



Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Newsletter

Spring 2024



IT'S TIME TO POWER UP ARKLOW

ACTIONS, NOT AMBITIONS WILL SECURE OUR ENERGY FUTURE

We're ready to invest in the next generation of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

WE POWER CHANGE

www.sse.com/thisistimetopoweruparklow

The graphic is a vertical rectangular panel with a teal background. It features the SSE Renewables logo at the top left, a small aerial photo of the wind park at the top right, and a QR code at the bottom right. The main headline is in large, bold, black letters. Below it is a sub-headline in smaller, white, all-caps letters. The text "We're ready to invest in the next generation of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2" is in a smaller font. Below that is the slogan "WE POWER CHANGE" in bold, white, all-caps letters. At the bottom, there is a QR code and a URL: "www.sse.com/thisistimetopoweruparklow".

Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Spring Newsletter 2024

In this edition you'll find information on our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project progress; some key questions answered informed by feedback during our consultative processes; how we're supporting and investing in local communities through our Sponsorship and Fisheries Funds and much more. Arklow is the birthplace of offshore wind in Ireland. At SSE Renewables, our team is fully committed to delivering the next phase of offshore renewable energy and the many associated benefits to the local region.

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 is our flagship offshore project in the Republic of Ireland. Under development since 2018, our project is currently the most advanced project in Ireland with two planning consents already achieved for the onshore grid infrastructure and an operations and maintenance facility at South Dock, Arklow. With the upcoming submission of our third and final consent application for our offshore infrastructure, the project when consented, has the potential to deliver significant economic benefits, employment opportunities and community funding over the project's operational phase benefitting communities in Wicklow and North Wexford. Our planning application for the offshore infrastructure will include a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report informed by feedback received through public consultation outreach and our scoping process. Post submission, the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore infrastructure planning application will be available to view via An Bord Pleanála's website.

In maintaining our continued commitment to raising awareness at key milestones on the project, we undertook a media campaign over recent weeks in national and local press, local radio, and across outdoor and digital channels including our website and social media. This campaign was augmented by email and postal outreach and in-person briefings with key local stakeholders including a number of political representatives in Wicklow and Wexford, Wicklow Town & District Chamber and the executive team in Wicklow County Council. We remain available, as always, to meet with local groups upon request.

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 is expected to deliver an overall economic benefit of up to €800m - around €400m of which will be local to the Wicklow and Wexford region, and support around 2,300 jobs (direct and induced) through construction, operation, and decommissioning phases. Between 60-80 jobs will be available at the operations and maintenance facility over the project's operational lifetime. On a broader level, the project can contribute to our national strategic ambition of 5GW of offshore wind delivery by 2030.

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) decision in December on a grid connection pathway for Phase 1 offshore wind merchant projects provided clarity for our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project. The decision outlines a pathway and conditions that merchant projects like Arklow Bank Wind Park 2, must meet to be able to seek a grid connection offer from EirGrid and we are actively progressing this, and an alternative route to market for the project.

Through our partnership with Wicklow Sailing Club, we were delighted to co-operate in hosting a launch event in Clermont House, Rathnew, marking the opening of competition entries for the prestigious Round Ireland Yacht Race due to take place on 22 June 2024 which will offer a boost to tourism and the local economy.

Our project team was represented at key events over past months including the annual Irish Skipper Expo in Limerick, the Wind Energy Ireland Conference in Dublin and the Wind Europe Conference in Bilbao. We also met with a delegation from Wexford to share our experiences of working towards the development of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 and the various milestones met along our journey.

Indeed, Maria Ryan, Director of Offshore Development at SSE Renewables, grounded her address at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference in January on the national strategic importance of our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project. She highlighted the valuable opportunity that all six offshore wind projects in the first phase for delivery by 2030, can create in achieving our net zero ambitions, and adding value through national and regional capital investment and associated job opportunities.

We will soon continue with offshore surveys to gather data and maintain up to date baseline information for the site. Following a competitive tender process, two Irish-based companies, were selected to undertake the upcoming survey campaign. The campaign will involve surveys in and around the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project array area. Mobilisation to site is anticipated in the coming months with activities progressing over an 8-10 week period. A Notice to Mariners will be published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS).

Our Sponsorship Fund continues to support initiatives in local communities along our development site. We have seen what can be achieved by local voluntary and community groups when supported by funding streams like our ABWP2 Sponsorship Fund. Projects like the Ballymoney Winch Project are important to our past

heritage and history, whilst projects such as sustainability education resources provided to schools such as SS Michael & Peters JNS, remind us of the importance of shaping a greener and more sustainable future.

