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PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

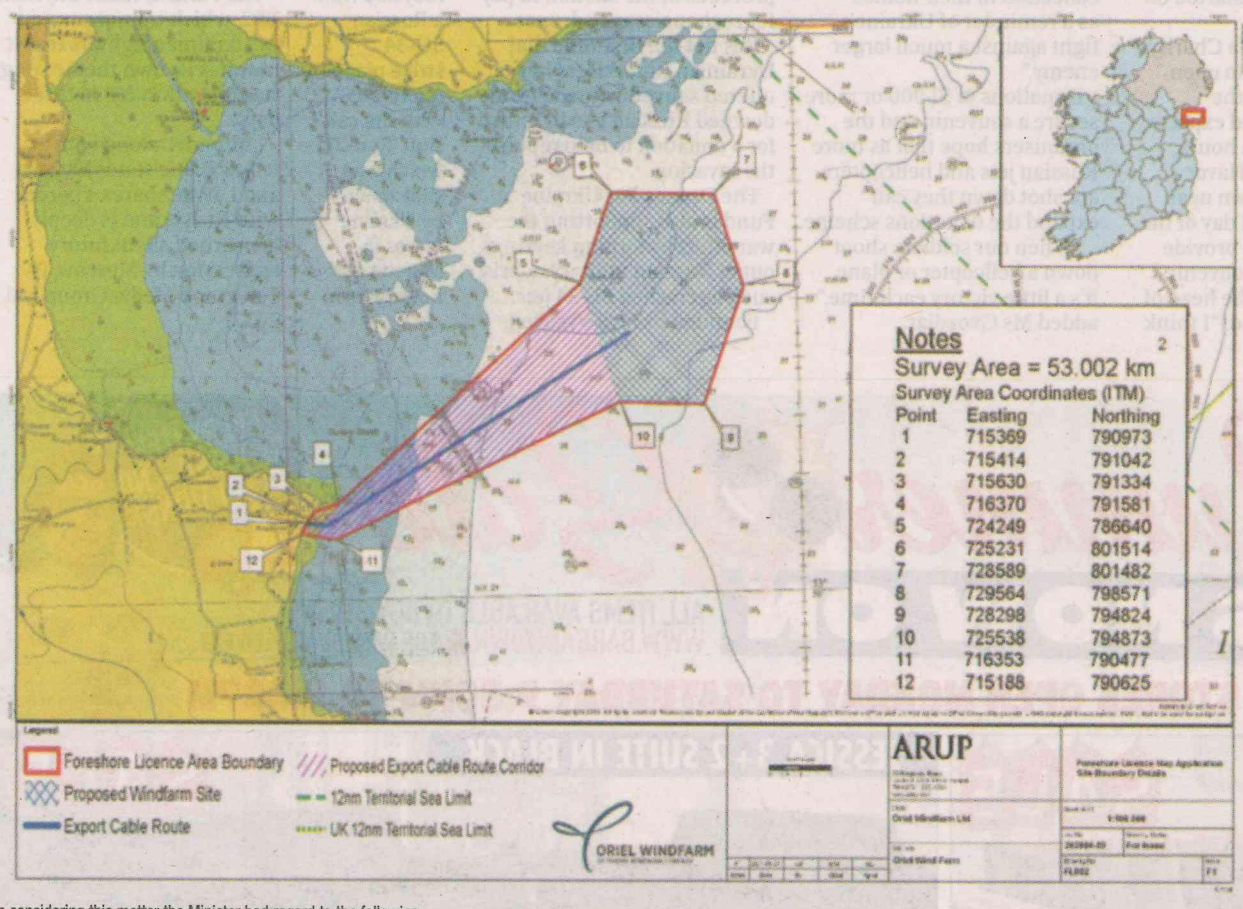
Application for a foreshore licence in relation to Oriel Windfarm Limited site investigations off County Louth, ref: FS007383.

Oriel Windfarm Limited (Oriel) is an Irish renewable energy company developing the proposed Oriel offshore wind farm located in the North-West Irish Sea, 22km off the coast of Dundalk, Co Louth. The proposed Oriel offshore wind farm will include wind turbines mounted onto a foundation installed into the seabed, an offshore substation and interlinking cabling between the turbines and the substation, and an export cable between the substation and the shore.

Oriel has applied for a Foreshore Licence to undertake detailed geotechnical and geophysical investigations, ecological surveys and metocean 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 cables between the turbines and the export cables. The purpose of the geophysical survey is to characterise the layers of sediment/rock underneath the seafloor and to achieve a detailed seabed morphology and seafloor mapping. Further ecological surveys and measurements of the wind, wave and currents (metocean) will also be undertaken.

This Foreshore Licence application is for permission to undertake these survey works on the proposed development site. Oriel proposes to apply for a licence for a duration of 36 months.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Regulation 42(8) of S.I. No. 477/2011 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 that the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, in considering an application for a foreshore licence under the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended and in particular whether or not the plan or project would have a significant impact on a European Site, has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required. A copy of the Appropriate Assessment screening decision is available on:
https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/b8eb7-oriel-windfarm-limited-site-investigations-for-the-proposed-offshore-oriel-wind-farm/



In considering this matter the Minister had regard to the following:

1. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report, prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Marine Environment Advisor.
2. The Marine Advisor Environment Screening Stage Report, prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Marine Environment Advisor.
3. A number of application documents submitted by Oriel Windfarm Limited, which informed the Screening for Appropriate Assessment and are contained in the submission the Minister determined on.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister will carry out an Appropriate Assessment and in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42 (12). The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), public submissions are invited for the purposes of conducting the Appropriate Assessment in this case. Any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project within 30 days of the date of this notice. The Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during the public consultation.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement included with this application, and the other information and documentation relevant to the application, are available for inspection for 30 calendar days, between 14 June 2022 and 14 July 2022, free of charge at:

• Planning Office of Louth County Council
Town Hall, Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
Opening hours: 9am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. Appointment not required.

• Dundalk Garda Station
The Crescent, Demesne, Dundalk, County Louth
Opening hours: 24/7 Monday to Sunday. Appointment not required.

The documentation is available on the Department's website:
https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/b8eb7-oriel-windfarm-limited-site-investigations-for-the-proposed-offshore-oriel-wind-farm/

Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation concerning the proposed plan or project for the purposes of conducting the Appropriate Assessment may do so between 14 June 2022 and 14 July 2022 (quoting ref: FS007383) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie

The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 14 July 2022

Take notice that material upon which the Minster shall make the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:
http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process

Dated this 14 June 2022