Appendix 6-1
Public and Other Stakeholders Consultation Report

ORIEL WINDFARM
OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

rps
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

PARK WIND
JERA GROUP

ESB
Energy for generations

ORIEL WIND FARM PROJECT

Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Appendix 6-1: Public and other Stakeholders Consultation Report

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March 2024

Public and other Stakeholders Consultation Report

Oriel Windfarm Limited

23 March 2024

ORIEL WINDFARM
OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

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OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Information

Oriel Windfarm Limited is an Irish company established in 2005 to develop the Oriel Wind Farm Project (the Project). The company is a joint venture between Parkwind N.V. (Parkwind) and ESB Wind Development, a wholly owned subsidiary of Electricity Supply Board (ESB). A joint venture agreement was executed between Parkwind and ESB to formalise the development of the project, with Parkwind holding the controlling number of shares.

Parkwind is a green energy company that develops, finances and operates offshore wind farms. With more than a decade of experience and 771 MW under operational management in the Belgian North Sea, Parkwind is currently expanding internationally and has an active development pipeline of 4.5GW (net) across several European and other markets where it is working with a number of credible partners. Parkwind has also recently constructed the 257MW Arcadis Ost 1 project in Germany which will become fully operational in 2024. Committed to making green energy available and affordable for everyone through its unique approach covering the entire value chain of offshore wind, Parkwind has established itself as a reliable and competitive partner to communities, governments and suppliers globally. It employs over 160 professionals working in Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Greece and Australia/New Zealand.

ESB, Ireland's leading electricity utility, was established in 1927 and the Irish Government are its majority shareholders. As part of their Brighter Future Strategy, ESB work with a range of companies to bring low carbon and renewable energy developments to the market. In 2019, ESB took a stake in the Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm, currently in construction off the east coast of Scotland. More recently, ESB took a 50:50 joint venture stake in Inch Cape Offshore Limited, a large wind farm development in the early stages of development off the east coast of Scotland.

1.2 Project Summary

The Project has been under development for a number of years and initial studies for the project were undertaken in 2006 and 2007. The project location off the NE coast of Ireland to the East of Dundalk Bay, was chosen based on an assessment of key criteria including; water depth, seabed sediments, wind speeds, shelter from high wave loads, low tidal currents, access to existing grid infrastructure, avoidance of trawling grounds and shipping channels. The Project has been designed to fit within the capacity available on the existing grid without the need for HV-Grid upgrades.

In 2010 a conditional foreshore lease was granted to the Project, followed by a grid connection offer in 2011. Following a period of delay due to policy uncertainty, Parkwind joined the Project in 2017 as a strategic investor and has been leading the development of the wind farm since then. In January 2019, ESB joined as a partner in the Project creating a strong consortium with the resources and capability to deliver the Project.

In May 2019 the Project was granted a foreshore licence to undertake offshore environmental and technical studies of the proposed wind farm site. This enabled the completion of detailed design and planning work on the Project, including detailed offshore and onshore site assessments, environmental surveying, project design and supply chain pricing.

The proposed wind farm will have a maximum export capacity (MEC) of 375 MW and consist of up to 25 offshore wind turbines. The closest wind turbine will be approximately 6 km from shore on the Cooley Peninsula. The offshore cable corridor extends approximately 11 km southwest from the wind farm area to a landfall south of Dunany Point. From the landfall, an underground onshore cable will connect the offshore wind farm to an onshore substation, located at Stickillin, east of Ardee and then connect to the existing National Electricity Grid at this point. The onshore cable route is approximately 20.1 km in length and is predominantly routed along public roads.

As a project that met the requirements for relevant maritime usage defined by section 100 of the Maritime Area Planning Act (SI 50 of 2021) Oriel applied to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) on the 25 April 2022 and was awarded a MAC on the 23 December 2022 (Ref. 2022-MAC-001).

1.3 Planning Application

The Maritime Area Consent sets out rights, entitlements and conditions for Oriel to occupy an area of the seabed on a non-exclusive basis for the purpose of carrying out the construction of an offshore wind farm subject to the project securing development permission from An Bord Pleanála. It does not grant the right to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Project for which development consent or planning permission is required. A planning application will be made to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission to construct, operate, maintain and ultimately decommission the project.

This new application will encompass all onshore and offshore works for the project including an onshore underground cable and onshore substation, which will connect the wind farm to the grid. This consent application will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and other appropriate assessments.

As part of the process of preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Oriel carried out extensive statutory and non-statutory public consultations. These consultations provided the public with a view of the project as it is re-emerging, using new technology.

Feedback from this consultation process has been integrated into an EIAR, which forms the basis of the planning application.

1.4 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to detail the public consultation processes and feedback received during the non-statutory public consultations and communications undertaken for the Project. These consultation and communication activities were undertaken to generate awareness about the Project proposals and provide information to the local community and key stakeholders in the region where the Project is proposed. The feedback received from the consultation efforts has informed the design of the wind farm where possible and fed into the assessments carried out as part of the EIAR and NIS preparation. Consultation on the project will continue as the project progresses.

1.5 Summary of Consultation

The Oriel project team have undertaken regular consultations throughout the development of the project, starting in the early 2000's during the early development phase and more recent engagement since recommencement of the new phase of the project in 2019. This has sought to inform stakeholders of the development of the Project and obtain regular feedback throughout the development activities. The phases of engagement during the development of the Project are summarised in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1 Phases of Public Consultation

Period	Phase of Engagement
Pre 2010	Extensive public engagement campaign during the early phase of the project, including statutory consultation processes in 2007 for the original Foreshore Lease Application.
2018	Information on the reactivation of the project.
2019	Information on the application for a Foreshore Licence and the offshore activities planned under the licence
2020	Information on Technical and Environmental surveys underway,
2021	Community Consultation Round 1 Events and follow-up engagements. Project information available and regular updates to contact lists.
2022	Information on an application for a new foreshore licence required to inform the detailed design of the Project. Project information available and regular updates to contact lists.
2023	Community Consultation Round 2 Events and follow-up engagements. Project information available and regular updates to contact lists.

While consultation and engagements with various stakeholders and community groups has been ongoing throughout the development of the Project, a structured approach to consultation and information sharing was also used, based around significant milestones for the Project. This included an online public consultation in 2021 when Covid restrictions were in place and second in- person consultation was held in January and February 2023, when online tools and public exhibitions were used to provide information on the Project. Additional statutory consultations were also held as part of the Foreshore Licence applications made by the project in 2018 and 2022. Key aspects of the consultation are summarised below.

Media	Website - a detailed website was established with information on the project and regular updates on activities. Regular press releases and advertising campaigns. Community Liaison Officers and Fisheries liaison personnel were appointed by the project and available to act as points of contact between the project and these communities.
Webinars	Two online webinars were held where information was provided, and question and answer sessions held.
Meetings	Meetings with various community groups, politicians, local representatives and individuals.
Newsletters	Newsletters were issued regularly to parties who registered their interest in staying up to date on the project.
Online exhibition	A dedicated online exhibition portal was developed and used as an alternative to in-person events during Covid restrictions and as an addition to in-person events.
Project open days	Project exhibitions were held in the main towns in the region where information on the project was available and team members were present to answers questions.
Information Leaflets	Project information leaflets were prepared and made available online and at events. Leaflets were also dropped to all residents along the cable route in 2021 and 2023.
Project Information office	A dedicated project information office was opened in Dundalk IT and remains open.
Phone and Email	A dedicated phone line and email address were provided and advertised where interested parties could contact the project team.

2 COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION APPROACH

2.1 Goals of Consultation

The consultation on the Oriel project has sought to ensure that the requirements under Irish law and the Aarhus Convention have been met and exceeded. The process has ensured that clear, factual information has been made available to all and that an open and transparent approach has been undertaken at all times.

The consultation used a number of engagement methods both online and in-person and advertised through email, public participation networks, online media, regional newspapers and posted leaflets to local residents. A local project office was opened in DkIT in December 2020 and remains in place for consultation meetings and engagement as required. All the above methods have sought to ensure that all interested persons have had access to the information necessary and the opportunity to engage with the Oriel project team. All observations made were responded to within an appropriate timeframe and considered by the team in the project design.

2.2 Communications Principles

The public engagement that was undertaken for the project was based on the following core principles established in a stakeholder engagement plan:

- Oriel will endeavour to engage with integrity, fairness and transparency.
- Oriel will engage with the community from an early stage and understand the benefits of such engagement.
- Oriel will respond to questions in a timely fashion and in as comprehensive a manner as possible.
- Oriel will seek to understand and where possible incorporate the views of the local community in the design of our project.
- Our engagement will continue throughout the project, from design, through planning and subject to consent, into the construction and operation phases.
- Oriel will endeavour to ensure that the local community benefits from the Oriel project over the lifetime of the project.

The consultation processes undertaken during the period 2018 to 2024 comply with these principles and lay the foundations for further engagement as the project progresses.

2.3 Best Practice Public Participation & Compliance

The Oriel Wind Farm project team is committed to running public consultation on an ongoing basis which is open, transparent and based on best practice guidelines from Ireland and Europe including the following:

- Department of Environment Communications and Climate Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland – Guidelines for Community Engagement;
- IWEA Community Liaison Strategy;
- IWEA Best Practice Principles in Community Engagement and Community Commitment;

- Guidance on EIS and NIS Preparation for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2017).
- We have also incorporated the relevant requirements under European and National planning legislation including:
- Aarhus Convention (1998) which sets out basic rules to promote the involvement of citizens in environmental matters;
- European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007, which is the relevant national legislation transposing the Aarhus Convention; and
- Planning and Development Act (2000 as amended) and Regulations (2001 as amended).

We have also sought to incorporate what is understood to be the direction of policy in relation to the Marine Area Planning legislation.

2.4 Geographic Area of Consultation

The consultation area for the project was guided by the study areas identified for the EIAR and extended from Kilkeel, Co. Down in the north through to Skerries, Co. Dublin in the south. The consultation also included a corridor from the coast to Ardee along the onshore cable route to the substation.

3 COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND MATERIALS

The Oriel project team have used a range of tools and materials to provide information about the project and to engage with stakeholders, as detailed below.

3.1. Project website

A project website, www.orielwindfarm.ie was developed, which provided a key resource and portal for stakeholder engagement. The website provided the following:

- Entry to the public virtual exhibition
- Ability to book a place on the online webinar
- Newsletters and press releases issued on the Projet;
- Information on the project
- Links to Contact the project team
- A form to Leave feedback

3.2 Project Brochure

As part of the consultation, a project brochure was produced. This was made available for download on our website, in the virtual consultation and was shared with many participants in the consultation.

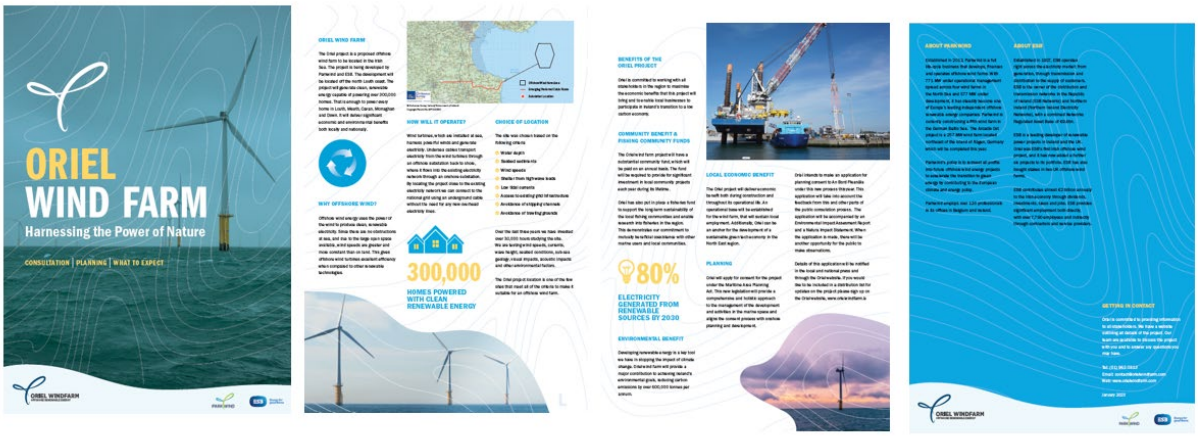


Figure 3-1 Project Brochure

3.3 Phone number and Email contacts

With so much of the consultation taking place online, a phone number for the project was provided in all our advertising, in press releases and on our website. The telephone linked to an answering service and all calls were directed to the project's Community Liaison Officer.

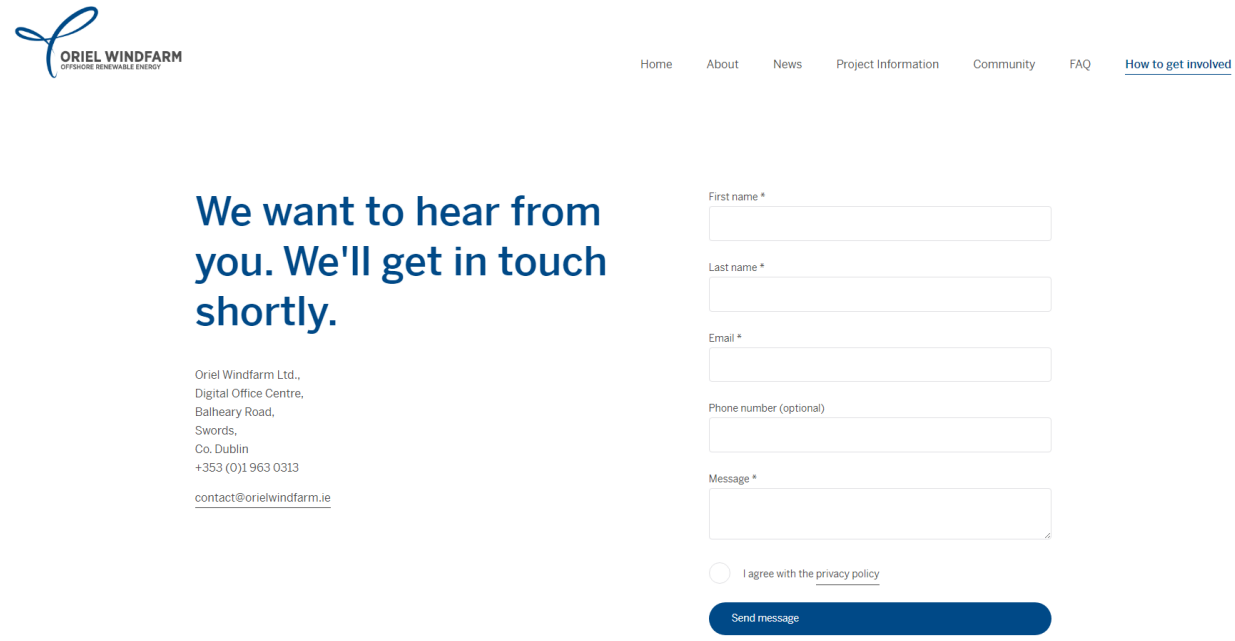


Figure 3-2 Contact information page on Orielwindfarm.ie

3.4 Community Liaison Officer

Oriel appointed a Community Liaison Officer, David Linnane, to the project in 2018. David's role is to engage with members of the local community and act as a point of contact for any group or individual who has questions about the project.

In the normal course of events, David met people face to face, however during the Covid restriction period, all engagement was via email, phone and zoom calls. The Community Liaison Officer role will remain in place for the duration of the Project.

3.5 Project newsletters

Project updates were emailed to a list of people who expressed interest in being kept up to date on the project. Anyone who attended the online and in-person events were given the option to be kept informed and there was also a facility on the Oriel website where interested parties signed up to be included in these updates. Newsletters were issued twice yearly from January 2020.

3.6 Public Information Office

A dedicated public information office was opened in the Regional Development Centre at Dundalk IT in December 2020 and has remained open since then. The office is available for interested parties to arrange a meeting with one of the project team and has information displayed and available on the Project.

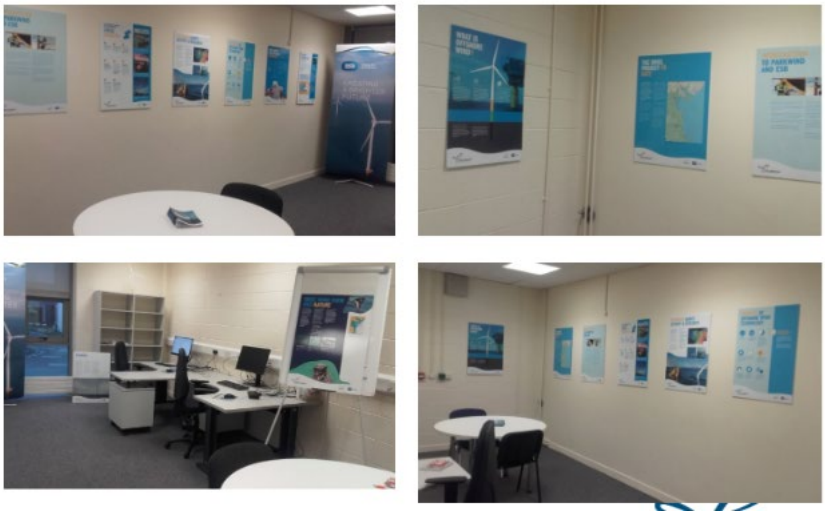


Figure 3-3 Project Information Office Dundalk IT

3.7 Meetings

The project team have used both online meetings through Teams and Zoom and face-to face meetings to meet with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the consultation. Meetings have been held at a range of venues including outdoor at viewpoint locations, at the Oriel Project office in DKIT and at stakeholder offices.

4 COMMUNICATION PROMOTION

Communications were essential to the success of the consultation and to ensuring that people had access to the key project events.

4.1 How the project and consultations were publicised

4.1.1 Advertising

Advertising played a key role in informing the local community about the project. Advertising of the foreshore licence applications and statutory consultations were taken in local and national newspapers. Advertisements were also published in local publications covering an area from North County Dublin to County Down, to publicise the Round 1 and 2 public consultation events.

Clear feature adverts were chosen for the project to ensure that it stood out. It was designed in a way to be consistent with project branding, featuring the project logo prominently.

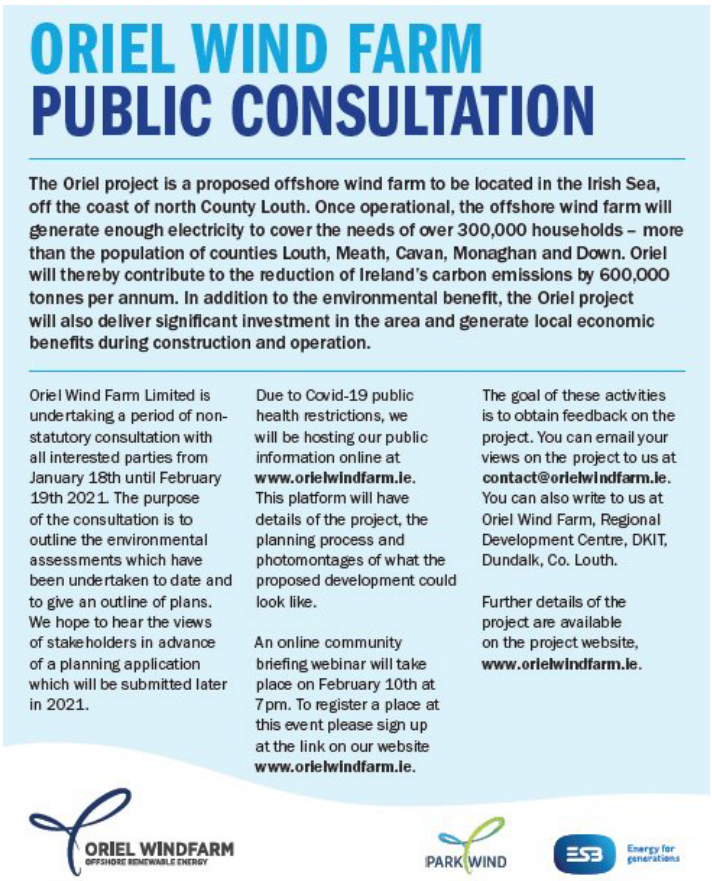
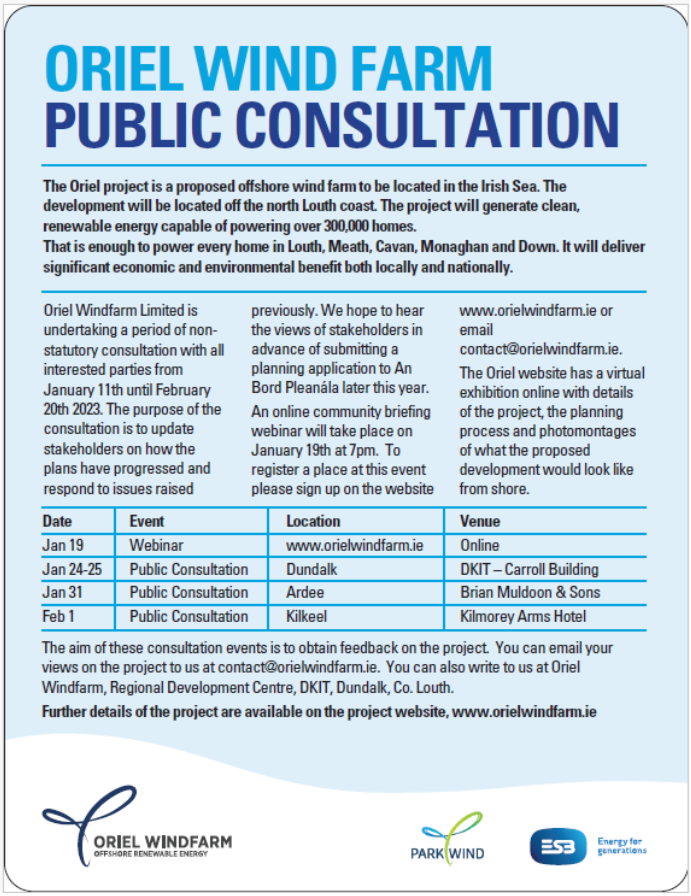


Figure 4-1 Advertisement for the Round 1 Public Events in January 2021



ORIEL WIND FARM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Oriel project is a proposed offshore wind farm to be located in the Irish Sea. The development will be located off the north Louth coast. The project will generate clean, renewable energy capable of powering over 300,000 homes.
That is enough to power every home in Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan and Down. It will deliver significant economic and environmental benefit both locally and nationally.

Oriel Windfarm Limited is undertaking a period of non-statutory consultation with all interested parties from January 11th until February 20th 2023. The purpose of the consultation is to update stakeholders on how the plans have progressed and respond to issues raised previously. We hope to hear the views of stakeholders in advance of submitting a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later this year.

An online community briefing webinar will take place on January 19th at 7pm. To register a place at this event please sign up on the website www.orielwindfarm.ie or email contact@orielwindfarm.ie.

The Oriel website has a virtual exhibition online with details of the project, the planning process and photomontages of what the proposed development would look like from shore.

Date	Event	Location	Venue
Jan 19	Webinar	www.orielwindfarm.ie	Online
Jan 24-25	Public Consultation	Dundalk	DKIT – Carroll Building
Jan 31	Public Consultation	Ardee	Brian Muldoon & Sons
Feb 1	Public Consultation	Kilkeel	Kilmorey Arms Hotel

The aim of these consultation events is to obtain feedback on the project. You can email your views on the project to us at contact@orielwindfarm.ie. You can also write to us at Oriel Windfarm, Regional Development Centre, DKIT, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

Further details of the project are available on the project website, www.orielwindfarm.ie

ORIEL WINDFARM
OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY
PARK WIND
ESB Energy for generations

Figure 4-2 Advertisement for the Round 2 Public Events in January 2023

These adverts were taken in the following publications, which appeared in both print and digital editions.

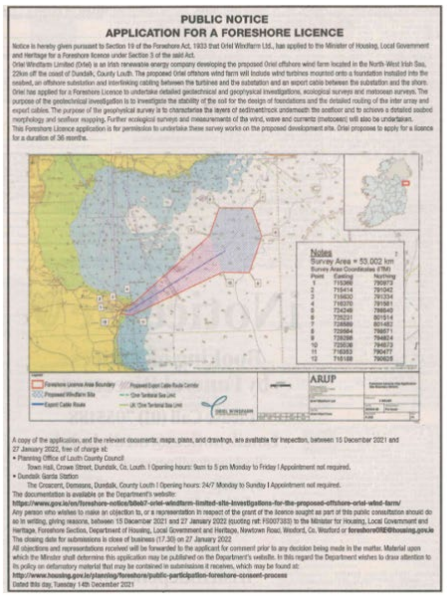
Table 4-1 Publication of Oriel Consultation Advertisements

Publication	Consultation Events Round 1	Consultation Events Round 2
Dundalk Democrat	January 19, 2021	January 10, 2023
The Argus	January 19, 2021	January 11, 2023
Drogheda Independent	January 19, 2021	January 11, 2023
Newry and Mourne Observer	January 21, 2021	January 18, 2023
Drogheda Leader	January 26, 2021	January 11, 2023
Fingal Independent	January 19 & 26, 2021	-

Formal public notice advertising was published for both foreshore licence applications and the Natura Impact Assessment process for the second foreshore licence in November 2021. This was followed with a notice on the consultation period for the stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of this foreshore licence application in June 2022.

Publication	Foreshore Licence 1	Foreshore Licence 2
Dundalk Democrat	November 27, 2018	December 14, 2021
The Argus	November 27, 2018	December 14, 2021
The independent	November 23, 2018	December 14, 2021

Publication	Foreshore Licence 2 stage 2 consultation	Foreshore Licence 2 notice of determination
The Independent	June 14, 2022	June 10, 2023
The Argus	June 14, 2022	June 14, 2023
Dundalk Democrat	January 19, 2021	June 13, 2023
Inis Oifiguil	-	June 2, 2023


PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE


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

Figure 4-3 Examples of Advertisements for Foreshore Licence Applications in 2022 & 2023

4.1.2 Media Relations

Press releases have been issued to the main regional media at all key project milestones. These include:

- November 2017 – Reactivation of the project and entry of Parkwind

- March 2018 – ESB entry into the project
- November 2018 – Foreshore Licence Application submission
- April 2020 – Completion of Geotechnical Surveys
- December 2020 - Opening of the Oriel Windfarm project office in DKIT and the forthcoming public consultation.
- January 2021 – Commencement of the public consultation events round 1.
- February 2021 – Two-page article on the project in the Dundalk Argus
- November 2021 – Statutory Consultation on Foreshore Licence Application
- January 2023 - Commencement of the public consultation events round 2.
- May 2023 – Intention to continue development following ORESS auction.
- June 2023 – Foreshore licence stage 2 consultation
- December 2023 – Early notification that the project will submit a planning application early in 2024

4.2 Engagement through PPN and District Community Forum

The PPN (Public Participation Network) in Louth was identified as a key channel for communicating with groups in the immediate area of the project. We engaged with the PPN and they agreed to include the material from Oriel in their weekly newsletter, which is distributed to residents' associations, community groups and interested individuals throughout County Louth.

In addition to including the content in their newsletter, the Louth PPN also tweeted about the consultation from their Twitter account.

We also sought to engage in a similar method with community organisations in County Down. The Newry and Mourne District Council has established a District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum in each of its seven District Electoral Areas. The DEA Forums have been developed as a model of engagement and provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in discussion and operate as part of the decision-making process. The relevant forum areas were Crotlieve and The Mournes. In each case we engaged with the local co-ordinator who agreed to distribute information regarding the Oriel consultation to their network of community groups.

4.3 Engagement with Public Representatives

In addition to their role of representing the public, we also recognised that the Public Representatives would be key in communicating the details of the consultation to the general public. We prioritised communication with this group from the outset.

In the Republic of Ireland, we communicated from early on with Local Authority members, TDs, Senators and the MEP based in Louth. We also engaged with councillors in the Balbriggan area of Fingal County Council and the Laytown-Bettystown area of Meath County Council.

In Northern Ireland we engaged with Newry and Mourne District Council, local MLAs in South Down and the MP for South Down.

All these groups were invited to a meeting at a time of their choosing either as individuals or in Groups. The meetings (virtual) which took place were as follows:

- Louth County Council - Ardee electoral area;
- Colm Markey MEP;
- Ged Nash TD;
- Ruari O'Murchú TD & Sinn Féin members of Louth County Council;
- Senator John McGahon;
- Senator Erin McCreesh; and
- Newry and Mourne District Council.

These meetings and engagements led to further meetings with public representatives helping us to facilitate meetings with members of the community in and around Togher and Templetown (post end of the official consultation phase).

Many members also used their own Twitter and Facebook accounts to publicise the consultation, these included:

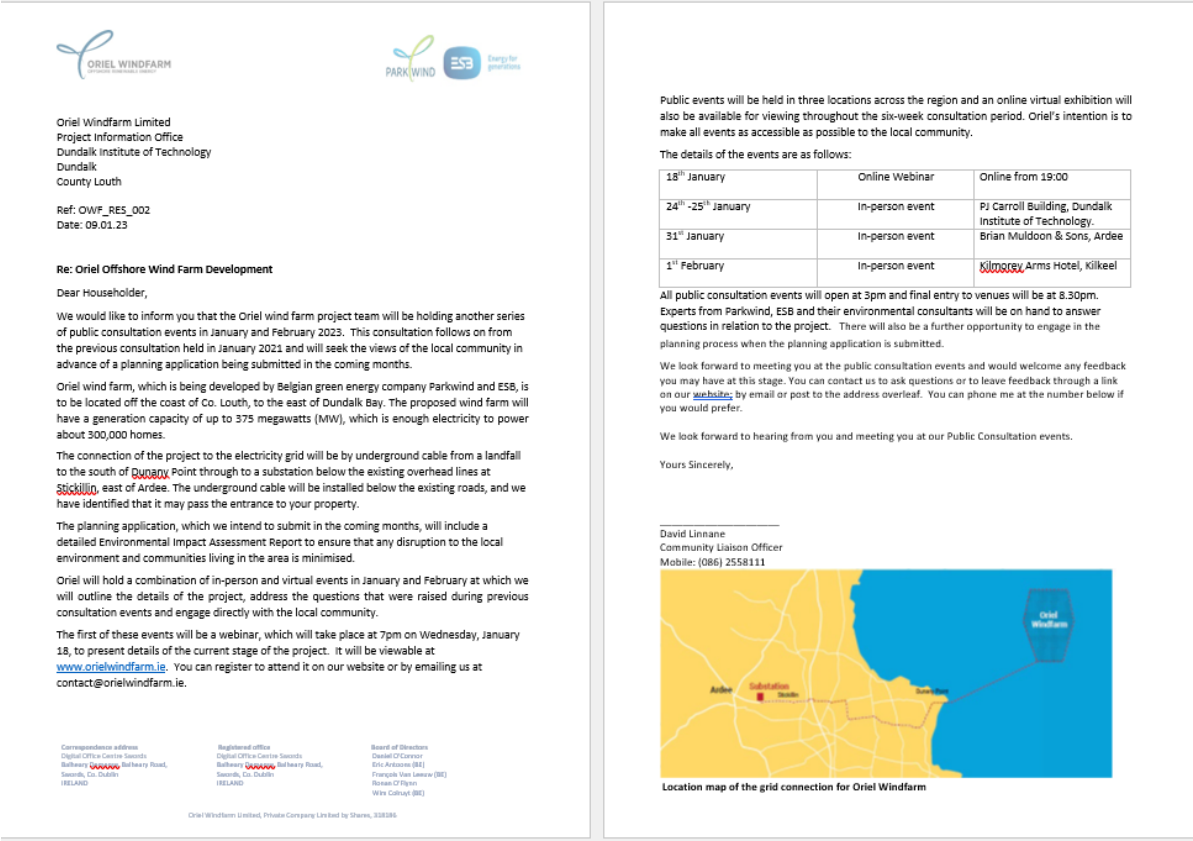
- Cllr. Tom Cunningham;
- Cllr. John Sheridan;
- Cllr. Antoin Watters;
- Cllr. Michelle Hall; and
- Colm Markey MEP.

4.4 Direct Mail

The onshore elements of the project are the onshore cable from the landfall to a new substation to connect the project to the existing transmission grid. We are therefore determined to ensure engagement with people along the route from the proposed landing at Dunany Point to the proposed substation, east of Ardee.

All homes adjacent to the cable route received a letter and project brochure informing them of the consultation process and outlining how they could get involved. The letter also included a map and information regarding the project.

For each public consultation period (Jan 2021 and Jan 2023) a total of 190 letters were distributed by hand in accordance with the Covid 19 procedures.



Oriel Windfarm Limited
Project Information Office
Dundalk Institute of Technology
Dundalk
County Louth

Ref: OWF_RES_002
Date: 09.01.23

Re: Oriel Offshore Wind Farm Development

Dear Householder,

We would like to inform you that the Oriel wind farm project team will be holding another series of public consultation events in January and February 2023. This consultation follows on from the previous consultation held in January 2021 and will seek the views of the local community in advance of a planning application being submitted in the coming months.

Oriel wind farm, which is being developed by Belgian green energy company Parkwind and ESB, is to be located off the coast of Co. Louth, to the east of Dundalk Bay. The proposed wind farm will have a generation capacity of up to 375 megawatts (MW), which is enough electricity to power about 300,000 homes.

The connection of the project to the electricity grid will be by underground cable from a landfall to the south of Dunany Point through to a substation below the existing overhead lines at Stickillin, east of Ardee. The underground cable will be installed below the existing roads, and we have identified that it may pass the entrance to your property.

The planning application, which we intend to submit in the coming months, will include a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report to ensure that any disruption to the local environment and communities living in the area is minimised.

Oriel will hold a combination of in-person and virtual events in January and February at which we will outline the details of the project, address the questions that were raised during previous consultation events and engage directly with the local community.

The first of these events will be a webinar, which will take place at 7pm on Wednesday, January 18, to present details of the current stage of the project. It will be viewable at www.orielwindfarm.ie. You can register to attend it on our website or by emailing us at contact@orielwindfarm.ie.

Correspondence address
Digital Office Centre Swords
Belheary Business Park, Belheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin
IRELAND

Registered office
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Board of Directors
Daniel O'Connor
Eric Antoons (BE)
François Van Leeuw (BE)
Ronan O'Flynn
Wim Colruyt (BE)

Oriel Windfarm Limited, Private Company Limited by Shares, 318186

Public events will be held in three locations across the region and an online virtual exhibition will also be available for viewing throughout the six-week consultation period. Oriel's intention is to make all events as accessible as possible to the local community.

The details of the events are as follows:

18th January	Online Webinar	Online from 19:00
24th -25th January	In-person event	PJ Carroll Building, Dundalk Institute of Technology.
31st January	In-person event	Brian Muldoon & Sons, Ardee
1st February	In-person event	Kilmorey Arms Hotel, Kilkeel

All public consultation events will open at 3pm and final entry to venues will be at 8.30pm. Experts from Parkwind, ESB and their environmental consultants will be on hand to answer questions in relation to the project. There will also be a further opportunity to engage in the planning process when the planning application is submitted.

We look forward to meeting you at the public consultation events and would welcome any feedback you may have at this stage. You can contact us to ask questions or to leave feedback through a link on our website; by email or post to the address overleaf. You can phone me at the number below if you would prefer.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at our Public Consultation events.

Yours Sincerely,

David Linnane
Community Liaison Officer
Mobile: (086) 2558111

Location map of the grid connection for Oriel Windfarm

Figure 4-4 Example of letter distributed to householders in December 2023

5 PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS 2021

Public events in 2021 were restricted by protocols for the control of the spread of Sars-Cov-2 and there were restrictions on public gatherings since 13 March 2020. While these restrictions varied in intensity, at no stage would it have been possible to host a fully open public event, where members of the public and Oriel staff could gather without restriction.

In planning the consultation, consideration was given to a heavily restricted public exhibition run over a number of weeks with online booking for specific 45-minute slots. The increasingly uncertain nature of restrictions, particularly in Co. Louth, meant that it was difficult to plan such an event with any degree of certainty. By the winter months it became clear that such a large-scale consultation event would be unfeasible for the foreseeable future. As we moved into December it became clear that even a public office would not be able to remain open.

In the light of this, we identified online solutions which would allow us to display our information, previously designed for printing on display panels, in an online format. We also moved to organise an online webinar, where we could walk people through the project and answer questions.

A phone line was advertised in local media as a point of contact for people who did not have access to the internet.

Current guidance from Government would indicate that restrictions will continue to make significant public gatherings impossible for many months to come.

The Oriel consultation ran from January 18th to February 19th. This period was advertised extensively in local media. The following were the key elements of the consultation:

- Public Exhibition;
- Public Online webinar;
- Community Liaison Officer;
- Fisheries Liaison Officer;
- Media Relations;
- Project Website;
- Project Brochure;
- Meetings with Public Representatives and Civic Society Groups;
- Phone Number / Email; and
- Opening of Public Office.

The elements were intended to ensure that a meaningful consultation could proceed for everyone in the community. There were extensive online resources, which mirrored the information that would have been available in a face-to-face consultation. There were also touch points such as phone lines and fixed addresses for people who were not comfortable with email.

5.1 Online Exhibition

An exhibition which was available to all stakeholders was hosted online with a link from the front page of the main project website, www.orielwindfarm.ie. This used state of the art technology to allow people access a detailed level of information about the proposed project with a virtual walk-through of the online site.

Figure 5-1 Screenshots from the Online Exhibition

The following information posters were included in the online exhibition.

What is offshore wind?	Oriel Wind Farm & the Local Community
Climate Change and Ireland	Local Benefits
Benefits of Offshore Wind Technology	National Benefits
Oriel Project to Date	Photomontage Viewer
Overview of the Oriel Wind Farm	Building the Oriel Project (Offshore)
Introduction to Parkwind and ESB	Building the Oriel Project (Onshore)
Extensive Survey Activity & Research	Constraints Mapping
Oriel Wind Farm & Nature	Planning

5.2 Photomontage Locations

There was also an online photomontage, image below, which enabled website visitors to click on a map and see a photomontage.

Photomontages

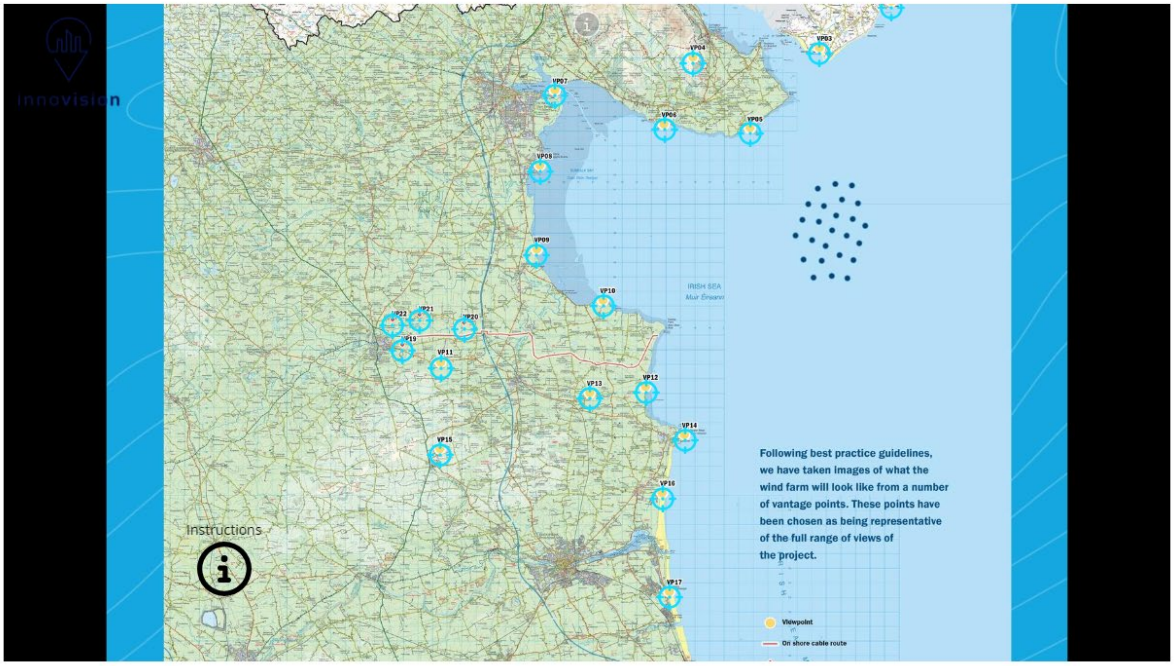


Figure 5-2 Screenshot of the Photomontage Locations in the Online Exhibition

The online photomontage viewer showed visual representations of the windfarm from the following locations.

Slieve Binnion	Seabank Layby	Bettystown Beach
Kilkeel Mourne Esplanade	Salterstown Layby	Skerries Headland
Cranfield Picnic Area	*Malacurry*	*Minor Road to Richardstown*
Barnavave – Carlingford Loop	Lurganboy Beach	*Stabannan Church*
Cooley Point	Grangebellew Tower	*Roodstown*
Giles Quay	Clogherhead	*Riverstown*
Soldier's Point	*Melifont Abbey Gardens*	
Blackrock Promenade	Termonfeckin Beach	

Italics denote photomontage displaying view of onshore substation.

5.3 Public Online Webinar Event

As part of our engagement, we held an online webinar on February 10th. It took place over Zoom from 7 to 8pm. 260 people registered for the event, including several public representatives.

The Project Team online to present the project:

Name	Role
Garrett Connell	Project Manager, Oriel Windfarm
Peter Caluwaerts	Project Director, Parkwind
Richard Church	Consents Manager, Oriel Windfarm
Ward van Geem	Offshore Development Manager, Parkwind
Mairead Hogan	Onshore Development Manager, ESB
David Linnane	Community Liaison Officer
Joe Heron	Moderator

The project team presented slides which broadly followed the structure of the exhibition, which lasted about 35 minutes. Following this, a questions and answers session allowed people to ask questions to the team directly. Over 70 questions were raised through the chat facility, although there was a substantial amount of duplication. The project team allowed the webinar to run over time in order to ensure that all questions could be answered.

Among the main issues which were raised in the Q and A, were the following:

- Community benefit
- Traffic management / disruption during onshore build
- Port of choice for construction and operation
- Visual impact (height of turbines and distance from shore)
- Impact on swimming
- Impact on fishing
- Electromagnetic fields
- Rationale for choice of location
- Where energy will be used?

In total the Q and A ran for approximately 45 – 50 minutes. Everyone who participated in the webinar was written to, thanking them for engaging and asking them to sign up to project updates.

The webinar also helped to direct interest to the online exhibition with February 9th / 10th being the busiest period throughout the consultation period. The webinar presentation was also made available on the Oriel website.

5.4 Community Group Meetings

The Oriel team made itself available to meet virtually with groups who wished to learn more about the project. Among the civic society groups they met were:

- Togher Residents Community Group;
- Dundalk Chamber;
- Dunleer Environmental Group;
- Dundalk Sailing Club;
- Skerries Sailing Club;
- Cooley Residents Group; and
- Louth Birdwatch Ireland Group.

5.5 Print Media

The consultation received extensive coverage in regional media, with 25 articles over a three-month period, in addition to paid-for advertising.

Table 5-1 Articles published on the Project in Regional Media

Date	Publication	Title of Article
January 19	The Argus	Wind farm proposed for region
January 19	Dundalk Democrat	Public to be consulted on Oriel Windfarm plans
January 19	Drogheda Independent	Wind farm proposed for region
January 26	The Argus	Ambitious wind farm plans to be lodged Application submitted under new marine development legislation 'Cautious Welcome' from fishermen group Power to be piped to Ardee
January 26	Drogheda Independent	Cables to run from Dunany to Ardee
January 26	Dundalk Leader	Renewable energy project looking for planning application in 2021
February 2nd	Dundalk Democrat	Sheridan says coastal areas need to find out about new wind farm plans
	Drogheda Independent	Be part of windfarm webinar
	Argus	Public urged to join Louth coast wind farm webinar
February 16th	Drogheda Independent	New Windfarm will create 1000 jobs. Windfarm will offset carbon levels equivalent to 130,000 cars. Fishing and wind turbines can co-exist. Raise concerns now – Cllr.
	The Argus	New Windfarm will create 1000 jobs.

Date	Publication	Title of Article
		Windfarm will offset carbon levels equivalent to 130,000 cars. Fishing and wind turbines can co-exist. Raise concerns now – Cllr.
February 17th	Dundalk Leader	Over 260 log-on to wind farm webinar.
February 17th	Drogheda Leader	Wind Farm to Dominate Beach Horizon (article about Statkraft Wind Farm which refers separately to Oriel engagement).

5.6 Online

The project also received coverage in online versions of the following media outlets:

- Dundalk Democrat;
- Argus;
- Drogheda Independent;
- LMFM;
- Dundalk Leader and
- Popular local Facebook pages.

5.7 Outcome of Consultation

The consultation reached its intended goal of increasing awareness of the project and in seeking feedback from the public. In terms of awareness the following key metrics were delivered:

- 25 individual pieces of print coverage in local media;
- 7 large adverts carried in local media;
- 917 people view Oriel website during consultation;
- Over 350 visits to public exhibition site during consultation;
- 260 registered to attend online webinar;
- 190 letters delivered to homes along the proposed cable route;
- Over 50 emails responded to;
- 8 meetings with public representatives and civic society groups; and
- Engagement with local representatives in four counties (Incl. in Northern Ireland).

5.8 Next steps

Following the consultation process, most of the online elements which were part of it were maintained on an ongoing basis. The Community Liaison Officer and Oriel team continue to meet with individuals and groups. The public exhibition was left in place beyond the consultation conclusion and its contents will ultimately be moved on to the Oriel project website.

The project team continue to maintain contact with Public Representatives and links to the Public Participation Networks are being maintained. Media releases will be issued as appropriate.

The Oriel project office remained in place for meetings.

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS 2023

6.1 Elements of the Consultation

The Oriel Project team ran further consultation from 11th January – 20th February 2023. This period was advertised extensively in local media. The following were the key elements of the consultation:

- Public Exhibition;
- Public Online webinar;
- Community Liaison Officer;
- Fisheries Liaison Officer;
- Media Relations;
- Project Website;
- Project Brochure;
- Phone Number / Email;
- Public Office.

As part of the Consultation process, the following key activities were widely published:

- January 11 - Virtual exhibition opened on website at https://www.orielwindfarm.ie/.
- January 19 - Public webinar
- January 24-25 - Public consultation in Dundalk
- January 31 - Public consultation in Ardee
- February 1 - Public consultation in Kilkeel

The elements were intended to ensure that a meaningful consultation took place for everyone in the community. There were extensive online resources which mirrored the information that would have been available in a face-to-face consultation. There were also touch points such as phone lines and fixed addresses for people who were not comfortable with email.

Communications were essential to the success of the consultation and to ensuring that people had access to the key project events.

6.2 Media Relations

The first references to the January consultation were issued in a press release sent to local media in January 2023. This release was to mark the opening of the Oriel Windfarm public consultation website and to give details of all in-person and virtual events. The press release was issued at the start of the public consultation to local media on both sides of the border.

A second press release was issued to media to raise awareness that the Public Consultation had commenced at DKIT.

Follow up briefing notes were sent throughout the consultation process and Oriel responded to any media queries throughout and after the consultation.

6.2.1 Print and Online Media Coverage

Date	Publication	Headline
11/01/2023	reNews	Parkwind, ESB seek further views on Irish offshore project
11/01/2023	Dundalk Democrat	Further public consultation for Oriel Windfarm off Louth coast this month
11/01/2023	Louth Live	Further public consultation for Oriel Windfarm off Louth coast this month
13/01/2023	The Argus	Oriel Windfarm to hold public consultations over proposed windfarm for Dundalk Bay
13/01/2023	Afloat	Codling Wind Park and Oriel Windfarm Run Further Public Consultation
17/01/2023	Dundalk Democrat	Oriel Windfarm to hold further consultation
25/01/2023	Dundalk Democrat	Oriel Windfarm holding public consultation event in Dundalk today

6.3 Broadcast Media

The consultation was reported on LMFM on January 25th in a story titled 'Public consultation on Oriel Wind Farm to be held today'.

https://www.lmfm.ie/news/lmfm-news/public-consultation-on-oriel-wind-farm-to-be-held-today/

6.4 Project website

Over the course of the consultation process, the Oriel website had 502 visitors viewing the exhibition on the website. Of these views to the webinar area, 489 viewed the welcome Video which gave an overview and updates to the projects and 179 viewed the photomontages.

6.5 Engagement with Public Representatives and stakeholders

In addition to their role as representing the public, we also recognised that the Public Representatives would have a key role in communicating the details of the consultation to the general public. From the outset we prioritised communication with this group. In the Republic of Ireland, we communicated from early with Local Authority members, TDs, Senators, MEP based in Louth. We also engaged with ward councillors in the Balbriggan area of Fingal County Council.

In Northern Ireland we engaged with Newry and Mourne District Council, local MLAs in South Down and the MP for South Down. The day prior to the commencement of the public consultation, phone calls and emails were sent to all public representatives and key stakeholders in the region outlined above. Many members also used their own Twitter and Facebook accounts to publicise the consultation, these included:

- Patrick Brown MLA;
- Diane Forsythe MLA;
- Kilkeel Chamber of Commerce;
- Louth PPN, and
- Kilkeel Development Association.

6.6 Public Exhibition

A public exhibition was again held online, using state of the art technology to allow people access a detailed level of information about the proposed project. During this round of consultation three in-person exhibitions were also held at the main towns around the coast, as follows:

January 24-25 - Public consultation in Dundalk, DKIT

January 31 - Public consultation in Ardee, Brian Muldoon & Sons

February 1 - Public consultation in Kilkeel, Kilmorey Arms Hotel

Figure 6-1 Project team members at the public exhibition in DKiT

6.6.1 Panel Topics

The following information panels were available to view on the online portal and at the public exhibitions.

What is offshore wind?	Oriel Wind Farm & the Local Community
Climate Change and Ireland	Local Benefits
Benefits of Offshore Wind Technology	National Benefits

Oriel Project to Date	Photomontage Viewer
Overview of the Oriel Wind Farm	Building the Oriel Project (Offshore)
Introduction to Parkwind and ESB	Building the Oriel Project (Onshore)
Extensive Survey Activity & Research	Constraints Mapping
Oriel Wind Farm & Nature	Planning
FAQ document	How we listened

6.6.2 Photomontage Locations

There was also a photomontage viewer showing visual representations of the windfarm from the following locations.

Slieve Binnion	Seabank Layby	Bettystown Beach
Kilkeel Mourne Esplanade	Salterstown Layby	Skerries Headland
Cranfield Picnic Area	*Malacurry*	*Minor Road to Richardstown*
Barnavave – Carlingford Loop	Lurganboy Beach	*Stabannan Church*
Cooley Point	Grangebellew Tower	*Roodstown*
Giles Quay	Clogherhead	*Riverstown*
Soldier's Point	*Melifont Abbey Gardens*	
Blackrock Promenade	Termonfeckin Beach	

Italics denote photomontage displaying view of onshore substation

There were 502 visits to the online exhibition during the consultation phase.

6.6.3 Public Online Webinar Event

As part of the Round 2 public consultation engagements, a live online webinar was held on February 10th. The webinar was held over Zoom and was scheduled to last from 7 to 8pm. 58 people registered for the event, including public representatives.
The Project Team online to present the project:

Name	Role
Garrett Connell	Project Manager
Richard Church	Consents Manager
Mairead Hogan	Onshore Development Manager
Cathriona Cahill	Environmental Specialist, RPS
Paul O'Kane	Moderator

This team represented both companies involved in the project and also represented every aspect of the project team.

The project team presented slides which broadly followed the structure of the exhibition. This presentation lasted about 40 minutes and was followed by a questions and answers session. Questions were raised through the chat facility and the webinar was allowed to run over time to ensure that all questions could be answered. Among the main issues which were raised in the Q and A, were the following:

- Community benefit
- Visual impact (height of turbines and distance from shore)
- Impact on bird life
- Rationale for choice of location
- Decommissioning of the project

The webinar presentation has been made available on the Oriel website on an ongoing basis.

6.7 Community Liaison Officer

Oriel appointed a Community Liaison Officer to the project in 2018. His role is to engage with members of the local community and act as a contact point for any group or individual who has questions about the project.

6.8 Direct Mail

The project has onshore elements, principally the onshore cable from a landfall through to a new substation to connect the project to the existing transmission grid. We were therefore determined to ensure that there was engagement with people along the route from the proposed landing point at Dunany Point to the proposed substation, east of Ardee.

All homes adjacent to the cable route received a letter and project brochure informing them of the consultation process and outlining how they could get involved. The letter also included a map and information regarding the project.

For each public consultation period (Jan 2021 and Jan 2023) a total of 190 letters were distributed by hand in accordance with the Covid 19 procedures.

6.9 Project Meetings

The Oriel team has made itself available to meet virtually with groups who wished to learn more about the project. Among the civic society groups who were met were;

- Togher Residents
- Dundalk Chamber
- Dunleer Environmental Group
- Drogheda Chamber

- Louth Birdwatch (post consultation)

6.10 Project Brochure

As part of the consultation, a project brochure was devised. This was made available for download on our website, in the virtual consultation and was shared with many participants in the consultation.

6.11 Phone number and Email contacts

With so much of the consultation taking place online, we provided a phone number for the project in all our advertising, in press releases and on our website. The telephone linked to an answering service and all calls were called directed to the projects Community Liaison Officer.

6.12 Outcome of Consultation

The consultation reached its intended goals of increasing awareness of the project and in seeking feedback from the public regarding the project. In terms of awareness the project delivered the following key metrics;

- 8 individual pieces of print and online coverage in local media;
- 5 large adverts carried in local media;
- 502 people view Oriel website during consultation;
- 54 visits to public exhibition site during consultation;
- 58 registered to attend online webinar;
- 190 letters delivered to homes along the proposed cable route;
- Meetings with public representatives and civic society groups; and
- Engagement with local representatives in four counties (Incl. in Northern Ireland).

6.13 Next steps

While the formal consultation process has ended, most of the elements which were part of it will be maintained on an ongoing basis. The Community Liaison Officer and Oriel team are continuing to meet with individuals and groups. The public exhibition was left in place beyond the consultation conclusion and its contents will ultimately be moved on to the Oriel project website.

The project team will continue to maintain contact with Public Representatives. Links to the Public Participation Networks are being maintained. Media releases will be issued as appropriate.

The Oriel project office remains in place and members of the public can book a meeting via the website with a member of the project team.

7 CONSULTATION WITH COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

7.1 Engagement with local fisheries groups

Oriel is committed to a mutually beneficial co-existence with fishing groups who fish in the waters where the Oriel team are seeking to develop. Engagement with fishing organisations has been ongoing throughout the development of the project. A key criterion used in the original identification of the proposed wind farm location was based on early engagement with fishing organisations in the region during 2006. In particular, avoiding the heavily trawled Nephrops fishing grounds to the East and South.

Since the reactivation of the project there has been ongoing engagement with representatives of commercial fishing organisations active in the area, particularly during times of offshore site investigation activities. The key organisations representing commercial fishers in the Northeast Irish Sea include the following:

- Dunany Lobster and Crab Association;
- Clogherhead Fishermen's Association;
- Clogherhead Fish Co-Op;
- Anglo Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation (ANIFPO);
- Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation (NIFPO);
- Dundalk Bay Razor Fishermen's organisation;
- Individual inshore fishers not aligned to any organisation;
- Sea fisheries protection authority; and
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

The main fishing activity in the area is static pot fishing for Lobster and Crab with very occasional Nephrops fishing in a small part of the site. The Oriel team has engaged with all these organisations during the planning of the project and have engaged extensively with the groups representing the fishers that are active around the proposed windfarm and cable corridor, these include:

- Dunany Lobster and Shellfish Association;
- ANIFPO; and
- NIFPO.

A particular focus of this engagement has been during times of offshore survey activities, when discussions were had to ensure minimum disruption was caused to fishing by these activities.

7.2 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

Due to the importance of the fisheries sector as a stakeholder in the project, the Oriel Project Manager was formally appointed as the Fisheries Liaison Officer for the wind farm, with the assistance of Marine Science specialists from consulting company Bluewise Marine.

During survey activities an offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer, a well-regarded local fisherman from ANIFPO in Kilkeel, was appointed. This was very successful in ensuring that fishermen in the area were well informed of the project activities and were easily able to engage with the project. This is a principal which will be maintained for future offshore activities on the site.

The role of the Fishing Liaison Officers was to:

- Establish a strong positive working relationship between the industries;
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the activities of the fishing community;
- Identify all project development activities which could potentially impact on existing fishing activities;
- Identify all fishing activities which could present a risk to project development activities and
- Act as a contact point between the fishing community and project.

7.3 Co-Existence Model

The development, construction, operation and decommissioning of wind farms may influence existing fishing communities that deploy their activities in the same maritime areas as offshore wind farms. It was therefore key for Oriel to foster good relations and to encourage a sustainable way of co-existence with the fishing industry active in the area of its proposed windfarm.

As part of this strategy, Oriel committed to undertake some actions to build a climate of trust and transparency, allowing for constructive cooperation throughout the lifetime of the wind farm:

- Clear communication lines will be established with the fishing associations in order to facilitate the mutual sharing of information;
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the activities of the fishing community;
- Identify all project development activities which could potentially impact on existing fishing;
- Clear arrangements need to be made with the fishing associations to enable and facilitate each other's activities on site;
- Partnerships with the fishermen through fishing associations are encouraged and their services will be engaged where possible;
- A fund will be established to show Oriel's commitment to make a positive contribution to the local fishing communities.

7.3.1 Fisheries Co-Existence Fund

Oriel established a Fisheries Fund to support local fishing communities by awarding grant payments to commercial fishing related projects or initiatives that contribute to the general improvement of fish stocks and the sustainable development of the fisheries industry in the region. While ensuring that any funds put in place will be of direct benefit to local fishing communities and promoting good relations between the fishing and offshore wind industries for the long-term. The following principals are key to the establishment of a successful fund.

An independent administrator is appointed to manage applications and payments to and from any fund that is established.

The administrator develops a governance structure, application process and criteria for decision making and for disbursing payments from these funds. This structure should be developed in collaboration with the local fishing community representatives and stakeholders.

Eligibility criteria should include evidence that applicants are registered commercial fishing businesses that are eligible to fish in and are actively fishing in wind farm development areas.

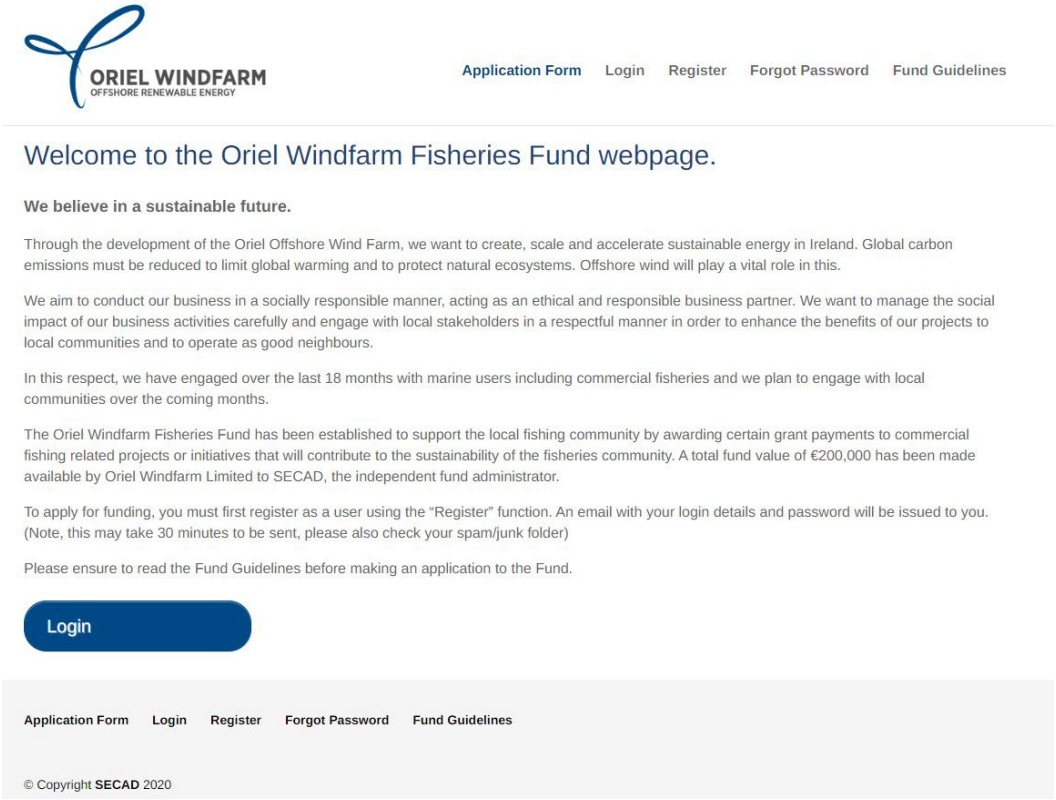
The fund should target support of initiatives that promote the long-term sustainability of commercial fishing in areas where wind farms are developed.

If a claim for a contribution towards loss of revenue is being made, appropriate levels of evidence should be required and should be based on best practice such as the FLOWW guidelines promoted by the Crown Estate in the UK.

For the longer-term when projects enter the construction and operation phases, sustainable co-existence with the fishing community active in these areas should be sought. Further engagement is required to set out a framework with the participation of the regulatory authorities, fishing community and offshore wind industry to examine how this arrangement would be established and administered so that it can provide targeted benefits to the fishing communities that are active in offshore wind farm areas.

7.3.2 Fisheries Fund Summary of Activities

Oriel appointed Secad Partnership, an independent non-profit organisation with experience in operating community funds, to manage and administer the Oriel Fisheries Fund. An online portal was established where eligible fishers and organisations could register and submit applications for funding.



To date two funding rounds have been held where substantial grants were awarded to local fishing organisations, for both project initiatives and to provide compensation to fishers where there was a direct and evidence-based loss of earnings due to Oriel's activities. A snapshot of some of the initiatives supported include:

1. **V-Notching Scheme**
   V-notching is a fisheries conservation technique in which a V-shaped notch is removed by a trained individual from a female lobster's uropod (tailfin). The lobster is then returned to sea, and while the V-notch is apparent, the lobster cannot legally be landed. This is done to increase the reproductive potential of lobsters in a fishery. This scheme was administered in conjunction with Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Bluewise Marine and Secad.

2. **Processing equipment**
   Funding was provided to purchase freezing equipment for a cooperative fish processing factory, which helped to improve the value of catch.

3. **Diversification**
   Funding was provided to a number of fishing boats to assist with the purchase of equipment to enable diversification of the type of fishing activity and species sought.

4. **Safety and Training**
   Funding was provided to several groups and individuals to assist with safety equipment and additional training.

7.4 National Fisheries Consultation

Oriel is participating in the National Seafood- Offshore Renewable Energy Forum as part of our membership in the Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) Industry Association. Oriel is committed to adhering to the principals of engagement agreed by this forum.

As part of the agreed engagement approach, Oriel has written to the following list of organisations on 2 occasions offering to meet to discuss proposals for the project.

