Ms. Martina Gallagher, Higher Executive Officer in Gallagher 12/12/16
 Ms Jeannine Dunne, Assistant Principal Jeans Dune 12/12/18
 Mr. Roger Harrington, Principal of America 14/12/18.

Foreshore Licence application by Hibernian Wind Power Ltd in respect of geophysical, geotechnical and archaeological site investigation works and the deployment of three (3) wind measuring and three (3) current measuring devices off Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford

Ref: FS 006788

1. Application: The approval of the Minister is sought to grant a licence for a term of five (5) years under Section 3(3) of the Foreshore Act 1933 to Hibernian Wind Power Ltd for the purpose of carrying out marine site investigation works off Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford.

The site investigation works proposed are:

- Archaeological Survey This will include a desk study, identification and assessment of metallic and other targets using magnetometer and identification and assessment of targets using side-scan sonar and diving as required.
- Geophysical Survey This will involve the use of multi-beam echo sounder, magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler and side-scan sonar.
- Geotechnical survey This will involve cone penetration testing as well as the collection of grab samples and vibro-cores. It is proposed to carry out 200 cone penetration tests and collect 200 Vibro-cores and 80 grab samples within the study area, the locations of which would be subject to the results of the geophysical and archaeological survey.
- Deployment of 3 wind measuring and 3 current measuring devices

The purpose of the site investigation works is to collect the necessary data and information required to optimise the layout and design of an offshore wind farm. finalise offshore foundation locations, select an optimum route for the submarine electricity cables from the wind farm, allow cable design and the development of cable installation methodologies and to acquire baseline data on the wind resource and baseline environmental information in the area.

A Foreshore Licence Map indicating the location of the proposed boreholes and survey works is attached at Tab 1.

- 2. <u>Companion Consents</u>: Planning permission in not required for Marine Survey works such as these.
- 3. <u>Public Consultation</u>: Public notices concerning this application were published in the "Irish Independent" on 26 January 2018, the (Gorey) "Guardian" on 30 January 2018 and in the "Wicklow People" on 31 January 2018. The public display documents were made available in both Arklow and Gorey Garda Stations for the required period of twenty one (21) working days (26 January to 23 February 2018).

Four (4) public submissions were received on foot of the public consultation. The main issues raised in the public submissions were:

- Impacts on fishing,
- Impacts on aquaculture,
- *Lack of clarity on proposal and
- *Lack of consultation with stakeholders.

*This is only site investigation works, on foot of the outcome of these works the applicant will be required to carry out a separate consultation on any proposed development.

In light of the concerns expressed by fishing and aquaculture interests the applicant will be required to appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer who will consult with the SFPA and relevant fishermen's groups in order that appropriate actions can be taken to avoid or minimise interactions with ongoing fishing activity in the area during the course of the site investigations.

4. Prescribed Bodies Consultation: Written submissions on the proposed development were received from this Department's Water and Marine Advisory Unit (WMAU), the Marine Institute, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Marine Survey Office, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Wexford County Council, the Underwater Archaeology Unit and National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltácht, and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.

There were no objections to the proposed development.

5. Environmental Assessment:

EIA Screening: The proposed works are not of a class that requires a mandatory EIS under the EIA Directive. *Tab 2*

Appropriate Assessment: The project was screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA). An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has concluded that there are not likely to be any significant effects as a result of the proposed works on the Conservation Objectives of the following adjacent

Natura 2000 Sites, the Blackwater Bank SAC (Site Code: 002953), the Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code: 001742), the Cahore Marshes SPA (Site Code: 004143) and the Cahore Polder and Dunes SAC (Site Code: 000700). *Tab 3*.

Marine Lease Vetting Committee (MLVC) assessment and report:

Considering the nature, scale and location of the proposed work the MLVC concludes that the proposed works would not have a significant negative impact on the marine environment, would not have a significant negative impact on any of the adjacent Natura 2000 Sites and therefore, is agreeable to the grant of the licence to facilitate the proposed works. See report attached at *Tab 4*.

