



Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (ORED II)

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) for the “Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II”

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has undertaken Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening to assess if the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (ORED II), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

In making the determination that AA is required, the information in the “*ORED II Appropriate Assessment – Screening Report*” prepared by NIRAS Group (UK) Ltd for ClearLead Consulting Limited on behalf of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications has been considered. The Screening for AA found that:

- The Plan is not directly connected to or necessary for the management of any European Site.
- The Plan is likely to have a significant effect on Qualifying Interests (QIs) of multiple European Sites.

On the basis of the findings in the Screening for AA, it concluded that an AA will be required on the ORED II to consider each Likely Significant Effect (LSE) identified in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites affected.

The Habitats Directive requires that plans or projects are assessed alone and in-combination with other plans or projects to determine whether a likely significant effect to European sites could occur. Only plans or projects that would increase the likelihood of significant effects should be considered. As the implementation of the ORED II has the potential to result in likely significant effect on European sites, and should be taken forward to Stage 2: AA. In-combination effects will be considered in the Natura Impact Statement.



The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented in the “*OREDP II Appropriate Assessment – Screening Report*” prepared by environmental consultants, prepared by NIRAS Group (UK) Ltd for ClearLead Consulting Limited. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. No. 477/2011, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening, that the OREPD II, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, would have LSE on a European Site and therefore an AA is required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martina Hennessy', positioned above a horizontal line.

Signatory:

Martina Hennessy

Principal Officer

Offshore Energy – Environmental & Consenting Division

Date: 10/08/2022