- IFA Aquaculture
- Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA)
- Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO)
- Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO)
- Irish Seafood Producers Group (ISPG) (Aquaculture)
- Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation (ISWFPO)
- Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO)
- Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)
- National Inshore Fishermen's Association (NIFA)
- National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF)
- Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum – North (NRIFF)
- Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum – North East (NERIFF)
- Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum – North West (NWRIFF)

- Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum – South East (SERIFF)
- Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum – South West (SWRIFF)
- Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum – West (WRIFF
- Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation (ANIFPO)
- Northern Irish Fish Producers Organisation (NIFPO)
- North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC)
- Pelagic Advisory Council (PAC)
- Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum (BGMCF)

While no meetings have been requested to date, the project team will continue to inform these organisations of any developments as the project progresses.

8 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation saw a very strong and positive level of engagement. As part of the engagement, the project received a lot of positive comment about the project and the environmental benefits it would have. There was also significant interest in the local community benefit scheme which will be a feature of new planning applications. There was interest in whether we would be using a local port and if so which one.

We have collated the main responses received through the website, through one-to-one meetings, group meetings and at the public webinar and these are detailed in Table 5-1 below. The responses are grouped according to the EIA topic area to which they apply. A summary of the question received, the response and where appropriate, the identification of where this is assessed in the EIAR is also presented.

Table 8-1 Issues Raised during the 2021 Public Engagement

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
03. EIA Methodology		
03.1	What studies have been undertaken and are they publicly available?	Studies on all ecological topics both for the onshore and offshore works have been prepared in accordance with the EIA Directive and Regulations. The topics include birds, fish, benthic ecology, marine mammals, onshore protected species, terrestrial flora and fauna. The EIA report will be published with the planning application
04. Consideration of Alternatives		
04.1	What is the carbon footprint of the project and how is it being mitigated?	The embodied carbon of the project has been calculated at 95,000 tonnes C02eq. The electricity generated by the project will offset over 600,000 tonnes of C02eq each year.
04.2	Where will the electricity be used? Will it be exported?	The electricity will be used within the island of Ireland. A single underground export cable will connect the offshore windfarm to the existing 220kV transmission grid at a new onshore substation close to Ardee. The transmission grid is operated across the island of Ireland by EirGrid and the System Operator of Northern Ireland (SONI) which is a part of EirGrid.
04.3	How many other wind farms are planned for the area?	Oriel is the only wind farm at the planning consent stage in the North Louth coastal area. Two Foreshore licences have been granted for surveys to assess the potential for other offshore wind farms to the east and south of the Oriel wind farm area. It is not known at this time if these wind farms will proceed to the planning consent stage. The potential impacts from the granted foreshore licences and all projects in the planning consent stage have been considered in the cumulative impacts section of each topic area.

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
04.4	Can your substation accommodate other wind farms?	The substation is sized for the capacity of Oriel wind farm which is also the available capacity on the existing transmission grid.
06. Consultation		
06.1	Should you not postpone consultation until Covid 19 is over?	The continued impact of Covid 19 is uncertain and we have therefore taken the decision to engage with the public during the pandemic whilst strictly adhering to the government health guidelines. We expect to hold further direct public engagement in 2022 and this will include an element of face-to-face meeting if this is allowed under the health guidelines at that time.
06.2	Have you had consultations with Newry and Mourne District Council?	Newry and Mourne District Council were included in the scoping consultation for the EIAR and invited to engage in the public consultation in January and February 2021 and 2023. All consultation information to date has been forwarded to the council through the usual channels.
05. Project Design - Offshore Construction		
05.1	How will the turbines get to site?	The turbines will be delivered to site from a marshalling harbour by ships which are specially designed for the purpose. A ship can typically carry two or three partially completed turbines for installation on each trip from the marshalling harbour.
05.2	What port will be used for the construction and for operations?	A marshalling harbour will be used for pre-assembly of wind turbine and foundation components. It is expected that the marshalling harbour will be an Irish Sea port. Belfast, Rosslare and Mostyn in North Wales are being considered by the project. A smaller harbour will be used for operations with the facilities for office space, a warehouse and tidal pontoon access for crew transfer vessels. Greenore Port, Warrenpoint and Kilkeel have potential facilities and are under consideration.
05.3	Why are turbines white?	The turbine colour is carefully selected to minimise its visibility from a distance. In Ireland the background to the turbine is often cloud which merges with the turbine. The actual colour is an off-white matt shade.
05.4	What type of foundation will you use?	The foundation will be determined by the detailed geotechnical properties of the seabed. Based on the understanding from studies to date, two types of foundations are being considered: jacket and monopile. Both foundations are described and assessed in the EIAR.
05.5	What will the maximum water depth be where the turbines are installed?	The maximum water depth is 33m.

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
05.6	Can you use floating bases?	No. Floating bases are being tested for pilot projects but not yet available for a commercial project such as Oriel.
05.7	How deep will the cable be buried?	Offshore cables both within the wind farm area and for export of electricity back to shore will be buried at a depth of up to 3m where the soil properties of the seabed allow this. Where this is not possible (e.g. due to rocky ground) cables will be buried at a shallower depth and protected by rock armour.
05. Project Design - Landing Point		
05.8	How was the landing point chosen?	A detailed assessment of all environmental sensitive receptors and constraints was completed before selecting the chosen landing point location for the export cable. The chosen location has a feasible beach landing with adjacent space in Dunany Estate. It avoids the designated Special Protection Area for Birds in Dundalk Bay and minimises the length of the onshore underground cable to the connection point with the existing grid.
05.9	Will there be any infrastructure at the landing point?	A buried chamber will be installed within which the marine cable will be joined to the onshore (land) cable. There will be no infrastructure above ground.
05. Project Design - Construction Onshore		
05.10	Will you give a cast iron guarantee, regardless of cost, that the cable will be underground?	Yes. The onshore cable will be installed fully underground from the landfall through to the substation.
05.11	How was the cable route chosen?	A detailed assessment of a number of cable route options against a range of environmental factors (e.g. existing infrastructure, sensitive environmental receptors, housing density) was completed to identify a preferred option which was taken forward for assessment in the EIAR.
05.12	Why follow the roads? Why not go across fields or follow the river route?	The functional specification published by EirGrid requires that the cable is accessible along its entire route for potential maintenance or repair. Location in an existing road is the preferred option.
05.13	Who is the body responsible for reinstatement of roads?	Oriel Windfarm Ltd. will be responsible for reinstatement of the roads to a standard required and approved by Louth County Council.
05.14	Will there be road closures?	A road opening licence will be sought from Louth County Council prior to the installation of the cable. The project has held discussion with their Roads Department.
05.15	Will I be able to access my home?	Yes. Full access will be maintained at all times.

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
05.16	Will onshore construction be subcontracted?	Yes. The onshore construction is normally contracted to specialist cable and substation contracts. This could be one or several contracts. All contractors will be required to meet all planning conditions and these will be bound into the contract.
05.17	Why was the cable route chosen as indicated?	The cable route was selected following a detailed assessment of all feasible options. The preferred cable route results in the lowest impacts across a range of environmental factors.
05.18	Will construction onshore and offshore take place at the same time?	It is expected that the onshore and offshore works will generally overlap. Some enabling works for the onshore construction at the substation location may take place whilst the offshore infrastructure is being fabricated.
05.19	How long will construction take?	The estimated programme for construction is two years. The exact programme will be confirmed with contractors and informed to all stakeholders prior to commencement of works.
05.20	How many meters of cable will you clear per day?	A contractor will excavate a trench, lay and reinstate 60 to 100m of cable ducting per day. Sections of cable, typically 600 to 700m long, will be pulled through the cable ducts once these and the junction bays have been fully constructed.
05.21	Will cables be on private land and if so, will it be by CPO?	Sections of the cable and joint bays will divert onto private land at locations of pinch points such as local streams, the River Dee and the M1 motorway. This is to enable the cable ducts to be drilled under these obstacles. Access to the lands will be through agreement with each landowner involved.
05.22	How deep is the cable buried?	The cable trench will be approximately 1m deep.
05.23	If there are more turbines in future will you have to dig up these roads again?	The proposed works are for the Oriel Wind Farm development only. Any future development either by Oriel or another wind farm developer would be subject to a new design and planning application.
05.24	You will create a lot of spoil from digging 22km of underground cable. What will happen to this?	All spoil will be removed by a licenced waste contractor to a facility with the necessary permits to receive the waste spoil. The road will be reinstated to its condition prior to the works following completion of construction.
05. Project Design - Operation and Maintenance and Decommissioning		
05.25	How much O & M do the turbines require once built?	The turbines are constantly monitored from an onshore base located in a facility in the local region. Regular inspections and minor maintenance of the turbines and offshore substation will occur with up to 200 days each year. These will be conducted from small crew transfer vessels. Larger maintenance or inspection

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
		activities requiring larger vessels can be expected on average once per year.
05.26	What happens to the windfarm after 25 years?	All offshore assets are designed for a minimum life of 25 years. Subject to the development consent and terms of the lease the windfarm assets may be replaced with updated technology or decommissioned. The first offshore windfarms in the North Sea are now reaching the end of their design life.
05.27	Is there a bond payable?	The terms and conditions for the lease of the seabed (referred to as a Maritime Area Consent or MAC) will be set by the Government. Oriel expects that a bond will be required to be paid as part of the MAC.
07. Marine Processes		
07.1	There are thriving swimming communities in the area. How is the water quality going to be affected during construction / drilling?	The effect of the construction activities on water quality has been modelled and assessed as part of the EIA report. Tidal currents are very low in the project area and the modelling shows only very localised short-term impacts around each turbine foundation and subsea cable during the construction works. The modelling shows no impact to water quality of coastal beaches from construction activities.
10. Marine Mammals and Megafauna		
10.1	What impact will there be on whales, dolphins and seals?	Extensive baseline studies and assessment of potential impacts on all marine life have been completed for the EIAR. These studies show that there is no significant impact to marine life.
11. Offshore Ornithology		
11.1	Will the project harm bird life?	Following extensive study to map bird activity in the project area, over a two-year period and three years previously. We are confident that the project will not have a significant impact on bird life.
12. Commercial Fisheries		
12.1	What will the impact on the fishing industry be and for how long?	The Oriel project team have been actively engaging with the existing fishing industry for a number of years and our aim is to coexist with them. Some limited disruption to existing fishing activities at the site is inevitable, particularly during the construction period. However, once the wind farm is constructed it is expected that fishing will continue as it is at present.
12.2	Can fishing continue during construction?	A limited exclusion zone of 500m around the construction vessel(s) will be required during the

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
		construction period but this will only be for active construction activity and not for the entire site.
12.3	Can fishing continue during operation?	Yes. Fishing can continue within the wind farm during its operation.
12.4	Will fishermen be compensated?	A fisheries fund has been put in place by Oriel and fishing groups are being actively encouraged to apply for grant funding for projects from this.
12.5	Will the choice of port for operations displace fishing boats?	An operations port has not yet been selected, but it is expected that the wind farm operational activities will be separate from the existing fishing ports and there will be no displacement of fishing boats.
12.6	Can static gear (pots etc) be placed on cables if exposed on rocky ground?	Cables will not be exposed on rocky ground. In areas where the cables cannot be buried to a depth of 3 m the cables will be covered with rock armour. This is to prevent damage to the cable from anchoring, trawling or other activities. There will be no risk to the placement of static fishing gear from the cables.
12.7	Will the development have any impact on fish stocks?	Shellfish are the primary commercial fishery in the Oriel wind farm area. Recent published studies on offshore wind farms in other areas with commercial shellfish such as Holderness in the UK (https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/75/4/1416/4841920?login=true) have demonstrated no negative impact on fish stocks from the wind farm.
12.8	Will inshore fishermen be impacted?	The wind farm is located to avoid impacts on inshore fisheries within Dundalk Bay.
18. Population and Human Health		
18.1	Will the onshore cable have EMF? Will it be safe for nearby homes?	EMF or Electric and magnetic fields occur both naturally and from manmade sources including household wiring, household appliances and power transmission lines. An underground cable has a steel armour layer containing the electric field along the length of the cable so there is no electric field outside of the cable. There is a very low magnetic field directly above the cable, well below the field produced by household appliances like a fridge, oven or electric heater and indeed a mobile phone. The magnetic field from a buried cable falls to natural levels within a few meters of the cable. The magnetic field produced by a cable like this is classified as extremely low so would have no impact on health and is also limited to a small area around the cable.
18.2	Is there any difference between onshore and offshore EMF levels?	The EMF of the onshore and offshore cables will be similar. The offshore cable will be buried to a depth of 3m or covered with rock armour to a similar depth. This will minimise EMF to a similar level to that onshore.

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
18.3	How many jobs will be created?	The number of jobs will vary dependent on the phase of the Project. Most jobs will be in the construction phase, both onshore and offshore. However, there will be a long-term support team for operational and maintenance through the life of the windfarm based in the north-east region. There will also be indirect employment for support companies such as ports, vessel crews, administrative staff, fuel and engineering providers which will increase in number dependent on the planned maintenance activities.
18.4	Will there be local engineering opportunities?	Yes. It is expected that the wind farm will require a range of land and marine based engineering which will be delivered from the local region and nationally.
18.5	Will there be opportunities for lesser skilled employees?	There will be a range of employment opportunities including for lesser skilled employees. However, it is expected that most opportunities will require skills and training.
20. Land use		
20.1	How much space will be taken up by the project on shore?	The only permanent land take onshore will be for the onshore substation at Stickillin near Ardee. This is 2 hectares in size. All other lands will be restored to their existing use on completion of the construction.
25. Noise		
25.1	Is there a noise impact on land?	Modelling of the maximum source noise levels in the worst-case weather conditions demonstrates that the turbines will not exceed existing background noise levels.
25.2	Is there a noise impact from operation on sea animals?	The assessment in the EIA shows that there will be no detectable noise impact from the operational turbines on sea animals including whales, dolphins, seals, fish and shellfish.
25.3	What decibel level will turbines create?	The maximum source noise level for the turbines will be 121 dB. This noise is then dampened and mitigated by the turbine housing and the air space between the windfarm and land.
26. Cultural Heritage		
26.1	Have you mapped the key heritage aspects along the cable route. There are some interesting heritage elements at the landing point.	A full archaeological impact assessment has been completed for all the onshore works including the full route of the underground cable. This has identified areas of archaeological interest including at the landing point. The design has been adapted to avoid impacts with all areas of archaeological interest.
27. Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity Assessment		

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR.
27.1	Can the turbines be located further from shore?	The distance from shore that Oriel can be built is determined by a range of factors. These include the need to avoid trawling grounds, location of marine traffic, seabed conditions and water depth. The deeper the water, the more challenging to build and to maintain. There is a balance to be struck between going further offshore and finding a suitable site when all the factors are considered and being able to build a workable project.
27.2	What is the minimum distance from shore the turbines will be located?	The nearest turbine is 6km from the closest point to shore which is Templetown Beach. The project has already been moved a further kilometre from shore than was originally envisaged.
27.3	How high are the turbines and do they need to be so high?	The turbine maximum blade length is 120m resulting in a maximum tip height as the blade rotates around the peak of 270m. Larger turbines can generate more energy, as a result fewer turbines are being proposed (25) which is less than half of the number originally envisaged for the project (55). The reduced number has also allowed the turbines to be located further offshore.
27.4	How far out can the turbines go and still be visible?	Based on the curvature of the earth, the turbines would be visible on a clear day to 60km distance. A zone of theoretical visibility map has been prepared and will be presented in the EIAR.
27.5	What will the impact be of all projects together?	Any future project will need to consider the cumulative impact of it and Oriel and the planning authorities must take this into account in their decision. Oriel is designed as a standalone project and takes the capacity available at the grid connection point.

The following questions are related to community benefit and project ownership. Whilst not specifically addressed in the EIAR, responses to these questions are presented below for completeness.

Community Benefit and Project Ownership		
CB1	What is the geographical location for the Community Benefit fund?	The terms and conditions of the community benefit fund including its geographical extent will be determined by the government.
CB2	Will preference be given to areas closest to the project?	It is understood from the Offshore RESS terms and conditions that community benefit funds from all offshore wind will be managed nationally to ensure proper governance, but payments will be made on the basis of proximity to the wind farm.

Community Benefit and Project Ownership		
CB3	Would you be open to part state ownership?	The ESB, as a state-owned utility, are partners in the Project. The Oriel project is a partnership between Parkwind, one of Europe's leading offshore developers, with the expertise of the ESB in connecting generating projects to the grid. This is the ESB's first offshore wind project in Ireland. Developing an offshore wind farm is a highly technical project, bringing in an experienced partner means that it can be delivered in the best and most environmentally sound manner. The Irish state will also benefit through the lease fee for the site and this is expected to be a significant annual sum. Oriel will also pay into a substantial community benefit fund on an annual basis.
CB4	Would you accept a develop or drop element to your licence?	The project will bid into the auction for the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (O-RESS). This scheme will have strict milestones for the development of the project and require a performance bond to be submitted by the Project.

The consultation questions raised in 2023 are detailed and responses given in the tables below.

Table 8-2 Issues raised during the 2021 online webinar

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR
Project Design - Offshore Construction		
	What is the assessed hub height for the application? Any decision on the WTG model?	150m. Detailed in Ch5 Project Description
	Can you advise the cost differential between the initial 55 turbine proposal and the new proposal (assuming that the decision to change the build plan is commercial).	Financial terms for the project are confidential.
	Can you confirm that the overall height above water to the highest tip of turbine?	270m. Detailed in Ch5 Project Description.
	There is a significant visible differential between the current submission and that presented previously	The visual impact of the proposal is presented and assessed in Ch27 Landscape and Seascape Assessment.
Project Design - Substation		
	Where in Stickillen is the endpoint building?	The field for the substation building is in the Stickillen townland, approximately 3km east of Ardee on the N33. The field is to the north side of the N33 below the existing 220kV electricity lines.
Project Design - Operation and Maintenance and Decommissioning		
	Will you promise to create a bond or deposit to pay for the removal of these turbines in the event of them becoming obsolete	A decommissioning bond and a plan to rehabilitate the site is a requirement of our Maritime Area Consent.
	Will maintenance services be based in ROI or NI or possibly both?	A final decision on the maintenance base has not been made. However, existing

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response and how this issue is assessed in the EIAR
		harbours in both Northern Ireland and the RoI are under consideration.
Marine Mammals and Megafauna		
	Will the birds be affected by the wind farm?	The potential impact on birds both offshore and onshore has been considered and is detailed in Ch. 11 Offshore ornithology and Ch.19 Onshore Biodiversity.
Consultation		
	Will you publish in our local papers updated montage photos showing the onshore views from various locations?	The photomontage views are available from the Oriel website www.orielwindfarm.ie. The photomontages are at a specific size and scale which is not suitable for publication in local newspapers.
Employment		
	Are you able to advise the estimated job opportunity levels the project will bring to the area?	The employment opportunities will vary through the construction and operational phase. Many of the job opportunities are highly specialised. It is estimated that several hundred local job opportunities will be available during the construction phase and 30-50 long term direct employment during the operational phase. Additional indirect employment will be generated by the Project.

Table 8-3 Issues Raised during in-person events and other stakeholder engagement activities

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response
	Concerns over quality of water with sea water polluting the clean water supply during high tides.	Potential impacts on water quality from the offshore construction activities are assessed in Ch.7 Marine Processes and the impact was determined as not significant.
	How many turbines will you install to achieve the required power generation for this scheme?	25.
	Query on the access to the public walkway along the N33 during cable laying works and ongoing access for the future.	There will be no works or restrictions along the N33 public walkway during the Project.
	Are you considering any cross-border supply agreements that would allow us in County Down to source energy from the farm?	Electricity from the wind farm will flow into the transmission network at the Stickillin substation. This is an all-island network.
	Family has a long tradition of fishing for shellfish, will there be disruption to business.	All current fisheries activity will be able to continue within the wind farm area both during and following construction. 500m safety zones will be applied around active construction and maintenance activities. Long term disruption to existing

Topic Area	Question Raised	Response
		commercial fisheries activities is not anticipated. The potential impacts on Commercial Fisheries are assessed in Ch12. of the EIAR.
	Can you send me a Marine map showing where the proposed windfarm will be located?	Maps of the proposed wind farm location have been provided.
	What is the long-term ecological effects by the development of green land for industrial development to do with wind farm?	The substation field (approximately 3 Ha) is the only area where there is long-term loss of green land for the wind farm. All other onshore areas will be reinstated to their current use following construction.
	Concern re water quality reduction caused by construction and when operational.	Potential impacts on water quality from the offshore construction activities are assessed in Ch.7 Marine Processes and the impact was determined as not significant.

9 CONCLUSIONS & COMMITMENTS

At the outset of the project, the Oriel team indicated their determination to operate an extensive consultation that sought to increase awareness of the project, encourage community feedback and allow people and groups to fully participate at an early stage in the planning process.

While part of the consultation took place during Covid 19, the level of engagement was strong as the project team invested in ensuring that technology was put in place to support a proper engagement. Ultimately, the numbers attending the online exhibitions and webinars were in excess of the numbers that attended the in-person events.

The consultations undertaken by the Oriel team have received praise from public representatives for providing information in a comprehensive and open manner.

9.1 Commitments to consider all feedback

The Public Consultation process has provided useful feedback for the project team. Oriel had the benefit of engaging previously on the project some years ago, so there was an awareness of some of the issues. However, the new consultation added some more issues to the agenda for consideration, particularly in relation to the onshore element of the project.

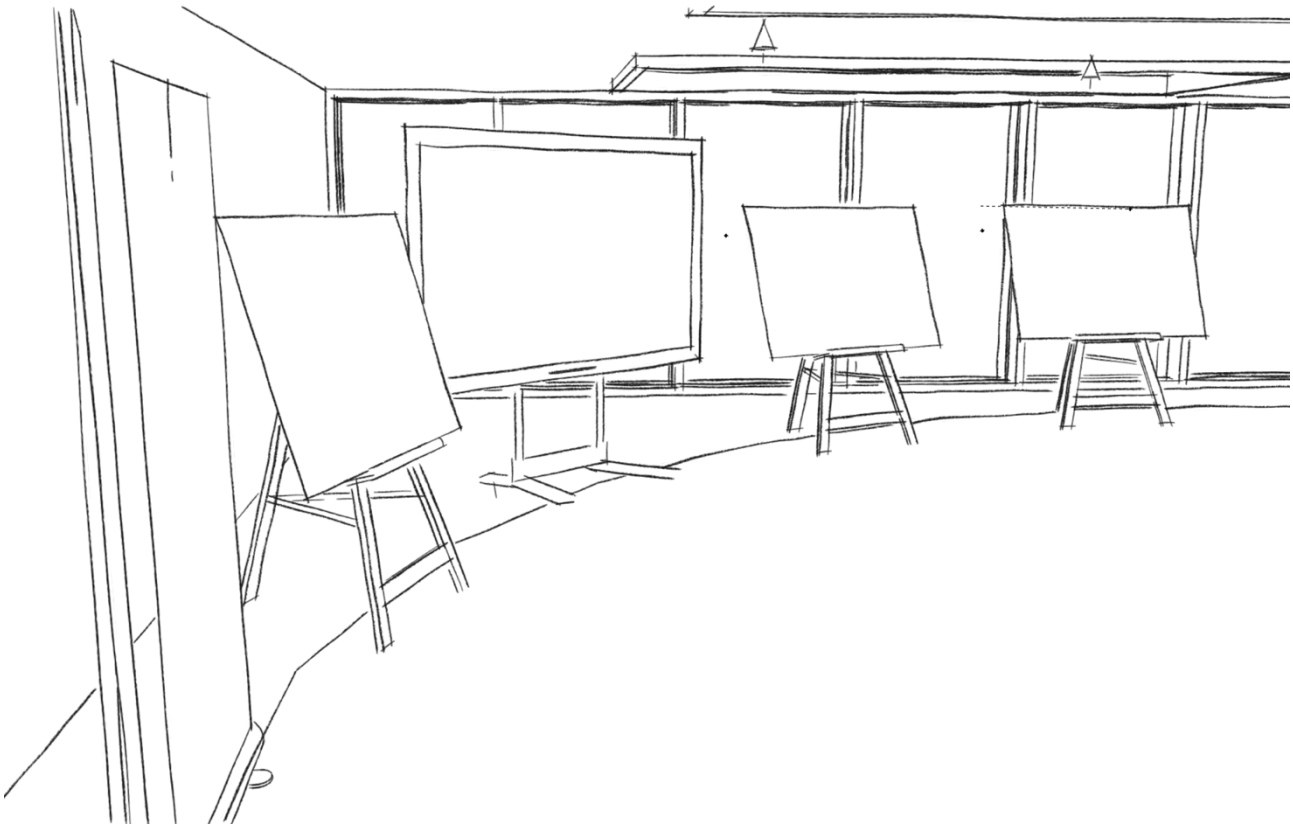
We are incorporating, where practicable, the results of this consultation into our final design and are including issues raised in the EIAR and NIS which will be submitted as part of the planning application. We are determined to address concerns which people have raised and where issues lie, to provide mitigation as best we can.

9.2 Commitment to continue to engage

The Public Consultation Phase has concluded but Oriel remains committed to ensuring that stakeholders can play a meaningful part in the process. We will achieve this by ensuring that people have access to the information they require to empower them in participating and by remaining open to engagement on the project.

We will continue to meet stakeholders, to use our website and other channels to ensure that we communicate the project information. This engagement will continue throughout the planning process and through the development and operation phases.

APPENDIX A – VIRTUAL PUBLIC EXHIBITION 2021 – WEB TRAFFIC REPORT



Virtual Public Exhibition
Web Traffic Report

Parkwind Oriel Wind Farm

February 1st – 14th 2021

Executive Summary

- The total number of visits to the site during the two week period was 353.
- The most popular parts of the site were the Introduction video followed by the Photomontages.
- 14% of visitors spent more than 5 minutes in the room.
- 79% of visitors were from Ireland with 30% of those in the Dublin area and 22% in Louth.
- A desktop/laptop was the most common device used to access the site. It was only marginally ahead of a mobile device.
- The most common platform in use was Windows.
- The browser used most frequently to access the site was Chrome.

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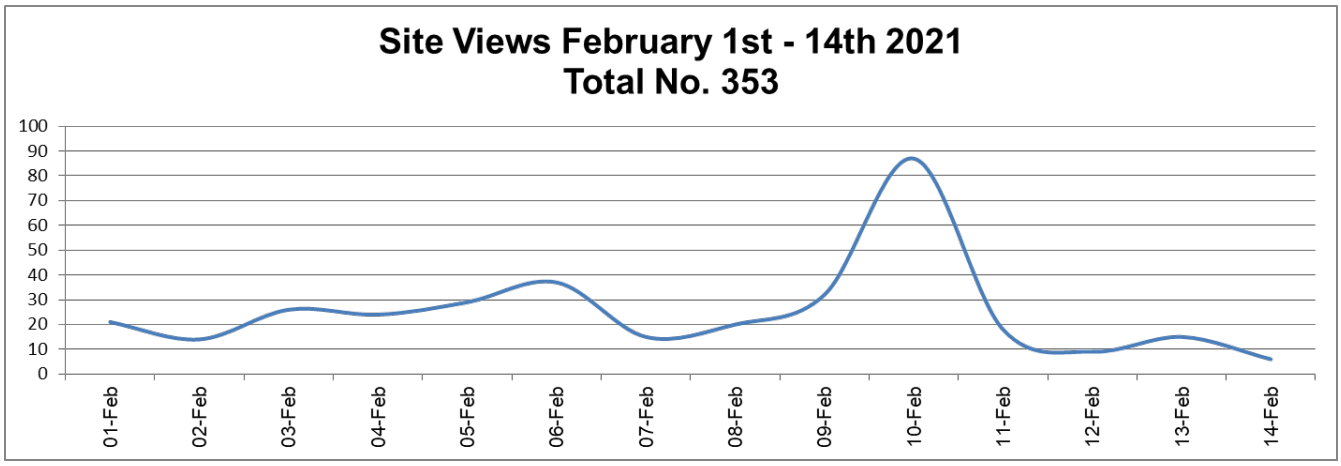
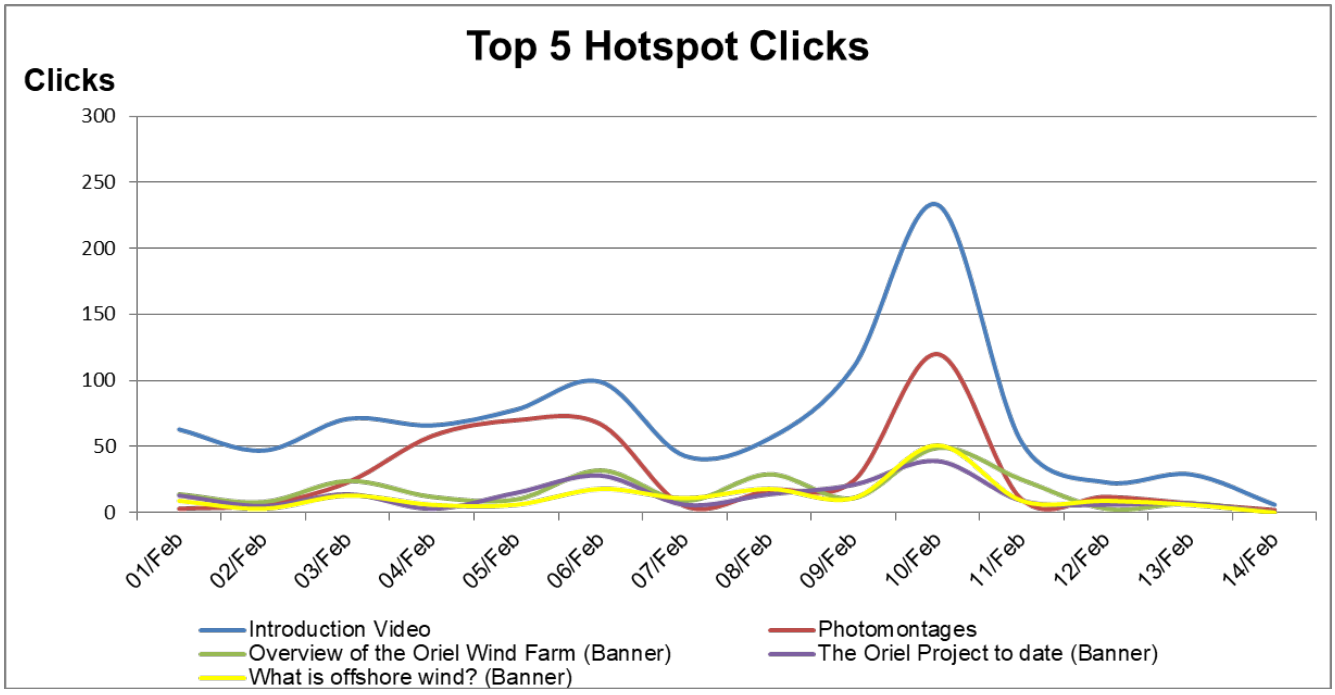
Site Visits

There were 353 visits to the room in this period. There was a spike in activity on February 10th. Site visits averaged approx. 25 per day throughout the fortnight.