6. Financial Considerations:

Hibernian Wind Power Ltd has accepted the licence fee of €

7. Agreement of applicant: Hibernian Wind Power Ltd has agreed to the specific conditions which would be attached to the licence, if granted. *Tab 5*

8. Recommendation:

Having regard to:

- the application for a Foreshore Licence together with accompanying documents;
- the submissions received from Prescribed Bodies;
- the applicant's responses to the submissions of the Prescribed Bodies;
- · the public consultation undertaken;
- the public submissions received;
- the applicant's responses to the public submissions received;
- the AA screening performed;
- the EIA screening performed;
- the assessment of the proposed development by the Marine Licence Vetting Committee, and its conclusions and recommendations in this regard; and
- the consent conditions to be attached to the Foreshore Licence, if granted

it is considered that:

 the proposed works on the foreshore would not have a significant negative impact on the marine environment and the adjacent Natura 2000 Sites.

It is recommended that a Foreshore Licence be granted subject to the conditions recommended by the MLVC and the licence fee set out above.

9. Notification of Minister's Determination:

If approval is granted by the Minister, Hibernian Wind Power Ltd will be informed accordingly, an appropriate licence will issue and a Notice of

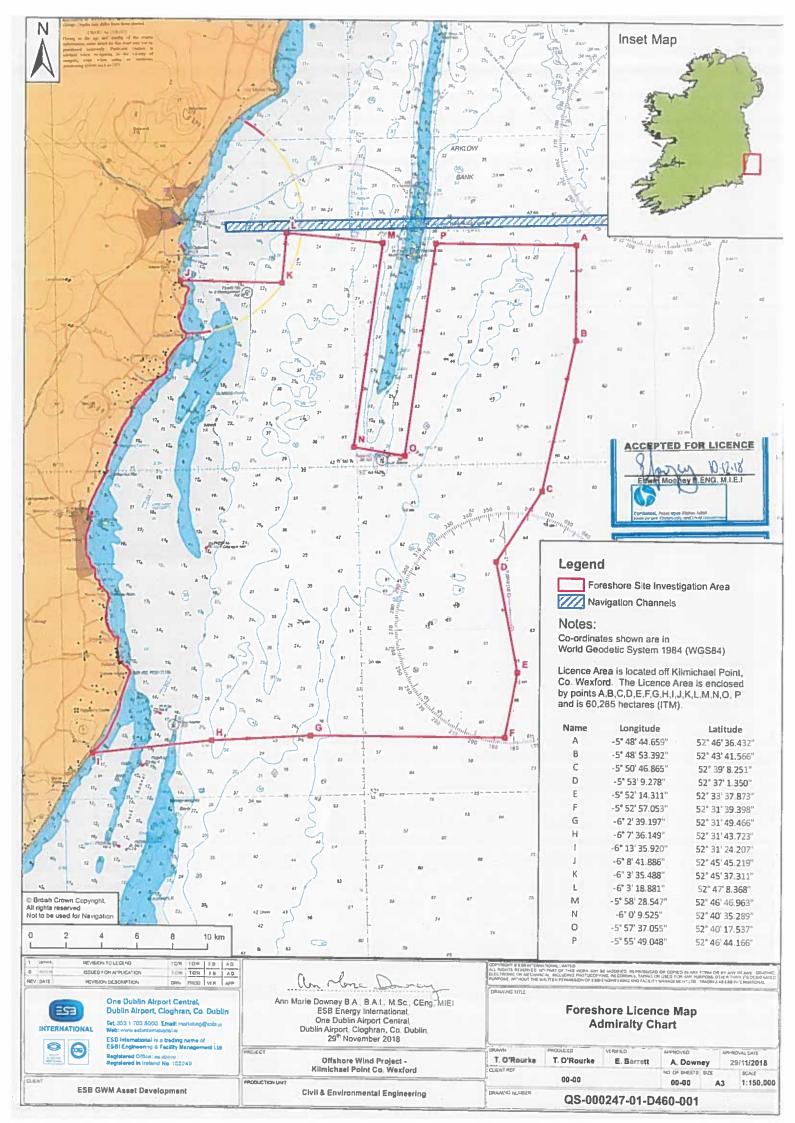
Determination regarding the decision (including the reasons) will be published on the Department's website. The Notice of Determination will address:

- the outcome of the Minister's determination of the application;
- the main reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination;
- a statement that all relevant documentation on which the determination is based is available for inspection both on the website of the Department and at the Department's Wexford Office; and
- confirmation that a review procedure is available before the High Court whereby the substantive or procedural legality of the Minister's determination may be challenged, together with practical information on the review procedure.

