

€10 million funding for the Battle of the Boyne site

New visitor experience planned



Battle of the Boyne visitor centre.

By Ian Watters

A major investment of €10 million has been announced for a renewed visitor experience at the Battle of the Boyne site at Oldbridge as part of the Shared Island funding from the government.

A commitment of €10m from the Shared Island Fund has been made as part of the overall funding package for the project, once finalised. This work will be taken forward by the Office of Public Works (OPW) based on a Conservation Management Plan for the site and in consultation with communities north and south in Ireland.

Last week Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste Micheál Martin and Minister Eamon Ryan announced new Government funding commitments of over €800 million for the Shared Island projects. As part of it €12.5 million has been announced for a new hourly-frequency rail service between Belfast and Dublin.

It was stated that they

will be investing €10 million in "a renewed visitor experience at the Battle of the Boyne site due to reflect its unique historic significance to communities North and South."

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said, "The return of the power-sharing Executive is hugely important for the people of Northern Ireland and has brought renewed hope for what can be achieved through the Good Friday Agreement. The funding announced today shows our commitment to working with the new Executive, and with the UK Government, to make the island of Ireland a better place for everyone who calls it home."

"We also agreed today a major regeneration of the Battle of the Boyne site, including an allocation of €10 million from the Shared Island Fund. Investment in an hourly service on the Enterprise will greatly assist the development of business and person-to-person links between Dublin and Belfast as well as all the towns on the way."

Drogheda TD Fergus O'Dowd (FG) said that the OPW plan to carry out an extensive refurbishment of Oldbridge House including the full restoration and opening of the upper floors. There are also plans refurbish and conserve the farmyard Complex, located between the battlefield and the River Boyne, which they plan to open to the public to expand the scope of the visitor experience

O'Dowd said "When fully restored and operational the complex will provide an improved heritage experience with the flexibility to serve as a location for Government business into the future.

"It remains my firm believe that Oldbridge will become an international destination for tourists which will create very welcome employment opportunities. Alongside the ongoing development of the Boyne Greenway it really is exciting times for Oldbridge and the wider area."

Laytown and Bettys-

town MD Cllr Sharon O'Dowd (FG) said, "It is particularly wonderful news locally that the Government has confirmed a major investment in developing a renewed visitor experience for the Battle of the Boyne site as a priority to raise the heritage and tourism profile of Oldbridge which has a unique historic and community significance on the island."

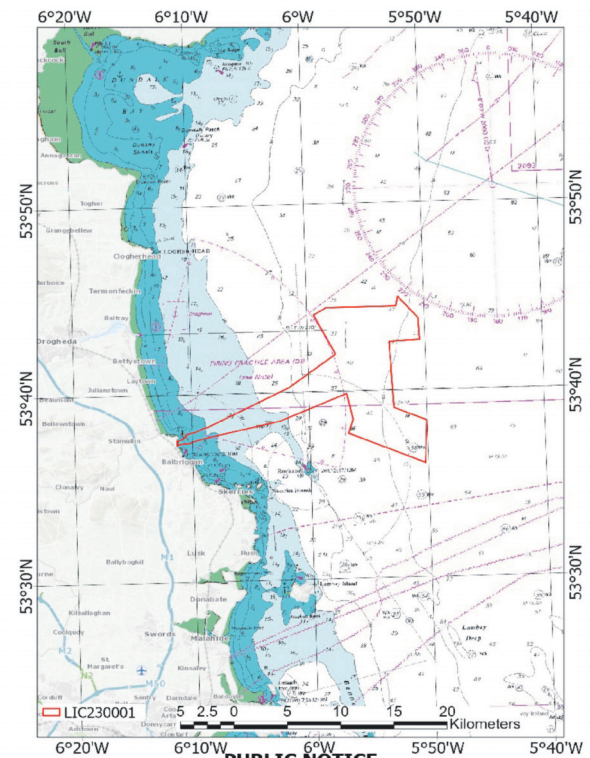
In the plan it is stated, "Oldbridge Estate was purchased by the State in 2000, due to its national significance as the site of the historic Battle of the Boyne. Following extensive renovation and development, the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, located in Oldbridge House, opened to the public in the summer 2008."

In 2022, an updated Conservation Management Plan was commissioned by OPW, and is now completed. This plan aims to present and sensitively interpret the Battle of the Boyne site. The future development of the site will be guided by the plan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011
Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment

NISA Limited has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority ("MARA") for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purpose of site investigations off the coasts of the Counties of Dublin, Meath and Louth. The surveys will be carried out within the area identified in the licence application in order to inform the location and design of the proposed offshore wind farm and cable route. The surveys will include marine geophysical, hydrographic, geotechnical, benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology surveys, environmental, metocean and archaeological surveys, and water quality monitoring. The licence application is for a period of 7 years.



PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED MARITIME USAGE LICENCE
LIC230001

A related Natura Impact Statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura Impact Statement are available for inspection on MARA's website LIC230001 - MARA - The Maritime Regulator and at the following address by appointment- Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the licence application and the Natura Impact Statement may do so quoting ref: LIC230001 to the following e-mail address - licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to the following address - Licence Unit, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 01 April 2024.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the licence application.

Dated this 27th day of February 2024

Anna Jamieson,
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