Top 5 Hotspot Clicks

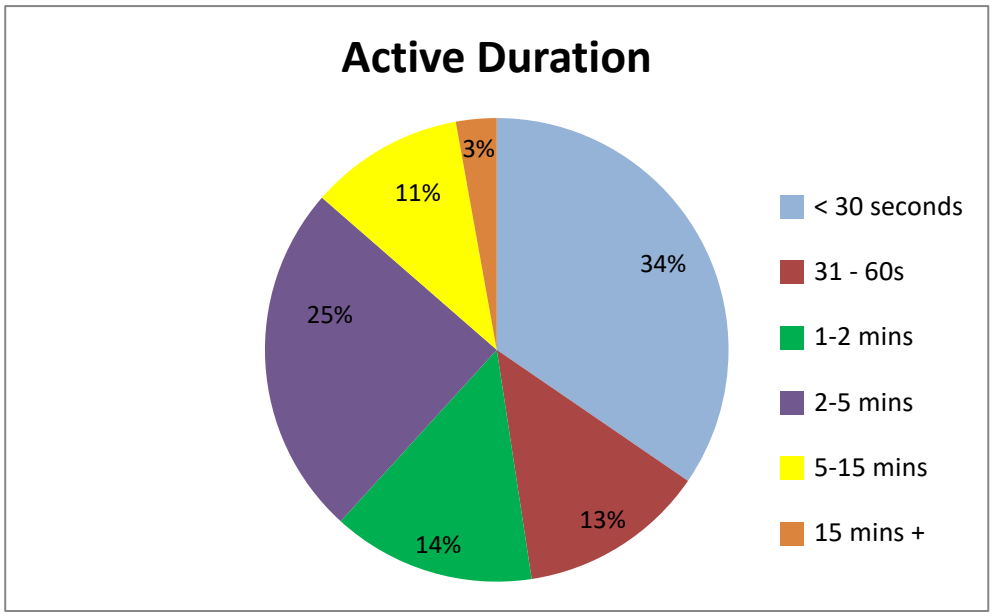
The Introduction video is the most viewed in the room at 977 views. This is followed by the Photomontages and the “Overview of the Oriel Wind Farm” banner at 424 and 233 clicks respectively. After that, the “Oriel Project to date” banner and the “What is Offshore Wind?” banner complete the most popular five with 180 and 170 clicks respectively. All other figures are available in the table on page 5.



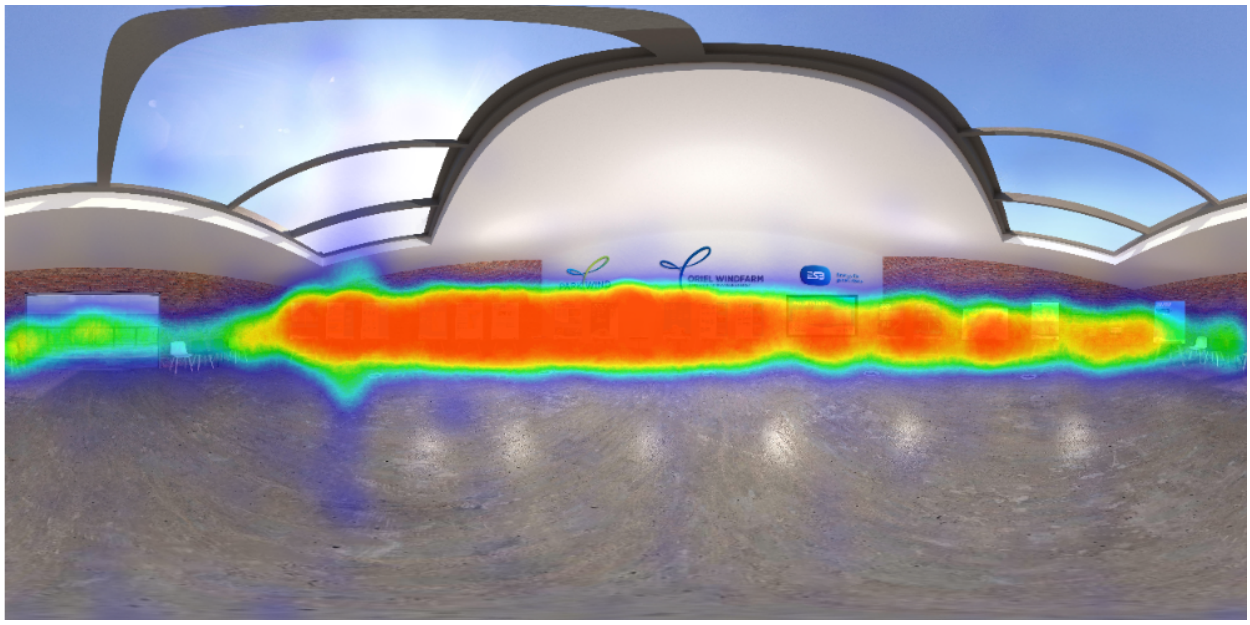
Hotspot	No.Clicks
Introduction Video	977
Photomontages	424
Overview of the Oriel Wind Farm (Banner)	233
The Oriel Project to date (Banner)	180
What is offshore wind? (Banner)	170
Benefits of Offshore Wind Technology (Banner)	137
Climate Change in Ireland (Banner)	102
Building the Oriel Project Onshore (Banner)	86
Oriel Wind and the local Community (Banner)	86
EIAR Scoping Document	84
Constraints Mapping (Banner)	82
Local Benefits (Banner)	75
Oriel Brochure	74
Oriel Wind Farm and Nature (Banner)	65
Extensive Survey Activity and Research (Banner)	65
Building the Oriel Project Offshore (Banner)	61
National Benefits (Banner)	55
Introduction to Parkwind and ESB (Banner)	54
FAQ Document	51
Oriel Wind Farm Planning	44
Online Feedback Form	19
Thank You (Banner)	12
Total	**3136**

Duration of Site Visits

48 visitors (14%) spent longer than 5 minutes in the room while 168 visitors (47%) spent less than one minute in the room.

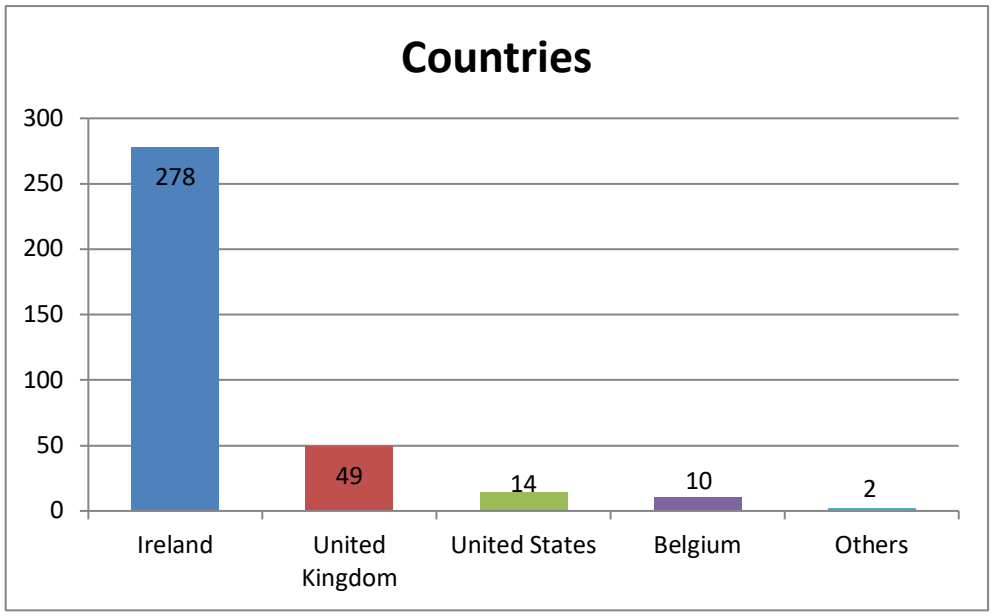


The heatmap below indicates the areas of the room people have been looking at. A decrease in activity towards the end of the room (right hand side of image) shows that not all users are staying in the portal until the end of the exhibition.

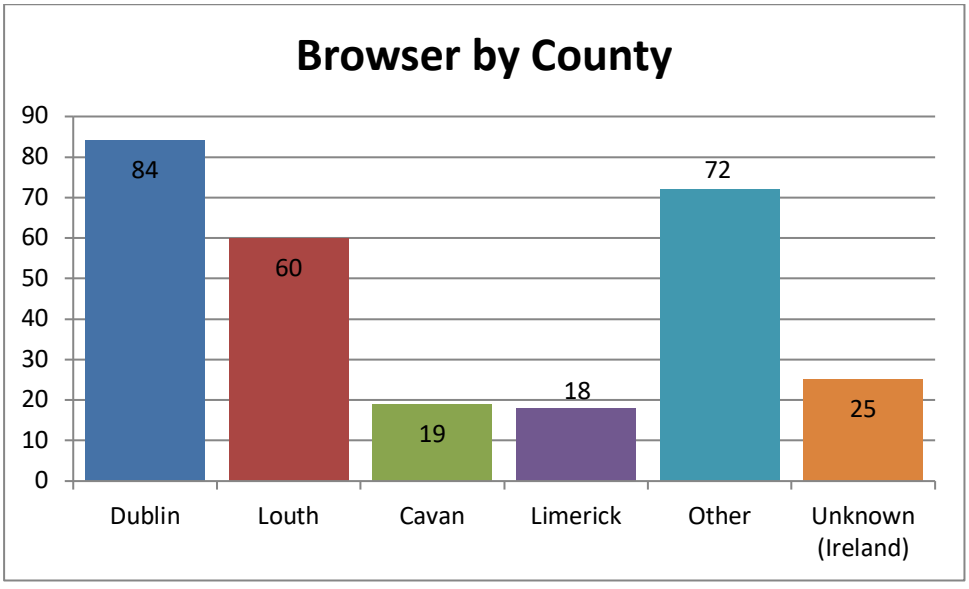


Geographical Breakdown of Site Visitors

Approximately 79% of the traffic was from Ireland with 14% from the UK and 4% from the US.

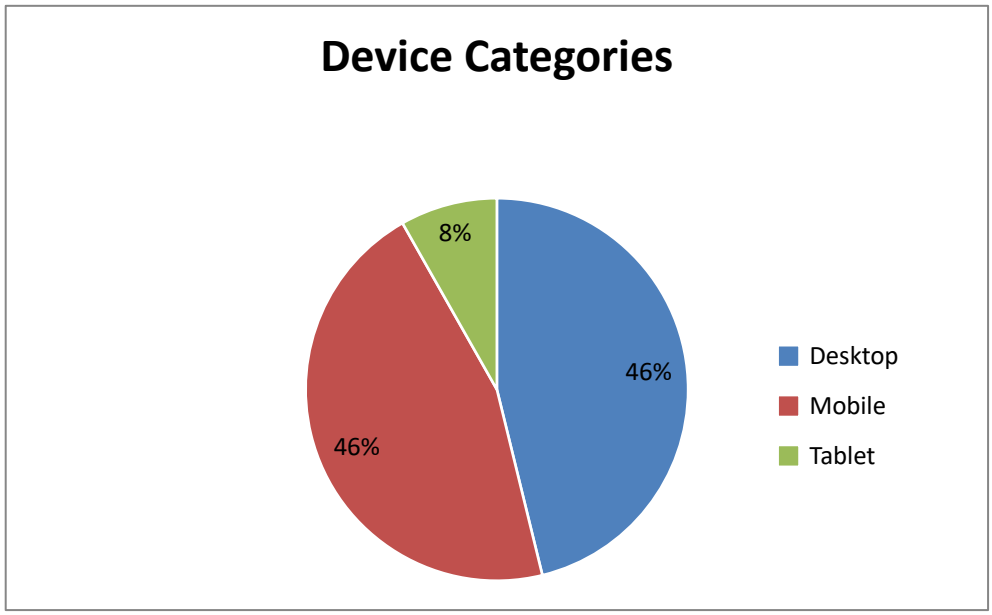


Dublin visitors to the site represented 30% of Irish visitors. This was followed by Louth at 22%, Cavan at 7% and Limerick at 6%. Approximately 26% were from other parts of Ireland. There was 9% that were also from Ireland but it was not possible to determine the county due to user defined browser restrictions. These are indicated as “Unknown” in the chart below.

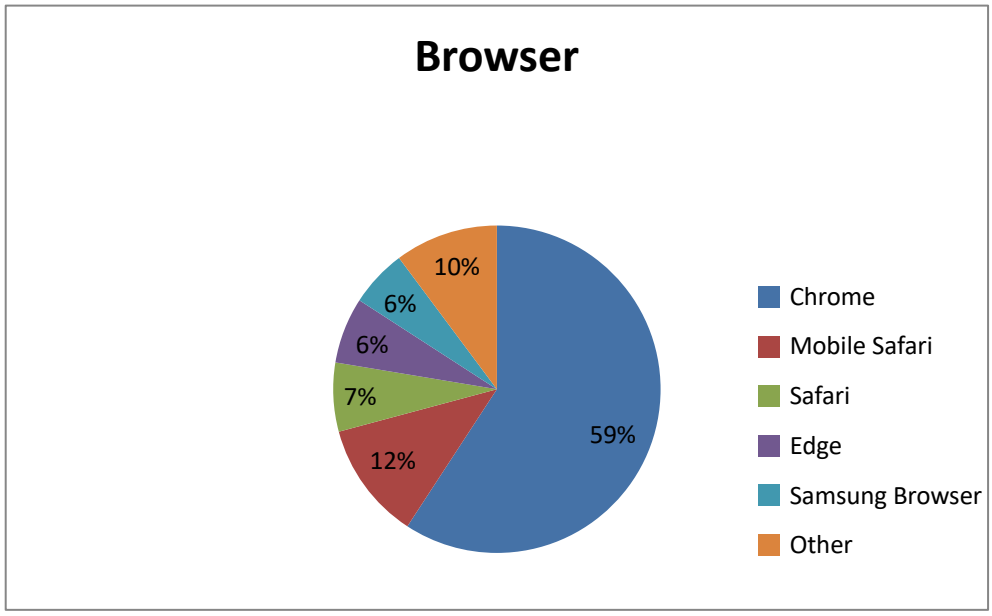


Device, Browser and Platform Information

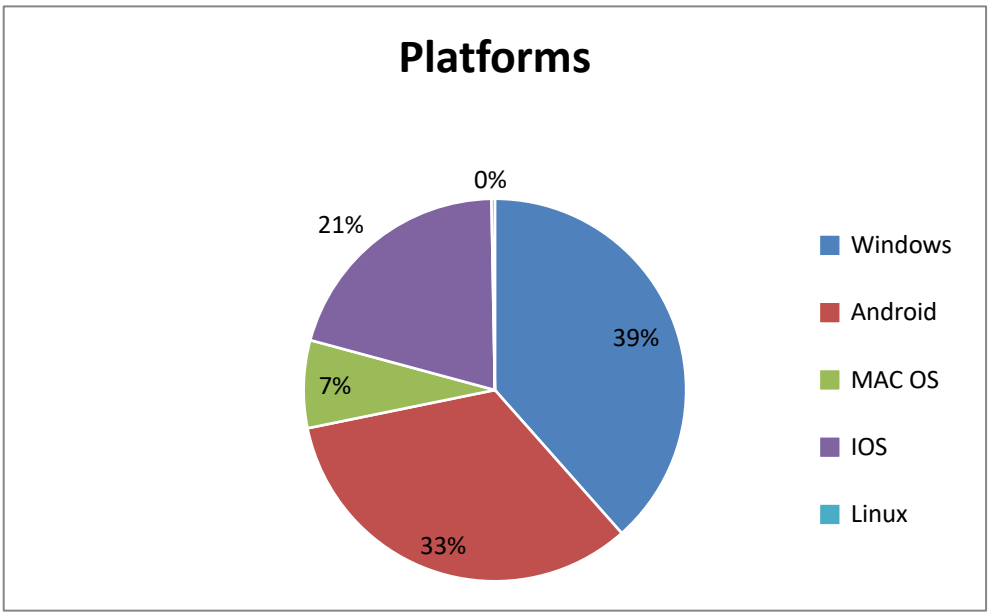
46% (163) of visitors accessed the room from a desktop/laptop computer while 46% (161) were accessing from a mobile device.

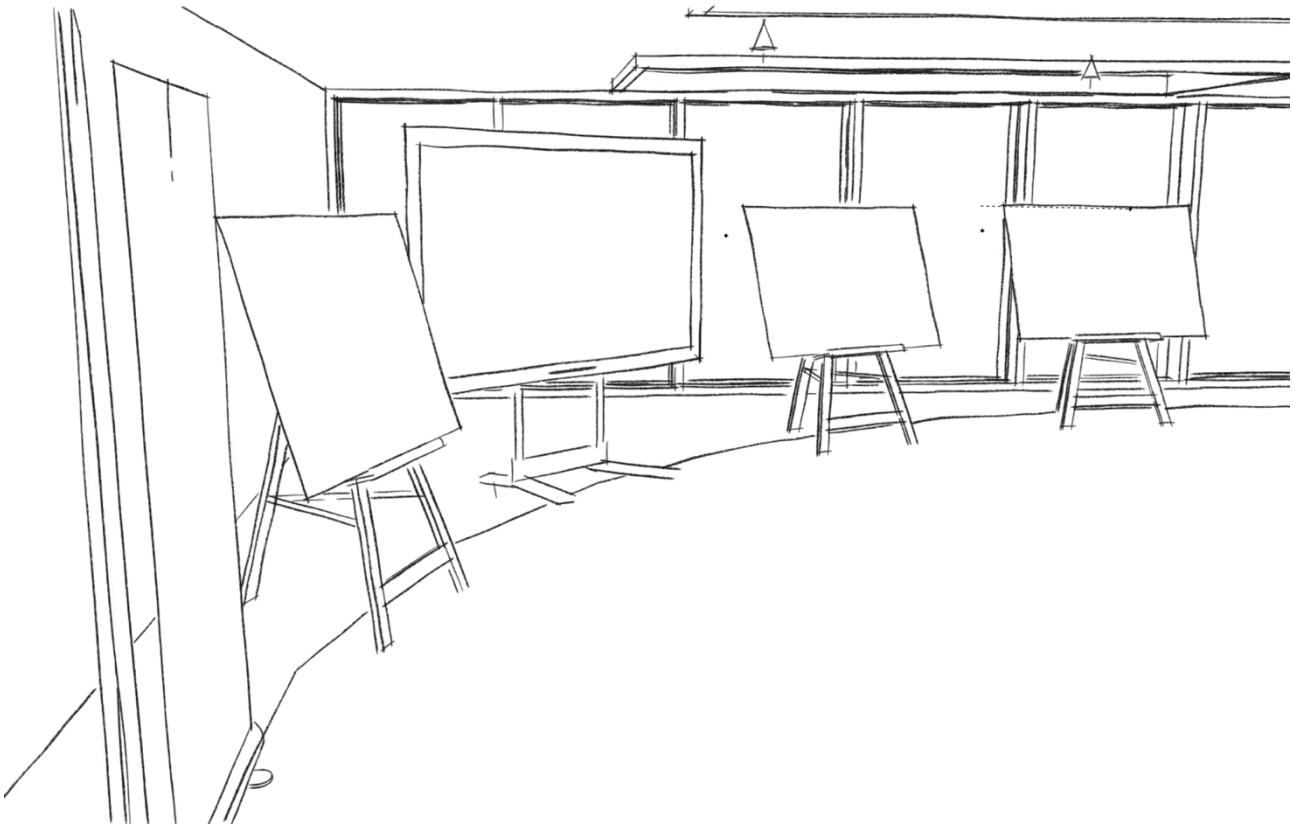


The most popular browser used to visit the site was Chrome. This accounted for 59% with the other 41% split between different browsers as shown below.



Windows was the most popular platform used with 39% of traffic using it. It was followed by Android with 33% of traffic.





Virtual Public Exhibition
Web Traffic Report

Parkwind Oriel Wind Farm

18th – 31st January 2021

Executive Summary

- The total number of visits to the site during the two week period was 564.
- The most popular parts of the site were the Introduction video followed by the Photomontages.
- 16% of visitors spent more than 5 minutes in the room.
- 82% of visitors were from Ireland with 25% of those in the Dublin area and 21% in Louth.
- A desktop/laptop was the most common device used to access the site.
- The most common platform in use was Windows.
- The browser used most frequently to access the site was Chrome.

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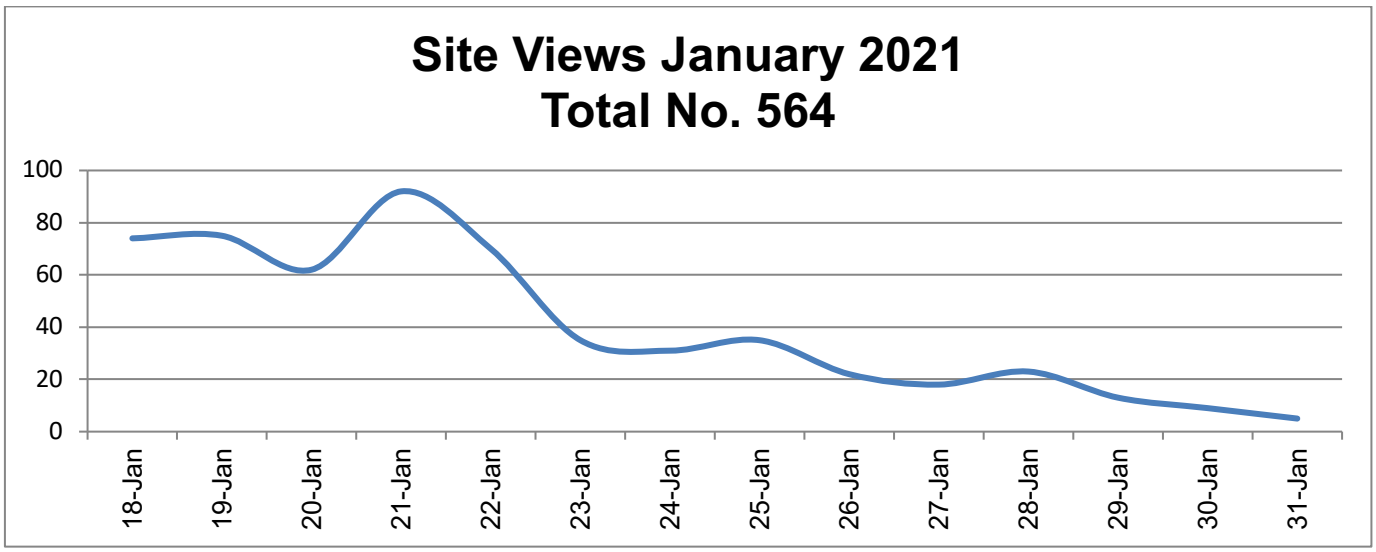
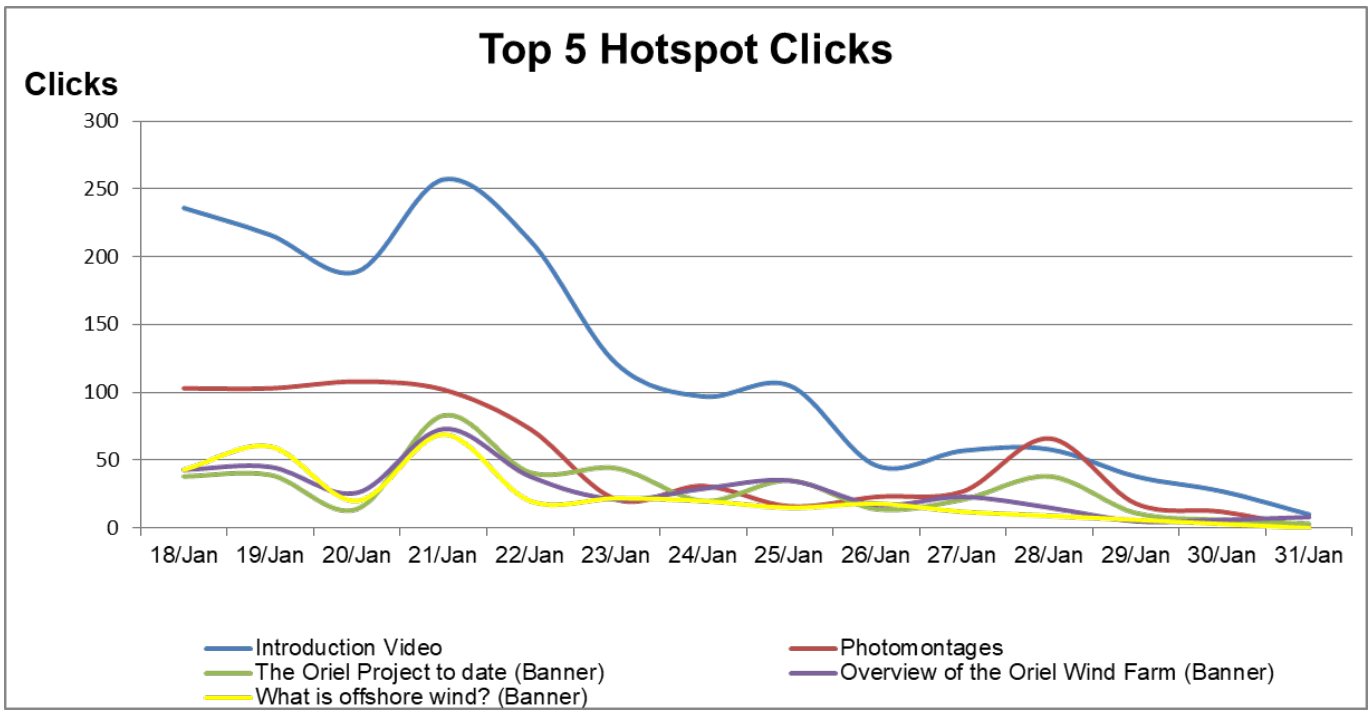
Site Visits

There were 564 visits to the room in this period. There were a higher number of visits in the week of the launch than later in the month. Site visits averaged approx. 20 per day throughout the second week.



Top 5 Hotspot Clicks

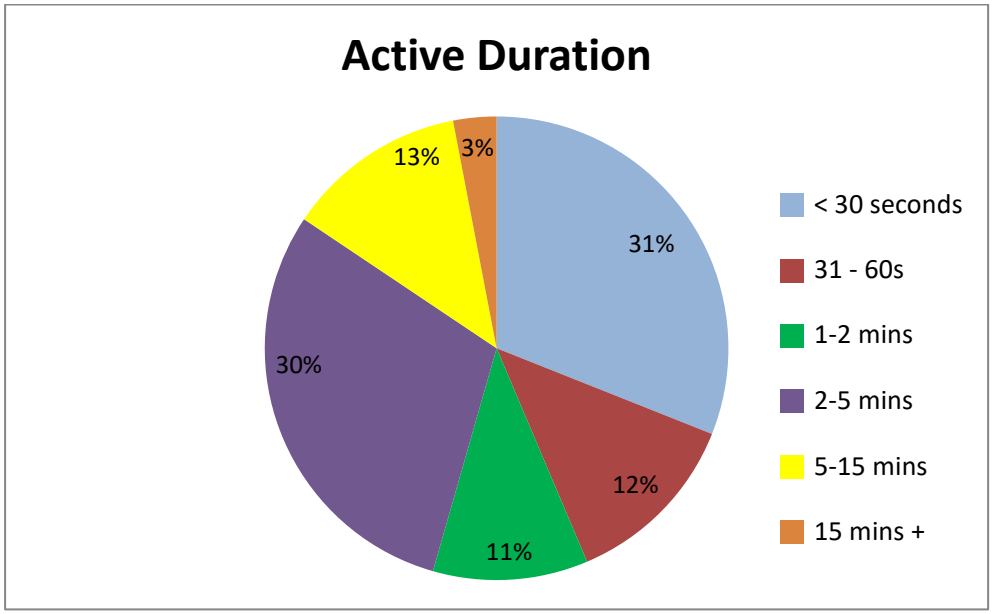
The Introduction video is the most viewed in the room at 1669 clicks. This is followed by the Photomontages and the “Oriel Project to date” banner at 703 and 407 clicks respectively.
After that, the “Overview of the Oriel Wind Farm” banner and the “What is Offshore Wind?” banner complete the most popular five with 384 and 317 clicks respectively. All other figures are available in the table on page 5.



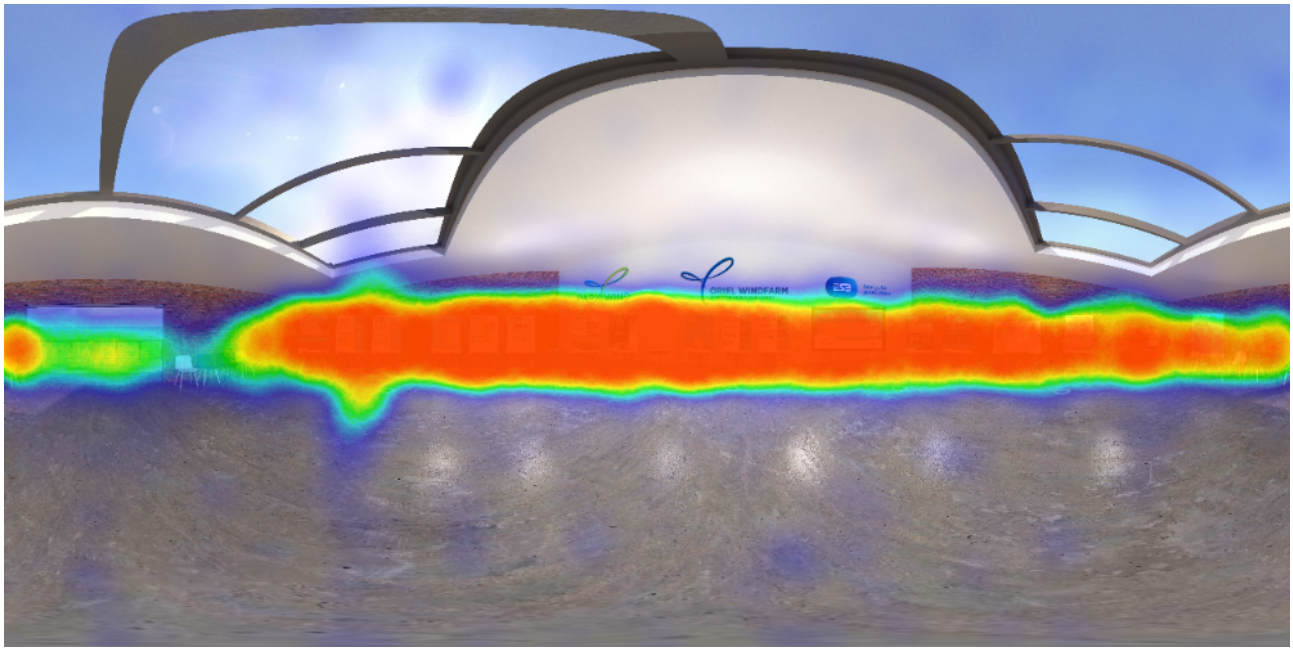
Hotspot	No.Clicks
Introduction Video	1669
Photomontages	703
The Oriel Project to date (Banner)	407
Overview of the Oriel Wind Farm (Banner)	384
What is offshore wind? (Banner)	317
Constraints Mapping (Banner)	239
Climate Change in Ireland (Banner)	206
Building the Oriel Project Onshore (Banner)	199
Benefits of Offshore Wind Technology (Banner)	184
Local Benefits (Banner)	165
EIAR Scoping Document	150
Oriel Brochure	148
Building the Oriel Project Offshore (Banner)	144
Oriel Wind and the local Community (Banner)	142
Oriel Wind Farm and Nature (Banner)	118
Extensive Survey Activity and Research (Banner)	110
National Benefits (Banner)	95
Oriel Wind Farm Planning	94
FAQ Document	81
Introduction to Parkwind and ESB (Banner)	78
Online Feedback Form	72
Thank You (Banner)	56
Total	**5761**

Duration of Site Visits

88 visitors (16%) spent longer than 5 minutes in the room while 175 visitors (43%) spent less than one minute in the room.