World Earth Day in April, also saw representatives from the Wicklow Sustainable Energy Community join with SSE Renewables and Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Team to announce SSE Renewables' sponsorship of the upcoming Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024. Set to take place on Saturday, 15th June, in the Pastoral Centre, St Patrick's Road, Wicklow Town, the event is a county-wide initiative aimed at supporting information-sharing within the county on practical ways to improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses.

Final delivery of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 is subject to the project receiving planning consent for its offshore infrastructure, securing a route to market, and a final investment decision. Over the operational phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2, SSE Renewables intends providing a multi-million Euro Community Benefit Fund to support local communities close to our development site.

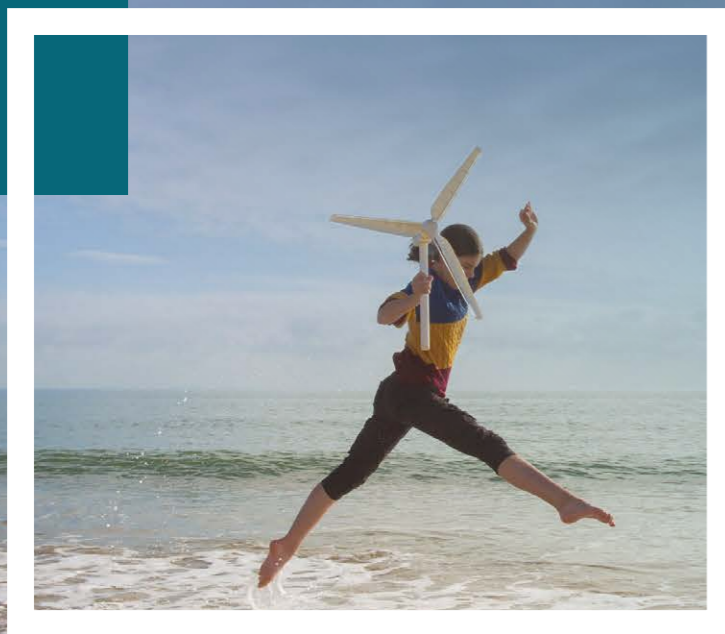
Through our newsletters, we will endeavour to keep you updated on our project's progress. For information on careers and employment visit www.sse.com/careers and for supply chain information, visit www.sse.com/potential-suppliers/ As matters evolve, we intend to hold in-person events for potential local suppliers. In the meantime, you can stay updated with what is happening on the project by scanning the QR code below or by visiting our website [srenewables.com/arklowbank2/](http://sserenewables.com/arklowbank2/) and subscribing to our newsletter.

The next few months will be very significant for the project. We have already committed over 50 staff to the Arklow project and our team continues to grow. We're springing forward in 2024, renewing our commitment to the successful delivery of the Arklow Bank 2 project and championing a greener future for our communities, stakeholders and country alike.

Kind regards

Deirdre Keogh

Community Engagement Manager





Key Questions Answered

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager,
Arklow Bank Wind Park 2



1. What makes up the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore development?

The development originally started out considering 200 turbines, but given advancements in technology this has reduced to between 47 and 56 turbines. Each turbine is made up of a foundation, tower, nacelle, and three blades. Extensive and detailed assessment of a range of turbines and layouts were examined during the development process, and range from c. 273m to 287m above sea level (level of the lowest astronomical tide). Two Offshore Substation Platforms and foundation substructures act as a common point to which the cabling from the turbines are connected, and two export cables will bring the power generated by the windfarm back to shore.

2. What is the status of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project?

The project has been under development since 2018. It has already achieved two planning consents, for its onshore grid infrastructure including an underground cable route and substation at Avoca River Park, and an operations and maintenance facility at South Dock, Arklow.

A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) was granted to SSE Renewables for Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 in December 2022. This ensures that the project can progress through the consenting process with an application to An Bord Pleanála. The third and final planning application, for the project's offshore infrastructure will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks. .

3. Will the wind farm use fixed or floating turbines?

The wind farm will use fixed-bottom turbines. Fixed-bottom technology can typically only be deployed in water depths of up to 60-70 metres, although we expect this to increase in the coming years

as technology evolves. Anything beyond that is considered too deep for current technology.

Along the Irish coastline, generally the farther out you go, the deeper the sea. For example, at distances from shore of up to 30 km, much of the Irish seabed is too deep for current bottom-fixed turbines.