Submitted, please, to grant a licence under Section 3(3) of the Foreshore Act, 1933. The draft licence (in duplicate) in the pouch across is submitted for signing please.

Patrick O'Neill

2 December 2018



Foreshore Guidance Document

Screening for EIA

EIA Directive (85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC) requires that certain developments be assessed for likely environmental effects (environmental impact assessment) before consent can be granted. When submitting an application for such a development on the foreshore, the applicant must also submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). General EIA requirements are set out in the EC (EIA) Regulations 1989 (as amended) including Schedules 1 and 3 inserted by the EIA regulations 1999 (S.I. No. 93 of 1999).

In the case of development which is under the relevant threshold, the consent authority is required to request an EIS where it considers that the proposed development is likely to have significant environmental effects. The decision as to whether a development is likely to have such effects must be taken with reference to the criteria set out in Schedule 3 inserted by the 1999 regulations and the national guidance developed to assist.

Name of Proposed Development: Geophysical, geotechnical and archaeological site investigation works and the deployment of three (3) wind measuring and three (3) current measuring devices off Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford

Foreshore Reference, where applicable: FS 006788

Question 1: Is the proposed development included in the 1st Schedule of the Regs?

- If Yes: EIA is required.
- If No, proceed to Q2.

Answer:

No

Question 2: Is the proposed development of <u>a type/class</u> included in the 1 st Schedule but below the threshold specified?

- If Yes, but the development is below the quantity/area/other threshold, proceed to Q3.
- If No, no EIA required.

Answer:

No

Question 3: Are significant effects likely?

To decide whether significant effects are likely, use the 3rd Schedule of the 1999 regs (via the EIA Screening Checklist and, where required, the EIA Significant Effects Checklist):

- If Yes, significant effects are likely; an EIA is required.
- If No, no significant effects are likely; no EIA is required.

Appropriate Assessment Report

Hibernian Wind Power Ltd - Marine Site Investigations in the Irish Sea off Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford (FS006788)

Project Description:

Hibernian Wind Power Ltd has submitted an application for a Foreshore Licence to carry out site investigations in the south-western Irish Sea in the general vicinity of Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford. The location of the proposed site investigation area is shown in the following drawing submitted by the applicant:

• Drawing number QS-000247-01-D460-001, "Foreshore Licence Map Admiralty Chart", dated 05/01/2018.

It is proposed that the site investigations will include:

- Archaeological Survey This will include a desk study, identification and assessment of metallic and other targets using magnetometer and identification and assessment of targets using side-scan sonar and diving as required.
- Geophysical Survey This will involve the use of multi-beam echo sounder, magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler and side-scan sonar
- Geotechnical survey This will involve cone penetration testing as well as the
 collection of grab samples and vibro-cores. It is proposed to carry out 200 cone
 penetration tests and collect 200 vibro-cores and 80 grab samples within the
 study area, the locations of which would be subject to the results of the
 geophysical and archaeological survey.
- Deployment of three wind measuring and three current measuring devices

The indicative location of cone penetration testing and the collection of vibro-cores, as well as the proposed locations for the deployment of wind measuring and current measuring devices are shown in the following drawings submitted by the applicant:

- Drawing number QS-000247-01-D460-002, Foreshore Investigation Licence Study Area OSI Discovery Series, dated 05/01/2018.
- Drawing number QS-000247-01-D460-003, Foreshore Investigation Licence Study Area Admiralty Chart, dated 05/01/2018.

It is intended that the Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys would be of up to three (3) months duration. The Archaeological Survey would be of approximately one (1) month in duration. The wind measuring devices would be deployed for a minimum period of twelve (12) months and a maximum period of thirty-six (36) months. The current measuring devices would be deployed for a period of two (2) months.

It is noted that it is also intended to carry out non-intrusive marine mammal and bird surveys, as well as drop down video surveys in the area as part of the overall ecological investigations. The ecological surveys would be carried out seasonally and would be of 2-3 years in duration. Given the non-intrusive nature of these surveys it

is understood that a Foreshore Licence is not required for these elements of the overall site investigations.

The overall aim of the site investigations is to collect the necessary data and information required to optimise the layout and design of an offshore wind farm, finalise offshore foundation locations, select an optimum route for the submarine electricity cables from the wind farm, allow cable design and the development of cable installation methodologies and to acquire baseline data on the wind resource and baseline environmental information in the area.

There is commercial fishing activity within the proposed site investigation area and therefore some interaction with fishing activity may occur. It is considered that that such interaction will be limited and overall will not be significant. It is recommended, however, that the applicants be required to appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer who will consult with the SFPA and relevant fishermen's groups in order that appropriate actions can be taken to avoid or minimise interactions with ongoing fishing activity in the area during the course of the site investigations.

The project is not of a class that requires the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Natura 2000 sites

The proposed marine site investigation works are not located within a designated Natura 2000 site. There are four (4) Natura 2000 Sites within 15 Km of the site investigation area including:

- Blackwater Bank SAC (Site Code 002953) located circa 1Km from the site investigation area.
- Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code 001742) located circa 5Km from the site investigation area.
- Cahore Marshes SPA (Site Code 004143) located circa 6Km from the site investigation area.
- Cahore Polder and Dunes SAC (Site Code 000700) located circa 5.5Km from the site investigation area.

The Features of Interest of each of these sites is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Features of Interest of the three (3) Natura 2000 sites within 15Km of the proposed marine site investigation works in the vicinity of Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford

Features of Interest	Blackwater Bank SAC (Site Code 002953)	Cahore Marshes SPA (Site Code 004143)	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code 001742)	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC (Site Code 000700)
Annual vegetation of drift lines			1	1
Embryonic shifting dunes			V	V
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)			1	1
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)			1	٧
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes			1	
Humid dune slacks				1
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	1			
Wigeon (Anas penelope)		1		
Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)		1		
Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)		1		
Greenland White- fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris)		1		
Wetland and Waterbirds		. 1		

As no works will take place within the Natura 2000 sites there will be no direct impact on the features of interest within the sites. There will be no direct loss of habitat with no significant impacts on key species or habitats and habitat or species fragmentation will not occur. The integrity of the sites will not be affected.

Considering the nature and scale of the site investigation works and given the distance of the site investigation area from any of the Natura 2000 sites indirect impacts on the

sites are not considered likely. There is no likely "source – receptor pathway" through which indirect impacts could occur.

The integrity of the Natura 2000 sites will not be affected.

There is the potential of negative effects on marine mammals, including cetaceans and seals, as a result of noise producing works on the foreshore e.g. seismic survey, coring activity. It is considered that full compliance with the requirements set out in the NPWS "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters" (January 2014) in respect of all noise producing activities on the foreshore will minimise any potential impacts non marine mammals that may occur in the area.

Based on the above it is concluded that the proposed marine site investigation in the vicinity of Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford will not have a significant negative impact on the Conservation Objectives of the Blackwater Bank SAC (Site Code 002953), Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code 001742), Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC (Site Code 000700) and Cahore Marshes SPA (Site Code 004143). Significant impacts on marine mammals are not considered likely.

On the basis of the above it is considered that it is not necessary to proceed to a Stage 2 full Appropriate Assessment.

Mr. Edwin Mooney
Marine Licence Vetting Committee
15th November 2018

REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)

on

FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR MARINE SITE INVESTIGATION WORKS (FS006788).

APPLICANT: HIBERNIAN WIND POWER LTD

Mr. Edwin Mooney Marine Licence Vetting Committee 15th November 2018

Hibernian Wind Power Ltd – Foreshore Licence Application for Marine Site Investigation Works (FS006788).

Project Description

Hibernian Wind Power Ltd has submitted an application for a Foreshore Licence to carry out site investigations in the south-western Irish Sea in the general vicinity of Kilmichael Point, Co. Wexford. The location of the proposed site investigation area is shown in the following drawing submitted by the applicant:

 Drawing number QS-000247-01-D460-001, "Foreshore Licence Map Admiralty Chart", dated 05/01/2018.

