



ATTACHMENT 4.11 NATIONAL OR EUROPEAN STRATEGIC OR POLICY OBJECTIVE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Oriel Wind Farm Project

Oriel Windfarm Limited



TETRA TECH

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1.0 Introduction

This statement addresses the overall need for the proposed site investigation (SI) works at the Maritime Usage Licence Area (MULA) and their consistency with National and European strategic policy objectives, as required under Question 4.11 of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) Guidance Note for Applicants (November 2025). In response to the climate imperative, the Irish government set a national target of at least 5 GW (i.e. 5,000 MW) of offshore wind energy by 2030 in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024 and reiterated in CAP 2025¹. The CAP 2025 targets 80% renewable electricity in Ireland by 2030. Therefore, the development of offshore wind energy is vital for achieving our renewable energy targets. The proposed SI works will support the proposed Oriel Wind Farm Project to contribute towards Ireland's net-zero emissions targets and our transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy as underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), which is Ireland's national marine spatial plan published in June 2021, supports offshore renewable energy development, recognising it as a pathway to decarbonisation. The NMPF also includes the target for at least 5 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030. The decarbonisation pathway to 2030 as set out in the Programme for Government 'Our Shared Future' also outlines that at least 5 GW of offshore wind is required in the renewable electricity mix by 2030 off Ireland's eastern and southern coast.

The Oriel Wind Farm Project will generate up to 0.375 GW / 375 MW of renewable electricity, which represents approximately 6.6% of the 5 GW of offshore wind energy objective. The proposed SI works will further investigate the stability of the soil (seabed sediments) for the design of foundations and the detailed routing of the inter array and offshore cable corridor and therefore contribute towards the achievement of the national target. Information collected by the SI works will support the overall Project in its aim to contribute to Ireland's net-zero emissions targets and our transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy as underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Offshore wind energy is a national priority for Ireland, underpinning statutory climate obligations, energy security, biodiversity integration, and European Union targets. Without comprehensive and reliable SI data, the Project cannot progress to design, consent, or construction stages in a way that is technically feasible, environmentally sustainable, and policy compliant. Therefore, this MUL Application represents a critical step towards meeting Ireland's current and future energy targets including supporting a more sustainable future.

2.0 Statement of Authority

The technical competence of the authors is outlined below.

Aoife Edgely is an Associate Marine Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She has over 15 years' experience in the marine science field and is a Chartered Environmentalist and a Full Member of the Institute of Environmental Sciences. Aoife holds an honours degree in Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin and a Master's in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University, Wales. Aoife has delivered the environmental assessments for a wide range of marine and coastal projects, including environmental impact assessment, appropriate assessment and Annex IV species reports.

Rachael Shaw is a Project Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Science from the University of Galway and Master's Degree in Climate Change and Managing the Marine Environment from Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh. She has five years' experience

¹ [Climate Action Plan 2025 updated cover.pdf](#) Accessed July 2026

working in consultancy, assisting on a wide range of projects from offshore renewable energy projects to flood relief schemes, including marine and terrestrial surveys. She is a full member with Institute of Environmental Sciences (IES).

Róisín Murphy is a Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She holds an honours degree in Zoology (B.Sc.) and Master's degree in Marine Biology, both from University College Cork. She has two years' experience as a Project Manager at Cork Nature Network, responsible for marine and river surveys, and one years' experience in marine licensing and flood relief projects within Tetra Tech. She is a qualifying member with IES.

3.0 Strategic Context

The need for the proposed SI works must be understood against the backdrop of Ireland's and Europe's climate, energy, and biodiversity policy frameworks.

National Frameworks

- National Marine Planning Framework (2021): Provides explicit support for offshore renewable energy (ORE) by establishing ORE as a strategic priority, with development subject to marine licencing and environmental assessment requirements.
- Programme for Government (2025): Commits to accelerate the delivery of ORE and a target of 80% of electricity generation from renewable resources by 2023.
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021: Sets a legally binding obligation for Ireland to achieve a climate-neutral economy by 2050, and a requirement of successive Climate Action Plans.
- Climate Action Plan 2025: Sets clear offshore wind targets (5 GW by 2030) and produces a clear roadmap of actions to deliver renewable energy expansion in line with carbon budgets.
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030: Requires robust environmental assessment and monitoring and promotes a plan-led approach to ORE development.
- National Energy Security Framework (2022): Promotes the transition to indigenous renewable energy and a reduction in reliance on imported fossil fuels, with an explicit commitment to speed up the shift to renewable energy systems.
- National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030: Positions ORE as a key strategic component of the energy transition to renewables.

