

## the latest from the newsroom

### A message from Eda Martin, Community Liaison Officer



Welcome to the Summer 2021 Dublin Array project newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the latest Dublin Array developments but first and foremost, I'd like to thank each and every one of you who took the time to visit and take part in our 2020 virtual public consultation. It was absolutely brilliant to receive so much valuable feedback, and shows us that our communications and consultation activities are reaching people which we're delighted to see. As well as support for the project, constructive feedback on a range of environmental matters was provided by those of you who took part. The Dublin Array team are addressing these in our environmental assessments and design development process. We will keep engaging with you as we progress and plan to host a further public consultation later this year.

### Review of 2020 Public Consultation

In October 2020, we launched a public consultation to provide people with an opportunity to hear more about our proposed wind farm. We would have liked this to have taken place face to face in a number of locations across Wicklow and Dublin but unfortunately it was not possible to do so in a safe manner in line with Government COVID-19 guidelines. To make the information accessible we implemented a digital consultation strategy and provided a telephone helpline.

As well as re-introducing the project and our updated plans, opinions were sought so that they could be incorporated into our design process, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and future engagement plans.

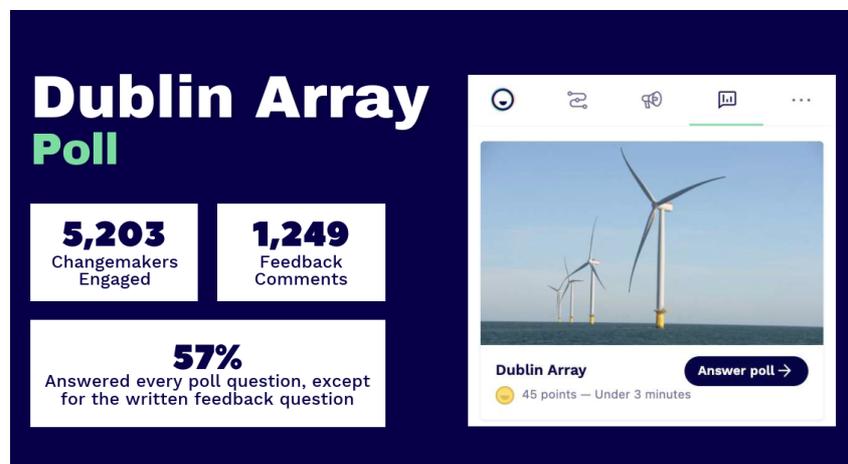


Dublin Array Virtual Exhibition 2020

We promoted this consultation phase through a combination of press releases, newspaper advertisements in the Dublin Gazette, Wicklow People and Bray People and direct outreach to local elected representatives, statutory and non-statutory consultees and community groups through the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) across Dublin and Wicklow. We also directly engaged with members of the community through our project poll advertised on social media which reached over **670,000** people.

During the consultation **4,955** people accessed our virtual exhibition which displayed a range of project information, **6,040** visited our project website and **5,203** people participated in our project poll. Those who participated in our poll also had the chance to choose their favourite of three charities to make a donation to. As a result we were able to make donations to the Dublin Simon Community, Aoibhneas and ARC cancer support.

Over **1,000** interested individuals shared their views with us either by completing a feedback form, emailing us directly or filling out the open text question of our project poll. Our project designs and environmental assessments are being reviewed in the light of this valuable feedback. The changes we have made will be outlined in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will be made available when we make our submission for a development consent application (i.e. planning permission).



2020 Consultation Poll Engagement

## Next Public Consultation

We have begun planning for another phase of public consultation in advance of submitting our development consent application. As well as presenting the latest project information, we will be providing an overview of the feedback received during our 2020 public consultation, and how it has been incorporated into our project plans. This will include the feedback received from the **5,203** individuals who took part in our poll as well as those who emailed, phoned or met with us. Once we have submitted our development consent application a period of statutory consultation will follow.

