An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government

Investigative Foreshore Licence Application (Offshore Renewable Energy)

Please indicate project category as appropriate:

Wave:	
Tidal:	
Wind:	**X**
Other:	**Please specify:**

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Applicant Name and Address:

Full Name of Applicant (not Agent): [redacted]
Company/Organisation: Codling Wind Park Limited (CWPL)
Address: Cooney Carey Consulting Limited, Unit15-16, The Courtyard, Carmanhall Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18.
Eircode: D18 YD27

Applicant Contact Details:

Phone No:	[redacted]
E-mail address:	[redacted]

Nominated Contact (Where different from above):

Name: [redacted]
Address: Natural Power Consultants Units 5 & 10, Stephenson House, Horsley Business Centre, Horsley, Northumberland, NE15 0NY.
Phone No: [redacted]
E-mail address: [redacted]

Applicant's Legal Advisor:

Name: [redacted]
Address: McCann FitzGerald, Riverside One, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2, D02 X576
Phone No: [redacted]
E-mail address: [redacted]

Part 1: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)

1.1	**Provide background information on the project including reason and objectives of the site investigations, the site selection process and any proposals for future works at the site.**

In 1999 Fred Olsen Renewables Limited (FORL) initiated a search around the whole of the Irish coast for potential offshore wind development sites, in consultation with the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. After careful consideration of the technical, physical and environmental criteria the Codling Bank was considered to have a number of advantages when compared to other potential areas. Necessary survey work, studies and stakeholder engagement were undertaken over several years by Codling Wind Park Ltd (CWPL), and an application was made for a Foreshore Lease under the Foreshore Act (1933)

Codling Wind Park (as per 2005 Foreshore Lease)

CWPL was awarded a Foreshore Lease for Codling Wind Park on 15 November 2005. The Lease provided for the construction of up to 220 turbines with a rotor diameter of up to 120 m and a tip height of up to 160 m above Mean Sea Level (MSL) and a generating capacity of up to 1100 MW.

Codling Wind Park Extension

In March 2009 CWPL submitted an application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Codling Wind Park Extension (CWPE) to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, but the application was not determined. The application sought a Foreshore Lease for up to an additional 200 turbines with up 1000 MW capacity. The proposed CWPE project adjoined the original Codling Wind Park array site, increasing the proposed development area to the south.

Some additional survey work and studies were undertaken across both sites in 2013-2014 to update and supplement previous data collection.

Recent Developments

As a result of advances in wind turbine technology and to ensure the delivery of the lowest cost of energy to the consumers, CWPL is looking to redesign the previous Codling Wind Park and CWPE projects. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in July 2019 to start the process for updating the projects and seeking the necessary consents.

For the purposes of this licence application, the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Offshore Wind Farm encapsulates the areas previously covered by the Codling Wind Park (granted Lease in 2005) and CWPE; and whole project is known as the CWP OWF (as illustrated in Figure 1.1). CWP covers an area of approximately 123 km² and the array site is located 13 km from the east coast of Ireland between Greystones and Wicklow.

The proposed investigative works are required to provide updated environmental and engineering information to inform the project design and the environmental assessments (e.g. Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) and EIA) required for the consenting of CWP OWF.

1.2	**Possible MW output of final development:** The current foreshore lease granted for Codling Wind Park and the CWPE application identified a combined maximum total energy output of up to 2.1 GW. The final MW output of the CWP is not currently determined and is subject to further detailed design work including consideration of grid and turbine technologies and future developments. However, the maximum output capacity of CWP is currently planned to be no greater than 2.1 GW.
1.3	**Type of surveys proposed (e.g. geophysical, geotechnical, archaeological or benthic.** • Geophysical • Geotechnical • Fish & Shellfish surveys • Benthic & Intertidal Surveys • Archaeological surveys • Metocean and Floating LiDAR • Marine Mammal Acoustic POD survey

1.4 **Survey methodologies and equipment to be used for each survey type proposed:**

