In situ testing shall include the option of either down-hole wireline piezocone penetration testing (PCPT) associated to PS logging or down-hole wireline seismic cone testing (SCPT) over full length of borehole.

The boreholes are to be advanced by alternating PCPT/SCPT and push/core sampling; requirements will depend on the material type encountered. Within a granular deposit, the boreholes are to be advanced by alternating PCPT/SCPT and push sample. Where the sample recovery is poor using the push sampler, a hammer sampler shall be used instead. Blow counts measured during hammer sampling shall be recorded and presented on the Borehole Logs.

Within the cohesive deposits, the boreholes are to be advanced by PCPT/SCPT followed by two push samples (repeat cycle). Rotary coring may be used instead of push sampling in suitable materials, in which case the CPT and cores shall be alternated.

The samples/cores shall be recovered in liners or in Shelby tubes for all soil types and the appropriate technique should be selected to minimise soil disturbance and maximize recovery.

SCPT tests shall be executed at a minimum of four of the locations, which will be confirmed following the results of the geophysical survey. Two seismic measurements shall be carried out during each SCPT stroke at a depth interval of 1m; the envisaged volume is 40-60 SCPT tests in total.

2.2.1.2 Vibrocoring/Gravity Coring

The contractor will be required to carry out 41 vibrocores/gravity cores within the inter-array and export cable route corridor. The cores will be carried out along the line of the cable route, which is still to be defined. Drawing number FL005 shows an indicative line for the cores.

Vibrocoring will be performed where cohesionless soil is expected. The rig will be fitted with a PVC liner, core catcher and cutting shoe. The vibrocorer will be lowered onto the seabed, position and depth will be noted, after which the vibrocoring process will start. Upon refusal or at the target depth, the stop condition will be recorded and the vibrocorer will be recovered on deck where the recovery rate will be measured. If required, a core catcher will be used to prevent the sample dropping out of the PVC liner.

All cores will be examined and tested offshore before any sealing of the sample. Soil found in the vibrocoring shoe will be stored in a bag.

Gravity coring (wireline self-weight penetration sampler) will be performed where cohesive soil is expected. The rig will be equipped with a PVC liner. The gravity corer will be lowered on the seabed and penetrates in the seabed under its own weight. Upon refusal or at target depth, the gravity core will be recovered on deck where the recovery rate will be measured.

All cores will be examined and tested offshore before any sealing of samples.

2.3 Environmental/Ecological Survey

2.3.1 Scope of Work

The purpose of the ecological survey is to update the baseline environmental data collected from initial ecological surveys. This data will primarily be used to inform the environmental impact assessment report (EIAR), by describing the environmental conditions within the site, and subsequently developing appropriate mitigation measures for any potential environmental impacts. The ecological scope of work will include the following:

CPODs

It is proposed to deploy FPOD or CPOD devices for Static Acoustic Monitoring of Cetaceans. The devices will provide acoustic assessment of the presence/absence and species types of cetaceans (whales and dolphins) to i) allow for the recording species difficult to detect visually such as harbour porpoise, ii) provide data on other factors such as diel and tidal presence at the site and iii) to create a dataset with which to determine any effects of future construction or operation of a windfarm at a resolution which is relevant to managers.

A FPOD or CPOD is a self-contained computer and hydrophone in a sealed sonde approximately 1m in length. The FPOD or CPOD can log the times and duration of click trains which resemble the echo-location clicks produced by porpoises and dolphins. Static Acoustic Monitoring is independent of weather conditions once deployed and thus ensures high quality data is collected. Data collection will be at a small spatial scale (typical detection distances of 250m (porpoises) to 800m (dolphins). Each FPOD or CPOD will have a robust, heavy weight mooring blocks of c. 250kg, clump chain and rope with either an acoustic release mechanism and benthic buoy or a robust mooring with a surface marker buoy. Batteries will be replaced and data downloaded every 3/4 months. Deployment and servicing will be undertaken from a survey vessel.

Water Quality Sondes

It is proposed to deploy sondes for water quality monitoring through the water column – these will be used to monitor a range of parameters including turbidity, salinity, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and electrical conductivity. Sondes will be either suspended from a surface marker buoy or a benthic buoy with acoustic release at a range of depths dependent on survey requirements. Each buoy will have a robust mooring on the seabed similar to the CPOD mooring described above.

Benthic and intertidal

The survey will include drop down video and deployment of a mini Hammond grab or Van Veen grab to obtain samples of 1-5kg in mass each. Manual digging will be used in the intertidal zone to collect the samples. Samples will be analysed to determine the benthic faunal community present and sediment geochemistry.

Fish and shellfish GPS Tracking

Up to 6 sondes will be deployed for the tracking of fish or shellfish within the windfarm and export cable corridor. Similar to the CPODs and water quality sondes, these sondes for the tracking of fish or shellfish will deployed attached to a robust mooring with either a benthic buoy and acoustic release and/or a surface marker buoy.

2.4 Metocean Survey

2.4.1 Scope of Work

The purpose of the metocean survey is to obtain site specific atmospheric, wave and wind data over a minimum period of 12 months. All metocean survey works will occur at one location within the marine survey area. The location will be determined following the appointment of a contractor.

The data will be collected via a floating weather station, which will include a wave rider and a wind measurement LiDAR current profiler. The wave rider will be used to collect wave height and current data across the site, while the LiDAR system will be used to measure the wind characteristics within the site. This equipment will be mounted on specifically designed floating buoys which are moored to the seabed using an anchor chain and clump weights. All equipment including the moorings will be removed following completion of the survey.

2.5 Survey Vessels

The proposed marine survey works will be carried out by a dedicated marine vessels, suitable for the scope of work required, the water depth and the anticipated conditions of the survey area and the transit routes. The exact equipment to be used will be confirmed following a tender process to procure the site investigation contractor.

Separate survey vessels will be used for each activity. A larger vessel will be required to complete the offshore geotechnical works with smaller vessels for the geophysical, metocean and ecological surveys. A smaller RHIB type vessel may be used for geophysical works in shallow waters. Land based drilling and excavators will be used for the investigations and surveys within the intertidal zone. The types of vessels are described in the sections below.

These vessels will be comparable to those typically used in the industry for carrying out similar technical work and will possess all relevant classification certificates.

The vessels will conform to the following minimum requirements as appropriate:

1. Station-keeping and sea keeping capabilities required by the specified work at the proposed time of year; the appointed contractor may provide supplemental tug assistance if such assistance benefits the operation;
2. Endurance (e.g. fuel, water, stores, etc.) to undertake the required survey works;
3. Staffing to allow all planned work to be carried out as a continuous operation (on a 24 hour per day basis for the offshore activities and on a 12 hour per day basis for the inshore activities);
4. Equipment and spares with necessary tools for all specified works;
5. Appropriate accommodation and messing facilities on board;
6. Adequate soil laboratory testing facility.

The vessels used for the surveys will be sound and capable of remaining safely at sea for a minimum of 30 days under weather conditions typically encountered in the marine survey area at the time of year that the operations are to take place. The appointed contractor will be responsible for all shipboard systems and equipment calibration and re-calibration, including spares. For every 30 days of operations the vessels will accrue one day of maintenance time.

Vessels will have breadth and draft of suitable proportions to provide adequate stability for the duration of the intended operation. The vessels will be capable of passage speeds in excess of 10 knots and extended survey operations at speeds 4 knots or less.

In addition to AIS-A and Active Radar Enhancing Systems, the vessel shall have the following communications equipment as a minimum:

- Multi-channel VHF and HF radio capable of working at all marine frequencies and with a dual watch facility;
- Mobile phone;
- Hand-held radios;
- Frame and winch for the deployment of equipment and sensors, sized for the required equipment/sensors loads and pulling force. The winch speed and size must be compatible with planned surveys;
- Gyro-compass;
- SATCOM facilities (phone/fax and e-mail);
- 2 independent Differential GPS (DGPS) systems, a primary and secondary system (DGPS has a greater degree of accuracy than GPS).