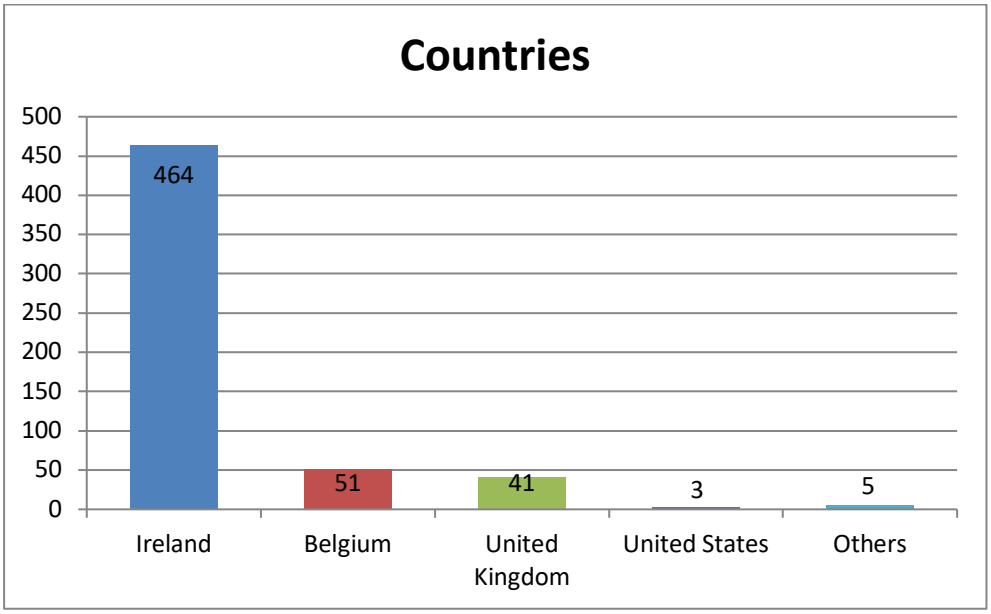


The heatmap below indicates the areas of the room people have been looking at. A decrease in activity towards the end of the room (right hand side of image) shows that not all users are staying in the portal until the end of the exhibition.

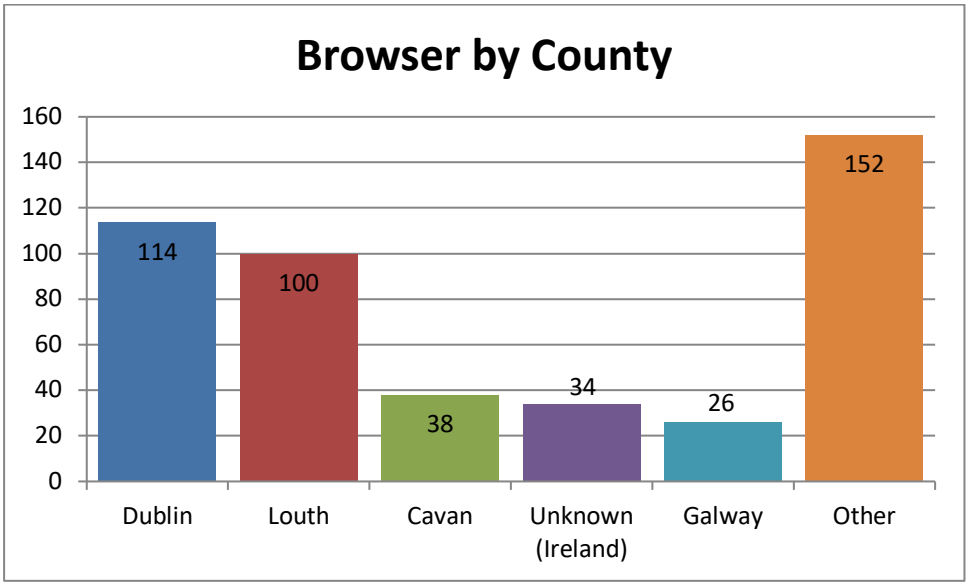


Geographical Breakdown of Site Visitors

Approximately 82% of the traffic was from Ireland with 9% from Belgium and 7% from the UK.

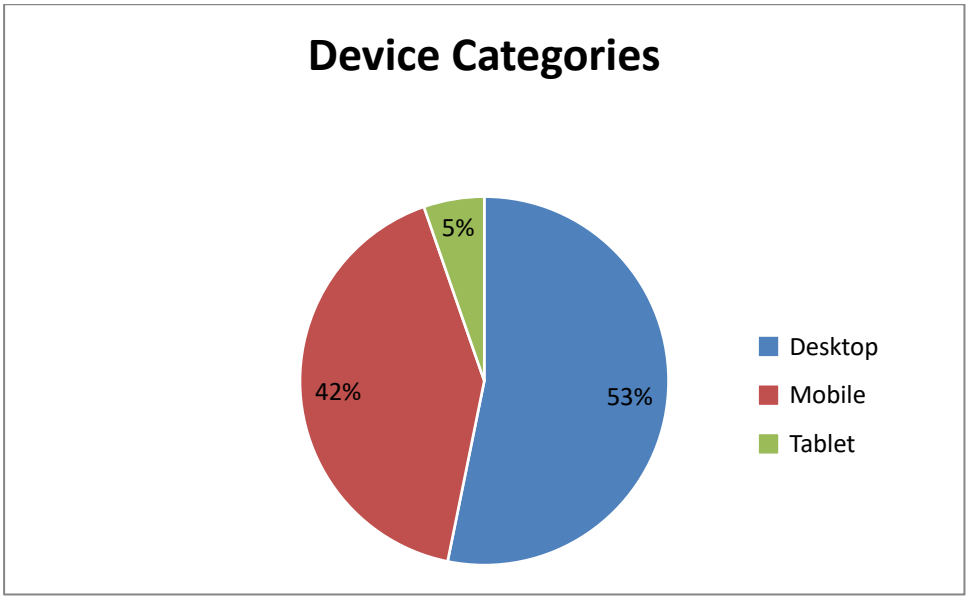


Dublin visitors to the site represented 25% of Irish visitors. This was followed by Louth at 22%, Cavan at 8% and Galway at 6%. Approximately 8% were from other parts of Ireland but it was not possible to determine the county due to user defined browser restrictions. These are indicated as “Unknown” in the chart below.

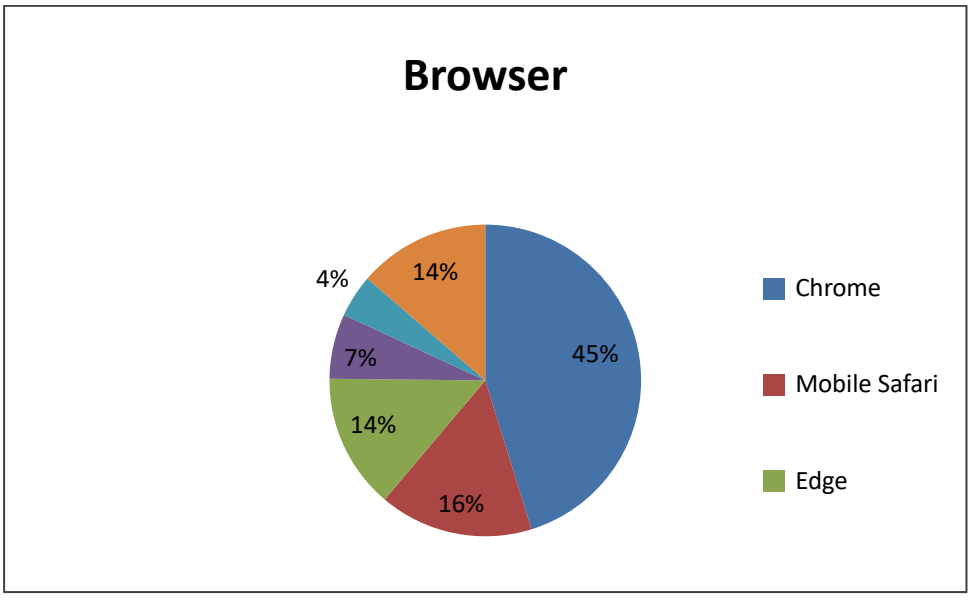


Device, Browser and Platform Information

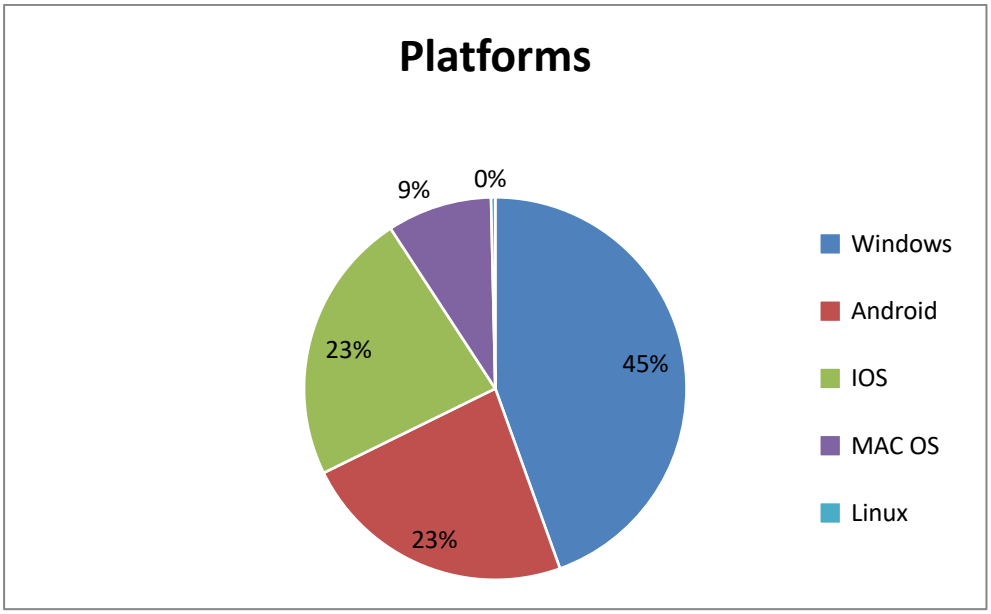
53% of visitors accessed the room from a desktop/laptop computer while 42% were accessing from a mobile device.



The most popular browser used to visit the site was Chrome. This accounted for 45% with the other 55% split between different browsers as shown below.



Windows was easily the most popular platform used with 45% of traffic using it. It was followed by Android and IOS, both with 23% of traffic.



ORIEL WINDFARM
OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

APPENDIX B – VIRTUAL PUBLIC EXHIBITION 2023 – WEB TRAFFIC REPORT

+353 (0)71 912 8220
Office 8, Sligo Airport Business Park, Strandhill, Sligo, F91 RH7V

innovision

Virtual Public Exhibition

Web Traffic Report

CLIENT

Parkwind

PROJECT

Oriel Wind Farm

PERIOD

January 11th, 2023 - February 20th, 2023

Table of Contents

At A Glance

502

The total number of visitors to the exhibition during this period

7.3

Minutes

Average session length

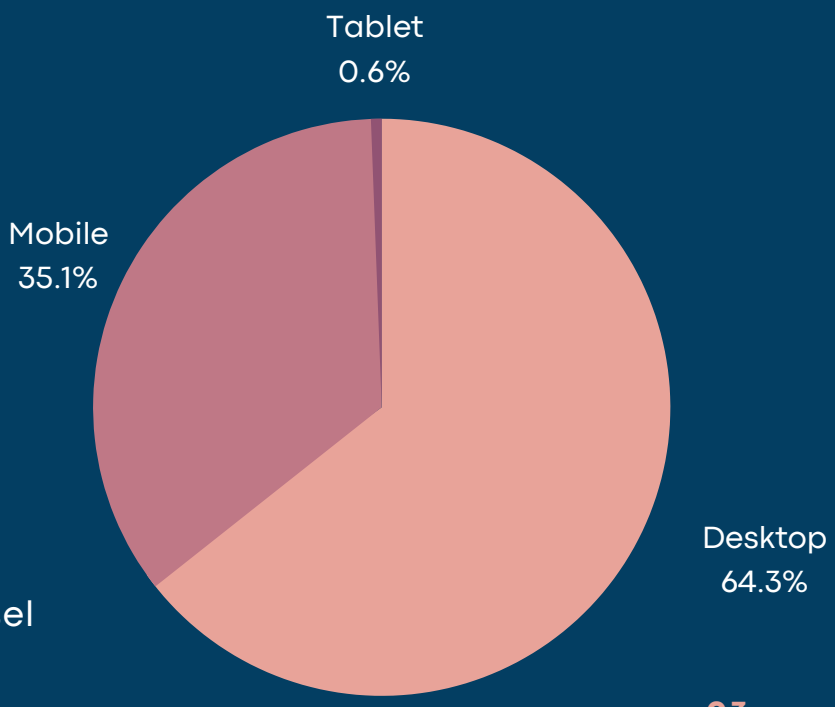
56%

Percentage of visitors from Ireland

Most Popular Content

1. Welcome Video (489 clicks)
2. Photomontages (179 clicks)
3. Project Overview Easel (100 clicks)

Device Use

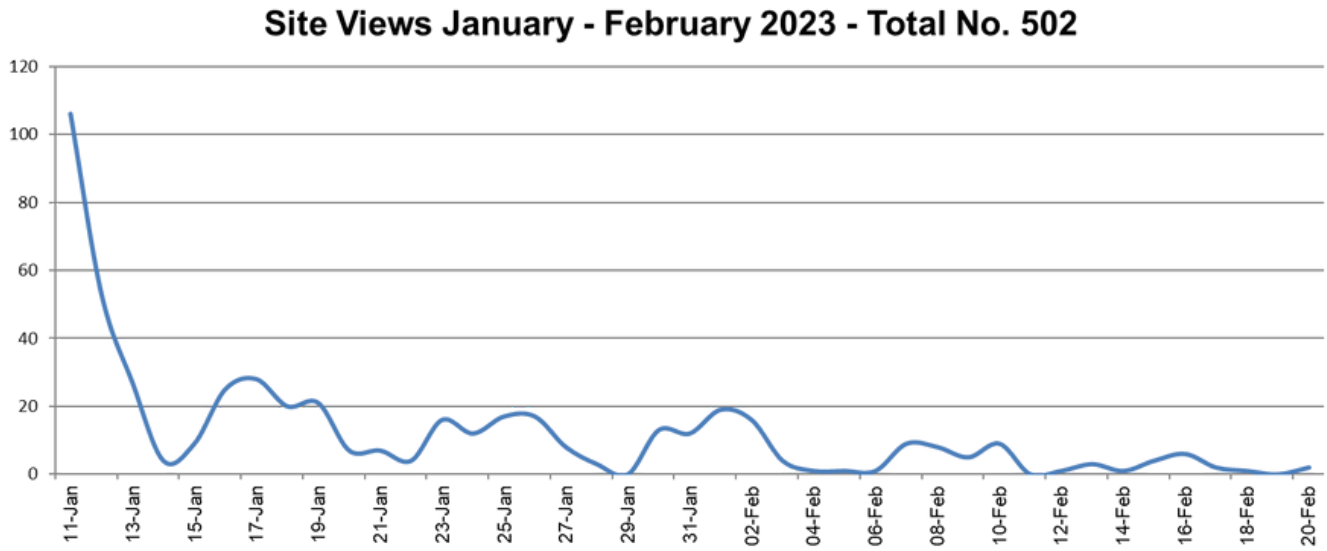


Site Visits

THERE WERE 502 VISITS TO THE EXHIBITION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 11TH TO FEBRUARY 20TH.

The most popular time for visits occurred between the launch and January 13th. There was a decline thereafter, with spikes in visits occurring between January 16th and 19th, January 23rd to 26th and January 30th to February 2nd. On each of these dates more than 10 visits were recorded.

The graph below depicts the site views during this period.



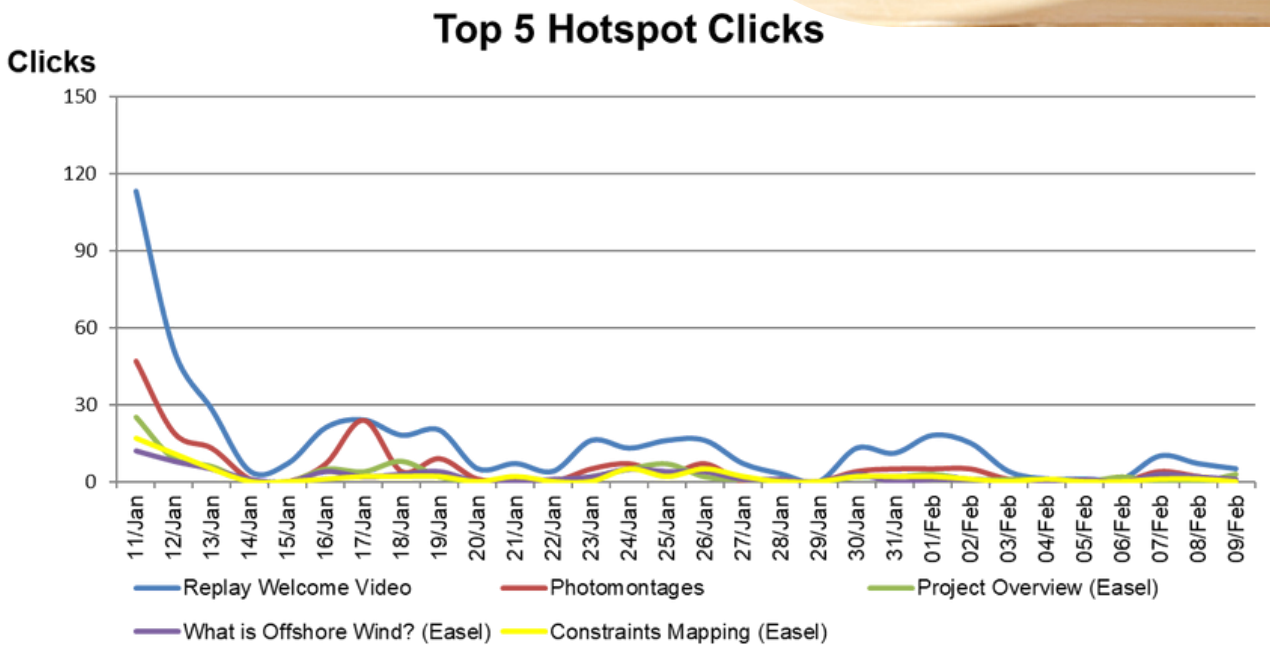
Top 5 Hotspot Clicks

WHAT CONTENT IS MOST POPULAR?

The “Welcome” video attracted the most clicks in the room with 489. As this launches upon entry to the room, a high number is to be expected.

The “Photomontages” was the next most clicked on in the room with 179 clicks. This is followed by the “Project Overview” easel with 100 clicks, the “What is Offshore Wind?" easel with 74 clicks and the “Constraints Mapping” easel with 72 clicks.

The graph below indicates when these clicks occurred throughout the exhibition period. All other figures are available in the table on the following page.



Hotspot Clicks

WHAT CONTENT IS MOST POPULAR?

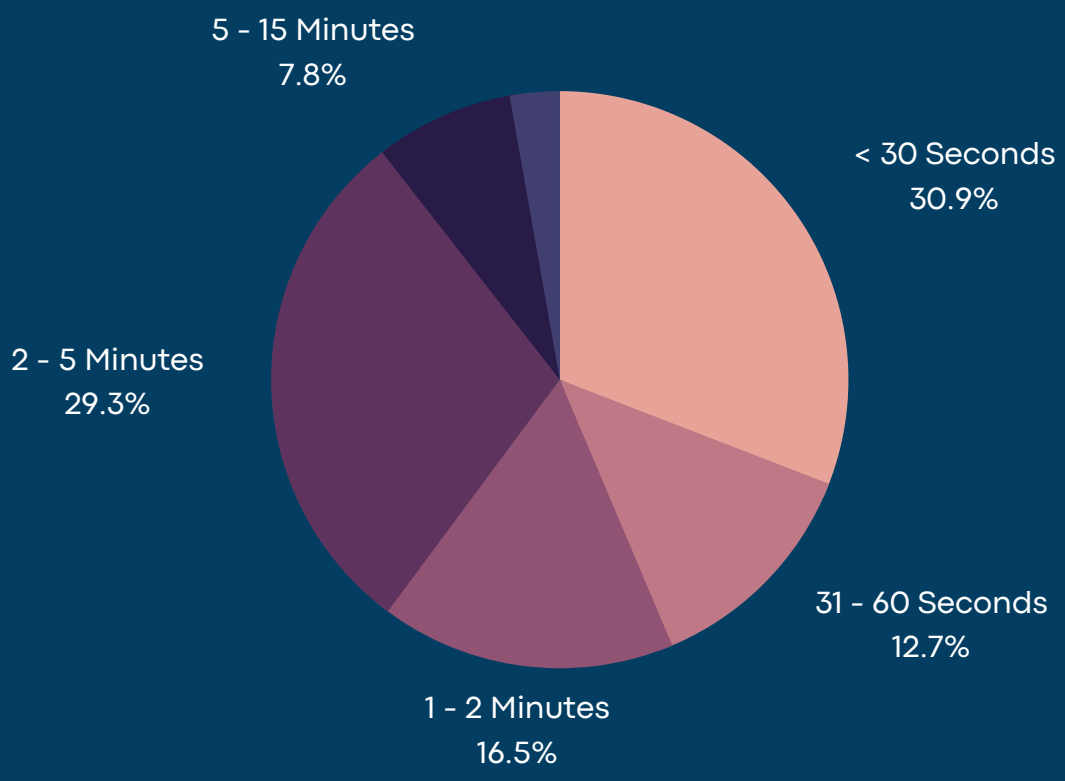
Hotspot	No. Clicks
Welcome Video	489
Photomontages	179
Project Overview (Easel)	100
What is Offshore Wind? (Easel)	74
Constraints Mapping (Easel)	72
Oriel to Date (Easel)	62
Building Onshore (Easel)	52
How we listened 1 (Easel)	44
Building Offshore (Easel)	36
How we listened 2 (Easel)	34
Climate Change and Ireland (Easel)	34
Planning Consent Process (Easel)	33
Benefits of Offshore Wind Technology (Easel)	31
Oriel Wind and the Local Community (Easel)	30
EIAR Scoping Document (Table)	29
Local Benefits (Easel)	28
FAQ Document (Table)	23
Intro to Parkwind & ESB (Easel)	22
Oriel Brochure (Table)	22
Extensive Survey Activity & Research (Easel)	21
Oriel Wind Farm and Nature (Easel)	18
Online Feedback (Table)	15
National Benefits (Easel)	13
Thank You (Easel)	12
Total	**1473**

Duration of Site Visits

53 VISITORS (11%) SPENT LONGER THAN 5 MINUTES IN THE ROOM WHILE 219 VISITORS (44%) SPENT LESS THAN ONE MINUTE IN THE ROOM.

THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT IN THE EXHIBITION ROOM WAS JUST OVER 7 MINUTES.

Active Duration in Exhibition



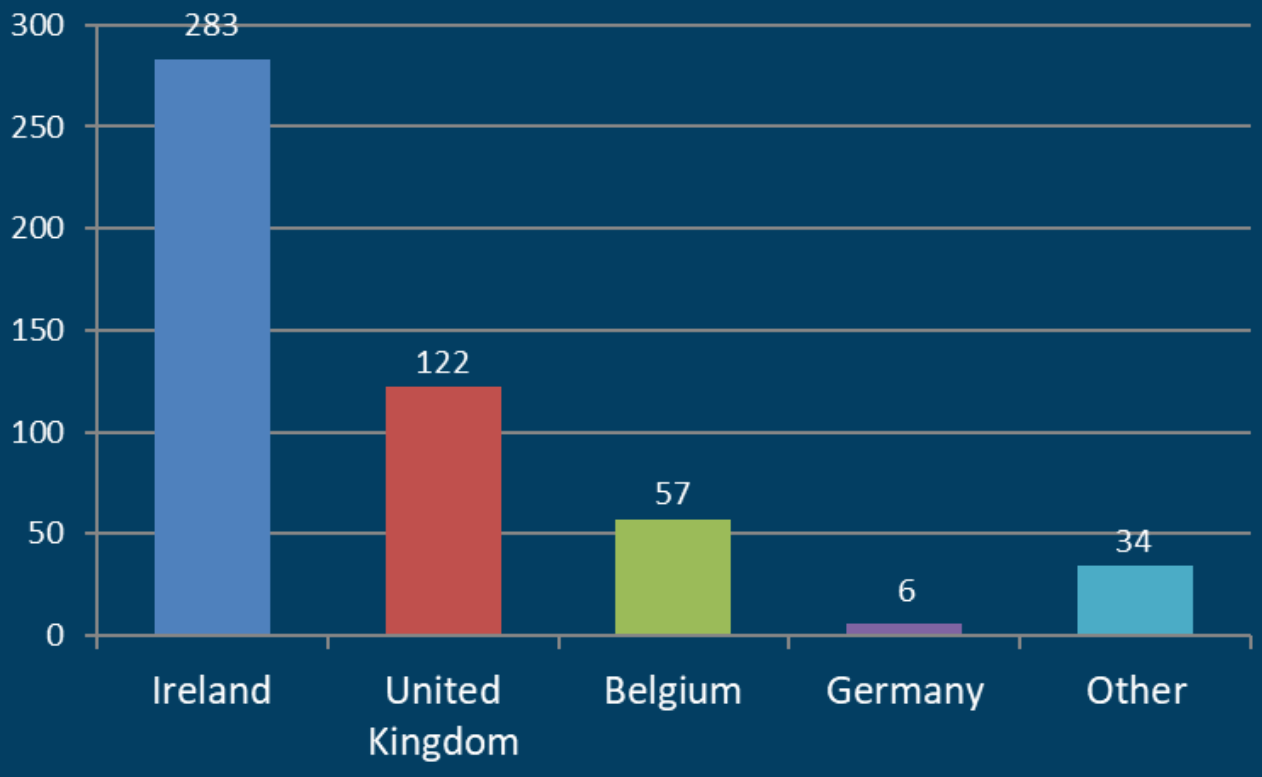
Geographical Breakdown of Site Visitors

56% of traffic in this time period was from Ireland.

The United Kingdom had 122 visitors accounting for approximately 24% of visits. There were 57 visitors from Belgium representing approximately 11% of visitors, and 6 visitors from Germany representing approximately 1%

The remaining 8% were from other countries, or the country was unknown.

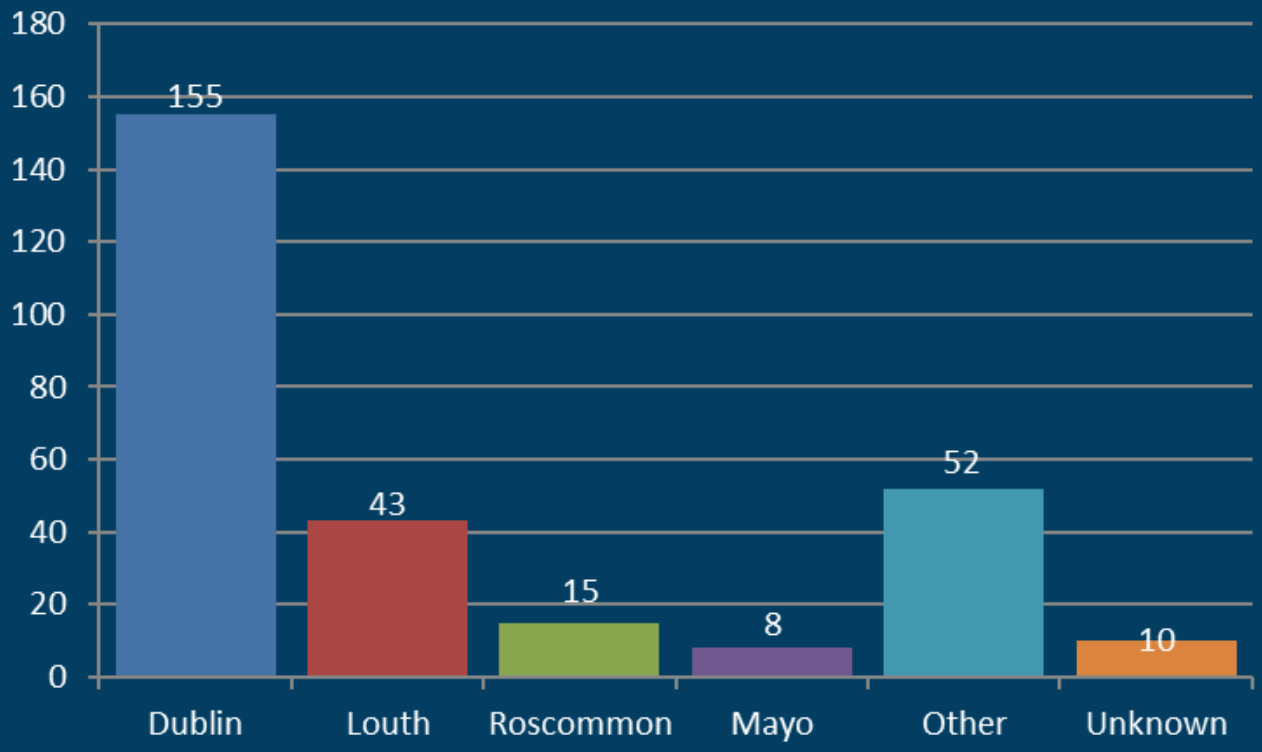
Country Breakdown



Geographical Breakdown of Site Visitors by County*

Dublin visitors (155) to the site represented approximately 55% of Irish visitors. There were 43 visitors from Co Louth, 15 from Co Roscommon and 8 from Co Mayo. There were 62 visitors from other counties or the county was unknown.

County Breakdown

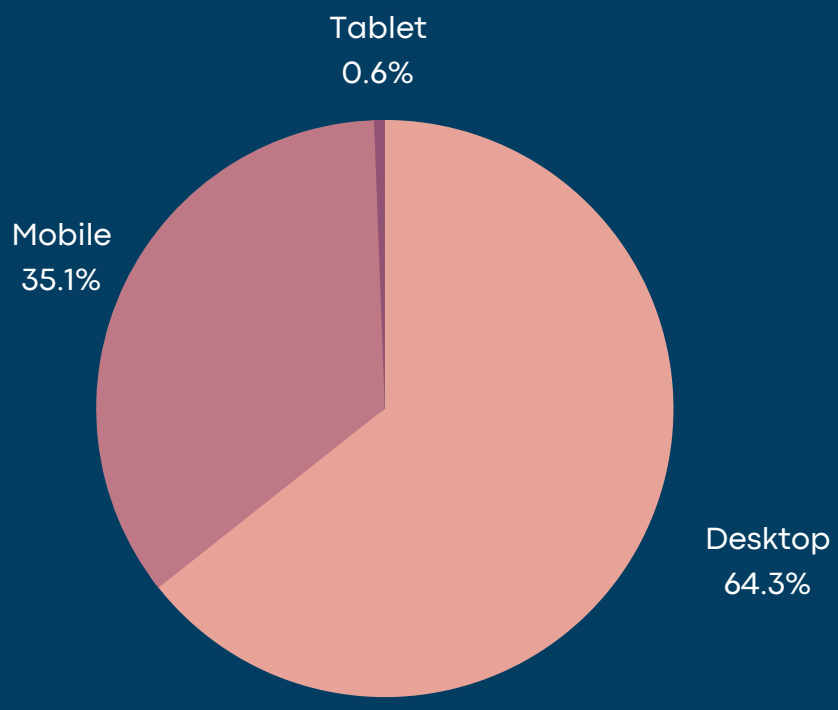


*Note: The browser location statistics do not always necessarily represent the location of the device accessing the website and may just represent the location of the user's internet service provider server. As such, these figures should be regarded with caution.

Device Information

323 visitors accessed the room from a Desktop/Laptop computer . 176 visitors used a mobile device while a tablet device was used by 3 visitors.

