

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

Project reference: FS007188 RWE Renewables Ltd. Site Investigation for the proposed Dublin Array wind farm off the coast of Counties Dublin and Wicklow

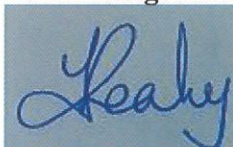
The Appropriate Assessment Screening process determined that likely significant effects on five European sites as a result of the proposed project could not be excluded. Direct disturbance of habitats in the two European sites, namely Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC and South Dublin Bay SAC was identified as likely to cause significant effects. The possibility of likely significant effects from underwater noise on the Annex II species of Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC and Lambay Island SAC could not be excluded. Potential effects of the proposed project on the qualifying interests of two SPAs, namely North Bull Island SPA and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, could not be excluded.

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect the integrity of European sites, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

Measures to mitigate against the likely significant effect are identified in the Natura Impact Statement (September, 2021). Further mitigation measures identified through the Prescribed Bodies consultation will be included in the licence conditions. The adherence to these measures is considered appropriate mitigation to avoid significant effects on conservation objectives of any European site.

It is therefore determined that the proposed project, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:



DATE 28/09/2022

Signature & Date of Minister of State for Local Government and Planning:

