

# PLANNING CONSENT PROCESS

Oriel will apply for consent for the project under the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021). This new legislation provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of development and activities in the marine space and aligns the consent process with onshore planning and development.

As a project that had previously applied for a lease under the Foreshore Acts, Oriel was designated as a 'Relevant Project' by the Government in May 2020. This allowed Oriel to apply under the new Maritime Area Planning Act. The first step in this process was to apply for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC). The award of a MAC is required to enter the planning process, after which Oriel can apply to An Bord Pleanála (ABP). Oriel has received a letter of intent from the Government to award the project a MAC and is aiming to lodge a planning application with ABP later this year.

The planning application will include all works required to construct, maintain, operate and eventually decommission both the onshore and offshore elements of the project.

The process falls under a number of EU Directives, including the EIA Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, and is also subject to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, amongst others.

The application will take into account the feedback from this and previous public consultations.

The application will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement.

Following submission of the application, ABP will hold a public consultation where all interested parties will have the opportunity to make an observation on the project directly to ABP. The period for observations will be determined by ABP, and will be no less than six weeks. Full details of the process are available on An Bord Pleanála's website, [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

**Details of this application will also be notified in the local and national press and through the Oriel website and contacts list. If you would like to be included in the distribution list for updates on the project please leave your email address with one of the project team or sign up on the Oriel website, [www.orielwindfarm.ie](http://www.orielwindfarm.ie)**