It is proposed that the site investigations will include:

- Archaeological Survey This will include a desk study, identification and assessment of metallic and other targets using magnetometer and identification and assessment of targets using side-scan sonar and diving as required.
- Geophysical Survey This will involve the use of multi-beam echo sounder, magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler and side-scan sonar
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 the collection of grab samples and vibro-cores. It is proposed to carry out
 200 cone penetration tests and collect 200 Vibro-cores and 80 grab
 samples within the study area, the locations of which would be subject to
 the results of the geophysical and archaeological survey.
- Deployment of 3 wind measuring and 3 current measuring devices

The indicative location of cone penetration testing and the collection of vibro-cores, as well as the proposed locations for the deployment of wind measuring and current measuring devices are shown in the following drawings submitted by the applicant:

- Drawing number QS-000247-01-D460-002, Foreshore Investigation Licence – Study Area OSI Discovery Series, dated 05/01/2018.
- Drawing number QS-000247-01-D460-003, Foreshore Investigation Licence Study Area Admiralty Chart, dated 05/01/2018.

It is intended that the Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys would be of up to three (3) months duration. The Archaeological Survey would be of approximately one (1) month in duration. The wind measuring devices would be deployed for a minimum period of twelve (12) months and a maximum period of thirty-six (36) months. The current measuring devices would be deployed for a period of two (2) months.

It is noted that it is also intended to carry out non-intrusive marine mammal and bird surveys, as well as drop down video surveys in the area as part of the overall ecological investigations. The ecological surveys would be carried out seasonally and would be of 2-3 years in duration. Given the non-intrusive nature of these surveys it is understood that a Foreshore Licence is not required for these elements of the overall site investigations.

The overall aim of the site investigations is to collect the necessary data and information required to optimise the layout and design of an offshore wind farm, finalise offshore foundation locations, select an optimum route for the submarine electricity cables from the wind farm, allow cable design and the development of cable installation methodologies and to acquire baseline data on the wind resource and baseline environmental information in the area.

There is commercial fishing activity within the proposed site investigation area and therefore some interaction with fishing activity may occur. It is considered that that such interaction will be limited and overall will not be significant. It is recommended, however, that the applicants be required to appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer who will consult with the SFPA and relevant fishermen's groups in order that appropriate actions can be taken to avoid or minimise interactions with ongoing fishing activity in the area during the course of the site investigations.

The project is not of a class that requires the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The project is not located within a designated Natura 2000 site. There are four (4) Natura 2000 Sites within 15 Km of the site investigation area including:

- Blackwater Bank SAC (Site Code 002953) located circa 1Km from the site investigation area.
- Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code 001742) located circa 5Km from the site investigation area.
- Cahore Marshes SPA (Site Code 004143) located circa 6Km from the site investigation area.
- Cahore Polder and Dunes SAC (Site Code 000700) located circa 5.5Km from the site investigation area.

Public Consultation

Public notices concerning this application were published in the "Irish Independent" on 26/01/2018, the (Gorey) "Guardian" on 30/01/2018 and in the "Wicklow People" on 31/01/2018. The public display documents were made available in both Arklow and Gorey Garda Stations for the required period of twenty one (21) working days (26/01/2018 to 23/02/2018).

Four (4) public submissions were received on foot of the public consultation. The main issues raised in the public submissions were:

- Impacts on fishing
- Impacts on aquaculture
- Lack of clarity on proposal
- · Lack of consultation with stakeholders.

Prescribed Bodies Consultation:

Observations on the project were received from this Department's Water and Marine Advisory Unit, the Development Applications Unit of DCHG (Nature Conservation and Underwater Archaeology), Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division of DAFM, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Survey Office, and Wexford County Council.

There were no objections in principle to the proposed site investigations.