All survey vessels and marine support vessels will conform to the relevant ISO and API technical specifications for drilling equipment.

2.5.1 Offshore Vessel

The survey vessel used for offshore works will be either a jack-up barge or a Dynamic Positioning (DP) vessel. Typical examples of the types of vessels used to undertake these works are provided in Appendix A of the Non-Statutory Environmental Report.

Jack-up barges utilise a fixed anchoring system in order to maintain the required position within the site. The vessel consists of a self-elevating platform and several “legs”, which are deployed to the ocean floor mooring the vessel in place.

The survey works are carried out from the self-elevating platform, which is raised above the water’s surface. If used, the jack-up barge will meet with the following minimum requirements:

- The vessel will have at least four mooring points.

- The self-elevating platform must be permanently manned (i.e. off-shift personnel to stay onboard even if the accommodation is not a permanent equipment of the jack-up).
- The platform must be provided with a class certificate verifying the provision of adequate safety equipment for the type of vessel and the number of on-board personnel.
- The platform should be certified in compliance with the MODU Code and the BWEA guideline.

Unlike jack-up barges, DP vessels maintain station via inputs from satellite DGPS signals, allowing the vessels to be positioned over any point on the seabed and maintain position without employing a fixed anchoring system. Using thrusters or propellers, a DP vessel can maintain position within a 2m to 0.5m window depending on the sea state/weather conditions and available power. The vessel may also transit under DP control along a given pre-determined path.

If used, a DP vessel will meet the following minimum requirements:

- The vessel must be fully equipped with a Class II DP system as a minimum.
- Two DP certified operators with the necessary experience must be members of the crew.

The offshore works will be carried out on a 24-hour shift basis, with personnel working two 12-hour shifts. This will allow the works to be continuous.

2.5.2 Nearshore Vessel

The smaller, nearshore vessel will be used in locations where the water depth is too shallow for the larger, offshore vessel to carry out the works. This vessel does not need to have a dynamic positioning system, however, must have full DGPS capability. The vessel is usually held on station by joy-stick control and will deploy an anchor to assist in maintaining station (depending on sea state and weather conditions). The smaller vessel will use similar equipment to the larger vessel to carry out the required survey works.

An unmanned surface vessel (USV) may be used. The vessel would not carry any surveyors on board and would be controlled from the land.

Typical examples of vessels used to carry out this work are included in Appendix A of the Non-Statutory Environmental Report.

The nearshore works will be carried out on a 12 hour per day basis, with the vessel returning to port at the end of each day.

2.5.3 Survey Navigation

All navigation equipment and instrumentation will be calibrated and used correctly. Calibration and/or verification shall be repeated in the event of any equipment malfunction, which may nullify earlier calibrations and/or verifications.

Qualified surveyors will be used to operate the navigation and positioning equipment continuously throughout the survey while maintaining a continuous log of all navigation activities throughout the survey.

Sufficient survey and positioning spares and consumables will be provided to enable the survey to be completed without any degradation of navigation and positioning quality and effectiveness and without the need to return to port to acquire additional equipment.

3 General Requirements

3.1 Quality Assurance

The marine survey Contractor shall:

- Operate Quality and Environmental Management Systems based on and conforming to ISO9001:2008;
- Provide a Quality Management Plan for all the marine operations; and
- Provide operational procedures for all the marine operations.

3.2 Operating permits

The marine survey Contractor shall obtain and comply with all necessary marine operational permits including routine and customary vessel/crew/equipment clearances from Customs Agencies, Port Authorities, Marine Survey Office, etc.

3.3 Health and Safety

Health, Safety and Environmental protection shall be given foremost consideration in the execution of the work and shall be promoted in a proactive and highly visible manner throughout the workforce. The marine survey Contractor shall operate International Safety Management (ISM) and Health Environmental and Safety (HES) systems based on legislation relevant to the proposed activities. The marine survey Contractor shall have an overall Health, Safety, Security and Environmental (HSSE) plan for each stage of all marine operations. The plan shall cover all parties and operations.

Oriel's Health and Safety Protocols will be followed by both survey and ship's crew. Care will be taken to maintain contact with fishing vessels operating within the area of operations. The contractor will ensure notifications of the intended work and timelines are posted in the relevant press well ahead of schedule and a fisheries liaison officer will be employed.

All vessels shall operate under a certificated Safety Management System (SMS) that provides policies, procedures, and a framework for continuous improvement to ensure the safety of personnel on-board.

3.4 PSDP/PSCS

The appointed contractor will designate a competent Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) under the relevant legislation. Method Statements and Risk Assessments will be prepared prior to any works commencing.

3.5 Environmental Protocols

Oriel will implement a number of general environmental protocols to address potential environmental impacts during the survey works. In addition, Oriel will implement specific measures as set out Section 7 of the Non-Statutory Environmental Report and Section 3.4 of the Supporting Information for Stage 2 of Appropriate Assessment.

Environmental factors will be taken into account in all decisions during the survey campaign. Environmental efforts should be preventative rather than remedial; where required as a condition of permitting, the Contractor shall form and comply with the obligations of an appropriate Environmental Management Plan.

All vessels shall comply with the latest International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and environmental requirements for their classification and with any national requirement of the territorial or continental / EEZ waters to be operated in. All vessels will follow Oriel's Vessel Management System.

The appointed contractor will take particular care when handling or storing hazardous materials, radiation sources and chemicals. All storage and handling must be carried out in accordance with the Dangerous Substances Act (1972) and supporting regulations, appropriate safety precautions must be taken, and safety clothing must be worn as necessary. Liquid or non-liquid pollutants or waste material will not be dumped, thrown or otherwise disposed of into the sea. All refuse and materials shall be kept onboard the vessel and safely disposed of onshore according to the MARPOL convention. All substances handled and/or used whilst undertaking the works will be handled, used, stored and documented in compliance with the Dangerous Substances Act 1972 as amended and relevant supporting Regulations. The works will also be in accordance with assessments and recommendations of international best practice including the UK Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 1994. Where Fuels, Oils and Lubes are required to be stowed on boats, suitable containers will be used and stowed to allow ventilation and safe dissipation of any accidental leaked gas and retention of any leaked liquid. No liquid will be discharged into the water at any stage of the work on site. No smoking will be permitted in the vicinity of fuel in storage or when in use.

All geophysical survey works that involve the use of acoustic instrumentation will follow the Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters, 2014. Measures to be implemented include but are not limited to:

- A qualified and experienced marine mammal observer (MMO) shall be appointed to monitor for marine mammals and to log all relevant events using standardised data forms;
- Pre-start monitoring: If marine mammal species are detected within 500m distance of the sound source, seismic survey shall not commence;
- Periods of peak sensitivity to survey operations for marine mammals will be avoided where possible;

- Ramp-up Procedures will be used - a controlled build-up of acoustic energy output shall occur in consistent stages to provide a steady and gradual increase over the ramp-up period.

For drilling operations for the geotechnical survey works an additional measure that in order to allow 24- hour working, or for work to commence when visual observation is not possible due to weather conditions or sea state, a proven Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) system and experienced operator(s) will be employed to undertake pre-start surveys during these times.

3.6 Access and Egress Arrangements

All offshore works will be carried out from a vessel. The offshore survey vessel may mobilise directly to site from its base or from a suitable facility such as Dublin Port.

Access to the intertidal zone may be made from the landward side down an existing lane (Legg Lane) at the southern boundary of Dunany Demesne as shown on Figure 1.