Geophysical	Multibeam echosounder (MBES), Side scan sonar (SSS), Magnetometer, Sub bottom profiler, Gradiometer, Multichannel High-resolution acoustic seismic surveys i.e. boomers/sparkers). Underwater positioning systems (USBL) will be used for towed equipment.
Geotechnical	Boreholes, Cone Penetration Tests (CPT) and vibrocores across the application area. The number and location of the proposed activities are indicative and will be informed by other work streams including geophysical survey campaigns.
Fish & Shellfish	The scope of the surveys will be agreed with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) prior to their commencement. However, may include potting and trawl surveys across the Application Area
Benthic & Intertidal	The survey will be designed using analysis of latest geophysical data available which will be reviewed to stratify sampling according to likely habitat types. Survey techniques will include; drop down video (DDV) and deployment of a mini Hammond grab. Requirement for epibenthic trawls would be dependent on both the geophysical survey results and subsequent DDV during the survey phase. Phase I intertidal walkover survey to identify habitats present at each landfall location.
Metocean	Data gathered to include; wind and environmental data. Deployment of up to two Floating LiDARs for up to 36 months. Also, deployment up to five waverider buoys and three Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers within the application area.
Archaeological Surveys	Archaeological intertidal walkover and metal detector survey at each potential landfall location.
Marine Mammal Acoustic PODs	POD Deployment in three arrays within the Application Area and offshore.

Please see the attached supporting information document for further information.

1.5	**Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected on the foreshore for testing the suitability of the site. Is the structure proposed to be temporary or permanent?** Floating LIDARs, metocean equipment including ADCPs and Wave Buoys, and POD equipment will be deployed along with moorings and anchors. Duration of deployments is up to 36 months (in any one deployment, not in the aggregate), and full removal of equipment will be undertaken once surveys are complete. The duration of the foreshore licence requested is for 5 years. Details of all instrumentation can be found within then accompanying supporting information document.
1.6	**Provide information on proposed mooring, marking and lighting arrangements for any proposed deployment of instrument arrays.** The exact location for infrastructure including moorings and lighting is not known (indicative locations are provided in the supporting information). Final locations and marking and lighting will be agreed with the Commissioner of Irish Lights prior to the commencement of any work. CWPL will also apply to the Commissioner of Irish Lights for Statutory Sanction.
1.7	**Has the applicant held or does the applicant hold any previous Foreshore Licences, Leases or applications over the area sought or over any other area? (Give details including Department's file reference number(s)).** • Codling Wind Park Limited Foreshore Lease (awarded September 2005) • Derogation Licence No: DER/Marine Mammal-2013-36
1.8	**Indicative timing of the investigation works: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.** Dates of the survey works will be dependent on the application process and when a foreshore licence is issued however indicative programmes are below: i. Proposed start date of Q4 2020 / Q1 2021 for metocean and LIDAR campaign and Q1/2 2021 for other survey works which are expected to commence with geophysical surveys. ii. Indicative durations are included in the supporting information. Geophysical, geotechnical and benthic surveys are likely to take up to 12 months for each campaign, while metocean and LiDAR deployments will be for up to 36 months. The duration of the licence sought is up to 5 years to allow for project delays including timings restrictions and weather delays and to enable surveys that may be required in the pre-construction phase of the project. iii. The proposed surveys will be timed to ensure the assessments cover any seasonal variations.

