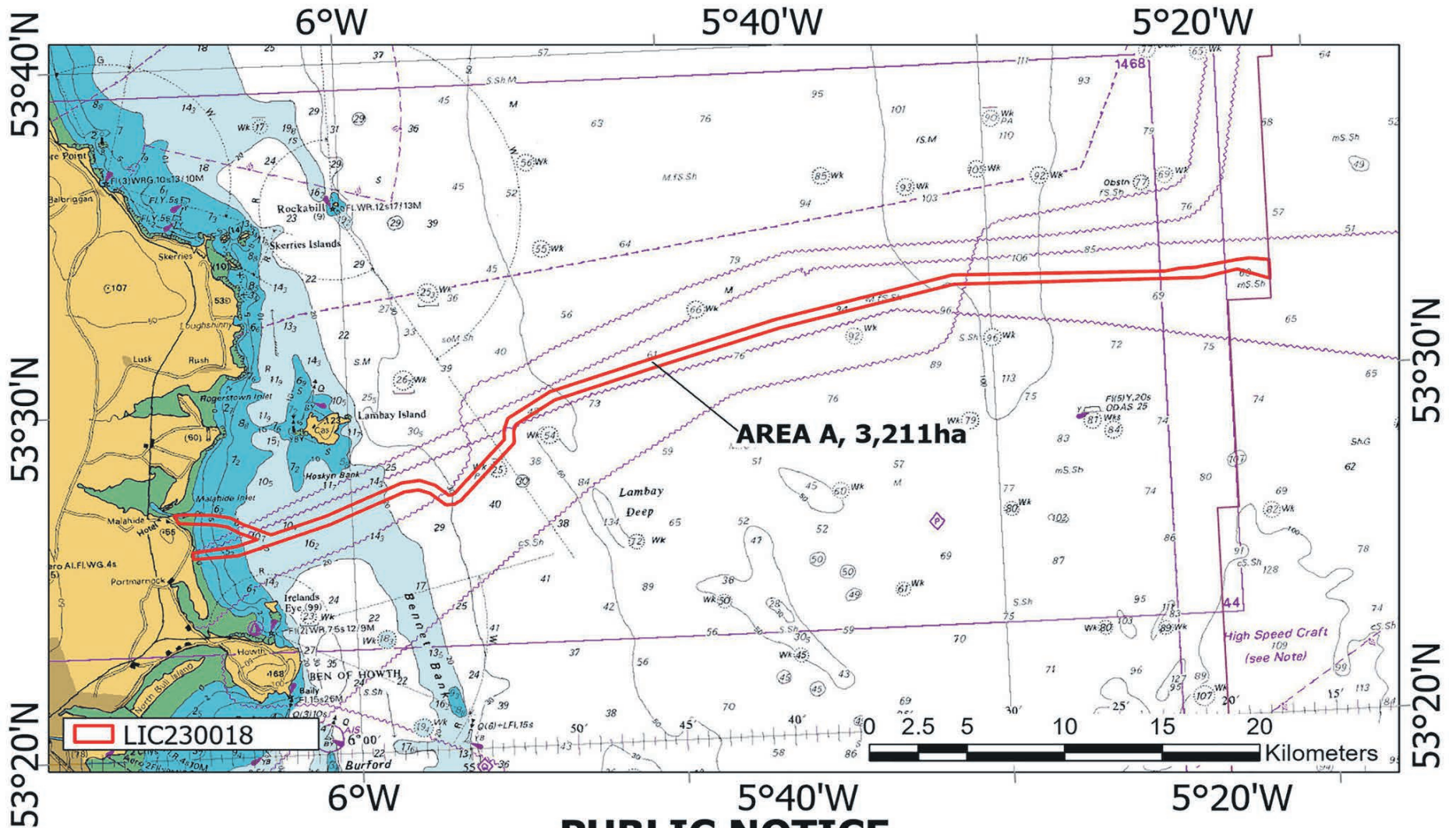


PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. 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 geophysical, geotechnical, environmental (benthic sampling), an archaeological survey and intertidal landfall surveys (including bar probes and 3 Trial Pits). These surveys are proposed to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new subsea telecoms cable system, linking Wales to Ireland, from a landfall on the northwest coast of Wales to a landfall Portmarnock, County Dublin on the east coast of Ireland. The surveys are anticipated to take less than 6 weeks in total and will be completed over a 6 month period. The licence application is for a period of 2 years.



PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED MARITIME USAGE LICENCE LIC230018

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 <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/applications/lic230018/> 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: **LIC230018 Microsoft Portmarnock** 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 31st May 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.

Signed: *Kevin White*
Representative of Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd.

Dated this 1st May 2024