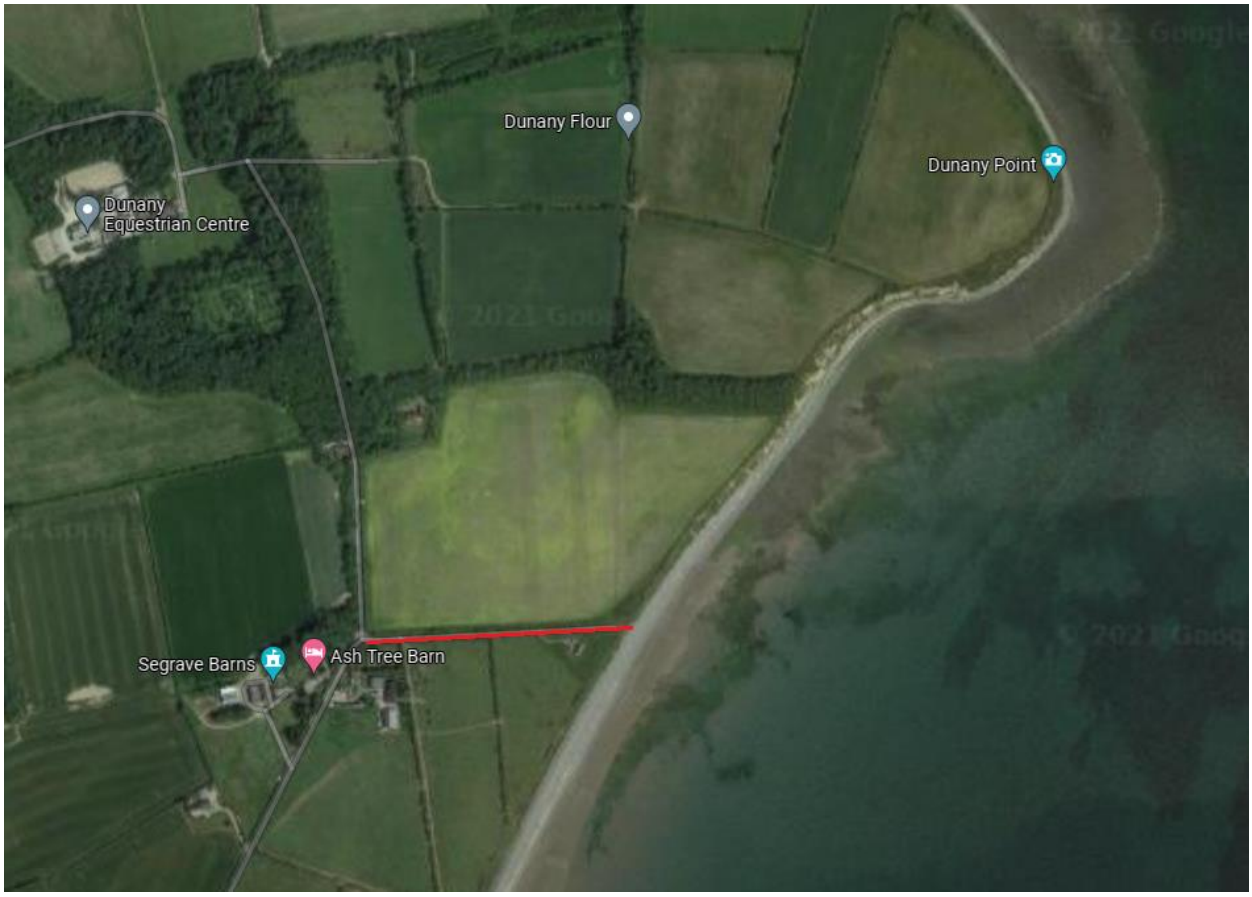

Figure 1: Intertidal zone access via Legg Lane

4 NMPF Compliance Assessment

The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) was published in June 2021.

The NMPF brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity.

The NMPF will not replace or remove existing regulatory regimes or legislative requirements governing the operation of various marine sectoral activities. Rather, it will provide an overarching framework for their continued operation.

The NMPF is structured as follows: Thirty-two overarching marine planning policies are group under three high level objectives and nineteen policy groupings. Sixteen key sectors/activities are identified. Sectoral objectives and policies are stated for each of these key sectors/activities.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 sets out Public Body functions relevant to use of the NMPF, which include the awarding of any consent or approval, or the grant or issue of licences, certificates or other like documents, under any enactment for the purposes of any such development or activity, or any such proposed development or activity. Within the NMPF the term 'authorisations' is used to refer to these functions.

As part of their decision-making processes Public Bodies involved in authorising marine development and activities, are now obliged to take into account the objectives of the Framework.

4.1 NMPF Compliance Assessment

Table 1 presents an assessment of the compliance of the Oriel site investigation works with the policies and objectives of the NMPF.

Table 1: Compliance of the Oriel site investigation works with the policies and objectives of the NMPF.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Environmental - Ocean Health			
Environmental - Ocean Health Policy 1	Compliance with NMPF policies relating to: • Biodiversity • Non-Indigenous Species • Water Quality • Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity • Marine litter • Underwater Noise should include demonstration of contribution to the relevant MSFD targets identified.	Yes	Refer to relevant policy compliance assessments below.
Biodiversity			
Biodiversity Policy 1	Proposals incorporating features that enhance or facilitate species adaptation or migration, or natural native habitat connectivity will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which specifically aims to enhance or facilitate species adaptation or migration, or indeed natural native habitat connectivity. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanying the Foreshore License Application, an assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to impact or displace on habitats and species has been carried out. No significant adverse impacts on the same have been identified.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Biodiversity Policy 2	Proposals that protect, maintain, restore and enhance the distribution and net extent of important habitats and distribution of important species will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must avoid significant reduction in the distribution and net extent of important habitats and other habitats that important species depend on, including avoidance of activity that may result in disturbance or displacement of habitats.	yes	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which specifically aims to protect, maintain, retore and enhance the distribution and net extent of important habitats and distribution of important species. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanying the Foreshore License Application, an assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to impact or displace on habitats and species has been carried out. No significant adverse impacts on the same have been identified.
Biodiversity Policy 3	Where marine or coastal natural capital assets are recognised by Government: • Proposals must seek to enhance marine or coastal natural capital assets where possible. • Proposals must demonstrate that they will in order of preference, and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	yes	The NMPF explains that "*The concept of natural capital is fundamentally about natural assets, for example wetlands, rivers, coastal habitats, woodlands and forests*." Neither the marine nor the coastal natural capital assets in the vicinity of the Oriel the Foreshore Licence Application have been recognised by Government. It is noted that Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application contains an assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed site investigations on coastal and marine habitats and marine processes. As outlined in Sections 8.2and 8.3, the proposed site investigations will not give rise to any impacts on coastal and marine habitats and marine processes.
Biodiversity Policy 4	Proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant disturbance to, or displacement of, highly mobile species.	Yes	As the Natura Impact Statement which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application concludes; "*the activities associated with the proposed surveys will not result in any likely significant effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on the features or conservation objectives of any relevant Natura 2000 site."*