Device Use in Exhibition

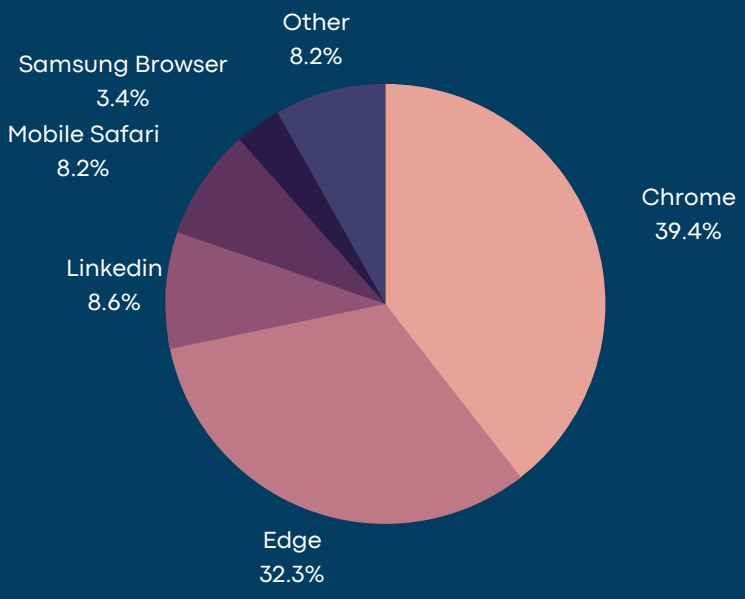


Browser & Platform Information

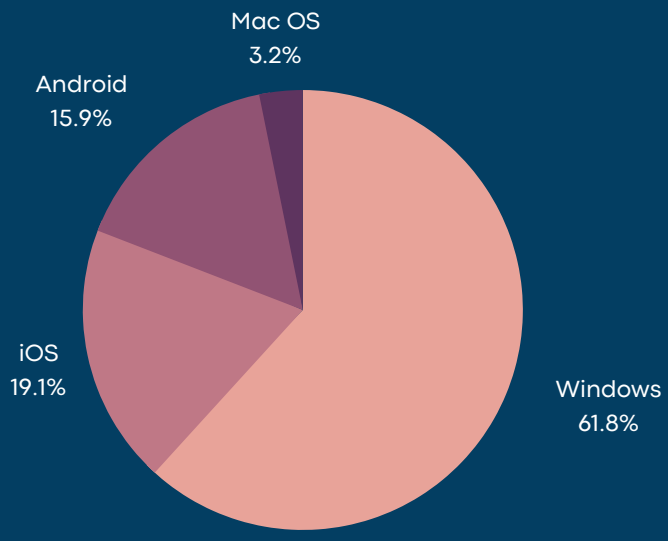
The most popular browser used to visit the site was Chrome. This accounted for 39.4% (198 visitors). Edge was the next most popular with 32.3%. Linkedin accounted for 8.6%, Mobile Safari was used by 8.2% and Samsung Browser by 3.4%. Other browsers were used by 8.2% of visitors.

Windows was the most popular platforms used with 310 visitors using it. It was followed by iOS with 96 visitors, Android with 80 visitors and Mac OS with 16 visitors. The relevant percentages are shown in the pie chart below.

Browser Use



Platform Use



Contact us

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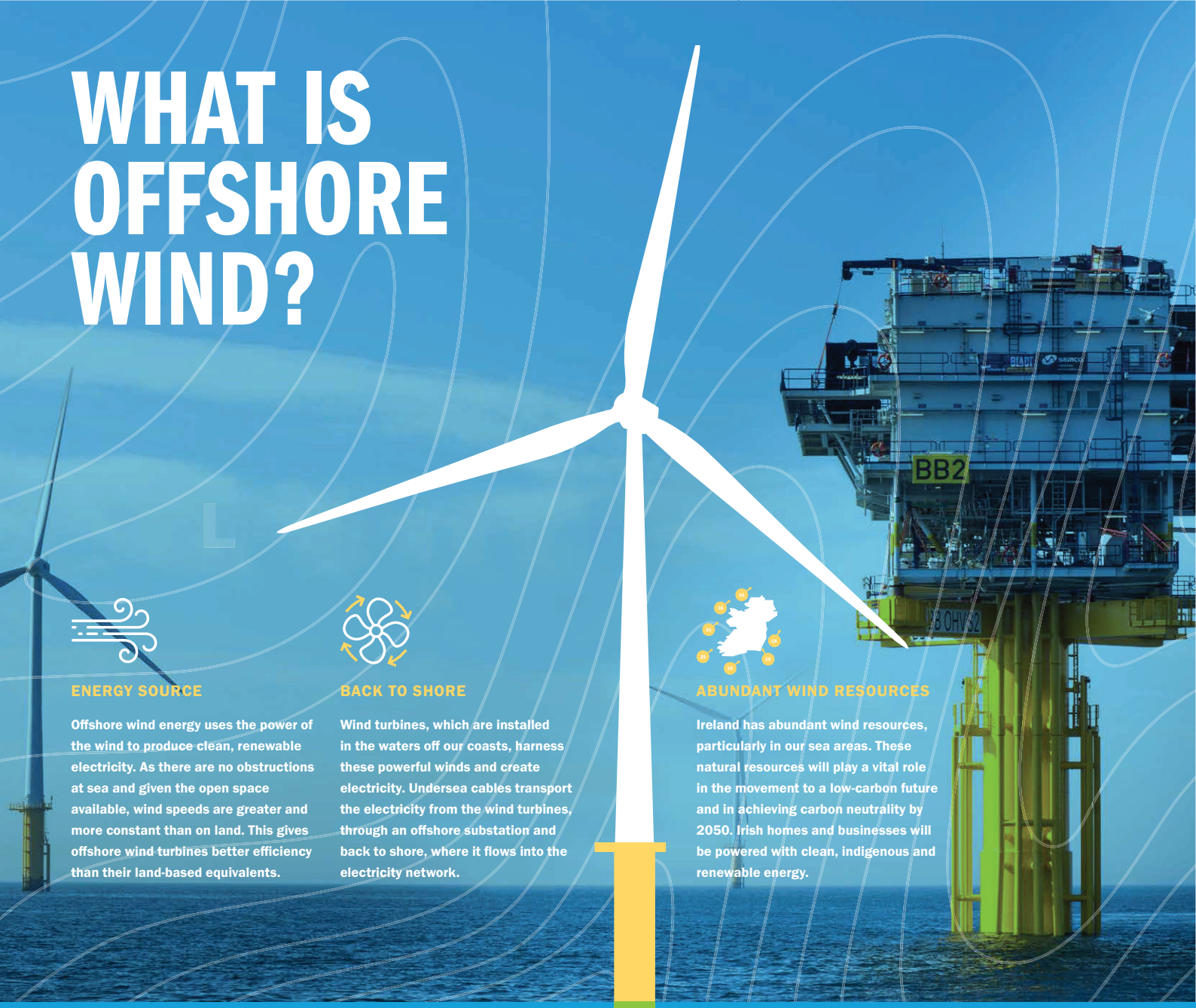
APPENDIX C – INFORMATION PANELS USED IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The information panels used in the public and online information sessions are available to view and download at the following web link:

Parkwind Oriel windfarm | Project Information

https://www.orielwindfarm.ie/project-information-1

WHAT IS OFFSHORE WIND?



ENERGY SOURCE

Offshore wind energy uses the power of the wind to produce clean, renewable electricity. As there are no obstructions at sea and given the open space available, wind speeds are greater and more constant than on land. This gives offshore wind turbines better efficiency than their land-based equivalents.

BACK TO SHORE

Wind turbines, which are installed in the waters off our coasts, harness these powerful winds and create electricity. Undersea cables transport the electricity from the wind turbines, through an offshore substation and back to shore, where it flows into the electricity network.

ABUNDANT WIND RESOURCES

Ireland has abundant wind resources, particularly in our sea areas. These natural resources will play a vital role in the movement to a low-carbon future and in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Irish homes and businesses will be powered with clean, indigenous and renewable energy.

WHY OFFSHORE WIND?

The large open space available at sea and the transportation of large components via ships are two important factors that make it possible for offshore wind turbines to have larger blades compared to onshore turbines.

These blades enable an offshore wind farm to generate large amounts of energy from the available wind. These turbines can generate energy at both low and high wind speeds from 10 km/h to 100 km/h.

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OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

PARK WIND

ESB Energy for generations

CLIMATE CHANGE AND IRELAND

The Irish Government has set clear and ambitious targets that will move Ireland from falling short of renewable targets to playing its part in achieving our European and international climate objectives. The time to act on climate change is now. Ireland is committed to carbon neutrality by 2050. These targets are based on, amongst other things, 7GW of offshore wind by 2030.

The cost of continuing to ignore our targets will be significant. Estimates place the cost of fines relating to emissions and renewable energy at over €150 million per year. Beyond this financial penalty, our failure to act is contributing to the irreversible damage being done to our planet.

The impact of climate change is already being felt in Ireland. Recent years have seen extreme weather events of flooding, drought and crippling heavy snow falls. Rising seas are already affecting our coastal communities and recent studies indicate that in the years ahead they will pose a threat to low-lying areas.

IRELAND'S ENERGY REPORT CARD

SEAI RENEWABLE ENERGY IN IRELAND 2021 REPORT

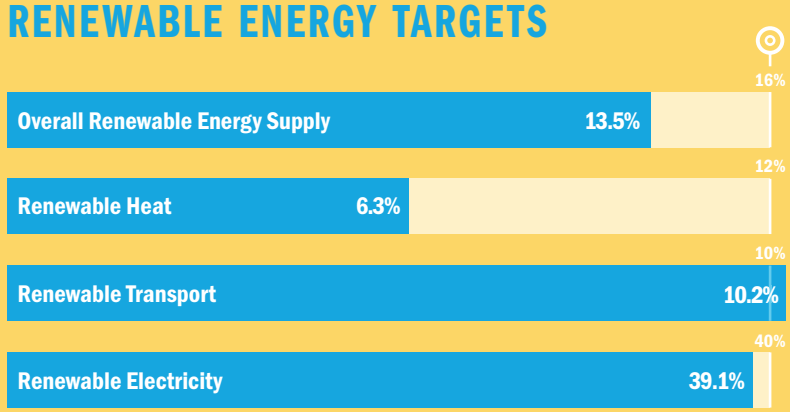
Ireland was ranked 27 out of the EU-28 on Progress towards meeting 2020 targets

Ireland was ranked 27 out of the EU-28 on Renewable Heat

Ireland was ranked 13th out of the EU – 28 on Renewable Transport

Ireland was ranked 12th out of the EU – 28 on Renewable Electricity

RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS



Renewable Energy in Ireland, SEAI updated report for 2021

It is estimated to achieve our 80% target for renewable electricity by 2030, Ireland will require approximately 10,000 MW of wind of which at least 3,500 MW is offshore*

*Climate Action Plan

IRELAND'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Ireland's proposed response to climate change is the National Climate Action Plan. This plan contains the solutions which will help Ireland decarbonise our society and move away from being what the then Taoiseach Leo Varadkar described as "a climate laggard".

80%

electricity generated from renewable sources by 2030

Ireland's Climate Action Plan has set a target that 80% of our electricity will come from renewable energy by 2030. This includes a target to have 7GW of offshore wind installed. This will allow us to generate clean energy which will replace fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow down climate disruption. The Oriel project can play a vital role in delivering these goals.

PHASE-OUT COAL & PEAT

Ireland has started the process of closing its coal and peat burning power plants. The four power plants that are shutting down, have a combined output of 1,200 MW of electricity generating capacity. That is enough electricity to power over one million homes. Oriel will help to replace these fuel burning stations with a clean, renewable indigenous energy source.

Offshore wind will reduce Ireland's need to import fossil fuels and will improve energy security and the environment.

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BENEFITS OF OFFSHORE WIND TECHNOLOGY

Offshore wind is a clean renewable source of energy that can help Ireland achieve energy independence.

Offshore winds are consistent enabling offshore wind turbines to generate power more of the time compared to other technologies.

Offshore winds are stronger, so offshore wind turbines generate more electricity. Offshore wind speeds are faster, generating energy more efficiently – a turbine in a 24 km/h wind can generate twice as much energy as a turbine in a 19 km/h wind.

Offshore wind is a domestic energy source with no fuel import costs. Irish wind energy cost only €1/person/year from 2000–2020.

Offshore wind gives Ireland greater energy security. Every MW of offshore wind means less money spent on imported fossil fuels.

Offshore projects like Oriel, which are close to centres of high energy demand, are more efficient and remove the need for new pylons.

Offshore wind power helps improve Ireland's air quality. It produces no particulate emissions, NO_x or SO_x emissions.

Developing our own renewable energy resources reduces our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Offshore wind farms are located at sea, meaning they are further away from homes and communities.

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY HAS BECOME A COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY SOURCE.

As more turbines are installed, unit prices drop, benefiting energy users. In recent years, new-build offshore wind has seen the fastest reduction in cost of any renewable energy source.

Offshore wind prices in 2021 were 35% lower than the prevailing prices in 2018.

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THE ORIEL PROJECT TO DATE

Oriel Windfarm Limited is an Irish company established in 2005 to develop the Oriel offshore windfarm. The Oriel project was one of the first offshore wind projects in Ireland to be planned. Initial studies for the project were undertaken in 2006 and 2007. The location was chosen as a suitable site, after extensive research, because of the strength and consistency of wind speeds, the nature of the seabed conditions and water depths.

Oriel applied for a Foreshore Lease in 2007. A draft Foreshore Lease with conditions was issued for the Oriel project in 2010. The recession and the resulting reduction in energy demand led to the project being temporarily put on hold.

Faced with the increased challenge of meeting our climate change objectives and the significant reduction in the cost of technology, offshore wind subsequently re-emerged as an important element of Ireland's future energy policy.

In October 2017, Parkwind NV, a European offshore wind farm developer, recognised in the industry for its technical and business expertise as well as its shareholders' commitment towards a sustainable future, agreed a significant investment to become a strategic partner in Oriel. In January 2019, ESB also invested in Oriel, creating a strong partnership with operational experience and financial backing.

Parkwind and ESB will plan, finance, develop and operate the wind farm.

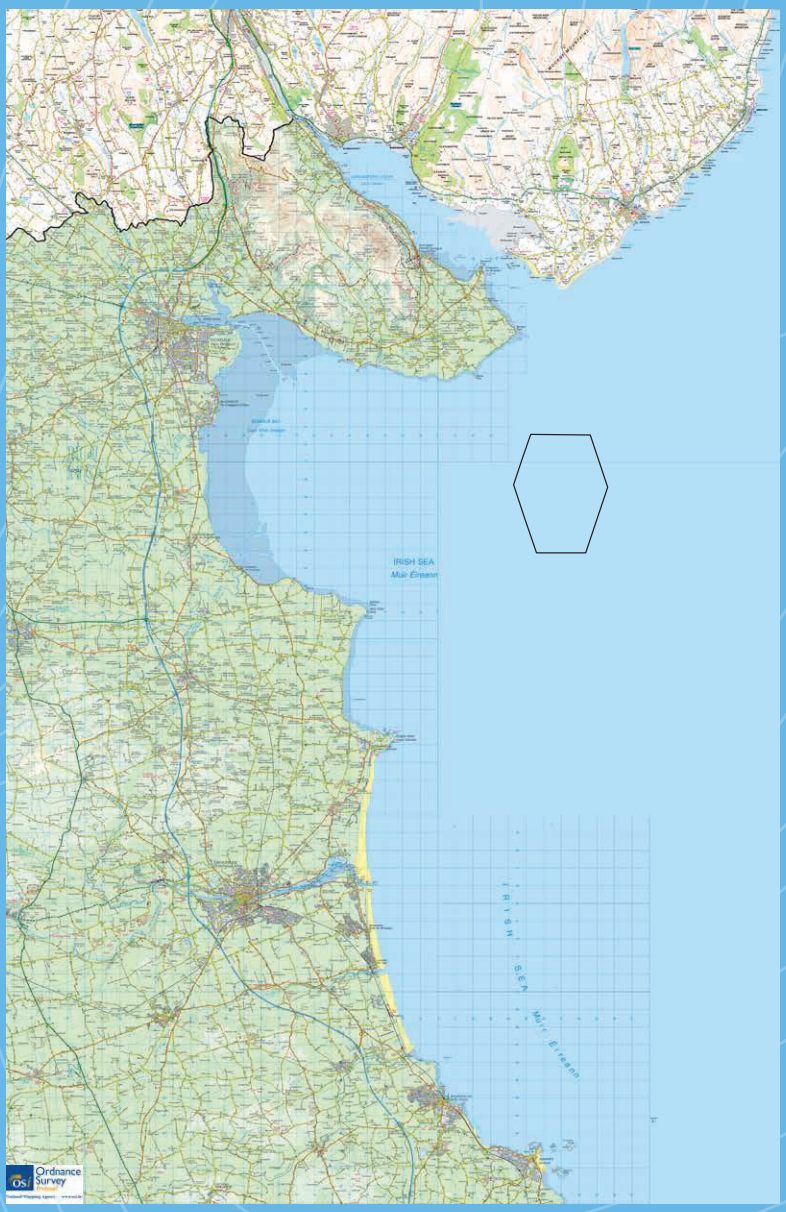
In 2019, Oriel obtained a Foreshore Licence that allowed us to carry out additional environmental and engineering studies during 2019 and 2020.

The outcome of the studies was used to further update the design of the windfarm, maximising efficiency while minimising any impacts on the environment.

We have applied for another Foreshore Licence to allow further work to help finalise the project design.

We have previously sought views on the project and updated our environmental reports based in part on feedback from local stakeholders.

We intend to apply for planning permission this year.



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PARKWIND

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Oriel project is a proposed offshore wind farm to be located in the Irish Sea. The development will be located off the north Louth coast.

The site was chosen based on an assessment of the following criteria:

- **water depth**
- **seabed sediments**
- **wind speeds**
- **shelter from high wave loads**
- **low tidal currents**
- **access to existing grid infrastructure**
- **avoidance of trawling grounds and shipping channels.**

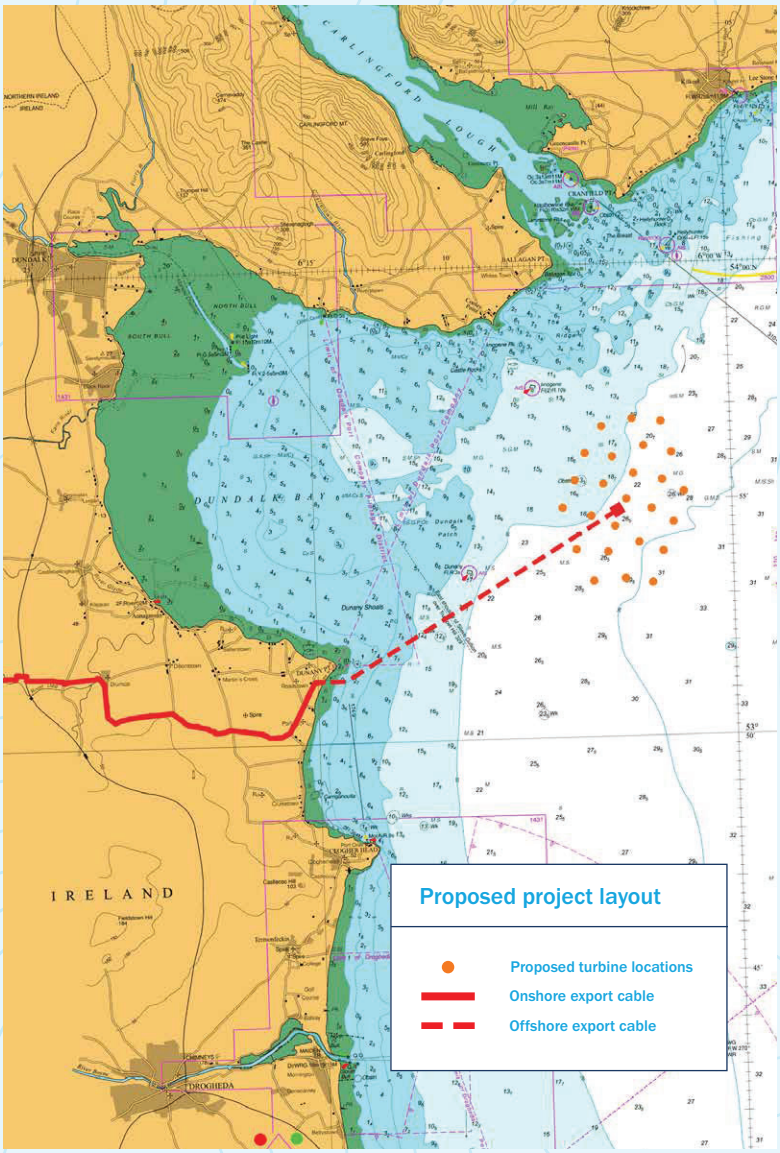
There are few sites in Irish coastal waters that meet all these criteria.

Our objective is to minimise the environmental impact, while developing the project in a technically feasible and cost-effective manner.

Since the Oriel project was originally designed, offshore wind technology has improved significantly. This means that we can now generate more electricity with fewer turbines. Reducing the number of turbines allows us to move the project 20% further offshore. The table below provides an overview of the design parameters for the project.

Proposed project design parameters	
Capacity of windfarm	375MW
Turbine capacity	15MW
Number of turbines	25
Distance from Shore	6km at closest point
Tower height	150m
Blade length	120m
Expected energy production	1,500GWh/yr
Carbon saved at average output	600,000 tonnes/yr
Houses powered with renewable energy	300,000

By using turbines with a longer blade length, we can improve the efficiency and energy output of the project, while at the same time reducing the number of turbines from 55 in the original proposal to just 25 now. This reduction will also enable the turbines to be located further from shore.



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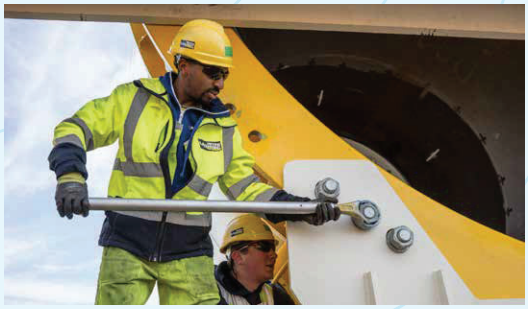
INTRODUCTION TO PARKWIND AND ESB



ABOUT PARKWIND

Parkwind, established in 2012, is a full life-cycle business that develops, finances and operates offshore wind farms. With 771 MW under operational management spread across four wind farms in the North Sea and 577 MW under development, it has steadily become one of Europe's leading independent offshore industry companies. Parkwind is currently constructing a fifth wind farm in the German Baltic Sea. The Arcadis Ost project is a 257 MW wind farm located northeast of the island of Rügen, Germany which will be completed in 2023.

Parkwind's policy is to reinvest all profits into future offshore wind energy projects to accelerate the transition to green energy and playing a positive role in European climate and energy policy.

With over 120 professionals operating from its headquarters in Belgium, Parkwind also has an Irish office, established in 2017, after its investment in Oriel.

Parkwind holds several engineering patents and is equally active in numerous European R&D initiatives related to materials science and energy storage involving hydrogen.

ABOUT ESB

ESB operates across the electricity market, from generation through transmission and distribution, to supply of customers in addition to using its networks to carry fibre for telecommunications.

ESB is a leading Irish utility with a regulated asset base of approximately €10.9 billion (comprising ESB Networks €8.8 billion and NIE Networks €2.1 billion), a 33% share of generation in the all-island market, and retail businesses supplying electricity and gas to over 1.9 million customer accounts throughout the island of Ireland and Britain.

ESB recently launched its Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040 strategy, which sets out a path to achieve Net Zero by focusing on decarbonised electricity, resilient infrastructure and empowering customers. Aligned with the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan, the strategy explicitly maps to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supporting the global agenda to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. ESB Group employs almost 8,000 people, and is on a recruitment drive to enhance its existing talent pool by attracting 1,000 people to help accelerate its Net Zero strategy in the coming years.

In 2019, ESB took a stake in the Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm, currently in construction off the east coast of Scotland. More recently, ESB took a 50:50 joint venture stake in Inch Cape Offshore Limited, a large wind farm development in the earlier stages of development off the east coast of Scotland.

ESB contributes almost €2 billion annually to the Irish economy through dividends, investments, taxes and jobs.

EXTENSIVE SURVEY ACTIVITY & RESEARCH

From the choice of location over a decade ago to the most recent geophysical surveys, the Oriel project has been founded on a commitment to research and the best quality environmental analysis.

Over the last three years, we have invested over 30,000 hours studying the offshore area and the proposed cable route and substation location. We are measuring wind speeds, currents, wave height, seabed conditions, sub-sea geology, visual impacts, acoustic impacts to marine and animal life and other environmental factors.

These environmental and technical surveys allow us to create the best design for the project, considering all relevant factors. The surveys also allow us to ensure that it can be constructed in a way which avoids any potential environmental risk.

The research activities carried out included

- **Wind Measurement –** two-year campaign of offshore and onshore wind measurements.
- **Geotechnical Investigation –** fourteen boreholes drilled in the offshore array area and cable corridor to a depth of over 30m over a 28-day period in March/April 2020.
- **Geophysical Mapping –** 43.8km of geophysical mapping over a 19-day period in August and September 2019.
- **Seabird and marine mammal boat and aerial surveys –** over 200-days of survey.
- **Marine Mammals –** 12 months of in-sea acoustic monitoring for marine mammals.

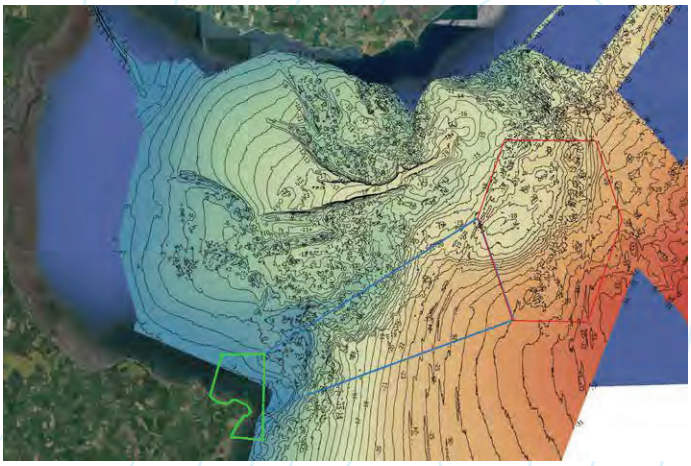
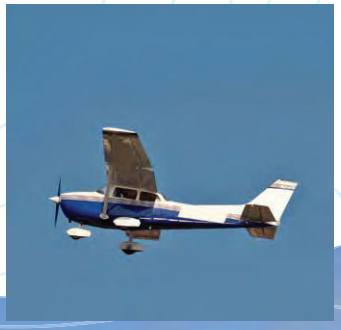
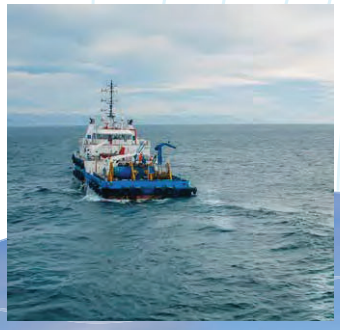


Chart showing bathymetry





Floating meteorological station

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ORIEL WIND FARM AND NATURE

In designing the Oriel wind farm, we respected the sensitive natural habitats and ecologies found both offshore and onshore.

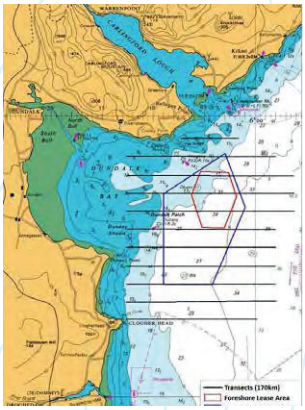
Extensive environmental assessments have been undertaken and a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement will accompany the planning application.

Over the last three years the Oriel team has conducted over 20,000 hours of ecological studies, both onshore and offshore. We have worked in collaboration with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and Birdwatch Ireland, amongst others. Studies that have already been undertaken include:

- Marine mammals, including whales and dolphins
- Fish and Shellfish
- Benthic (seabed) ecology
- Bird species and activities
- Land Flora and Fauna

Environmental studies have shown that the Oriel project will have no significant adverse effect on any ecology, sensitive species or habitats.

In fact, Oriel will have a significant positive effect on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including Carbon, Methane, NO_x and SO_x, and improving air quality.



Map of the bird and mammal survey area

Benthic sampling
Collection of seabed muds for the identification of sediment type and fauna.

C-Pod
Devices for static acoustic monitoring of any whale and dolphin activity.

The Fastnet Petrel
Vessel used for the Oriel site environmental surveys.

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ORIEL WIND AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project will study the potential for both positive and negative impacts in the local community. These studies will include:

- **Economic impact of the proposed Oriel Wind Farm**
- **Impact of activities during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases**
- **Visual impact of the project from the coast**

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

As part of the development of the wind farm, we have held a number of community and consultation events since we launched the project in 2005. We want to ensure that local stakeholders can share their views and raise questions while the project is still in the design stage.

In addition to exhibitions, our Community Liaison Officer is engaging with groups and individuals in advance of the planning application.

We continue to provide information through newsletters, media updates and on our project website, www.orielwindfarm.ie.

The website is also hosting a virtual exhibition, meaning that people who are unable to attend a public event, can access the same information on a computer or mobile device.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME

The Oriel Wind Farm project will contribute to a substantial community fund, which will distribute grants to groups in the region.

We would welcome community input into how the scheme could work. We will keep the local community informed in relation to the operation of this new scheme.

When we have more details on how the fund will operate, we will advertise extensively in local media and through the local authorities.

FISHING INDUSTRY

We have engaged extensively with the fishing community over the last three years. We are committed to working with them to understand any potential short or long-term impacts of noise and vibrations on shellfish stocks.

Oriel has put in place a long-term fund which will help support local fishing businesses and research. This demonstrates our commitment to beneficial co-existence.

FISHERIES FUND AWARDS

Oriel has to date provided €200,000 to local fishing businesses to help support initiatives that will help the long-term sustainability of shellfish stocks in the area.

This has included €70,000 for a lobster v-notching scheme in the north Louth area. This scheme provides a payment for releasing female egg-carrying lobsters which will aid in the long-term sustainability of the fishery.

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PHOTOMONTAGES

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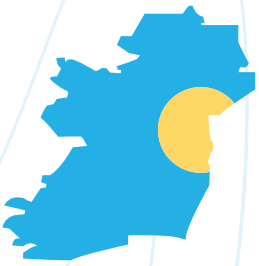
A NEW INDUSTRY CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

LOCAL BENEFITS



A flagship project for County Louth. Oriel will place the region at the heart of a new clean economy.

Significant employment boost during the construction phase. There will be direct and indirect employment from the project.

The project will require maintenance during its 30-year operational life. This will create **long-term employment** opportunities in the local area.

We will establish an **operations and maintenance base at one of the ports in County Louth**. This will offer opportunities for local marine businesses.

The experience of the UK and Europe, where offshore wind projects are developed, is that they provide a boost to coastal communities through direct employment and the **creation of new marine and engineering businesses.**

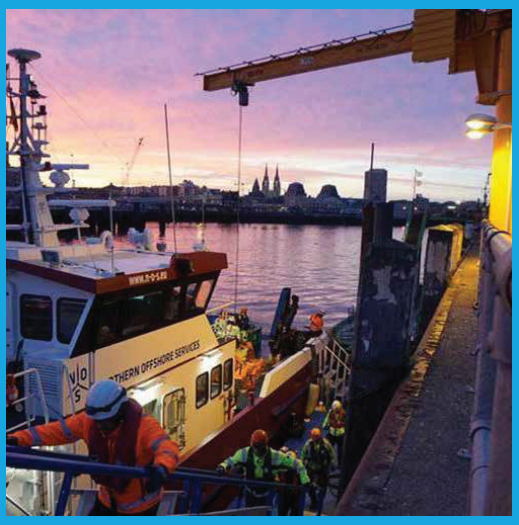
Major community benefit fund. Oriel will make a significant contribution to the local community under the terms of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme. This fund will help build community facilities and strengthen local groups.