European Frameworks

- European Green Deal (2019): Overarching policy framework committing to climate neutrality in the EU by 2050, with renewables identified as a pillar of decarbonisation, promoting energy security from the reduced reliance on imported fossil fuels.
- EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy (2020): Dedicated targets of 60 GW of offshore wind capacity across the EU by 2030 and 300 GW by 2050.
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Requires integration of biodiversity objectives into renewable energy planning, considering nature-inclusive offshore wind and compliant with EIA and AA.
- Renewable Energy Directive III: Strengthens goals for delivery of climate neutrality in the EU by 2025 and enables rapid scale-up of offshore wind.

Strategic Research Objectives

- National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021–2030 (draft update 2023): Highlights the critical role of applied marine research and data in enabling offshore renewables.
- SEAI National Energy Research & Policy Insights (2023): Identifies site-specific geotechnical, geophysical, and environmental investigations as a strategic research priority for successful ORE deployment.
- MaREI Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine Research: Calls for early-stage, site-specific investigations to improve consenting outcomes, reduce development risk, and ensure environmental sustainability.

4.0 Need for SI works

The proposed SI works are essential for the detailed design and construction of the proposed Oriel Wind Farm Project. The data will be used to investigate the stability of the soil (seabed sediments) for the detailed design of foundations, wind turbines and the offshore substation and the detailed routing of cables within the offshore wind farm area and the offshore cable corridor. In addition, environmental surveys will be undertaken to provide further information on the baseline conditions and to ensure that the environmental data for the Oriel Wind Farm Project remains up to date.

5.0 Strategic Fit

The proposed SI works are directly aligned with and enable delivery of Ireland's National and European climate, energy, biodiversity, and research objectives (Table 5-1).

Table 5-1 Alignment of SI works with strategic policy objectives

Policy/ Strategy	Relevant Objective summary	Alignment of SI Works
National Marine Planning Framework (2021)	Recognise ORE as a strategic national priority	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving Government commitments.
Climate Action Plan 2025	At least 5 GW of offshore wind operational by 2030 and at least 8 GW of offshore wind by 2030	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving Government commitments.
National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030	Integrate biodiversity into decision-making	SI works are designed to ensure the protection of biodiversity (see attachment 4.10).
National Energy Security Framework (2022)	Transition to indigenous renewable energy and a reduction in reliance on imported fossil fuels	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project offering alternatives to fossil fuels and reducing reliance on imported energy.

Policy/ Strategy	Relevant Objective summary	Alignment of SI Works
National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021–2030	At least 80% renewable electricity by 2030	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving targets by 2030.
Programme for Government (2025)	Government's commitment to achieve 80% of Ireland's electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving Government commitment.
SEAI National Energy Research & Policy Insights (2023)	Strengthen Research–Policy–Industry Integration	SI works generate primary datasets of strategic research value for Ireland's marine and energy research community.
MaREI Strategic Research Objectives	Advance applied marine research to support ORE	SI works generate primary datasets of strategic research value for Ireland's marine and energy research community.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amended) Act 2021	Environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050; 51% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2030	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving Government commitments.
European Green Deal (2019)	Achieve EU climate neutrality by 2050	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project offering alternatives to fossil fuels and reducing reliance on imported energy.
EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy (2020)	300 GW of offshore wind in the EU by 2050 and 60 GW of offshore wind in the EU by 2030	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving EU commitments.
EU Biodiversity for 2030	Integration of biodiversity objectives into renewable energy planning	SI works are designed to ensure the protection of biodiversity (see attachment 4.10).
Renewable Energy Directive III	Increase the share of renewable energy in the EU's energy mix to at least ~42.5% by 2030	SI works will provide a critical enabling role in the delivery of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, which will assist in achieving EU commitments.

6.0 Conclusion

The SI works proposed in this MULA are fundamental to the delivery of offshore renewable energy (ORE) targets in Ireland and across the EU, as they provide the critical technical, environmental, and spatial data required for project development.

The works:

- Generate the technical information required to support effective project design;
- Play a critical role in enabling the achievement of both national and EU climate and energy targets;
- Integrate biodiversity and environmental considerations into project planning from the earliest stages; and
- Support Ireland's contribution to offshore renewable energy capacity, while also contributing to broader European research and strategic development objectives.

The proposed SI works are fully consistent with MARA Guidance (question 4.11) and with Ireland's statutory obligations under National and European law.