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
			Further, as outlined in Section 8.2 of the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, the proposed site investigation works will not result in any likely significant effects to mobile species.
Protected Marine Sites			
Protected Marine Sites Policy 1	Proposals must demonstrate that they can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Where adverse effects from proposals remain following mitigation, in line with Habitats Directive Article 6(3), consent for the proposals cannot be granted unless the prerequisites set by Article 6(4) are met.	Yes	The Natura Impact Statement which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application concludes; "*the activities associated with the proposed surveys will not result in any likely significant effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on the features or conservation objectives of any relevant Natura 2000 site.*"
Protected Marine Sites Policy 2	Proposals supporting the objectives of protected marine sites should be supported and: • be informed by appropriate guidance • must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites	Yes	There are marine Natura 2000 sites in the Irish Sea. The Natura Impact Statement which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application concludes; "*the activities associated with the proposed surveys will not result in any likely significant effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on the features or conservation objectives of any relevant Natura 2000 site.*"
Protected Marine Sites Policy 3	Proposals that enhance a protected marine site's ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the protected site, should be supported and: • be informed by appropriate guidance • must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not result in the enhancement of any protected marine site's ability to adapt to climate change or the enhancement of the resilience of the protected site.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Protected Marine Sites Policy 4	Until the ecological coherence of the network of protected marine sites is examined and understood, proposals should identify, by review of best available evidence (including consultation with the competent authority with responsibility for designating such areas as required), the features, under consideration at the time the application is made, that may be required to develop and further establish the network. Based upon identified features that may be required to develop and further establish the network, proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant impacts on features that may be required to develop and further establish the network, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	Proposals for the network of protected marine sites have not been published. However, it is noted that the Natura Impact Statement which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application concludes; "*the activities associated with the proposed surveys will not result in any likely significant effects (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) on the features or conservation objectives of any relevant Natura 2000 site.*"
Non-Indigenous Species			
Non-Indigenous Species Policy 1	Reducing the risk of the introduction and / or spread of non-indigenous species is a requirement of all proposals. Proposals must demonstrate a risk management approach to prevent the introduction of and / or spread of non-indigenous species, particularly when: a) moving equipment, boats or livestock (for example fish or shellfish) from one water body to another, b) introducing structures suitable for settlement of non-indigenous species, or the spread of non-indigenous species known to exist in the area of the proposal.	Yes	The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application contains an assessment of the risk of the introduction of non-indigenous marine invasive species as a result of the proposed site investigation works. A range of mitigation measures are proposed, in the form of an Invasive Species Management Plan which will ensure that the risk is reduced or avoided.
Water Quality			
Water Quality Policy 1	Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts upon water quality, including upon habitats and species beneficial to water quality, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts	Yes	As outlined in the Environmental Report, an assessment of the potential for the site investigation works to impact upon water quality has been carried out. A range of measures are set out to ensure that significant adverse impacts on water quality are avoided. Refer to Section 7.4.1.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Water Quality Policy 2	Proposals delivering improvements to water quality, or enhancing habitats and species, which can be of benefit to water quality, should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal that delivers improvements to water quality or enhances habitats and species. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanying the Foreshore License Application, an assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to give rise to impacts on water quality, as well as habitats and species was undertaken. A range of measures were subsequently set out to ensure that no significant adverse impacts on water quality, habitats or species will arise during site investigations. Refer to Section 7.2 and Section 7.4.1 of the Environmental Report, and to the NIS.
Sea Floor and Water Column Integrity			
Sea Floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1	Proposals that incorporate measures to support the resilience of marine habitats will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts on marine, particularly deep sea, habitats must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats must set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal that incorporate measures to support the resilience of marine habitats. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanying the Foreshore License Application, an assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to give rise to impacts on marine habitats was undertaken. A range of measures were subsequently set out to ensure that no significant adverse impacts on marine habitats will arise during site investigations. Refer to Section 7.2 of the Environmental Report, and to the NIS.
Sea Floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2	Proposals, including those that increase access to the maritime area, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal that increases access to the maritime area

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
	c) mitigate adverse impacts on important habitats and species.		
Sea Floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3	Proposals that protect, maintain, restore and enhance coastal habitats for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must take account of the space required for coastal habitats, for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, and demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise , or c) mitigate for net loss of coastal habitat.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal which protects, maintains, restores or enhances coastal habitats for ecosystem functioning nor does it provide ecosystem services. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanying the Foreshore License Application, an assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to give rise to impacts on coastal habitats was undertaken. A range of measures were subsequently set out to ensure that no significant adverse impacts on coastal habitats will arise during site investigations. Refer to Section 7.2 of the Environmental Report, and to the NIS.
Marine Litter			
Marine Litter Policy 1	Proposals that facilitate waste re-use or recycling, or that reduce marine and coastal litter will be supported, where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals that could potentially increase the amount of litter that is discharged into the maritime area, either intentionally or accidentally, must include measures (such as development of a waste management plan) to, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate the litter. Demonstration of these measures must provide satisfactory evidence that the proposal is able to manage all waste without creation of litter.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal which will facilitate waste reuse or recycling, or which will reduce marine and coastal litter

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Underwater Noise			
Underwater Noise Policy 1	Proposals must take account of spatial distribution, temporal extent, and levels of impulsive and / or continuous sound (underwater noise) that may be generated and the potential for significant adverse impacts on marine fauna. Where the potential for significant impact on marine fauna from underwater noise is identified, a Noise Assessment Statement must be prepared by the proposer of development. The findings of the Noise Assessment Statement should demonstrably inform determination(s) related to the activity proposed and the carrying out of the activity itself. The content of the Noise Assessment Statement should be relevant to the particular circumstances and must include: • Demonstration of compliance with applicable legal requirements, such as necessary assessment of proposals likely to have underwater noise implications, including but not limited to: » Appropriate Assessment (AA); » Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); » Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); » Specific response to 'strict protection' requirements of Article 12 of the Habitats Directive in relation to certain species listed in Annex IV of the Directive; and » Species protected under the Wildlife Acts. • An assessment of the potential impact of the development or use on the affected species in terms of environmental sustainability; • Demonstration that significant adverse impacts on marine fauna resulting from underwater noise will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements be: a) avoided, b) minimised, or c) mitigated, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine fauna, the reasons for proceeding must be set out. This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessments require consideration of underwater noise.	Yes	As outlined in the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement accompanying the Foreshore Licence Application, an assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to give rise to underwater noise impacts was undertaken. A range of measures were subsequently set out to ensure that no significant adverse impacts on marine fauna will arise due to underwater noise during the proposed site investigations. Refer to Section 7.2 and 7.4.3 of the Environmental Report, and to the NIS.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Air Quality			
Air Quality Policy 1	Proposals that support a reduction in air pollution should be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must demonstrate consideration of their contribution to air pollution, both direct and cumulative.	Yes	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal that supports a reduction in air pollution. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report, no significant increase in air pollution likely to occur during the proposed site investigation works, and no specific mitigation measures are therefore proposed. Further, all survey vessels will be MARPOL compliant, as per standard good practice, which will reduce the risk of pollutant emissions.
Air Quality Policy 2	Where proposals are likely to result in or facilitate an increase in air pollution, proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference in accordance with legal requirements and standards: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate air pollution.	Yes	As outlined in the Environmental Report, no significant increase in air pollution is likely to occur during the proposed site investigation works, and no specific mitigation measures are therefore proposed. However, all survey vessels will be MARPOL compliant, as per standard good practice, which will reduce the risk of pollutant emissions.
Climate Change			
Climate Change Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate how they: • avoid contribution to adverse changes to physical features of the coast; • enhance, restore or recreate habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem services where possible. Where potential significant adverse impacts upon habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem services are identified, these must be in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoided, b) minimised, c) mitigated, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, the reasons for proceeding must be set out. This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessments are required.	Yes	Section 6.3 of the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application contains an assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed site investigations on marine processes. As outlined in Section 8.3, the proposed site investigations will not give rise to any impacts on the shoreline-including physical features of the coast. Both the Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement which accompany the Foreshore Licence Application contain an assessment of the potential for the site investigation works to impact upon marine habitats. A range of measures are also set out to ensure that significant adverse impacts on marine habitats will not occur during the site investigation works.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Climate Change Policy 2	For the lifetime of the proposal, the following climate change matters must be demonstrated: • estimation of likely generation of greenhouse gas emissions, both direct and indirect; • measures to support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions where possible; • likely impact of climate change effects upon the proposal from factors including but not limited to: sea level rise, ocean acidification, changing weather patterns; • measures incorporated to enable adaptation climate change effects; • likely impact upon climate change adaptation measures adopted in the coastal area relevant to the proposal and/or adaptation measures adopted by adjacent activities; • where likely impact upon climate change adaptation measures in the coastal area relevant to the proposal and/or adaptation measures adopted by adjacent activities is identified, these impacts must be in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements: a) avoided, b) minimised, c) mitigated, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, the reasons for proceeding must be set out.	Yes	An assessment of the potential for the proposed site investigation works to give rise to impacts on climate change was carried out and is included in Section 6.4.4 of the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application. No likely negative effects of the proposed site investigation work on climate change are identified. However, as outlined in the Environmental Report, all survey vessels will be MARPOL compliant, as per standard good practice, which will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. It is noted that the proposed site investigation works is essential to the development of the Oriel Offshore Wind Farm. The wind farm will have the potential to generate up to 375MW of renewable energy and result in a considerable reduction in Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. (Oriel to fill in the potential capacity of the offshore wind farm)
Economic			
Co-existence			
Co-existence Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate. If proposals cannot avoid significant adverse impacts (including displacement) on other activities they must, in order of preference: a) minimise significant adverse impacts, b) mitigate significant adverse impacts, or c) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The site investigation works will use space for a very short period and once completed, there will be no use of space. As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, a range of measures are set out which will ensure that significant adverse impacts on other activities are avoided during the proposed site investigation works. These activities include commercial and recreational fishing, sailing and shipping and other recreational activities. Refer to Section 7.1.
Infrastructure			