Fund for local fishing industry. We are investing in a fund for local fishing enterprises. This will help protect the long-term future of the industry in the region. This fund demonstrates our commitment to work in harmony with other marine industries.

Oriel can be an anchor to create a clean tech investment hub in the region. We will work with development authorities such as IDA Ireland and local authorities to promote sustainable enterprises in the region.

High-skilled jobs for the long-term. The types of careers cover a wide area of expertise and skills, including engineering, electrical, marine, environmental and administrative roles. These roles will be locally based, thus benefiting the regional economy.

Oriel is committed to working with stakeholders in the region to maximise the economic benefits that this project will bring, and to enable local businesses to participate in Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy.



Offshore wind projects create opportunities for regeneration of ports and coastal areas and diversification for marine operations. Oriel will be establishing an operations base in County Louth.

Coastal communities such as Grimsby and Barrow in the UK have become magnets for investment and regeneration due to offshore wind.

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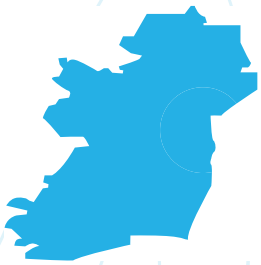
NATIONAL BENEFITS



Oriel will provide a major contribution to **achieving Ireland's environmental goals,** reducing carbon emissions by over 600,000 tonnes a year. This is the equivalent of the carbon produced by 220,000 cars.

Increased and independent energy security from a domestic and renewable energy source – reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels. This will reduce Ireland's exposure to price fluctuation in international energy markets.

The Irish offshore wind industry is expected to **create up to 2,500 jobs** over the next 10 years.

Developing our offshore wind resources now will **reduce our expenditure on imported electricity,** including on nuclear power and fracked oil and gas.

Oriel will create enough electricity to **power up to over 300,000 homes,** more than all the homes in Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Meath and Down.

Oriel will invest circa **€1bn in offshore wind** which can produce almost 6% of Ireland's electricity demand.

The Irish offshore wind industry will see **investment of up to €17.9bn by 2030** and up to €42bn over the lifetime of projects.

A new industry will create **economic opportunities throughout Ireland** in Engineering, Construction, IT and Professional Services.

By reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, we can get back on track in relation to European targets for renewable energy and emissions.

Oriel will be a flagship project for the offshore industry on the island of Ireland. It will create economic opportunities north and south.

Our investment will trigger significant additional economic activity as the Irish offshore wind sector builds capacity.

By 2030, Ireland will return to being completely dependent on importing the gas we use for power generation and heating. Moving from fossil fuels to renewables is not only cleaner, it gives us greater energy security.

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BUILDING THE ORIEL PROJECT (ONSHORE)

The Oriel project will be connected into Ireland's energy grid via a cable that will come onshore close to Dunany Point. The preferred route would see the cable placed underground, mainly under public roads, to a substation about 3km to the east of Ardee. At this point, the substation will connect to existing power lines.

The preferred route was chosen to minimise environmental impact, avoid disruption to the local community and to negate traffic disruption where possible.

The route is approximately 20 km long. Construction will be similar to any other utilities work, with a traffic management plan in place to reduce disruption as much as possible. We are engaging on a one-to-one basis with homeowners adjacent to the route to ensure we address their particular needs.

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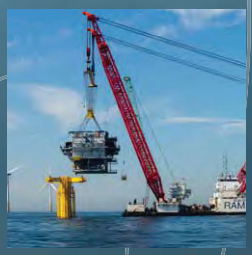
BUILDING THE ORIEL PROJECT (OFFSHORE)

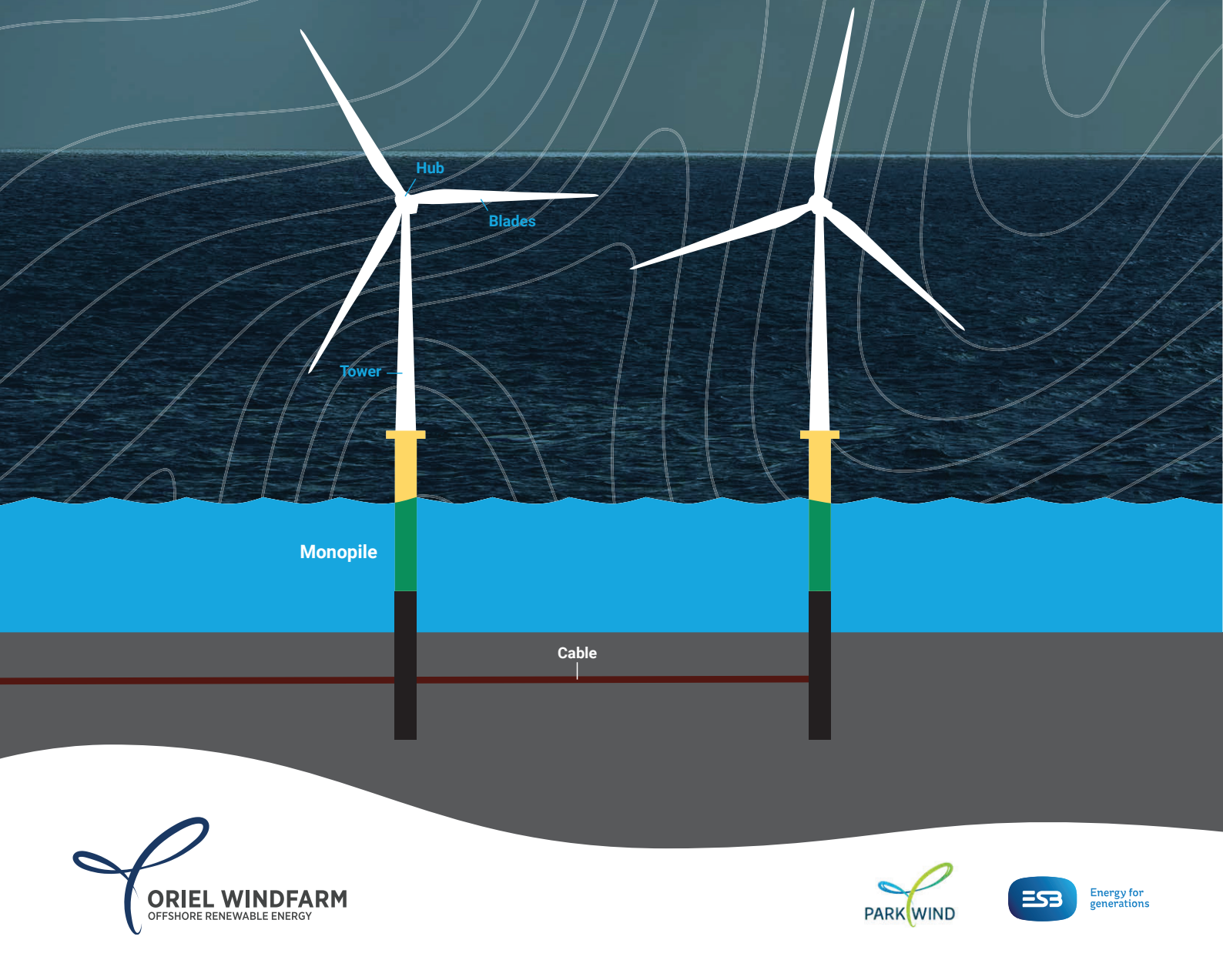


Offshore wind turbines use advanced technology to harness the power of ocean winds. The basic design of a wind turbine is quite simple. Each wind turbine is comprised of a foundation, a tower, a nacelle – which contains the gear box and generator – and the turbine rotor blades.

A monopile foundation is being considered. The foundation is installed into the seabed through drilling and driving. The monopile is then cemented into place. The final installation method will be determined after further site investigations and engagement with installation contractors.

The turbine tower, blades and nacelle are visible above the water. Under the water, the turbines are connected by cables to an offshore transformer station. This is linked to a landing point by a cable which is buried under the seabed or, where the seabed is rock, it is laid on the bed and covered by rock protection.

The components of the wind farm are transported to the site by ship. They are installed at sea, using vessels, called jack-up barges, or by floating platforms with cranes capable of lifting heavy loads. The offshore cable is installed using a special cable laying vessel.



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PLANNING CONSENT PROCESS

Oriel will apply for consent for the project under the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021). This new legislation provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of development and activities in the marine space and aligns the consent process with onshore planning and development.

As a project that had previously applied for a lease under the Foreshore Acts, Oriel was designated as a 'Relevant Project' by the Government in May 2020. This allowed Oriel to apply under the new Maritime Area Planning Act. The first step in this process was to apply for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC). The award of a MAC is required to enter the planning process, after which Oriel can apply to An Bord Pleanála (ABP). Oriel has received a letter of intent from the Government to award the project a MAC and is aiming to lodge a planning application with ABP later this year.

The planning application will include all works required to construct, maintain, operate and eventually decommission both the onshore and offshore elements of the project.

The process falls under a number of EU Directives, including the EIA Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, and is also subject to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, amongst others.

The application will take into account the feedback from this and previous public consultations.

The application will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement.

Following submission of the application, ABP will hold a public consultation where all interested parties will have the opportunity to make an observation on the project directly to ABP. The period for observations will be determined by ABP, and will be no less than six weeks. Full details of the process are available on An Bord Pleanála's website, www.pleanala.ie.

Details of this application will also be notified in the local and national press and through the Oriel website and contacts list. If you would like to be included in the distribution list for updates on the project please leave your email address with one of the project team or sign up on the Oriel website, www.orielwindfarm.ie

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PLANNING POLICY

THE ORIEL WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT COMPLIES WITH ALL RELEVANT STATUTORY PLANS, GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES AT A EUROPEAN (EU), NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL.

Oriel can make a major contribution to enable Ireland to meet its 7GW target for offshore wind energy by 2030.

The project is consistent with EU and national policy measures relating to climate change and renewable energy including:

- **European Directives and policy in relation to maritime spatial planning, energy and climate change**
- **The provisions of Project Ireland 2040 – the National Planning Framework (NPF)**
- **The Programme for Government 2030 renewable energy target of 80% renewable source electricity, including 7GW capacity in offshore wind by 2030**
- **The actions set out in Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019 and the Interim Climate Actions 2021, notably Action 42 which is "to facilitate the development of offshore wind"**
- **The provisions of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.**

NATIONAL MARINE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) sets out marine planning policies applicable to all proposals in Ireland's maritime area. The NMPF is complimentary to the NPF, as it sets out the Government's long-term planning objectives and priorities for the management of our seas over a 20-year time frame.

THE NMPF CONTAINS A RANGE OF PLANNING POLICIES RELATING TO OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY (ORE) PROJECTS. OUR PROJECT IS FULLY IN LINE WITH ALL OF THESE POLICES.

- **ORE Policy 1** - Government's target of at least 7GW of offshore renewable electricity by 2030.
- **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.
- **ORE Policy 11 –** Where appropriate, proposals that enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains will be supported.
- **Infrastructure Policy 1 –** Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported.
- **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.**
- **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.
- **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 and allow for recreational vessels.

HOW WE LISTENED

KEY QUESTIONS RAISED DURING PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS

General

What studies have been undertaken and are they publicly available?
Studies on all ecological topics both for the onshore and offshore works have been prepared in accordance with the EIA Directive and Regulations. The topics include birds, fish, benthic ecology, marine mammals, onshore protected species, terrestrial flora and fauna. The EIA report will be published with the planning application and will be publicly available.

Offshore Construction

How many other wind farms are planned for the area?
Oriel is the only wind farm at the planning consent stage in the North Louth coastal area. Two Foreshore licences have been granted for surveys to assess the potential for other offshore wind farms to the east and south of the Oriel wind farm area. It is not known at this time if these wind farms will proceed to the planning consent stage.

How will the turbines get to site?
The turbines will be delivered to site from a marshalling harbour by ships specially designed for the purpose. A ship can typically carry two or three partially completed turbines for installation on each trip from the marshalling harbour.

What port will be used for the construction and for operations?
It is expected that the marshalling harbour will be an Irish Sea port. Belfast, Rosslare and Mostyn in North Wales are being considered. A smaller harbour will be used for operations, with the facilities for office space, a warehouse and tidal pontoon access for crew transfer vessels. Drogheda, Greenore Port and Kilkeel have potential facilities and are under consideration by the Project.

How deep will the cable be buried?
Offshore cables both within the wind farm area and for export of electricity back to shore, will be buried at a depth of up to 3m where the soil properties of the seabed allow this. Where this is not possible (e.g. due to rocky ground) cables will be buried at a shallower depth and protected by rock armour. This ensures that there is no danger of snagging from anchors or trawler nets.

Electricity Use

Where will the electricity be used? Will it be exported?
The electricity will be used within the island of Ireland. A single underground export cable will connect the offshore windfarm to the existing 220kV transmission grid at a new onshore substation close to Ardee. The transmission grid is operated across the island of Ireland by EirGrid and the System Operator of Northern Ireland (SONI), which is a part of EirGrid.

Onshore Construction

How was the cable route chosen?
A detailed assessment of a number of cable route options against a range of environmental factors (e.g. existing infrastructure, sensitive environmental receptors, housing density) was completed to identify a preferred option which was taken forward for assessment in the EIAR.

Why follow the roads? Why not go across fields or follow the river route?
The functional specification published by EirGrid requires that the cable is accessible along its entire route for potential maintenance or repair. Therefore location in an existing road is the preferred option.

Who is the body responsible for reinstatement of roads?
Oriel will be responsible for reinstatement of the roads to a standard required and approved by Louth County Council.

Will there be road closures?
A road opening licence will be sought from Louth County Council. prior to the installation of the cable. The project has held discussion with the roads section of the council in relation to this.

Will I be able to access my home?
Yes. Full access will be maintained at all times.

How long will construction take?
The construction programme has been adjusted based on feedback from stakeholders. The estimated programme for construction is two years. The exact programme will be confirmed with contractors and informed to all stakeholders before works start.

Environmental Effects

Can the turbines be located further from shore?
The current project layout has moved the turbines 20% further from shore. The distance from shore that Oriel can be built is determined by a range of factors. These include; the need to avoid trawling grounds, location of marine traffic, seabed conditions and water depth. The deeper the water, the more challenging to build and to maintain.

Is there a noise impact on land?
Modelling of the maximum source noise levels in the windiest conditions demonstrates that the turbines will not exceed existing background noise levels.

Is there a noise impact from operation on sea animals?
The assessment in the EIA shows that there will be no detectable noise impact from the operational turbines on sea animals, including whales, dolphins, seals, fish, and shellfish.

What impact will there be on whales, dolphins and seals?
Extensive baseline studies and assessment of potential impacts on all marine life have been completed for the EIAR. These studies show that there is no significant impact to marine life.

Will the project harm bird life?
Following an extensive study to map bird activity in the project area over five years, we are confident that the project will not have a significant impact on bird life.

Fisheries

What will the impact on the fishing industry be, and for how long?
The Oriel project team has been actively engaging with the fishing industry for several years and as a result of this engagement our aim is to coexist. Some limited disruption to existing fishing activities at the site is inevitable, particularly during the construction period. However, after the windfarm is constructed it is expected that the current fishing can continue as it is at present.

Can fishing continue during construction?
A safety exclusion zone of 500m around the construction vessel(s) will be required during the construction period, but this will only be during active construction works in a specific location.

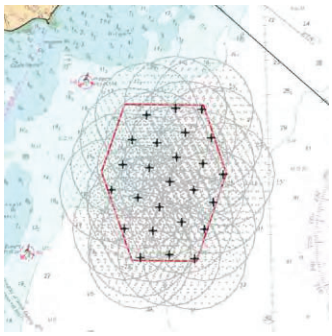
Can fishing continue during operation?
Yes. Fishing can continue within the wind farm during its operation.

HOW WE LISTENED

KEY QUESTIONS RAISED DURING PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS

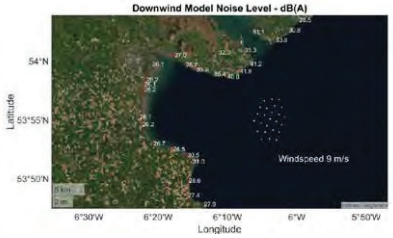
Shadow Flicker

- Shadow flicker can develop when the sun is low in sky and behind the turbines, particularly during periods of winter sun and at sunrise and sunset.
- To check if shadow flicker can effect coastal communities, a distance of 10 times the rotor diameter is used in planning guidance. (This is from wind energy development guidance 2006).
- For Oriel, 10 times the blade diameter (10 x 220m) results in a potential distance of 2.2km from a turbine. Radii of these distances are shown on the graphic on the right.
- Shadow flicker is the shadow cast on a surface by a rotating wind turbine.
- As the closest turbine is 6 km from the shoreline, there is no potential shadow flicker onshore.



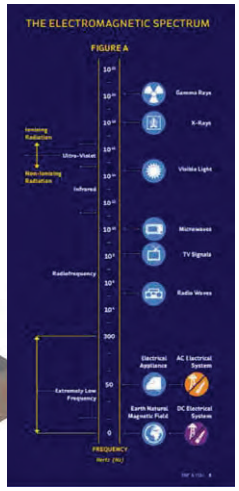
Noise

- Modelled noise levels are below background noise at all monitoring sites and in compliance with the Wind Energy Guidelines for night-time (43 dB).
- Background noise was measured at 16 coastal and inland locations.
- Downwind noise in the windiest conditions was modelled for Oriel Wind Farm and assessed against the measured background noise levels.
- Wind turbine noise was calculated for a range of wind speeds for 26 coastal locations, at wind speeds ranging from the lowest operating wind speed to the maximum noise level.



EMF/Electromagnetic Spectrum

- EMFs are produced in everyday situations by electrical wiring and electrical appliances.
- The proposed underground cables for the project have the same electromagnetic levels as a modern house. In many cases, domestic electrical appliances such as mobile phones, TVs and tools, can generate much higher EMF levels than can be experienced from underground cables.
- There are no external electric fields associated with underground cables. This is because the electric field produced is contained within the cable's steel armouring



For further information please refer to:

- Eirgrid EMF brochure (eirgridgroup.com)
- emf-public-information_booklet_v9.pdf (esb.ie)
- Non-ionizing Radiation, Part 1: Static and Extremely Low-frequency (ELF) Electric and Magnetic Fields (who.int)
- Electric & Magnetic Fields (nih.gov)

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APPENDIX D – PRESS CUTTINGS

DUNDALK DEMOCRAT www.dundalkdemocrat.ie

Tuesday, 19 December, 2023 €3 (NI £3, STG £3.30) YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER /DundalkDemocrat @DundalkDemoc

LOUTH CHAIRMAN TALKS TO DEMOCRAT

PAGE 52 & 53

Oriel Wind Farm to seek planning early next year

By Jason Newman

In what could be a significant boost to the local economy Oriel Wind Farm has announced it is continuing to progress its plans for an offshore wind farm in the North Irish Sea and intends to apply for planning permission for the project to An Bord Pleanála early next year.

The proposed wind farm will be located off the Co Louth coast and will have a generating capacity of up to 375 megawatts (MW), which is the equivalent of the energy used to power about 300,000 homes.

It is hoped that if given the go ahead the development and operation of the windfarm project will deliver a range of local economic and community benefits to Louth as well as to the general Northeast region.

Pending approval the wind farm will be developed by Parkwind and ESB.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DE LA SALLE DIP 2023

Students of De La Salle College braved the freezing weather to take the plunge in the cold sea at Blackrock to raise money for St Vincent De Paul. Well done to all involved! PHOTO: ARTHUR KINAHAN

Shocking assault of gardai

Two off-duty gardai ... reportedly injured in ... assault on Anne Street ... Dundalk just yards from ... garda station with ... officer understood to ... sustained a broken nose.

REPORT: PAGE 2

'Gift a lift' campaign

Louth County Council ... Service, together with ... Garda Síochána and ... National Ambula... Service, have launched t... annual campa... highlighting the importa... of planning the jour... home during the fes... season.

REPORT: PAGE 12

Restaurant offers free dinners

The kind-hearted Si... family who run the S... Indian Restaurant ... Dundalk, have announ... that they will be offerin... free Christmas Day takea... dinners to those in n... again this year.

REPORT: PAGE 3

Public encouraged to find out more about proposed Oriel Wind Farm in Dundalk Bay

All LMFM News

Friday, 29 January 2021 08:58

By Ruth O'Connell

An underground cable will connect with the national grid at Stickillen

Fianna Fáil councillor John Sheridan is encouraging the public to find out more about the proposed new Oriel wind farm in Dundalk Bay and how it will connect with the national grid through Dunany, Togher, Drumcar and Stabannon.

The company is planning to erect 25 wind turbines and a webinar is due to take place on February 10th.

It's claimed that when completed the wind farm will be able to supply electricity to 300,000 homes.

Cllr. Sheridan is urging people to find out more about the project on www.orielwindfarm.ie

Latest News

'Economic opportunities' of wind farm stressed after councillors voice concern

By Ryan Sands

ryan@mourneobserver.com

THE project manager of a proposed wind farm off the coast of County Louth has said it will "bring economic opportunities to Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and elsewhere in County Down".

Garrett Connell, Oriel Windfarm, was responding to concerns raised about the major renewable energy proposal – to be located east of Dundalk Bay and south of the mouth of Carlingford Lough – by Mournes DUP councillor Glyn Hanna after a public consultation event was held in Kilkeel last Wednesday (1 February).

The local representative said that he was shocked by "the view of the wind turbines" there would be from Cranfield, Kilkeel's Mourne Esplanade and Slieve Binnian if the plans get the go-ahead.

"All you will see looking south is turbines," he continued.

"These wind turbines will provide enough power for 300,000 homes in the Republic of Irelandfail-Ireland grid.

"Northern Ireland, I believe, will receive little benefit.

"What is important to remember is that this consultation was hosted by the company that will profit from the wind farm, and they were there to promote and sell to the locals."

Cllr Hanna stated that he believed "there is no guarantee any work will be brought to Belfast to build equipment", and that "nowhere has Northern Ireland been offered any contract or arrangement to receive this renewable energy through the Northern Ireland energy regulator".

He added that he would be surprised if Kilkeel Harbour "saw any investment from this", and that "there is no guarantee of any investment or return for the local people of Kilkeel or Northern Ireland".

"It is a Republic of Ireland funded and owned project, providing electricity to them," the councillor concluded.

"Without any guarantee of commitments, I consider this all as sales talk, and all I see here is the huge impact on our coastline, fishing industry, tourist industry and our community.

"If this wind farm goes ahead, it will open the door to wind turbines along all our coastlines, and I fear it will wreck the fishing industry in County Down.

"Do we really want to sell the beautiful views from the Mournes and of the Mournes for a fistful of euros or pounds? I don't."

His party colleague and fellow Mournes councillor Henry Reilly subsequently released a statement, in which he voiced similar concerns "regarding the imposition of a massive wind factory proposal off the County Louth coast".

"I have no doubt that monster machines 850ft high in plain sight would be a deterrent to the development of our tourism industry, which has massive potential in Mourne," he said.

An image depicting a view of the proposed wind farm from Cranfield. Consultation image from orielwindfarm.ie.

How the proposed wind farm might look from Kilkeel's Mourne Esplanade. Consultation image from orielwindfarm.ie.

"I was shocked at the presentation I attended on this proposal, and I call on the Irish Government to put a stop to this proposal now, if they have any respect for the people of Mourne."

In a statement issued to the Mourne Observer, Mr Connell said that the proposed wind farm – being developed by Belgian green energy company Parkwind and state-owned utility company ESB – will have "a generation capacity of up to 375 megawatts (MW), which is enough electricity to power about 300,000 homes".

"By delivering renewable offshore power to the all-island energy system, Oriel and other offshore wind projects will help displace expensive fossil fuels for consumers across the island, including those in Northern Ireland," he stated.

"The project will bring major economic and community benefits to the north-east region, providing a significant employment boost during construction.

"Oriel will also be an ongoing employer in the region with a local operations and maintenance base, creating spin-off jobs in the region during its 30-year lifespan.

"This will bring economic opportunities to Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and elsewhere in County Down, where business in the offshore wind and maritime sectors are already established, and to the wider economy in Northern Ireland."

The project manager said that the project's operation and maintenance will "provide high quality jobs for decades to come, and we expect to draw employees from the wider region and cross-border".

"Belfast Harbour is the only port on the island of Ireland that is set up to handle the construction of an offshore wind farm, and is ideally placed as a construction base for the Oriel project," he continued.

"Oriel has been engaging on a co-operative basis with the fishing industry in Kilkeel over the past number of years, and will continue to do so as the project progresses."

Mr Connell highlighted that Oriel Windfarm supports a community benefit fund – a government mandated multimillion-euro fund to be set up once the project is operational – being "made available to communities north and south and will be strongly arguing this case".

Cllr Glyn Hanna.

Cllr Henry Reilly.

16 NEWS THE ARGUS | Tuesday, February 16, 2021

PROPOSAL FOR WIND FARM OFF LOUTH COAST

NEW WINDFARM WILL CREATE 1,000 JOBS

The development and construction of a new 25 turbine wind farm off the Louth coast will create up to 1,000 jobs in the construction phase alone, it emerged this week.

The Oriel windfarm is expected to be operational by 2025, and will see a further 50 to 100 jobs being created.

And the project will 'place County Louth at the heart of a new clean energy economy', according to the company behind plans.

Oriel ParkWind and the ESB put their proposals to an open public forum for the first time last week, where they laid out details of the plan to have twenty five turbines located off the Louth coastline generating enough 'green' electricity to provide power for 300,000 homes.

Over 200 people signed up to the webinar, which was held last Thursday night and which outlined the work to date on a project that had it's first origins in the early 2000's.

Over 15 years ago a location in the north Irish Sea was identified as having the potential to build an offshore windfarm.

ORIEL WINDFARM

Garrett Connell, Project Manager, explained: 'This area, off the shore of County Louth, to the east of Dundalk Bay was chosen based on an analysis based on a number of criteria and factors, including looking at where it is technically feasible to build an offshore windfarm.'

'Some of the technical elements examined included water depth, tidal currents, wave heights, and suitable seabed conditions to hold the foundations for the windfarm,' said the Project manager.

A range of environmental constraints were also taken into account, including the area of Dundalk Bay which is an Environmental Protection area, around the Cooley coast and Dunany Point.

The extent of marine life and the complex ecology of the area were among the factors taken into consideration as plans for the project progressed.

'We also look at what other marine users are using the sea in this area, and we're very aware of the active fishing community, and we have looked at where the key fishing grounds are.'

Areas to the east and south of the site where ParkWind are proposing to build the windfarm there are major trawling areas for Dublin Bay prawns.

'We also know there are key shipping routes in and out of Carlingford Lough into the port of Greenore, Dundalk and Warrenpoint and to the south into Drogheda.'

With all of the factors taken into consideration, he added that one of the main reasons County Louth is a real contender for an offshore windfarm is the strong 'grid network' in place.

'There is a high voltage 220 kilovolt power line that is already in place running north to south through the county. That power line has got the capacity that is needed to take the energy that is being produced by the windfarm.'

He added that the move towards offshore winds as a focus for renewable energy and tackling carbon emissions has changed and shaped the project's design in recent years.

The Louth develop ment will be the first Irish Sea Offshore Wind Energy project developed by Parkwind and ESB, and is also likely to be the first fully operational commercial wind farm in Irish waters.

Parkwind is a Belgian offshore wind energy specialist, with a track record in developing, constructing and operating offshore windfarms.

The project is a partnership with the ESB, which along with being an electricity utility company, is also a leading developer in renewable electricity both in Ireland and the UK.

Windfarm will offset carbon levels equivalent to 130,000 cars

Extensive analysis of the site for the proposed offshore windfarm, and areas surrounding the site, have been carried out over the last two years.

In the Spring of 2020, the team behind the project launched a 'Geo-technical site investigation which involved a drilling ship onsite for around six weeks, drilling bore holes into the sea bed.

This was to gain an understanding of what the sediments are like. We have also had a vessel out at sea and an aeroplane as well running surveys to map and essentially get a clear picture of the baseline conditions, what bird life and what marine life are active in the area,' said Garret Connell, project manager.

'We have looked at what are the impacts on noise levels and air quality if this project is brought forward.'

He said all of these investigations provided the team with information which changed the design from its original 55 turbine proposal to less than half, around 25 turbines, which are larger, and have a capacity of up to 15 megawatts each.

'Even with this much reduced number, we can generate a higher capacity of energy, up to 370 megawatts of electricity, and that's equivalent to the annual needs of around 300,000 households.'

'It will also enable us to offset the need to emit around 600,000 tonnes of carbon every year. To put that in context, it's equivalent to emissions from around 130,000 cars every year.'

The location of the windfarm will see turbines being closest to Cooley Point (Templetown beach), where the windfarm is six kilometres from the coastline, about 16 kilometres from Blackrock and 13 kilometres from Dunany Point.

Planning for the proposed Oriel windfarm will come in under new legislation set to be made law this year.

Oriel have confirmed they will apply for consent for the updated project under the Marine Planning and Development Management legislation when enacted.

The company intends to make an application for planning consent to An Bord Pleanála under this new process in mid 2021.

Fishing and new wind turbines can 'co-exist'

The fishing industry and a proposed new windfarm off the County Louth coast can co-exist', say the company behind the project.

Project director, Garrett Connell told the virtual presentation that they were aware of the busy fishing industry along the Louth coastline.

He said they understood the concerns of the fishing community, but said fishing will be able to continue, even during the construction phase, with no planned exclusion zones, but some 'safety zones' being proposed.

The company said a specific port had not yet been selected, either for construction or operation.

Questions were raised during the consultation about the strength of existing ports in Louth, and if they were able to cope with such a development.

'There are ports in the area which are feasible, although they may require some minor upgrade works.'

Port Oriel in Clogherhead had been mooted as a potential base, but there have been concerns raised by fishermen who say it is already at capacity.

A 'fisheries fund' has also been announced to support the long term sustainability of the local fishing communities and enable research into fisheries in the region.

THE ARGUS | Tuesday, February 16, 2

Raise concerns now - Cllr

A mid Louth councillor has urged anyone with concerns about the underground cables needed to link to the Ardee sub-station to raise them with the company behind the Oriel windfarm.

Cllr John Sheridan said he welcomed the virtual presentation by the team behind the windfarm.

'Obviously this is a significant project and there are a few months now for locals to try identify and resolve concerns. At the first briefing, I asked about potential health impacts of underground cables. The experts did give us some reassurances about how tiny the waves emitted from an underground cable are compared to a standard smartphone. I'm not qualified myself to verify that, but I would urge those with concerns to raise them at this point and get them clarified.'

He added 'in Mid Louth, we're aware of the North-South pylons currently in place for many decades. I think the cable from Dunany to Stabannon being underground is obviously very welcome.'

'I think technology has moved on a lot and in Mid Louth we should expect the best technology that is effective and protects locals.'

Cllr Sheridan said: 'Overall, we have to accept from a climate point of view that the wind farm is good for the environment and arguably it is better to have the wind farm at sea than on the land. Climate change is real, we know the coast of Britain and Belgium have many of these windfarms. At present the County Development Plan is under review and I'd have to say I favour residents in coastal communities being able to build in their home areas and have the wind turbines at sea than to have no homes built in local areas and the wind turbines on land.'

The power supply generated from the offshore windfarm will be carried underground to a substation east of Ardee.

Oriel Parkwind has confirmed that cables will be buried along the route of the project, which is set to come ashore south of Dunany Point. It will then go underground and for the most part, along roads, with a limited number of landowners impacted.

Mairead Hogan, the ESB's project director told the virtual consultation last week that there will be no onshore structures visible at the landing point after construction is finished.

An underground cable will link the landing point to the power station in Ardee, which although mainly following the roads route, including the M1 motorway, will traverse some private lands.

She said that any landowners who will be impacted will already have been contacted. The virtual consultation heard that there will be no overhead cables.