4. How will the project progress without an Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) contract?

SSE Renewables plans to deliver Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 outside of the State-subsidised ORESS, which is just one type of mechanism through which a developer can secure a market for their energy. The project was unsuccessful in the ORESS auction, however we are pursuing an alternative route to market in line with the requirements within the project's Maritime Area Consent. The project will still connect into the national transmission grid and contribute to our national renewable energy targets.

5. What is the purpose of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project?

The purpose of the EIAR is to understand and quantify the impact the development will have on the surrounding environment. The EIAR will be a key part of the project's forthcoming offshore consent application and will be publicly available after submission to An Bord Pleanála. The report assesses impacts and sets out mitigation measures under a range of themes, not limited to:

Coastal processes; Airborne Noise; Air Quality & Climate; Benthic Ecology; Fish, Shellfish and Sea Turtle ecology; Marine Mammals; Offshore Ornithology; Commercial Fisheries; Shipping and Navigation; Civil and Military Aviation; Seascape Landscape and Visual Impact; Marine Archaeology; Population and Human Health.

6. Will the project impact on the Arklow Bank as a habitat for marine life?

Our studies indicate that the windfarm will not significantly negatively impact the sandbank as a habitat for marine life. Acknowledging that there will be some temporary impact during construction, those areas are likely to regenerate. New ecosystems and/or marine habitats are expected to establish on and around the turbines and scour protection; which prevents erosion occurring around the wind turbine foundation.

7. What effects are likely on our local beaches during construction and operation?

Coastal processes have been extensively assessed as part of the offshore EIAR. Our studies indicate there will be no impacts to local beaches from the proposed development. The offshore infrastructure will meet the land at Johnstown North. Cables will be installed using trenchless techniques and will pass underneath the existing shoreline. This means that there will be no open trenches on local beaches during installation, and no visible infrastructure once the wind farm is operational.

Severe storm incidents which have had a detrimental impact on coastlines all around Ireland, and internationally, are largely driven by climate change. Removing our dependence on fossil fuels and increasing renewable energy infrastructure at scale, is critical to reducing the impacts of climate change, and protecting the environment.

8. Will there be a visual impact on the seascape?

The turbines will be positioned on and around the Arklow Bank extending approximately 27km from north to south and will be located c. 6 to 15km from the shore. Layouts and photomontages from key viewpoints such as Wicklow Head, Brittas Bay, Arklow and

Courtown, of the proposed development will be published as part of the EIAR and were shared as part of our public consultation in 2023. Lights will be fitted on chosen peripheral turbines for the purposes of navigation and aviation safety.

9. How is noise impact managed during construction?

This is a key focus area in the EIAR. We have completed noise assessments and modelling of foundation installation piling operations. The impact will be temporary in nature - over one installation season - and we will be obliged to comply with standards and maintain noise emissions at certain limits to avoid any nuisance scenario.

10. What if any impacts are likely on commercial fishing?

Post construction fishing activities will be permitted around and within the wind farm. However, we do expect that some safety advisory zones will be required for the construction phase - and this is for navigational safety purposes.

These 'rolling' safety advisory zones will be positioned around complex lifting operations and cable installation activities.

There will be a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy included within the EIAR, which will address how the project will interface with commercial fisheries in advance of, and during project construction and operation.

Contributing to Conversations on Offshore Wind



SSE Renewables Director of Offshore Development Maria Ryan, addressing delegates at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference 2024

Strategic Importance of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 highlighted at Wind Energy Ireland's January Conference

SSE Renewables Director of Offshore Development, Maria Ryan, in her address at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference in Dublin in January, focused heavily on the national strategic importance of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 to our country's renewable ambitions, national and regional capital investment and employment opportunities.

As all six offshore wind projects with a targeted delivery for 2030 are expected to enter planning in the coming months, her speech addressed the importance of a unified approach where the renewables industry can continue to discuss, collaborate, and support the Government to move ahead with confidence and assurity that 'we got it right, and we delivered'.

Noting the global macro-economic challenges faced by the industry with increased capital costs, pressures on supply chain, Maria considered that 'Ireland being a small open economy, is not immune to these risks...but these obstacles are not insurmountable. Continued and sustained Government engagement and collaboration with industry can ensure delivery plans remain dynamic and adaptable to all future headwinds'.

SSE Renewables at the Irish Skipper Expo 2024



Hugh O'Sullivan, Deborah Coleman and Brendan Dillon pictured at the SSE Renewables exhibition stand at the Irish Skipper Expo 2024

Members of the SSE Renewables team pictured at the Irish Skipper Expo in Limerick in March – meeting fishing and marine groups that gathered for this annual two-day event.



