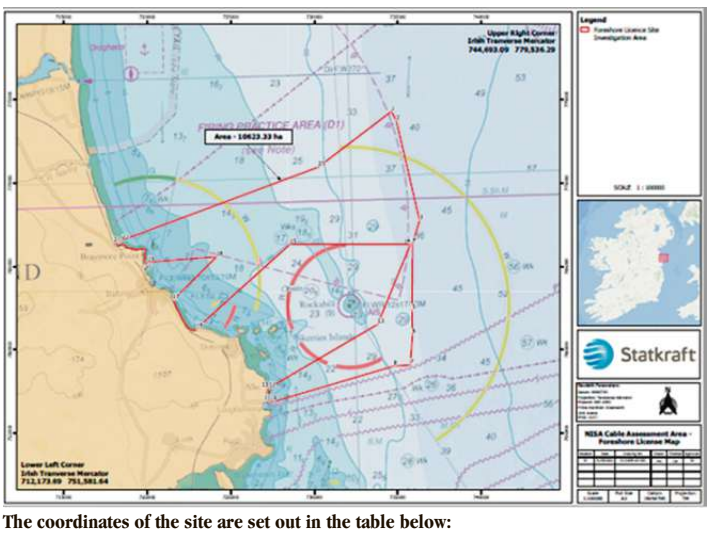
PUBLIC NOTICE

APPROPRATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING DETERMINATION / INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING STAGE 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Application for a foreshore licence in relation to North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited (NISA Ltd.) off Counties Louth, Meath and Dublin, ref: FS007358 for site investigations necessary to determine the seabed and sub-sea conditions to establish the optimum location for and design of the export cable(s) to shore and to establish the most appropriate landfall location for the export cable(s) for the North Irish Sea Array (NISA) offshore windfarm, located off the coasts of Dublin, Meath and Louth. The application includes for geophysical surveys (multi-beam echo sounder, sub bottom profiling, side-scan sonar and magnetometer), geotechnical surveys (cone penetration tests and vibrocores along the potential routes and boreholes at the landfalls) and ecological surveys (fisheries surveys, benthic grab samples, intertidal benthic sampling). The map below shows the outline of the Foreshore Licence Site Investigation Area.



The coordinates of the site are set out in the table below:

System: IRENET95 ITM			WGS 84 / UTM zone 30N	
ID	Easting	Northing	Easting	Northing
1	734619.1	774283.2	304531.1	5954313.9
2	734914.2	773720.0	304785.9	5953731.3
3	736305.0	767750.8	305753.9	5947679.0
4	735893.8	766379.9	305247.4	5946340.4
5	735852.6	762367.7	304924.6	5942340.8
6	735884.9	760941.0	304856.7	5940915.4
7	735752.6	759088.9	304594.8	5939077.1
8	734760.4	759022.8	303600.4	5939080.8
9	727568.8	756893.2	296276.5	5937460.9
10	727332.9	756934.2	296044.2	5937518.4
11	727206.8	757704.5	295972.3	5938295.7
12	727295.8	757718.8	296062.2	5938303.7
13	733798.3	761528.6	302816.4	5941648.0
14	735754.5	766318.6	305104.1	5946289.0
15	728541.3	766318.6	297908.4	5946795.6
16	722966.4	761290.8	291993.6	5942171.1
17	721529.9	762972.0	290678.5	5943949.2
18	724142.3	765573.2	293467.4	5946360.9
19	720033.1	765246.7	289345.0	5946323.7
20	719817.1	765094.9	289118.8	5946187.5
21	718193.6	766390.2	287590.1	5947593.9
22	718494.1	766561.4	287901.9	5947743.5
23	730235.3	770944.7	299923.3	5951291.6

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/c7c0a-fs007358-statkraft-north-irish-sea-array-nisa-site-investigations-for-export-cable-route/

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

1. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report prepared by Independent Environmental Consultants;
2. The Environmental Report prepared by the Department's Marine Advisor (environment).
3. A number of application documents submitted by NISA Ltd., 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 20th April 2022 and 19th May 2022, free of charge at:

- **Fingal County Council,** County Hall, Main Street, Swords, County Dublin K67 X8Y2
- **Louth County Council,** County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, A91 KFW6
- **Balbriggan Garda Station,** Drogheda Road, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, K32 EW01
- **Drogheda Garda Station,** Father Connolly Way, Downtown Drogheda, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 P704
- **Louth County Library,** Roden Place, Townparks, Dundalk, Co. Louth A91 RC44
- **Fingal County Library,** St George's Square, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin K32 TW27

The documentation is available on the Department's website:

https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/c7c0a-fs007358-statkraft-north-irish-sea-array-nisa-site-investigations-for-export-cable-route/

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 20th April 2022 and 19th May 2022 (quoting ref: FS007358) 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 20th May 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 20th April 2022.