



**Our Ref.: MDR1520B**

West Pier Business Campus  
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Date: 24 May 2024

The Secretary,  
An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902

**RE: APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA UNDER SECTION 291 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) FOR PERMISSION FOR THE ORIEL WIND FARM PROJECT**

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of the Applicant, Oriel Windfarm Limited, Digital Office Centre, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 E5AO, we hereby submit an application for permission under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), for the Oriel Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as the Project). The Project is proposed to generate a maximum export capacity (MEC) of 375 MW of renewable energy and will consist of 25 No. offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs).

The Project is located in the Irish Sea, off the coast of County Louth (approximately 22 km east of Dundalk town centre and 18 km east of Blackrock). The closest wind turbine will be located approximately 6 km from the closest shore on the Cooley Peninsula. The offshore cable corridor extends approximately 11 km southwest from the wind farm area to the landfall south of Dunany Point. The onshore cable route (which is approximately 20 km in length) is predominantly routed along public roads and will connect to a new 'loop-in' onshore substation below the existing 220 kV overhead power line (that runs from Louth to Woodlands) at the townland of Stickillin, east of Ardee on the N33.

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications granted Oriel Windfarm Limited a Marine Area Consent (MAC) (MAC no. 2022-MAC-001) with a commencement date of 23 December 2022. As holder of a MAC, and as is required and in accordance with Section 287 of the Act, the Applicant entered into pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanála (ABP), via Case No. ABP-315803-23. As part of this pre-application phase, the Applicant provided ABP with all of the information that was specified as being required for the purpose of enabling ABP to assess the proposed development and information specified under Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

Having formally closed the pre-application consultation via a determination that was made on 25 January 2024, an application for development consent is now being sought from ABP for the proposed development, under Section 291 of the Act.

The nature, extent and location of the proposed development is contained within the documentation and drawings enclosed herewith, which include an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement.

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RPS Group Limited, registered in Ireland No. 91911  
RPS Consulting Engineers Limited, registered in Ireland No. 161581  
RPS Engineering Services Limited, registered in Ireland No. 99795  
The Registered office of each of the above companies is West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 N6T7



All required landowner letters of consent have been secured by the Applicant. Confidential details are included within a separate password protected file – this file contains addresses of private landowners and the location of protected mammals. For the purposes of the public file, we have included a redacted copy of private landowner letters of consent in Schedule 5 of the planning particulars.

Some design flexibility is being sought in relation to the proposal and this has been the subject of pre-application consultation with ABP via Section 287A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, via Case No. ABP-318274-23. Associated with this and as required, the information in relation to the flexibility being sought are contained in Schedule 7 of the planning particulars in the 'Form 22 Design Opinion'.

As requested by ABP, 10 no. sets of the application plans and particulars (2 no. hard copies, and 8 no. electronic copies on USB sticks) have been enclosed herewith. All the application documentation has also been provided at the following stand-alone website which can be found at <https://www.orielwindfarm-marineplanning.ie>.

A schedule of enclosures is appended to this cover letter and a full schedule of drawings submitted can be found in Schedule 2 of the planning particulars.

Also enclosed is a notification of payment of the appropriate fee of € 100,000 which has been submitted by EFT to ABP.

The public notices for this application states, *inter alia*, that any submissions/observations must be made to ABP accompanied by a fee of € 50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by ABP not later than 5:30 p.m. on 30 July 2024.

Yours faithfully,  
for RPS Group Limited



Valerie Brennan  
**Director of Planning**  
MIPI, MRTPI

## List of Enclosures

2 no. hard copies and 8 no. electronic copies of the following items are included with this application to An Bord Pleanála (ABP), together with the application fee.

Items	Name of Document / Item / Enclosure
<b>Planning Particulars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule 1: Planning Application Form</li> <li>• Schedule 2: Drawings Schedules</li> <li>• Schedule 3: Ordnance Survey Map Reference Numbers</li> <li>• Schedule 4: Copy of Newspaper Notices and Site Notice</li> <li>• Schedule 5: Letters of Consent</li> <li>• Schedule 6: Copy of Marine Area Consent</li> <li>• Schedule 7: Form 22 Design Opinion</li> <li>• Schedule 8: Schedule of Pre-Application Consultations</li> <li>• Schedule 9: Schedule of Notified Prescribed Bodies, Notified Transboundary States and Sample Copy of Notifications</li> <li>• Schedule 10: Copy of EIA Portal Confirmation Notice</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Report (including Appendix A containing a National Marine Planning Framework Consistency Report)</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Drawings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please see Schedule 2 which contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Offshore Infrastructure Drawings</li> <li>– Onshore Cable Drawings</li> <li>– Onshore Substation Drawings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>EIAR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Volume 1: EIAR Non-Technical Summary</li> <li>– Volume 2: EIAR Holistic Assessment of All Elements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volume 2A includes Chapters 1 – 6 and associated technical appendices. These chapters provide, inter alia, the description of the Project, the consideration of alternatives and information on consultation. Chapter 3 includes the EIA methodology and the information presented in this chapter explains the structure and approach to the assessment chapters provided in Volumes 2B and 2C;</li> <li>○ Volume 2B includes Chapters 7-16 and associated technical appendices. The chapters in this volume provide the assessments on marine receptors including marine mammals, fish and shellfish ecology, etc.; and</li> <li>○ Volume 2C includes Chapters 17-32 and associated technical appendices. The chapters in this volume provide the assessments on the onshore receptors including population and human health, onshore biodiversity, etc. Interactions are outlined in Chapter 32.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Appropriate Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to Inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment</li> <li>• Natura Impact Statement including appendices</li> </ul>
<b>Spatial Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Site Boundary in shapefile format</li> </ul>
<b>Soft Copy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic copies of all documents and drawings on USB sticks</li> </ul>