Competition Entries Open for SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024

In January, SSE Renewables joined with our partners Wicklow Sailing Club and guests, at an event in Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew, marking the official launch of the opening of entries for the next Round Ireland Race.

The 704-nautical mile-race, which has been described as 'the Kilimanjaro of Sailing' will commence on Saturday, 22 June, 2024. The course for the classic biennial offshore event follows the traditional route first contested in 1980 that states - 'leave Ireland and its islands to starboard - while starting and finishing at the scenic port of Wicklow on the East Coast of Ireland'.

The race will offer both competition and personal achievement for boat owners and crews alike. Since the success of the 2022 event, significant interest has grown in the race with over 40 vessels already registered to compete and numbers continue to rise. Berthing facilities at the pier and quays close to Wicklow Sailing Club's base will be available, in addition to marina options at Greystones and Dun Laoghaire for larger vessel entries.

Kyran O'Grady, Round Ireland 2024 race organiser, Wicklow Sailing Club said: 'The race event in 2022 was very successful, with close to 50 vessels entering. This year, we are looking forward to an even larger turnout and welcoming both national and international competitors across the various classes seeking to complete in one of the bucket-list events in the sailing calendar'.

Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore (Ireland) at SSE Renewables acknowledged his appreciation to Wicklow Sailing Club's President Peter Shearer, Commodore Karen Kissane, and Club members, commenting on how delighted SSE Renewables is to partner again with Wicklow Sailing Club to deliver the eagerly anticipated event. He commented that 'This event reflects the potential that the Irish maritime space offers, and we look forward to seeing competitors sail past our proposed development site at Arklow Bank in Wicklow'.

Entries are accepted up to 31st May 2024. See www.roundireland.ie for updates.



Cathairleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club Karen Kissane, Head of Offshore (Ireland) at SSE Renewables Barry Kilcline, and Kyran O'Grady of Wicklow Sailing Club at the launch of competition entries for the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024 in Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew.

Panel discussion

- Barry Kilcline, SSE Renewables
- Laura Brien, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
- Matt Collins, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland
- Noel Cunniffe, Wind Energy Ireland



Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore (Ireland) pictured right with panel members at the Wind Energy Europe Conference 2024

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Profiled at Wind Europe Conference

Members of the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team led by Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore (Ireland), participated in panel discussions with representatives from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Wind Energy Ireland and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), at the Wind Europe Conference in Bilbao, Spain, in late March.

Barry focused on the opportunity of offshore wind for Ireland, the importance of collaboration between Government and industry on delivery, and the economic opportunities that offshore projects, most particularly Arklow Bank Wind Park 2, can bring.



Continuing our Commitment to Communities

SSE Renewables continues to support a wide variety of projects through our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund. The Fund provides opportunities for communities close to our development site, to benefit from our social value proposition.

At SSE Renewables – ‘We walk the talk’. We’ve demonstrated our commitment to supporting communities close to our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 development site with over €500,000 already provided through our Sponsorship and Fisheries Funds.

To date, our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund has benefitted over 70 groups in key areas including marine/water-based activities; environmental and social sustainability initiatives; and energy efficiency projects. Our fund has supported local education and training initiatives, and provided community, voluntary and sporting groups with assistance to drive forward meaningful initiatives at the front line of communities.

In the last quarter, our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund has supported initiatives including:

- St Patrick’s Day Festival Committees in Arklow and Wicklow towns
- Arklow Rowing Club
- Wicklow Rowing Club
- East Coast Samaritans
- Wicklow Sailing Club
- Arklow Sailing Club’s upcoming 2024 summer race event

Why not peruse some of the initiatives supported by the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Fund on the following pages. The next round of applications under our 2024/25 Sponsorship Fund opened on 1st April 2024. Evaluations are undertaken quarterly over the year.

For further information about our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, visit our website www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank2 or simply get in touch with our Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh, by phone 087 1822587 or email deirdre.keogh@sse.com



Arklow Lifeboat crew and volunteers pictured on the ‘Ger Tighealaar’ lifeboat. SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund supported Arklow RNLI with funding towards professional development training for three lifeboat crew members.

Continuing our Commitment to Communities



Sixth year students from Glenart College pictured at the Business in the Community Ireland National Mentoring Celebration event, Dublin, with teacher Niall Walsh and SSE Renewables' Deirdre Keogh. The students are mentored by members of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team.



Principal Aidan Ward with students Grace and Sofia from St Mary's College Eco Club and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, marking the installation on campus, of a water fountain supporting the school's ongoing commitment to plastic bottle waste reduction and fostering the health benefits for teenagers of regularly hydrating with fresh water.



Tom McConnell and Ella Tindale, Wicklow Tennis Club, pictured with Deirdre Keogh, marking SSE Renewables sponsorship of the Club's phased transition towards deploying renewable energy power sources to drive energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint.



Arklow Lawn Tennis Club President Kay Hickey, and Jason O'Halleran, pictured with Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager. SSE Renewables Arklow Bank 2 Sponsorship Fund sponsored the Club's purchase of an AED installed at the club grounds.



Kit Dunne of Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club, Ray McKeown from Rod & Tackle Shop, Wicklow, and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, present Kyro Roberts with his award at the Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club's Youth Coaching Programme Awards' event, Wicklow Town.



SSE Renewables joins Ballymoney Kildermot Community Group and Wexford County Council representatives to unveil a plaque at the Ballymoney Winch, Ballymoney, Co. Wexford

Community Engagement Manager with SSE Renewables Deirdre Keogh pictured with Senator Malcolm Byrne, Cllr Joe Sullivan, Philip Knight, District Manager, Gorey and Kilmuckridge Municipal District, and members of the Ballymoney Kildermot Community Group led by Danny O'Connor (front left) at the unveiling of a plaque at the Ballymoney winch, North Wexford.

The Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund supported the community group with a donation to install a replica winch.

In February, a project highlighting the history and challenges faced by fishers in hauling their vessels from the shoreline onto land, was completed and an information plaque unveiled at South Beach, Ballymoney, Co. Wexford.

The Ballymoney Winch Project was led by the Ballymoney Kildermot Community Group and supported by Wexford County Council, and SSE Renewables, through its Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund.

At the launch, Danny O'Connor, Ballymoney Kildermot Community Group, said: 'The original winch, donated by Arthur Martin, was located on the headlands overlooking the North beach in the mid-1900s. The winch was used by fishers and sea farers to haul their boats and yawls from the shoreline back onto the beach particularly during the herring season providing welcome mechanical support after their long hours spent at sea. Whilst the original winch still stands, it fell into disrepair and regrettably could not be refurbished, so a decision was taken to seek a replica.

Sourced in Wexford, the replica winch was restored by a local engineer, and mounted in July 2023 at the entrance to the South Beach near the shop. We are delighted to officially unveil the plaque and acknowledge our appreciation to Wexford County

Council, and to SSE Renewables for its donation toward furthering this project. We sincerely hope that visitors and locals will pause to take a few minutes to read the plaque, view the winch, and remember the bygone days of our local maritime history'.

Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables said: 'We were delighted to see the installation of the Ballymoney Winch and commemorative plaque. Our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund has supported a number of maritime activities and projects along the development site coastline and this project had particular appeal as it aligned so well with our fund criteria to support projects that are engaged in enjoying or preserving the marine environment and its local heritage. The work undertaken by volunteer members of the Ballymoney Kildermot Community Group in seeing the project through is to be commended. We also wish to extend our thanks to Wexford County Council for its work and support on the winch project. On behalf of everyone at SSE Renewables, we trust that our support for the winch project and planting upgrades at the Ballymoney Crossroads, will benefit the community and tourists who visit the area'.

Continuing our Commitment to Communities



Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh, with teacher Anna Fox, Green Schools' Co-ordinator, Jennifer O'Sullivan, and pupils at SS Michael & Peters Junior National School, Arklow. SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund supported the school with funding towards resources aiding the rollout of its sustainable development education plan through practical and experiential learning about biodiversity.



Wicklow Sustainable Energy Awareness Day 2024 takes place on Saturday, 15th June, in the Pastoral Centre, St Patrick's Road, Wicklow Town. The event will include a variety of exhibition stands focused on energy efficiency, an EV-car show, electric bikes and ECO fun games organised by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) School Science Team. Gavin Harte from the SEAI Science Team will also provide rolling half-hour stepping stone to energy efficiency workshops for home and business owners.

Launched on World Earth Day 22 April 2024, SSE Renewables joined with representatives from Wicklow's Sustainable Energy Community, Wicklow Tidy Towns and Wicklow County Council's Climate Action team to announce SSE Renewables' title sponsorship of the upcoming Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024. (L to R) Simon Whelan, Deaglan O'Meagher, Deirdre Keogh, Leonora Earls, Sylvester Burke and Jim Callery.

Contact Us



Deirdre Keogh
Community Engagement Manager
deirdre.keogh@sse.com
+353 (0) 87 1822587



Brendan Dillon
Fisheries Liaison Officer
brendan.dillon@sse.com
+353 (0)87 2493817