1.9	**Describe any likely interactions with activities of the public or other foreshore users during the investigative works (e.g. fishing, aquaculture, sailing, and surfing). Describe any measures proposed to minimise inconvenience to other users.** A more detailed assessment is included in the supporting environmental information. During the investigative works there will be limited interactions with members of the public as the site area is not within an area that is heavily utilised by members of the public. The impacts will therefore predominantly be with interactions with marine users including fisherman. In order to ensure all foreshore users and other public are kept up to date with activities, and to minimise inconvenience to them, the following mitigation measures will or have been adopted to date: • Appointment of a dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO). A suitably experienced FLO will be appointed by CWPL to liaise with the fishing industry. The FLO will ensure that fishers are kept well informed of activities in a timely and constructive manner. • Prior to any activity occurring, a Marine Notice will be issued to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. This Marine Notice will also be displayed on the CWP website (http://codlingwindpark.ie/) and distributed to relevant stakeholders. • CWP website will host all past, current and imminently proposed activities, which will allow foreshore users with internet access an easy and convenient means to access the information. • Where possible all vessels and personnel will be local to the area, and therefore have greater insight into local activities that other foreshore users may be partaking in. This will allow all activities proposed to be mindful and considerate of other foreshore users in the local vicinity. • Where equipment has been left in situ, appropriate lighting and navigational aids will be utilised to ensure other users are aware and Statutory Sanctions will be applied for where relevant and required. • Liaison with local ports including Dublin, Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire in order to minimise potential disruption and reduce navigational risk. Engagement will also be held with operators or groups where necessary e.g. sailing clubs etc. • The location of equipment that has been left in situ will be recorded and relayed back to the FLO, and where necessary this information will be provided to other users. • The Marine Survey Office will also be notified of the location of equipment to facilitate the update hydrographical charts as required. For areas of the intertidal where the public may have access this will be limited for short durations during survey periods however it is not anticipated that there will be any significant long-term disruption. Please see the accompanying supporting information document for further information.
1.10	**Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other foreshore users.** Initial discussions with local fishermen have been delayed due to Covid-19 circumstances, however CWPL have outlined the consultation steps that will be taken in the current situation in Appendix 1 of the supporting information document.

1.11	**Describe any consultations undertaken to date with other consent authorities e.g. planning authority, Commission for Energy Regulation etc.** CWPL has met with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to discuss this application in January 2020. Details of the meetings and discussions held can be found in Appendix 1 of the attached supporting information document.
1.12	**Describe briefly any consultations undertaken with relevant authorities (e.g. county council, port/harbour authority etc) or State Agencies e.g. National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), National Monuments Service (NMS) of Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:** CWPL has held meetings with a range of bodies on the project and the scope of the proposed surveys. Meetings have been held with: NPWS, Marine Survey Office, NMS, Commissioner of Irish Lights, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and Marine Institute. Telephone discussions have been had with Inland Fisheries Ireland and Irish Coast Guard. Emails were sent to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Dublin City and Wicklow Councils in April 2020 to notify them of the intended Application submission. Details of the meetings and discussions had can be found in Appendix 1 of the attached supporting information document.
1.13	**Describe briefly any support received or under application with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) or other State Agency:** None

Part 2: Proposed Site (Attach additional documents as required)

2.1	**Delineate the proposed site in red on a latest edition map at a scale of 1:10 000 or larger scale if more appropriate and available, indicating:** (i) the entire area; **Please see Figure 1.1 for a map of the area being applied for.** (ii) the hectarage involved below the line of high water of medium tides clearly marked in RED and **51523.3 ha** (iii) the area of foreshore involved in metric measurements (i.e. hectares, metres squared or square kilometres etc). **515.23 km^2**
2.2	**Geographic co-ordinates of the area under application, where the area can also be identified on the Ordnance Survey map, specify Ordnance Survey co-ordinates also.** Please see Figure 1.1 for the Application Area being applied for and Figures 2.1, 2.2. and 2.3 for indicative locations of survey / device deployment. Please see Appendix A for a full list of co-ordinates.
2.3	**Delineate proposed site on relevant Admiralty Chart.** See enclosed maps.
2.4	**Relevant Local Authority:** Wicklow County Council Dublin City Council Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
2.5	**Location name and nearest townland name:** Codling Bank Greystones, Co. Wicklow
2.6	**Distance from nearest other developments, including any offshore renewable energy developments on the foreshore:** The Application Area is approximately 17.5 km north of the constructed Arklow Bank Wind farm and 0.5 km south of the proposed Dublin Array Wind farm.
2.7	**Distance from shore:** The array area for CWP is approximately 13 km off the coast of County Wicklow however the Application Area extends to the shore at proposed Landfall locations.