ARGUS – NEWS (PAGE 18)
FRIDAY 5TH JULY 2019

Oriel Windfarm are starting investigative work off coast

ORIEL Windfarm has commenced investigative works on the future offshore windfarm site off the coast of Dundalk following the granting of a license by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

The Oriel Windfarm will see up to 55 turbines installed 22km off the Dundalk coast, capable of generating up to 330MW of electricity while reducing carbon emissions by up to 600,000 tonnes a year.

The investigations will record specific wind data of the offshore site and data on the seabed conditions of the future site, needed mainly for the engineering design of the foundations for the wind turbines.

The investigation works are scheduled to commence in August this year in close dialogue with the relevant stakeholders and the local community.

Peter Caluwaerts, project director, states: 'The license to commence two important surveys marks another significant milestone in the Oriel Project. This allows us to add wind data gathering and soil data surveys to our already ongoing ecological surveys on the site. A buoy containing equipment that will measure the specific wind data of the Oriel offshore site for a year will be deployed in August this year. The soil investigation campaign is also due to start in August.

The surveys are starting in the wake of the Government revealing its Climate Action Plan, which has set a target of 3.5GW of offshore wind for Ireland in the next decade, which will help renewables account for 70 percent of electricity generation by 2030.

'The Climate Action Plan that came out clearly highlights the need to advance on these works. With the support of our dedicated main shareholders Parkwind and ESB, it is our ambition to make Oriel Windfarm the first large scale offshore wind farm in Ireland, thus contributing to the wider goals of the Irish Government on energy transition,' said Caluwaerts.

Homeless crisis in Dundalk

By FRANCES CARROLL

THE biggest crisis outside Dublin is how one councillor has described the homeless problem.

And Cllr Tomás Hockey added that as 30% of homeless people were in the Dundalk Municipal District, the area should get proportionate attention.

A report before the January meeting showed that of 365 people presenting as homeless on the week of 23-29 November last, 154 were in Dundalk MD, 107 in Drogheda Borough District and four in the Ardee MD.

Referring points he made in December, Cllr Hockey continued that half of these people placed in temporary emergency accommodation were also from Dundalk.

Taking in the homeless figures for the north-east region of Louth, Cavan and Monaghan, it showed 40% related to Dundalk.

Our people are more likely to be homeless,' Cllr Hockey remarked.

As a result, he proposed that Dundalk be given the 30% focus it deserves' from Louth County Council's Housing SPC (Strategic Policy Committee).

'We want 30% focus on our area. We are looking for the appropriate attention and resources.'

Director of Services Paddy Donnelly said that with the Simon Community in Dundalk and Drogheda Homeless Aid it was only correct they would see a four-way divide.

While Cllr Hockey's proposal was a matter for the members, he pointed out the Housing SPC dealt with policies on a county-wide basis. He was not sure about on a municipal district basis. The motion was seconded by Cllr Antóin Watters. It was passed unanimously.

Meanwhile, a rough sleeper count took place over a period of one week and identified two rough sleepers in Dundalk.

NEWS 15

The restored famine graveyard.

Visit newly restored Famine Graveyard

DUNDALK Famine Graveyard has become one of the most registered local historical sites since it was restored by a group of dedicated volunteers in recent years.

Located on the Ardee road, it is the resting place for over 4000 people who died between 1845 to 1851. Most of the deceased came from Dundalk Workhouse from 1847 onwards, when the famine graveyard at the workhouse became full.

There are no headstones in the graveyard but only marker stones marking graves which the committee put white crosses marking some of the graves. Volunteers completed the restoration of the graveyard wall surrounding the graveyard in 2020.

Over the century since the last burial in 1900 the graveyard fell into neglect, with vegetation destroying the near stone walls that surrounded the site, and the grass area in the centre became badly overgrown.

For years there were suggestions that efforts should be made to reclaim the graveyard from the steady march of nature, but it was not until 2020 that a group of local people took the initiative, believing that some dignity should be shown to these victims of the Great Famine to erecting a modest and appropriate memorial on the site.

Over the last 20 years they have restored the stone walls round the graveyard, the grass surface that covers the graves so as doing they have restored to the people buried there and the dramatic vistas under which they lived.

They have also ensured that a regular service is held annually and have improved access to the site, a difficult enough, can be improved, better surfaces and signage.

WINDFARM PROPOSED FOR REGION

IEL Windfarm Limited, a joint venture ween Parkwind and ESB, has commenced blic consultation on plans to develop an hore wind farm in the waters off the coast unty Louth.

e to public health restrictions, the consul- will be hosted online. A virtual exhibition ring details of the project is now available e, a public webinar is also scheduled for ebruary.

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Oriel project is committed to providing a ant annual community fund to support munity initiatives and projects. This uld be established in accordance with s of the Renewable Energy Support hat is being developed by Government 021.

iel project, which was first promoted a decade ago, has been the subject of a preliminary design update and a recent round of extensive environmental studies.

As part of the update to the project design, over 30,000 hours of research has been carried out in the last two years. This research has informed an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, which will accompany the final planning application. The Oriel project planning to make a formal planning application in mid-2021. There will be a further opportunity to engage in the planning process when an application is submitted.

Oriel will be hosting their public consultation online at www.orielwindfarm.ie. An online community briefing webinar will take place on February 10th at 7pm. You can register a place at this event on the website or by emailing contact@orielwindfarm.ie

You can email your views on the project to contact@orielwindfarm.ie. You can also write to Oriel Wind Farm, DKIT, Dundalk, Co. Louth or call on 01 963 0313.

The public consultation is now available online and will run until February 19th 2021.

The race is on for Markey replacement on Council

WELL-KNOWN local auctioneer P J Roddy is among the contenders to fill the vacancy on Louth County Council following Colm Markey's departure to the European Parliament last November to replace Mairead McGuinness following her appointment as EU Commissioner.

PJ, who lives in Grangebellew, Tigher, and works for LC Gonne Auctioneers, Dundalk, has a long involvement with Fine Gael. He was the youngest party chairman to be elected back in 1997 and has served as constituency chairman since 2011, when he took over the reins from Paddy Malone.

Others seeking the nomination to fill the vacancy in the Ardee Electoral Area are retired pharmacist Freddie Matthews from Ardee and Togher businesswoman Paula Butterly.

PJ Roddy.

The convention takes place this Thursday over Zoom, after which members will vote by post with the result due by mid-February.

Louth GAA County Board secretary Bob Deheny was believed to be in the running to take

Another chang
last local election
former Drogheda
who resigned his
Labour Court.

14 DUNDALK LEADER 27th January 2021

Renewable energy project aiming for planning application in 2021

ORIEL Windfarm Limited, a joint venture between Parkwind and ESB, has commenced a public consultation on plans to develop an offshore wind farm in the waters off the coast of north County Louth. Due to public health restrictions, the consultation will be hosted online. A virtual exhibition featuring details of the project is now available online, a public webinar is also scheduled for 10th February.

Once operational, the Oriel offshore wind farm is expected to generate enough electricity to cover the needs of over 300,000 households – more than the population of counties Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan and Down. Oriel will thereby contribute to the reduction of Ireland's carbon emissions by 600,000 tonnes per annum.

Oriel Windfarm Limited intend on putting in a planning application toward the middle of this year. The project is on track to start construction in 2024, subject to planning permission and government policy. On this basis work is expected to be completed on the project and commence generation in 2025.

In addition to the significant environmental benefits, the Oriel project claim they will deliver considerable investment in the area and generate local economic benefits during construction and operation.

Additionally, the Oriel project is committed to providing a significant annual community fund to support local community initiatives and projects. This fund would be established in accordance with the terms of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme that is being developed by Government in early 2021.

The Government has indicated that community benefit will be an important element in the development of all new renewables projects, including offshore wind. The structure and level of community funding will be set by the Department and is due to be announced in the Spring. Oriel is committed to implementing the new scheme and believes that it can make a substantial contribution to the development of community infrastructure in the region.

The Oriel project, which was first promoted more than a decade ago, has been the subject of a preliminary design update and a recent round of extensive environmental studies.

According to Garrett Connell, Project Manager for Oriel Windfarm Ltd. Th epublic consultation is an important step in the development of the project.

"This public consultation is an important step in the development of the Oriel project. The updated Oriel proposal will deliver significant environmental and economic benefits, both for the region and for the island of Ireland. Our emerging design harnesses new technology to deliver even greater benefit with significantly fewer more efficient turbines located further offshore.

Moving to renewable energy with projects like Oriel will be crucial for us to meet the goals in our climate action plan".

The Government's Climate Action Plan has set a target of 3.5GW of offshore wind energy to be onstream by 2030. Oriel is one of a small number of 'Relevant Projects,' which have been designated by Government and which are likely to be among the first applicants for planning consent under a new Marine planning system, currently being approved under the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill.

Due to Covid – 19 public health restrictions, Oriel will be hosting their public consultation online at www.orielwindfarm.ie. Using the latest technology, the online platform will display extensive information on the project, the planning process and photomontages of what the proposed development would look like.

An online community briefing webinar will take place on February 10th at 7pm. You can register a place at this event on our website or by emailing us contact@orielwindfarm.ie

The goal of these events is to obtain feedback on the proposal. You can email your views on the project to us at contact@orielwindfarm.ie. You can also write to us at Oriel Wind Farm, 1 Dundalk, Co. Louth or call 963 0313.

The public consultation is available online and will run February 19th 2021.

Aldi plan to recruit 60 new store staff in Louth

LOCAL Fine Gael TD, Fergus O'Dowd, has welcomed news from Aldi today that it intends to recruit and train a 1,050 new employees nationally in 2021 including 60 in County Louth and 65 in County Meath.

O'Dowd said " This is very welcome news at a very difficult time for the economy, Aldi have 4 stores in Louth

New leaflets put the citizen back into the heart of the planning proc

A NEW series of online planning information leaflets will help put the citizen back into the heart of the planning process, a Fine Gael Senator has said.

Senator John McGahon said the new leaflets contain practical, accessible information on how the planning system works and explain how best to engage with it.

Senator McGahon said: "Proper planning across our communities transforms tion with local residents.

"Sometimes people see planning as the preserve of experts while struggling to engage with it.

"To put the citizen back into the heart of the planning process first takes proper knowledge, information and awareness raising. And we will need that awareness in planning for the rebound from COVID-19 and tackling climate, housing and other issues in

Local Government and Planning Peter Burke, on the launch of the new series of easy to use information leaflets for the public on the workings of the planning process and the critical role people and communities play in that process.

"These leaflets are a small but crucial step in the work of the Office of the Planning Regulator established by Government to, amongst other

"These leaflets replaces o lished back in the 1990s an an invaluable tool for the h thinking of improving their business person in develo premises or anyone who wa more about planning and t they can play in it."

The leaflets are available

www.dundalkdemocrat.ie

NEWS 3

Office opened for Oriel wind farm

JUSTIN KELLY
editor@dundalkdemocrat.ie

Oriel Windfarm Limited, a joint venture between Parkwind and ESB, has opened a Public Information Office in the Enterprise Centre in Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The office is opening in advance of the next phase of public consultation for the project, scheduled to take place in early 2021.

The proposed Oriel windfarm is planned for the waters off the coast of north County Louth. Once operational, the offshore wind farm will generate enough electricity to cover the needs of over 300,000 households – more than the population of counties Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan. Oriel will thereby contribute to the reduction of Ireland's carbon emissions by 600,000 tonnes per annum.

In addition to the environmental benefit, the Oriel project will also deliver significant investment in the area and generate local economic benefits during construction and operation, the company says.

Garrett Connell, Project Manager for Oriel Windfarm Ltd added:

"Opening this office is another important step forward in the development of the Oriel project. We look forward to welcoming everyone who wants to find out more about the project. We value everyone's interest and want to encourage people to engage with our project."

The project, which was first promoted more than a decade ago, has been the subject of a preliminary design update and recent round of extensive environmental studies, with over 20,000 hours of research carried out in the last two years. The project team are aiming to make a formal planning application in mid-2021.

The Oriel project is likely to be one of the leaders in the first phase of offshore wind development in Ireland. The project has been designated with 'Relevant Project' status by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

This means that Oriel will be one of the first projects that can apply for planning permission consideration under the new marine planning and development management legislation, which should come into effect in early 2021.

Oriel will begin the next phase of public consultation in late January 2021. This phase will include the proposals to update the design of the wind farm and outline the results of environmental studies conducted to date. Full details of the consultation will be advertised from the start of January. The consultation will be managed in a manner which ensures public safety considering Covid 19 restrictions.

In advance of the consultation process Oriel is inviting the public to visit its Information Office to learn more about the project and to engage with the project team. To arrange a visit, simply contact Oriel Windfarm by emailing contact@orielwindfarm.ie or call 01 963 0313 to arrange a call back. Visits to the Public Information Office can be arranged by appointment only and will be subject to current Covid 19 restrictions.

DUNDALK LEADER 27th January 2021

Local athletes try to maintain focus during lockdown

Public to be consulted on Oriel windfarm plans

Oriel Windfarm Limited, a joint venture between Parkwind and ESB, has commenced a public consultation on plans to develop an offshore wind farm in the waters off the coast of north County Louth.

The consultation will be hosted online due to Covid-19 restrictions.

A virtual exhibition featuring details of the project is now also available online and a public webinar is scheduled to take place on February 10th.

Once operational, the Oriel offshore wind farm is expected to generate enough electricity to cover the needs of over 300,000 households – more than the population of counties Louth, Meath, Cavan, Monaghan and Down – and contribute to the reduction of Ireland's carbon emissions by 600,000 tonnes per annum.

Garrett Connell, Project Manager for Oriel Windfarm Ltd said: "This public consultation is an important step in the development of the Oriel project.

"The updated Oriel proposal will deliver significant environmental and economic benefits, both for the region and for the island of Ireland.

"Our emerging design harnesses new technology to deliver even greater benefit with significantly fewer more efficient turbines located further offshore.

"Moving to renewable energy with projects like Oriel will be crucial for us to meet the goals in our climate action plan".

The Oriel project will deliver considerable investment, a spokesman said.

He continued that the Oriel project is committed to providing a significant annual community fund to support local community initiatives and projects.

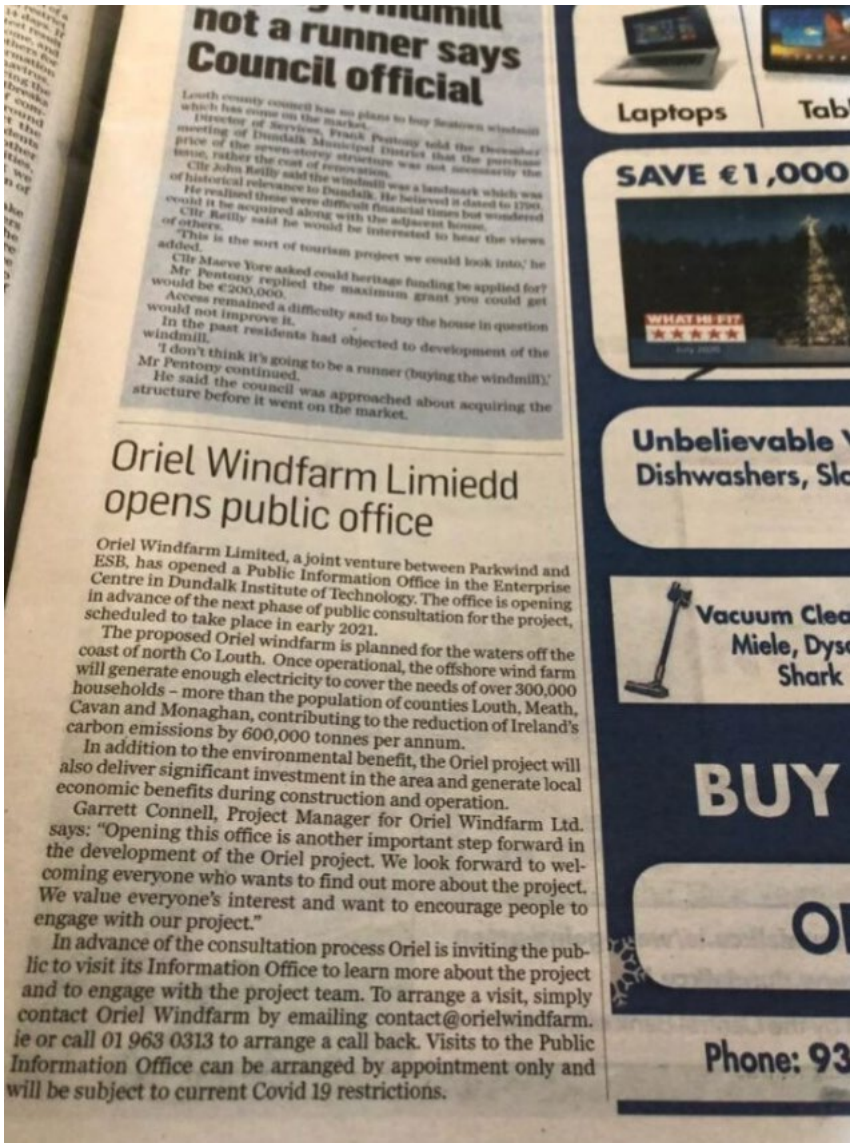
The Oriel project is aiming to make a formal planning application in mid-2021.

There will be a further opportunity to engage in the planning process when an application is submitted.

Oriel will be hosting their public consultation online at www.orielwindfarm.ie which will be available until February 19th.

An online community briefing webinar will take place on February 10th at 7pm. People can register a place at this event on their website or by emailing contact@orielwindfarm.ie

The public can email their views on the project to contact@orielwindfarm.ie or write to Oriel Wind Farm, DKIT, Dundalk, Co. Louth or call on 01 963 0313.



...not a runner says Council official

Louth county council has no plans to buy Seatown windmill which has come on the market.

Director of Services, Frank Pentony told the December meeting of Dundalk Municipal District that the purchase price of the seven-storey structure was not necessarily the issue, rather the cost of renovation.

Cllr John Reilly said the windmill was a landmark which was of historical relevance to Dundalk. He believed it dated to 1700.

He realised these were difficult financial times but wondered could it be acquired along with the adjacent house.

Cllr Reilly said he would be interested to hear the views of others.

'This is the sort of tourism project we could look into,' he added.

Cllr Maeve Yore asked could heritage funding be applied for?

Mr Pentony replied the maximum grant you could get would be €200,000.

Access remained a difficulty and to buy the house in question would not improve it.

In the past residents had objected to development of the windmill.

'I don't think it's going to be a runner (buying the windmill),' Mr Pentony continued.

He said the council was approached about acquiring the structure before it went on the market.

Oriel Windfarm Limiedd opens public office

Oriel Windfarm Limited, a joint venture between Parkwind and ESB, has opened a Public Information Office in the Enterprise Centre in Dundalk Institute of Technology. The office is opening in advance of the next phase of public consultation for the project, scheduled to take place in early 2021.

The proposed Oriel windfarm is planned for the waters off the coast of north Co Louth. Once operational, the offshore wind farm will generate enough electricity to cover the needs of over 300,000 households – more than the population of counties Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan, contributing to the reduction of Ireland's carbon emissions by 600,000 tonnes per annum.

In addition to the environmental benefit, the Oriel project will also deliver significant investment in the area and generate local economic benefits during construction and operation.

Garrett Connell, Project Manager for Oriel Windfarm Ltd. says: "Opening this office is another important step forward in the development of the Oriel project. We look forward to welcoming everyone who wants to find out more about the project. We value everyone's interest and want to encourage people to engage with our project."

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BUSINESS

Ireland will benefit from the huge technological advances

Ireland and Great Britain could end up supplying all of Europe

Winds of change

Having suffered a huge blow, Ireland's offshore wind industry is enjoying a fresh air of confidence, with investors lining up to storm into the sector, writes *Sean Pollock*

nkerton turns on his City champion

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Wednesday, 3rd January 2024

Oriel Wind Farm expected to seek planning permission soon

FRONT PAGE

ORIEL WINDFARM

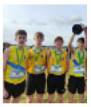
Oriel Wind Farm is continuing to progress its plans for an offshore wind farm off the coast of County Louth and intends to apply for planning permission for the project to An Bord Pleanála early this year.

The proposed wind farm will be located off the Co Louth coast to the East of Dundalk Bay, and will have a generating capacity of up to 375 megawatts (MW), which is the equivalent of the energy used to power about 300,000 homes.

Oriel, which is being developed by Parkwind, an offshore wind business that develops, finances and operates offshore wind farms operating as part of JERA Co., Inc. one of the largest power generational companies in the world.

"We have been busy in recent months continuing to advance this key renewable energy project, which we believe will be Ireland's first commercial scale offshore wind farm," said Garrett Connell, Parkwind Country Manager for Ireland.

Latest



9th February 202
St. Mary's Diocesan Intermediat in All Irelan Finalists A

9th February 202
New group make Termonfec more susta and energy

While Oriel did not secure a contract under the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme auction last year, the development of the project has continued apace during the past six months.

"We have made huge progress in putting some of the final touches to our planning application, which we intend to lodge early in the New Year," Mr Connell added. "The core of the Oriel Windfarm hasn't changed – it's a renewable energy project that will help meet Ireland's target of having 80% of its electricity generated by renewable sources by 2030."

In recent years, the Oriel team has completed a large number of detailed scientific site studies and consultations, determining the final design and location of the wind farm. Oriel will include 25 offshore wind turbines, with each turbine capable of generating 15 megawatts of power.

The Oriel project will significantly reduce Ireland's carbon emissions, while also reducing the State's reliance on imported fossil fuels, such as coal and gas. The development and operation of the windfarm project will also deliver significant local economic and community benefits to the Northeast region.

Once operational, Oriel will save 600,000 tonnes of carbon per year which is about the same amount of carbon produced by 220,000 cars.

Oriel Windfarm held the latest in a series of public consultation events in January and February of this year to inform local stakeholders in relation to the status of project, and to seek their views in relation to the proposed development.

In advance of a planning application being submitted early next year, Oriel has also been engaging with key State agencies in recent months.

Oriel was granted a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD in December of last year. A MAC is a new type of formal consent that must be granted by the Irish government before a proposed offshore windfarm project can apply for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála (ABP).

"We will advertise the application in the local and regional press before it is made," Mr Connell said. "Following submission of the application, An Bord Pleanála will hold a public consultation where interested parties can make observations on the project directly to the Bord," he added.

The planning process is expected to take up to 12 months and if successful, construction of the Oriel wind farm could begin in 2026 and become operational by 2027. Information on the proposed project is available at www.orielwindfarm.ie.

The project also has a public information office in Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) and if you would like to meet with the project team this can be arranged through the website or by calling (01) 963 0313.

In the 12 months to the end of bounced back last year as tour- 2020, Mr McColgan said: One troupe is performing €642,928.

ESB to proceed with offshore wind project despite not winning contract

BARRY O'HALLORAN

State-owned ESB will continue with plans to build an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea despite the project's failure to win an electricity supply contract.

ESB, which supplies homes and businesses through subsidiary Electric Ireland, plans to build the Oriel wind farm off the Co Louth coast with its partner, Belgian player Parkwind.

The group said yesterday that it and Parkwind remained committed to the project, despite failing to secure a provisional contract in a recent auction, where companies bid against each other to supply offshore wind-generated electricity to the Irish market.

"While the Oriel project was not awarded a contract in this auction round, Parkwind and ESB believe that it is a well-positioned project and will ultimately play its part in generating the renewable electricity we need," said an ESB spokesperson. "We will continue to progress the project and are actively investigating alternative routes to market."

Four projects, three in the Irish Sea and one off the coast of Galway, won provisional deals to supply electricity at €86.05 a megawatt hour (MWh) in the auction run by national grid operator EirGrid and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities. Backers included multinationals Statkraft, EDF Renewables, Fred Olsen Seawind and Macquarie Bank.

No assurance

ESB's pledge means both of the unsuccessful bidders intend to continue with plans to spend billions of euro on proposed wind farms with no assurance that they can sell the electricity generated.

SSE Renewables, part of the same group as SSE Airtricity, pledged this week to continue with its proposed wind farm for the Arklow Bank, off the Wicklow coast.

Stephen Wheeler, SSE Renewables managing director, acknowledged that the company was disappointed with the auction's outcome but said the Irish project was an important part of its pipeline. "And we remain committed to its delivery," he added.

SSE calculates that the 800 megawatt (MW) Arklow project would cost it €2.5 billion to build. ESB did not put a figure on Oriel's construction, but the final bill for the 375MW development could be about €1 billion, according to industry estimates.

Neither business indicated how they would ultimately sell the electricity their proposed plants would generate. They could take part in later auctions, or potentially do "power-purchase agreements".

SSE's project is the furthest advanced of any of the Irish Sea projects. It is the second development phase of the Arklow Bank, where there are already seven turbines. Between them, Oriel and Arklow Bank could generate enough electricity to supply about 1.2 million homes at full capacity.

Editorial comment: page 15

Fisherman asks court to quash licence for wind farm site investigation

ELLEN O'RIORDAN

A fisherman is asking the High Court to quash a licence allowing a renewable energy firm to investigate sites off the coast of Dublin and Wicklow in connection with a proposed €1.5 billion offshore wind farm.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Richard Humphreys gave permission for Ivan Toole of Ashford, Co Wicklow, and his company, Golden Venture Fishing Limited, of the same address, to bring their action against the Minister of State with responsibility for planning and local government over his granting of the foreshore licence to RWE last January. There was no objection to the judge admitting the case into the court's commercial planning list.

RWE proposes to undertake geotechnical and geophysical site investigations, including drilling boreholes, and to monitor wind and waves to refine its design of the Dublin Array offshore wind farm, says Mr Toole. According to Dublin Array, the scheme is to be located about 10km off the coast in the Kish and Bray banks and comprise about 39-50 wind turbines capable of generating 700-850MW each year.

Earlier this week, Mr Justice Humphreys granted a short-term stay on the surveying works. He will decide after a contested hearing later this month whether this order should be extended further.

Notice party RWE Renewables Ireland Limited, represented by Darren Lehane SC and David Browne BL, will be contesting the granting of any extension to the stay. A court-imposed pause of operations had "immediate financial consequences", the court heard.

The applicant's senior counsel, Eamon Galligan, with Ellen O'Callaghan BL, told the court the case centred on the alleged adverse impact the works would have on a European-protected site. The case will return to court next week.

hands; keeping social distance, and wearing a face covering where required and when social distancing isn't possible.

The campaign comprises four videos: one per public health guidelines when it comes to COVID-19.

"While they are central to our success in suppressing this virus in Louth, the 18-30 year age group is notoriously hard to reach through traditional media, and Beirne said: "I am delighted to be involved in this campaign with Louth County Council. It has been a difficult year, with many of the little things we took for granted in our lives severely curtailed – what I miss most is going to comedy

wash our hands; keep a 2-metre distance, and to wear a face covering."

President of DkIT's Students' Union and #LouthTogether ambassador Taidgh Kavanagh added: "Living in a COVID-19 era isn't

work together and follow public health guidelines to keep our friends, families, and communities safe."

More information on the #LouthTogether campaign is are available on Louth County Council's website.

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Sheridan says coastal areas need to find out about new wind farm plans

Fianna Fáil councillor John Sheridan has said that residents in coastal and Mid Louth need to sign up to a webinar in February about new plans for wind turbines off the Louth coast in Dundalk bay.

"This is a huge project. The people of coastal Louth need to be aware of the project and have their say. It's planned that 25 wind turbines are to be built about 12km off Dunany Point and 6km off Cooley point. There is consultation online on February 10 and I would urge people to sign up and have their say."

"There is also due to be an underground electricity cable running from the windfarm from Dunany point, through Togher, Drumcar, Stabannon where it will link in with the overhead North-South power cables at a new substation along the N33 road between Ardee and Stabannon.

"While public representatives have received reassurances that the wind turbines won't be able to be heard on land and that the underground cable is safe, we do need residents to hear briefings and voice any concerns now so they can be addressed before the formal planning process through An Bord Pleanála.

"We understand the substation on the N33 will be designed to blend into the local landscape.

"There will also be drawings of what the visual impact will be from the coastline.

"That said, at present the Count Development Plan is under review and I'd have to say I favour residents in coastal communities being able to build in their home areas and have the wind turbines at sea than to have no homes built in local areas and the wind turbines on land."

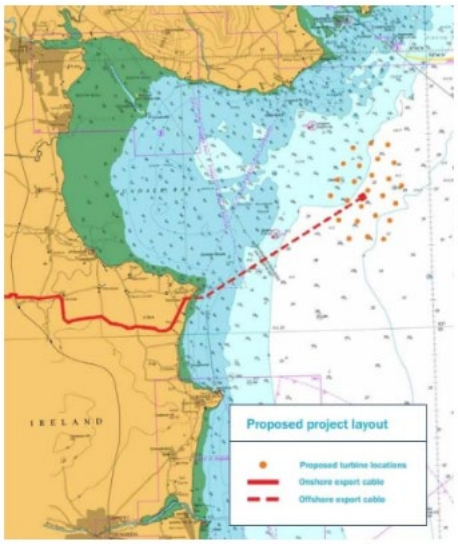
"There may obviously be concerns about this development. Ultimately, we do need to have renewable energy to remove our dependence on fossil fuels.

"If there are local concerns, now is the time to discuss them with a view to amending the plans or clarifying the concerns. We are told the radio waves from a cable underground are a fraction of what is emitted from your phone. I'm not an expert on this, but this is what we have been told."

Cllr John Sheridan

"I encourage people to find out more about this and have their say on www.orielwindfarm.ie"

Oriel Wind Farm to seek planning for area off Louth coast early next year



Proposed location of the Oriel Wind Farm

By **Jason Newman**
19 Dec 2023 7:00 PM

In what could be a significant boost to the local economy Oriel Wind Farm has announced it is continuing to progress its plans for an offshore wind farm in the North Irish Sea and intends to apply for planning permission for the project to An Bord Pleanála early next year.

Irish Independent

Louth

Group behind Oriel Wind Farm to seek permission for 25 turbines off Louth coast in new year

The backers of the Oriel Windfarm say they plan to seek planning permission for the windfarm off the Co Louth coast next year. Stock image.

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Public urged to join Louth coast wind farm webinar

Residents in coastal and mid Louth are being encouraged to sign up to webinar focused on plans for a new wind farm in Dundalk bay.

Mid Louth Councillor John Sheridan called on local people to join the online forum taking place next week, February 10th.

'This is a huge project. The people of coastal Louth need to be aware of the project and have their say. It's planned that 25 wind turbines are to be built about 12km off Dunany Point and 6km off Cooley point.'

Cllr John Sheridan in front of Dundalk Bay.

'There is also due to be an underground electricity cable running from the windfarm from Dunany point, through Togher, Drumcar, Stabannon where it will link in with the overhead North-South power cables at a new substation along the N33 road between Ardee and Stabannon.'

He added: 'While public representatives have received reassurances that the wind turbines won't be able to be heard on land and that the underground cable is safe, we do need residents to hear briefings and voice any concerns now so they can be addressed before the formal planning process through An Bord Pleanála. We understand the substation on the N33 will be designed to blend into the local landscape. There will also be drawings of what the visual impact will be from the coastline.'

He added: 'That said, at present the County Development Plan is under review and I'd have to say I favour residents in coastal communities being able to build in their home areas and have the wind turbines at sea than to have no homes built in local areas and the wind turbines on land.'

There may obviously be concerns about this development. Ultimately, we do need to have renewable energy to remove our dependence on fossil fuels. electricity to 300,000 homes: That's Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Cavan and Down. If there are local concerns, now is the time to discuss them with a view to amending the plans or clarifying the concerns. We are told the radio waves from a cable underground are a fraction of what is emitted from your phone. I'm not an expert on this, but this is what we have been told.'

'I encourage people to find out more about this and have their say on www.orielwindfarm.ie'