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Infrastructure Policy 1	Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported. Proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal relating to land-based infrastructure.
Social-Engagement with the Sea			
Access			
Access Policy 1	Proposals, including in relation to tourism and recreation, should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on public access.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal relating to tourism and recreation.
Access Policy 2	Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the maritime area, and that consider the future provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, should be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which demonstrates appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the maritime area.
Employment			
Employment Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate contribution to a net increase in marine related employment in Ireland, particularly where the proposals are • in line with the skills available in Irish coastal communities adjacent to the maritime area, • improve the sustainable use of natural resources, • diversify skills to enable employment in emerging industries.	Yes	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will contribute to a net increase in marine related employment in Ireland-specifically marine surveyors. It is noted that the proposed site investigation works is essential to the development of the Oriel Offshore Wind Farm. The wind farm will require maintenance through its lifetime and will create long-term employment opportunities in Irish coastal communities local to the maritime area.
Heritage Assets			
Heritage Assets Policy 1	Proposals that demonstrate they will contribute to enhancing the significance of heritage assets will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.	Yes	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which will enhance the significance of heritage assets.

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	Proposals unable to contribute to enhancing the significance of heritage assets will only be supported if they demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate harm to the significance of heritage assets, and d) if it is not possible, to mitigate harm, then the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the harm to the significance of the heritage assets. (see definition of 'Public Benefits' in the Glossary)		However, as outlined in the Environmental Report, a number of measures will be put in place to ensure that significant negative effects on heritage assets will be avoided. Refer to Section 7.5.
Rural Coastal and Island Communities			
Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1	Proposals contributing to access, communications, energy self-sufficiency or sustainability of rural coastal and / or island communities should be supported. Proposals should ideally be inclusive of continual education, skills development and training in marine sectors, thus improving the sustainability, social benefits and economic resilience of rural and island communities.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which would contribute to access, communications, energy self-sufficiency or sustainability of rural coastal and / or island communities.
Seascape and Landscape			
Seascape and Landscape Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate how the likely significant impacts of a development on the seascape and landscape of an area have been considered. Proposals will only be supported if they demonstrate that they, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on the seascape and landscape of the area. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding. This policy should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments.	Yes	Section 6.7 of the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application considers potential for effects on the landscape and seascape. Mitigation measures relating to the same are included in Section 7.7.
Social Benefits			

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Social Benefits Policy 1	Proposals that enhance or promote social benefits should be supported. Proposals unable to enhance or promote social benefits should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) minimise, or b) mitigate significant adverse impacts which result in the displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities that generate social benefits.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal that enhances or promotes social benefits
Social Benefits Policy 2	Proposals that increase the understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment (including its natural, historic and social value), or that promote conservation management and increased education and skills, should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal that increases the understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment, or that promotes conservation management and increased education and skills.
Transboundary			
Transboundary Policy 1	Proposals that have transboundary impacts beyond the maritime area, on either the terrestrial environment or neighbouring international jurisdictions, must show evidence of consultation with the relevant public authorities, including terrestrial planning authorities and other country authorities. Proposals should consider transboundary impacts throughout the lifetime of the proposed activity.	No	The entirety of the study area for the proposed site investigations is within the foreshore of Irish Waters. There is no potential for transboundary impacts beyond the maritime area.
Aquaculture			
Aquaculture Policy 1	Proposals for sustainable development of aquaculture that: • demonstrate use of innovative approaches, and / or • contribute to diversification of species being grown in a given locality, particularly proposals applying a multi-trophic approach, and / or • enhances resilience to the effects of climate change should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for the sustainable development of aquaculture.
Aquaculture Policy 2	Non-aquaculture proposals in aquaculture production areas must demonstrate consideration of, and compatibility with, aquaculture production. Where compatibility is not possible, proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid; b) minimise;	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not occur in aquaculture production areas.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
	c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on aquaculture. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts upon aquaculture, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.		
Aquaculture Policy 3	Land-based coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of aquaculture should be supported, in accordance with any legal requirements and provided environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes are fully met.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for land-based coastal infrastructure.
Defence and Security			
Defence and Security - Policy 1	Any proposal that has the potential to interfere with the performance by the Defence Forces of their security and non-security related tasks must be subject to consultation with the Defence Organisation. This includes potential interference with: • Safety of navigation and access to naval facilities; • Firing, test or exercise areas; • Communication, and surveillance systems; • Fishery protection functions. Proposals should only be supported where, having consulted with the Defence Organisation, they are satisfied that it will not result in unacceptable interference with the performance by the Defence Forces of their security and non-security related tasks. Any proposal will be subject to the relevant Environmental Assessments, as set out in the introduction to this NMPF.	Yes	As outlined in Section 7.6.1.2 of the Environmental Report which will accompany the Foreshore Licence Application, no significant negative impacts on defence and national security are likely to occur as a result of the proposed site investigation works
Natural Gas Storage			