We hope to be able to provide a face-to-face element in addition to a virtual exhibition, but this will depend on the COVID-19 situation at the time. Details of this phase of consultation will be advertised closer to the event, and all those who are subscribed for our project updates will be notified via email. You can sign up at the bottom of any webpage on [www.dublinarray.com](http://www.dublinarray.com).

## Media Engagement

Throughout our 2020 consultation and beyond, we have engaged with the media to try to signpost to people where to access project information and how to provide us with feedback. The project has been covered in a number of print and online articles including; the Sunday Business Post, The Irish Times, Irish Independent, Bray People, Wicklow People, Dublin People, Dublin Gazette, NOVA radio, 98FM, KFM Radio, Carlow Nationalist, Afloat, DE24, Dublin Live, The Irish Sun and ReNews. Our Project Director Peter Lefroy has also participated in radio interviews on Newstalk and RTÉ Radio One DriveTime, and also appeared on RTÉ SixOne on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 to talk about the Dublin Array project, as part of a one week RTÉ special on Ireland's electricity infrastructure.

Broadcast on: March 04th, 2021



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## Marine Surveys 2021

On January 28<sup>th</sup> we were granted a Ministerial Foreshore Licence (F007029) to carry out a range of marine surveys. The geophysical and ecological surveys began on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and were completed ahead of schedule on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the surveys carried out is to understand the characteristics and sensitivities of the Bray and Kish Banks and surrounding areas. We were happy to have the support and assistance of the local fishing community with whom we actively engaged throughout the survey period through our Fisheries Liaison Officer.

The types of works included marine geophysical surveys to provide up-to-date mapping of the seafloor and further information on the nature of the seabed. In addition, ecological sampling supported by camera imagery was undertaken to provide data on seabed habitats and species.

Fugro, a specialist marine survey contractor ([www.fugro.com](http://www.fugro.com)), carried out the survey work using four vessels; the Fugro Mercator, the Fugro Spectrum 1, the Fugro Seeker and the Fastnet Pelican, owned by Irish company Fastnet Shipping Ltd.



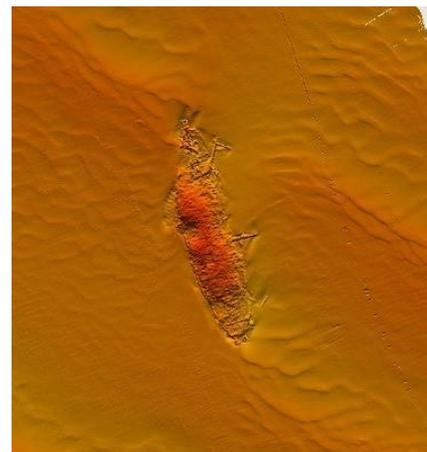
Fugro Mercator in Dublin Bay



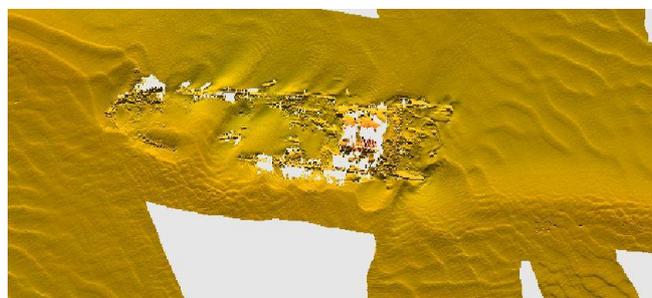
Fugro Spectrum in Dún Laoghaire harbour

**During this time our vessels surveyed over 5,200 line kilometres of data. That's equivalent to going from Dublin to Cork more than 20 times!**

The information from the surveys is currently being reviewed and will be used to identify ecological or archaeological features so that impacts on these can be avoided through our project design. For example, the image on the right obtained during our survey is the wreck of the Glenorchy, a fully rigged sailing ship built in 1868 by McMillan A. & Son Ltd. and owned by Gow A. C. & Co., Glasgow. The vessel wrecked after striking the Kish Bank on 1 January 1869 on its maiden voyage from Glasgow to Bombay with a cargo of iron, coal and spirits.