Issues Considered

The following documents were considered:

- Foreshore Licence Application and supporting documentation.
- Written submissions from the Water and Marine Advisory Unit of DHPLG, the Development Applications Unit of DCHG (Nature Conservation and Underwater Archaeology), Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division of DAFM, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Survey Office and Wexford County Council.
- The applicant's responses to the Prescribed Body submissions.
- The public submissions received
- The applicant's responses to the public submissions

MLVC Conclusions

On the basis of the information provided by the applicant, the observations provided by the Prescribed Bodies as listed above, the MLVC concludes that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below, the proposed works would not have a significant negative impact on navigation, fishing, the marine environment or protected species, would not impact on other legitimate

uses or users of the foreshore area in question and would not have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites. The MLVC, therefore, recommends that a licence be granted.

Proposed Licence Conditions

- 1. The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
- 2. The Licensee shall ensure that the works are carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application.
- 3. The Licensee shall appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer who will consult with the SFPA and relevant fishermen's groups in order that appropriate actions can be taken to avoid or minimise interactions with ongoing fishing activity in the area during the course of the site investigations.
- 4. The Licensee shall notify the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of the works on the foreshore.
- 5. During the course of the Site Investigation/Survey operations the Licensee shall ensure that all necessary precautions are put in place to protect the public in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 6. During the course of the Site Investigation/Survey operations the Licensee shall ensure that existing public access arrangements to the general foreshore area shall not be impeded by any vessels, plant or materials used in connection with the site investigations/surveys, and where relevant this access should be made safe and guaranteed by the provision of appropriate signage/notices/barriers etc. to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- 7. During the course of the Site Investigation/Survey operations the Licensee shall ensure that procedures are adopted to ensure that the operations are not injurious to fishing, navigation, adjacent lands or the public interest.
- 8. All vessels/floating plant shall have appropriate certification from the Marine Survey Office.
- On completion of the Site Investigation/Survey the Licensee shall ensure that all equipment and materials are removed and the foreshore is reinstated to its original condition, to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing Planning, and Local Government.

- 10. Marine notice, lighting and markings shall be carried out in consultation with the Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport, Leeson Lane, Dublin2.
- 11. All relevant site investigations and marine surveys shall comply with the NPWS (2014) "Guidance to Manage the risk Marine Mammals from Manmade Sound sources in Irish Waters" including the employment of a Marine Mammal Observer as appropriate.
- 12. The Licensee shall to arrange the publication of a local marine notice. This local marine notice should give a general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion. An advertisement in a locally read newspaper will suffice.
- 13. The Licensee shall engage in full consultation with the Wexford Harbour Authority.
- 14. No refuelling of equipment, machinery or plant shall take place on the foreshore.
- 15. No storage of machinery or plant shall take place on the foreshore.
- 16. The Licensee shall carry out an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) in the format laid out by the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.
- 17. The Licensee shall engage the services of a suitably qualified and experienced maritime or underwater archaeologist to carry out the assessment under the required licences. A detailed method statement shall accompany the licence applications.
- 18. The Licensee shall submit the UAIA Report to the National Monuments Service for review and further response in advance of the site investigation works commencing.

Site Specific Conditions

- 1. The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
- 2. The Licensee shall ensure that the works are carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application.
- 3. The Licensee shall appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer who will consult with the SFPA and relevant fishermen's groups in order that appropriate actions can be taken to avoid or minimise interactions with ongoing fishing activity in the area during the course of the site investigations.
- 4. The Licensee shall notify the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of the works on the foreshore.
- 5. During the course of the Site Investigation/Survey Operations the Licensee shall ensure that all necessary precautions are put in place to protect the public in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 6. During the course of the Site Investigation/Survey Operations the Licensee shall ensure that existing public access arrangements to the general foreshore area shall not be impeded by any vessels, plant or materials used in connection with the site investigations/surveys, and where relevant this access should be made safe and guaranteed by the provision of appropriate signage/notices/barriers etc. to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- 7. During the course of the Site Investigation/Survey Operations the Licensee shall ensure that procedures are adopted to ensure that the operations are not injurious to fishing, navigation, adjacent lands or the public interest.
- 8. All vessels/floating plant shall have appropriate certification from the Marine Survey Office.
- 9. On completion of the Site Investigation/Survey the Licensee shall ensure that all equipment and materials are removed and the foreshore is reinstated to its original condition, to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing Planning, and Local Government.
- 10. Marine notice, lighting and markings shall be carried out in consultation with the Maritime Safety Directorate, Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport, Leeson Lane, Dublin2.

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