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Natural Gas Storage Policy 1	Subject to assessments required for the protection of the environment, and only where in keeping with the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems (which is being carried out by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications), natural gas storage proposals should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal relating to natural gas storage
Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)			
ORE Policy 1	Proposals that assist the State in meeting the Government's offshore renewable energy targets, including the target of achieving 5GW of capacity in offshore wind by 2030 and proposals that maximise the long-term shift from use of fossil fuels to renewable electricity energy, in line with decarbonisation targets, should be supported. All proposals will be rigorously assessed to ensure compliance with environmental standards and seek to minimise impacts on the marine environment, marine ecology and other maritime users.	Yes	The purpose of the proposed site investigations is to determine the stability of the ground in order to inform an application for the development of an offshore windfarm. The proposed site investigation works is essential to the development of the Oriel Offshore Wind Farm, which will assist the State meeting its targets for offshore renewable energy.
ORE Policy 2	Proposals must be consistent with national policy, including the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) and its successor. Relevant Projects designated pursuant to the Transition Protocol and those projects that can objectively enable delivery on the Government's 2030 targets will be prioritised for assessment under the new consenting regime. Into the future, areas designated for offshore energy development, under the Designated Marine Area Plan process set out in the Maritime Area Planning Bill, will underpin a plan-led approach to consenting (or development of our marine resources) (Note – see Appendix D on Spatial Designation Process).	Yes	The proposed site investigation works will be compliant with the OREDP. It is noted that the proposed site investigation works is essential to the development of the Oriel Offshore Wind Farm, which is consistent with OREDP. The OREDP (2014) identifies the potential for up to 1500MW of fixed bottom offshore wind in the East Coast (North) Assessment Area in which Oriel is located.
ORE Policy 3	Any non-ORE proposals that are in or could affect sites held under a permission or that are subject to an ongoing permitting or consenting process for renewable energy generation (wind, wave or tidal should demonstrate that they will in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding. Applicants for non-ORE proposals in or affecting ORE sites should engage ORE developers in consultation during the pre-application processes as appropriate.	Yes	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not occur in, or affect sites held under a permission or which is subject to an ongoing permitting or consenting process for renewable energy generation.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
ORE Policy 4	Decisions on ORE developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.	No	This policy relates to the decision-making process
ORE Policy 5	Proposals for activity that may adversely impact ORE test projects by virtue of being within or adjacent to ORE test sites, or between site and landfall of ORE test projects that may adversely impact ORE test site projects, should demonstrate that they will in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for a test project.
ORE Policy 6	Proposals for infrastructure enabling local use of excess energy generated from emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for infrastructure. Rather, it relates to site investigation works to inform the planning application for the same. Thus, no visualisation assessment is required.
ORE Policy 7	Where potential for ports to contribute to ORE is identified, plans and policies related to this port must encourage development in such a way as to facilitate ORE and related supply chain activity.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to such a plan or policy.
ORE Policy 8	Proposals for ORE must demonstrate consideration of existing cables passing through or adjacent to areas for development, making sure ability to repair and carry out cable-related remedial work is not significantly compromised. This consideration should be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessments are required.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to an ORE development- rather, it relates to site investigation works to inform the planning application for the same. There are no active cables within the survey area. There is one historic (out of service) submarine power cable, which partially extends from the north of Dundalk Bay towards the centre of the bay, however this cable does not overlap with the survey area
ORE Policy 9	A permission for ORE must be informed by inclusion of a visualisation assessment that supports conditions on any development in relation to design and layout. Where a development consent is applied for in an area already subject to permission, proposals must include a visualisation assessment to inform design and layout. Visualisation assessments should demonstrate consultation with communities that may be able to view the proposal, in addition to any other ORE development, which had received consent to proceed at a given site at the time the consent application is made, with the aim of minimising impact. Visualisation assessments will be informed by specific emerging guidelines (detailed in the actions set out in Annexes to this NMPF).	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to an ORE development- rather, it relates to site investigation works to inform the planning application for the same. Thus, no visualisation assessment is required.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
	Prior to specific guidelines being available, policy and best practice relating to visualisation assessment should be used. This consideration must be included as part of statutory environmental assessments where such assessment is required.		
ORE Policy 10	Opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of ORE should be prioritised in plans and policies, where possible.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a plan or policy.
ORE Policy 11	Where appropriate, proposals that enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains will be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal which will enable the provision of an emerging renewable energy technology. The purpose of the site investigations is to determine the stability of the ground in order to inform an application for the development of an offshore windfarm.
Petroleum			
Petroleum Policy 1	Proposals in areas where petroleum activities or petroleum production infrastructure have already been approved, or where applications consistent with the Government's prohibition on new exploration activity are under consideration, should only be authorised where compatibility with the existing, authorised or proposed activity can be satisfactorily demonstrated or the proposal is clearly of strategic or national importance. Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through: a) avoiding, or b) minimising, or c) mitigating adverse impacts. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not occur in areas where petroleum activities or productions infrastructure have already been approved or where applications consistent with the Governments prohibition on new exploration activity are under consultation.
Petroleum Policy 2	Proposals potentially affecting future potential activity in areas (blocks) subject to existing petroleum authorisations should avoid sterilisation of that area for future petroleum-related activity consistent with Government policy, and demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid, or b) minimise, or c) mitigate potential adverse impacts on those activities. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for temporary site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which could potentially affect future petroleum related activity.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Transmission			
Transmission Policy 1	Subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, electricity transmission proposals that maintain or improve the security and diversity of Ireland's energy supply should be supported, including interconnectors, relevant EU Projects of Common Interest (PCIs), and projects in receipt of relevant alternative EU priority energy infrastructure classification provided for by the EU TEN-E regulations. This should include development of the offshore transmission system and connection with the onshore transmission system necessary to meet the Government's target of 5 GW of offshore renewables by 2030, as well as development of associated transmission system / interconnector infrastructure for hybrid offshore projects, connecting offshore renewable energy installations with Ireland and one or more other electricity transmission systems.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to an electricity transmission proposal.
Transmission Policy 2	Proposals for activities that are in or could affect energy transmission proposals in sites held under a permission or that are subject to an ongoing permitting or consenting process for energy transmission proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not occur in any site which is currently subject to any permitting or consenting process for energy transmission proposals.
Transmission Policy 3	Decisions on transmission developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.	No	This policy relates to the decision-making process.
Transmission Policy 4	Where possible, opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports energy transmission should be prioritised in plans and policies. Designation of land-based zones for the purposes of co-ordination and integration with relevant Marine Plans must be considered, where appropriate.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is not related to a plan or policy.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Transmission Policy 5	Proposals for construction or operation activities within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines shall be avoided. If construction or operation activities are proposed to take place within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines, the views of Gas Networks Ireland in relation to how such activities could impact the pipelines shall be taken into account and either appropriate mitigation measures put in place or the proposed activities altered. If construction or operation activities involve the crossing of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines by other pipelines or cables, the views of Gas Networks Ireland in relation to how such activities could impact the pipelines shall be taken into account and either appropriate mitigation measures be put in place or the proposed activities altered.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not occur within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines.
Transmission Policy 6	Subject to required assessments for the protection of the environment, and only where in keeping with the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems (which is being carried out by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications), and not involving the importation of fracked gas, additional proposals for natural gas transmission/ import infrastructure should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence does not relate to a proposal for natural gas transmission/import infrastructure.
Fisheries			
Fisheries Policy 1	Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access for existing fishing activities, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate such impacts. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on fishing activity, the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal that outweigh the significant adverse impacts on existing fishing activity must be demonstrated.	Yes	As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, no significant impacts on access for fishing activities will arise as a result of the proposed site investigation works. A range of measures have been outlined in the Environmental Report which will ensure this- refer to Section 7.2.3.
Fisheries Policy 2	Where significant impact upon fishing activity arising from any proposal is identified, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) should be prepared by the proposer of development or other maritime area use, in consultation with local fishing interests and other interests as appropriate. All efforts should be made to agree the FMMS with those interests.	No	As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, no significant impacts on fishing activities will arise as a result of the proposed site investigation works. A range of measures have been outlined in the Environmental Report which will ensure this- refer to Section 7.2.3.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
	Those interests should also undertake to engage with the proposer and provide best available, transparent and accurate information and data in a timely manner to help complete the FMMS. The FMMS should be drawn up as part of readying a proposal prior to submission, with measures identified to be considered in finalising conditions of any authorisations granted. Development of the strategy should be coordinated with other relevant assessments such as EIA where possible. The content of the Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) should be relevant to the particular circumstances and could include: • An assessment of the potential impact of all stages of the development or other suggested use on the affected fishery or fisheries, both in socio-economic terms and in relation to environmental sustainability. This assessment should include consideration of any impact upon cultural identity within fishing communities, as well as identifying indirect / in-combination matters. • A recognition that the disruption to existing fishing opportunities / activity should be minimised as far as possible. • Demonstration of the public benefit(s) that outweigh the significant impacts identified. • Reasonable measures to mitigate any constraints which the proposed development or use may place on existing or proposed fishing activity. • Reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts on sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. impacts on spawning grounds or areas of fish or shellfish abundance) and any socio-economic impacts. Where it does not prove possible to agree the FMMS with all interests: • Divergent views and the reasons for any divergence of views between the parties should be fully explained in the FMMS, and dissenting views should be given a platform within the said FMMS to make their case. • Where divergent views are identified, relevant public authorities should be engaged to identify informal and formal steps designed to enable proposal(s) to progress.		
Fisheries Policy 3	Proposals that enhance the sustainability of fisheries or support a sustainable fishing industry, including the industry's diversification and or enhanced resilience to the effects of climate change, should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal which enhances the sustainability of fisheries or supports a sustainable fishing industry.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Fisheries Policy 4	Infrastructural proposals that enable access to fishing activities should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal which will enable access to fishing activities.
Fisheries Policy 5	Proposals, regardless of the type of activity they relate to, enhancing essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migratory routes should be supported. If proposals cannot enhance essential fish habitat, they must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migration routes. d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement will not enhance essential fish habitat in the survey area. However, a range of measures will be put in place to ensure that no significant adverse impacts on the same will occur. Refer to Section 7.2.3 of the Environmental Report.
Fisheries Policy 6	Ports and harbours should seek to engage with fishing and other relevant stakeholders at an early stage to discuss any changes in infrastructure that may affect them. Any port or harbour developments should take account of the needs of the dependent fishing fleets with a view to avoiding commercial harm where possible. Where a port or harbour has reached a minimum level of infrastructure required to support a viable fishing fleet, there should be a presumption in favour of maintaining this infrastructure, provided there is an ongoing requirement for it to remain in place and that it continues to be fit for purpose.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to any development in the port or harbour area.
Mineral Exploration and Mining			
Mineral Exploration and Mining Policy 1	Only proposals which are in line with national policy on mineral exploration and mining should be considered, provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the mineral exploration and mining consent processes.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for mineral exploration or mining.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping			