The image below shows the Sir Charles Napier, a merchant vessel built in 1841 by Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada and owned by Locketts of London. On 19 November 1875, the Sir Charles Napier ran aground on the Kish Bank due to a navigation error.



Identifying these and other previously known and unknown wrecks, as well as any marine environmental sensitivities such as cobble reef, allows us to avoid these areas with our infrastructure, including our export cables. The data collected is being interpreted by geologists so

that the surface features and below surface information can also be used to aid the design of the proposed wind farm foundation structures.

We will be applying for another Foreshore Licence during the summer to carry out additional survey works. Details of the application will be publicised and included on our website. Anyone who has signed up for our project updates (which you can do at the bottom of any page on [www.dublinarray.com](http://www.dublinarray.com)) will also be notified so we encourage you to sign up to ensure you don't miss this and other project information.

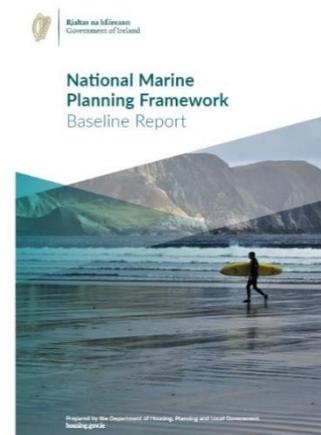
The information from our 2021 survey works will be incorporated into the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will form one of the main parts of our updated development consent application.

After the completion of the EIAR we will continue to monitor and assess the environment as the project progresses through the construction and operational phases of its lifecycle.

## Planning Policy and Development Consent

On May 12<sup>th</sup> the **National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)** was passed by Dáil Éireann. The NMPF sets out the policy and framework that will govern Ireland's first marine spatial plan. On July 1<sup>st</sup> the NMPF was officially launched.

It outlines how Ireland's marine area (**more than 10 times the land mass of Ireland!**) can be sustainably protected and developed to support a range of industries including offshore renewable energy, marine transport, fisheries, tourism and aquaculture. The passing of NMPF is a major milestone for marine planning in Ireland.



Based on this strong policy framework, Dublin Array intend to apply for a development consent (i.e. planning permission) to construct the project under new **Maritime Area Planning (MAP)** legislation when the new consenting framework is established. We currently expect this will be in place before the end of 2021 and based on that timeline we hope to be able to submit our development consent application as soon as possible in 2022. At that time, all of our application documents, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement, will be made publicly available. All the details will be advertised and anyone who has signed up for our project updates will be directly notified. You will then be able to review all the information, and make statutory submissions to the consenting authority, An Bord Pleanála.

## Timeline

It should be noted that the timeline below is our current estimate and may be subject to change dependent on policy and regulatory decisions made by the Government and regulatory bodies.

Q4 2021	Public Consultation Exhibition (to be confirmed)
Q1/Q2 2022	Development Consent (i.e. planning permission) application submitted to An Bord Pleanála
Q2 2022	Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) Offshore auction
2023-24	Detailed Design Procurement processes
2024	Final Investment Decision
2025-27	Construction contracts signed Manufacturing Construction phase
2027	Subject to the project securing a development consent, it is expected that the wind farm could be operational by 2027

## Commitment to Consultation

Our full time Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Eda Martin and other project team members continue to engage with local elected representatives, community groups, business representatives, marine users, fishermen and statutory consultees and will continue to do so as the project progresses.

We are always available to answer questions on the project and encourage anyone who would like to provide feedback or engage with us to get in touch. You can also book a meeting directly on our website by clicking on the '**BOOK A TIME HERE**' button here <https://dublinarray.com/keep-in-touch/>.

## Communication Channels

A reminder of all the ways that you can contact us:

E: [dublinarray@rwe.com](mailto:dublinarray@rwe.com)

Tel: **01 9020317**

Web: [www.dublinarray.com](http://www.dublinarray.com)

**Don't forget to sign up for project updates on our website!**