



Meeting note

File reference	EN010073 – Tidal Lagoon Cardiff
Status	Issue
Author	Richard Hunt
Date	24 November 2015
Meeting with	Tidal Lagoon Cardiff, NRW, EA, NE
Venue	Tidal Lagoon Power, Pillar and Lucy House, Merchants Road, The Docks, Gloucester, GL2
Attendees	Sian John (SJ), Tidal Lagoon Cardiff (TLC) Tamsin Watt (TW), TLC Harriet Thomas (HT), TLC Jo Pickard (JP), TLC Tim Carter (TC), TLC Alex Scorey (AS), TLC Chris Gibson (CG), Natural England (NE) Jennifer Donaldson (JD), NE Glen Gillespie (GG), NE Stuart Reid (SR), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Nia Phillips (NP), NRW Dave Pring (DP), Environment Agency (EA) Ross Lowrie (RL), EA Richard Hunt (RH), Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Marie Evans (ME), PINS Tom Carpen (TCa), PINS
Meeting objectives	Meeting hosted by TLC to update and review revised draft of Evidence Plan/Framework
Circulation	Those attending

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Welcome and Introductions

TC welcomed the participants and RH opened the meeting, advising that PINS would note if s51 advice was likely to be given.

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 17th May 2015

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

Matters arising and action tracker

The decision log and action tracker were reviewed and some clarifications on actions were discussed e.g. such as status of actions and documents referenced/close out dates. The discussion also included roles of SNCBs, membership of Expert Topic Groups and the status of the Evidence Plan process in Wales.

Comments on Evidence Plan

A round table discussion of the current draft Evidence Plan based on a page by page commentary was provided. The discussion included membership and terms of reference of Expert Topic Groups; the sign off process for the Evidence Plan, which was agreed to be by letter from the SNCBs; review of modelling; the role of the peer review group; and the overall programme and linkages with Tidal Lagoon Newport.

There was discussion regarding the formal roles and responsibilities of the SNCBs in relation to the overlapping assessment requirements for Marine Conservation Zones, Development Consent Orders, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Water Framework Directive Assessment and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

It was agreed that the Evidence Plan would then be posted on the NI Tidal Lagoon Cardiff webpages.

Issues arising – Evidence Plan Progress

TLC updated on progress with the evidence plan and expert topic groups to date by way of a paper - SG10 Evidence Plan Progress report. PINS noted that some actions recorded as agreed in paper SG10 had not yet been agreed or recorded on the decision log and that TLC should be careful to ensure consistency between documents in varying stages of preparation.

The discussion covered the duration of bird surveys (including reliance to be placed on historic datasets), interaction between the ETGs and Steering Group and the frequency of Steering Group meetings.

Feedback on Evidence Plan Process

TLC noted constructive progress being made between participant organisations and suggested that TLC need to be more specific with their requirements for the process. TLC highlighted the issue of getting appropriate representation and sizes of groups at ETG meetings and the need for practical advice and requests for surveys.

There was discussion regarding the speed of the ETG process/TLC programme, with NRW and PINS highlighting the risk of undertaking unagreed surveys. PINS emphasised the front loaded nature of the Planning Act process.

Date/Form of next meeting and AOB

A subsequent meeting date in March 2016 was agreed. SJ introduced the concepts behind TLCs Ecosystems Enhancement Programme (EEP), which has potential to provide both mitigation and compensation for effects arising from the scheme.