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1	To provide for shipping activity and freedom of navigation the following factors will be taken into account when reaching decisions regarding development and use: • The extent to which the locational decision interferes with existing or planned routes used by shipping, access to ports and harbours and navigational safety. This includes commercial anchorages and approaches to ports as well as key littoral and offshore routes; • A mandatory Navigation Risk Assessment; • Where interference is likely: whether reasonable alternatives can be identified; and • Where there are no reasonable alternatives: whether mitigation through measures adopted in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the International Maritime Organisation can be achieved at no significant cost to the shipping or ports sector.	No	This policy relates to the decision-making process. As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, no significant impacts on navigation or indeed port activity are likely to occur as a result of the proposed site investigation works. Refer to Section 8.1.4.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2	Proposals that may have a significant impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or c) mitigate significant adverse impacts, and d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, no significant impacts on navigation or indeed port activity are likely to occur as a result of the proposed site investigation works. Refer to Section 8.1.4.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 3	Proposals that may have a significant impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities must demonstrate consideration of the National Ports Policy, the National Planning Framework, and relevant provisions related to the TEN-T network.	No	As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, no significant impacts on navigation or indeed port activity are likely to occur as a result of the proposed site investigation works.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4	Proposals within ports limits, beside or in the vicinity of ports, and / or that impact upon the main routes of significance to a port, must demonstrate within applications that they have: • been informed by consultation at pre-application stage or earlier with the relevant port authority; • have carried out a navigational risk assessment including an analysis of maritime traffic in the area; and	Yes	Access to the Ports of Warrenpoint, Dundalk, Greenore, and Drogheda and Kilkeel Harbour will be reduced for the duration of the proposed survey works. The works will have a relatively short duration. Comprehensive mitigation measures to minimise the impact on port access, shipping and navigation have been proposed in Section 7.1.3 of the Environmental Report.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
	• have consulted Department of Transport, MSO and Commissioners of Irish Lights. Applicants must continue to engage parties identified in pre-application processes as appropriate during the decision-making process.		
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 5	Proposals for capital dredging will be supported where it is necessary to safeguard national port capacity and Ireland's international connectivity, and where required compliance assessments associated with authorisations have been carried out and incorporated into subsequent competent authority decision(s).	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for capital dredging
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 6	In areas of authorised dredging activity, including those subject to navigational dredging, proposals for other activities will not be supported unless they are compatible with the dredging activity.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report will not occur in an area of authorised dredging activity.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 7	Proposals for maintenance dredging activity will be supported where: • relevant decisions by competent authorities incorporate the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes, as well as necessary compliance assessments associated with authorisations, including in relation to the planning process; • there will be no significant adverse impact on marine activities or uses or the maritime area. Any potential adverse impact will be, in order of preference, avoided, minimised or mitigated; • dredged waste is managed in accordance with internationally agreed hierarchy of waste management options for sea disposal; • if disposing of dredged material at sea, existing registered disposal sites are used, in preference to new disposal sites; and • where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for maintenance dredging.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 8	Proposals that cause significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal areas should not be supported. Proposals that cannot avoid such impact must, in order of preference" a) minimise, b) mitigate, or c) if it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed sit investigation works will not give rise to significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal areas. As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, the nearest dredge material disposal sites, currently in use, is located 7.5 km to the north east of the survey area. No disposal sites have been identified that overlap with the survey area.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 9	Proposals for the management of dredged material must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy (see Glossary).	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for the management of dredged material.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 10	Proposals identifying new dredge disposal sites which are subject to best practice and guidance from previous studies should be supported where: • competent authority decisions incorporate necessary compliance assessments associated with authorisations; and • they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must include an adequate characterisation study, be assessed against the waste hierarchy and must be informed by consultation with all relevant stakeholders.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for new dredge disposal sites.
Safety at Sea			
Safety at Sea Policy 1	Proposals for installation, operation, and decommissioning of Offshore Wind Farms must demonstrate how they will: • Minimise navigational risk between commercial vessels arising from an increase in the density of vessels in maritime space as a result of wind farm layout; and • Allow for recreational vessels within the Offshore Wind Farm (including consideration of turbine height) or redirect recreational vessels, minimising navigational risk arising between recreational and commercial vessels.	Yes	The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application outlines a range of measures relating to navigational safety which will be put in place during the site investigation works- Refer to Section 7.1.3.
Safety at Sea Policy 2	Proposals for infrastructure that have the potential to significantly reduce under-keel clearance must demonstrate how they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report do not have the potential to significantly reduce under-keel clearance.
Safety at Sea Policy 3	All proposals for temporary or permanent fixed infrastructure in the maritime area must ensure navigational marking in accordance with appropriate international standards and ensure inclusion in relevant charts where applicable.	Yes	The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application outlines a range of measures which includes compliance with Commissioners of Irish Lights standard navigational safety requirements with regard to lighting, positioning and mooring of all relevant static equipment. Refer to Section 7.1.3.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Safety at Sea Policy 4	Establishing, changing or disestablishing Aids to Navigation (AtoN) must be sanctioned, in advance of works, by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	Yes	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal to change or disestablish Aids to Navigation. The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application outlines a range of measures which includes compliance with Commissioners of Irish Lights standard navigational safety requirements with regard to lighting, positioning and mooring of all relevant static equipment.
Safety at Sea Policy 5	Proposals must identify their potential impact, if any, on Maritime Emergency Response (Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Casualty and Pollution Response) operations. Where a proposal may have a significant impact on these operations it must demonstrate how it will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, or d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding, supported by parties responsible for maritime SAR.	Yes	As outlined in the Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application, a number of safety measures will be put in place during the site investigation works which will ensure that significant impacts on Maritime Emergency Response are avoided- such as provision of appropriate lighting and marine notifications. Refer to Section 7.1.1, 7.1.3 and 7.1.6 of the Environmental Report.
Sport and Recreation			
Sport and Recreation Policy 1	Proposals that promote sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation, while enhancing community health, wellbeing and quality of life, should be supported, provided that due consideration is given to environmental carrying capacities and tourism pressures.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal promote the sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation.
Sport and Recreation Policy 2	Proposals should demonstrate the following in relation to potential impact on recreation and tourism: • The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact sports clubs and other recreational users, including the extent to which proposals may interfere with facilities or other physical infrastructure. • The extent to which any proposal interferes with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety.	Yes	The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application outlines a range of measures that will be implemented during the proposed site investigation works in order to avoid or reduce potential impacts on recreation and tourism. Refer to Section 7.1.1, 7.1.3 and 7.1.6.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
	• The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.		
Sport and Recreation Policy 3	Opportunities to promote inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation should be supported, where appropriate and at the applicable scale, with a focus on facilities for people with disabilities.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal that will give rise to opportunities to promote inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation.
Sport and Recreation Policy 4	Proposals that improve access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities, and sport and recreation should be supported, where appropriate, at the applicable scale and aligned with existing development plans.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal to improve access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities, and sport and recreation
Sport and Recreation Policy 5	Proposals should seek to enhance water safety through provision of appropriate International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and European Committee for Standardization (CEN) compliant safety signage. In general the safety of persons should be a key consideration for planners and due consideration should be given to best practice guidance for marine and coastal recreation areas endorsed by the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group.	Yes	The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application sets out a range of measures relating to water safety during the site investigation works, including appropriate lighting and marine notifications. Refer to Section 7.1.1, 7.1.3 and 7.1.6.
Telecommunications			
Telecommunications Policy 1	Proposals that guarantee existing and future international telecommunications connectivity which is critically important to support the future needs of society, Government, the provision of Public Services and enterprise in Ireland, should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for a telecommunications project.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Telecommunications Policy 2	Preference should be given to proposals where evidence is provided of an integrated approach to development and activity, such as the bundling of cables (electricity and communications) where suitable, as well as pipelines for multiple activities, to minimise impacts on the marine environment, infrastructures and other users. Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through: a) avoiding, or b) minimising, or c) mitigating adverse impacts, or d) If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence does not relate to a proposal for a telecommunications project.
Telecommunications Policy 3	Preference should be given to proposals that protect submarine cables whilst achieving successful seabed user coexistence, such as the bundling of cables (electricity and communications) as well as pipelines for multiple activities where suitable. Proposals should specify if separate access to cables for the purposes of repair and maintenance is required. With regard to decommissioning redundant submarine cables, a risk-based approach should be applied with consideration given to cables being left in situ where this would minimise significant impacts on the physical, natural, societal, historic, and economic value of the area.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for a telecommunications project. There are no active cables within the survey area.
Telecommunications Policy 4	Proposals that ensure and enhance connectivity of Ireland's rural and island communities to high quality telecommunications networks should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for a telecommunications project.
Tourism			
Tourism Policy 1	Where appropriate, proposals enabling, promoting or facilitating sustainable tourism and recreation activities, particularly where this creates diversification or additional utilisation of related facilities beyond typical usage patterns, should be supported.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application is for site investigation work and thus does not relate to a proposal which enables, promotes or facilitates sustainable tourism and recreation activities.
Tourism Policy 2	Proposals must identify possible impacts on tourism. Where a potential significant impact upon tourism is identified it should be demonstrated how the potential negative consequences to tourism in communities will be minimised. This must include assessment of how the benefits of proposals are not outweighed by potential negative impacts.	Yes	The Environmental Report which accompanies the Foreshore Licence Application sets out a range of measures relating to the minimisation of potential impacts on tourism and recreation – refer to Section 7.1.2, 7.1.5 and 7.1.6. This includes avoidance or minimisation of impacts on recreational sailing, recreational fishing, and beach use at Dunany Bay Beach.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Relevant to Project?	Compliance of project with objectives of the NMPF
Tourism Policy 3	Proposals for tourism development should seek to optimise facilities and use of space by taking a cross-sectoral development approach that provides for multiple activities, whilst minimising the extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal for tourism.
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal			
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 1	Proposals by Irish Water related to the treatment and disposal of wastewater that: i) service the social and economic development of the country under the National Planning Framework; ii) resolve environmental issues at priority areas identified by the EPA; iii) contribute to the realisation of the objectives of: • Ireland's River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 • The Water Services Policy Statement 2018 – 2025 • Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2012 – 2020 should be supported, provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within relevant authorisation processes.	No	The subject Foreshore Licence Application does not relate to a proposal by Irish Water relating to the treatment and disposal of wastewater.
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 2	Proposals that have the potential to significantly adversely affect existing and planned wastewater management and treatment infrastructure where a consent or authorisation or lease has been granted or formally applied for by Irish Water should not be authorised unless: • compatibility with the existing, authorised, proposed or otherwise identified in consultations with Irish Water activity, can be satisfactorily demonstrated; • the proposal is clearly of strategic or national importance. Where possible, proposals that may affect Irish Water activities or plans should engage with Irish Water at the earliest available opportunity. Compatibility should be achieved, in order of preference, through: a) avoiding adverse impacts on those activities; and / or b) minimising impacts where they cannot be avoided; and / or c) mitigating impacts where they cannot be minimised.	No	The proposed site investigation works, as described in the Foreshore Licence Application and Section 4 of the accompanying Environmental Report do not have the potential to significantly adversely affect wastewater infrastructure.