2.8	**Distance from nearest aquaculture operation:** Data available from the Department of Aquaculture, Food and the Marine shows that the nearest aquaculture operation to be over 25 km from the Application Area.
2.9	**Distance from any other sensitive location e.g. fish spawning ground, designated Shellfish Growing Waters,** Data available from the Marine Institute shows that there are nursery grounds for Atlantic and Horse Mackerel, nursery and spawning grounds for Atlantic Haddock, and nursery and spawning areas for Atlantic Cod within the Application Area. This information is presented in Figure 3.5. Please see the attached supporting information document for further information.
2.10	**Any other site details considered relevant:**

Part 3: Nature Conservation Considerations (Attach additional documents as required)

3.1	**Distance from nearest Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC):** There are four SACs within the Application Area: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, The Murrough Wetlands SAC and Wicklow Reef SAC. There are a number of SPAs within the Application Area: Dalkey Island SPA, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SPA and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Please see the attached supporting information document for further information including section 3.1, and appendix 2 (Appropriate Assessment stage 1 assessment), and appendix 3 (Natura Impact Statement).
3.2	**Name and location of Natura 2000 sites in or around the project area:** Please see Section 3.1, appendix 2 and 3 of the attached supporting information document for further information. Figures 3.1 – 3.4 illustrate the name and location of relevant designated sites in and around the Application Area.
3.3	**Describe potential impacts of the site investigations on Natura 2000 sites.** Please see Appendices 2 and 3 of the attached supporting information documents for further information

3.4	**Describe any measures proposed to mitigate possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites and other key marine receptors.** Please see Section 5 of the attached supporting information document for further information
3.5	**Describe any other projects or plans for the area, anticipated or developed, that in combination with this proposal, may have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site:** Please see the attached supporting information document for further information including Appendix 2, 3, and 5 (Project list of in-combination assessment).

Part 4: Navigational Safety Considerations.

4.1	**Distance from shipping lanes at nearest point. Illustrate on the appropriate marine charts accompanying the application.** There are no formally designated shipping lanes in close proximity to the Application Area. Please see attached figure and accompanying supporting information document for further details.
4.2	**If a safety zone for passage of shipping (including fishing and leisure boats) is sought, supply details and give reasons.** **N/A**
4.3	**If any temporal /spatial restrictions are sought on the use of any type of fishing gear or leisure activity within the area, provide details and justification for such restrictions and indicate location(s) on appropriate marine charts.** **N/A**

Declaration and Consent:

The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that no works will be commenced, by me or my agents on the proposed site, without the prior written consent of the Minister. The granting or refusal of any foreshore investigation licence will not give rise on the part of the applicant to any expectation whatsoever for, right or entitlement to a grant of any future foreshore permission in respect of all or any part of any area of foreshore.

By submitting this application form, I agree that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) are to be published on the Department of Housing website and also that the full information provided including contact details are to be processed and retained by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and shared with all appropriate Prescribed Bodies (as part of the Prescribed Bodies Consultation process) in furtherance of consideration for a foreshore Consent under the Foreshore Act 1933 (and Foreshore Amendment Act 2011).

I give consent to the Minister and his servants to copy this application and to make (a redacted) copy available for inspection and copying by the public. This consent relates to this application, to any further information, or submission provided by me or on my behalf and to the publication of the licence document

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

[redacted]

Name of Signatory (block letters):

[redacted]

Position Held:

Principal Environmental Consultant

Date

22/04/2020

Return completed applications to:

Marine Environment and Foreshore Section
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Enquiries to: Foreshore@housing.gov.ie
Email a copy of application documents: Foreshore@housing.gov.ie