4.2 Conclusion

This report sets out the findings of a compliance assessment of the proposed Oriel site investigation works with the policies and objectives of the NMPF. The assessment concluded that the proposed works will further the objectives and policies of the NMPF with respect to Offshore Renewable Energy. The works will not adversely affect the attainment of the overarching objectives and policies or the objectives and policies for the other key sectors.

5 Consultation with Third Parties

Oriel undertook an extensive public consultation campaign during the original Lease application process for the project in 2006 and 2007 and during the licence application in 2019 to ensure that all members of the public and the many interested and relevant bodies were kept fully informed of its proposals.

Oriel has also initiated an extensive stakeholder identification and consultation plan linked to the stages of the consent process. This includes formal consultation to comply with legislative requirements and additional engagement with stakeholder groups including fisheries organisations, port and harbour authorities, the marine regulators, marine recreational users, Louth County Council and local public representatives. Oriel's intention is to ensure that all members of the public and the many interest groups and relevant bodies are kept fully informed and engaged during the project assessment and consents processes.

Local groups and associations have been contacted during each phase of the project consent process to provide information on the latest project developments and to allow for opportunities to participate in the consent process and provide feedback on relevant issues of concern. Direct meetings were held with a number of local community groups, recreational marine users including sailing associations and marinas, and local public representatives. Over 200 persons joined a public webinar event and 138 meetings have been held with stakeholders to date (November 2021). Meetings have and will continue to be arranged with these groups on request. An online public consultation was held on the proposals for the project during February and March 2021, including a webinar and project briefings to interested community groups and public representatives. Oriel provides updates on its activities and plans via its website, directly to members of the pubic who have signed up to receive updates, via the public participation network and through press releases to the local press.

To inform the preparation of an EIAR and NIS to support Oriel's forthcoming application for development consent, Oriel and its EIA consultants have engaged with statutory consultees including relevant authorities and State agencies. This engagement has included a number of meetings with officers of NPWS to confirm the scope of the EIAR and NIS, the baseline surveys and report on findings obtained from these surveys to date. Oriel has also provided the scope of the EIAR to the NMS and reported on underwater archaeology to the NMS from the 2018 survey. The Oriel project team has also met with officers of Louth County Council, Warrenpoint Port, Dundalk Harbour and Drogheda Port.

An email was sent to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) of the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)on 24th August 2021 notifying them that this application was to be submitted and requesting that they revert with any input or comment.

A copy of this email can be found in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Consultation Correspondence

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday 24 August 2021 15:17
To: fem.dau@housing.gov.ie
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Oriel Windfarm, Co. Louth SI Foreshore Licence Application [Filed 24 Aug 2021 15:17]

DAU Reference: G Pre00249/2019

To whom it may concern

Oriel Windfarm Limited (Oriel) is an Irish renewable energy company which has been developing the proposed Oriel offshore wind farm located in the North West Irish Sea, 22km off the coast of Dundalk, County Louth.

In May 2019 Oriel obtained a Foreshore licence reference no. FS 006840 for initial surveys in the offshore wind farm area and cable corridor. Oriel undertook both onshore and offshore surveys and commenced the engineering design of the wind park and the cable routes. Oriel have also commenced the preparation of an EIAR and NIS for the wind farm and for this have held a number of environmental scoping meetings through 2019 to 2021 with NPWS officers on offshore ornithology, marine mammals and the benthic ecology (DAU reference G Pre00249/2019).

Oriel now proposes to undertake a detailed geotechnical investigation and further site surveys. The investigation would include a geophysical survey, geotechnical and sediment sampling and environmental and ecological surveys. The purpose of the geotechnical investigation is to investigate the stability of the soil for the design of foundations and the detailed routing of the inter array and export cables. The data would also be used to inform environmental appraisals by providing further information on the current situation and allowing impacts to be predicted and subsequently, appropriate mitigation to be developed.

We held a pre-application meeting with the Foreshore Licencing Unit in July 2021 and will be submitting an application for a foreshore licence for the SI shortly.

We are seeking input or comment from the DAU in respect of the proposals as outlined. In particular, if DAU has any specific requirements in respect of the initial surveys then we would be grateful if a response could be provided as soon as possible.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Marie

[redacted]
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