



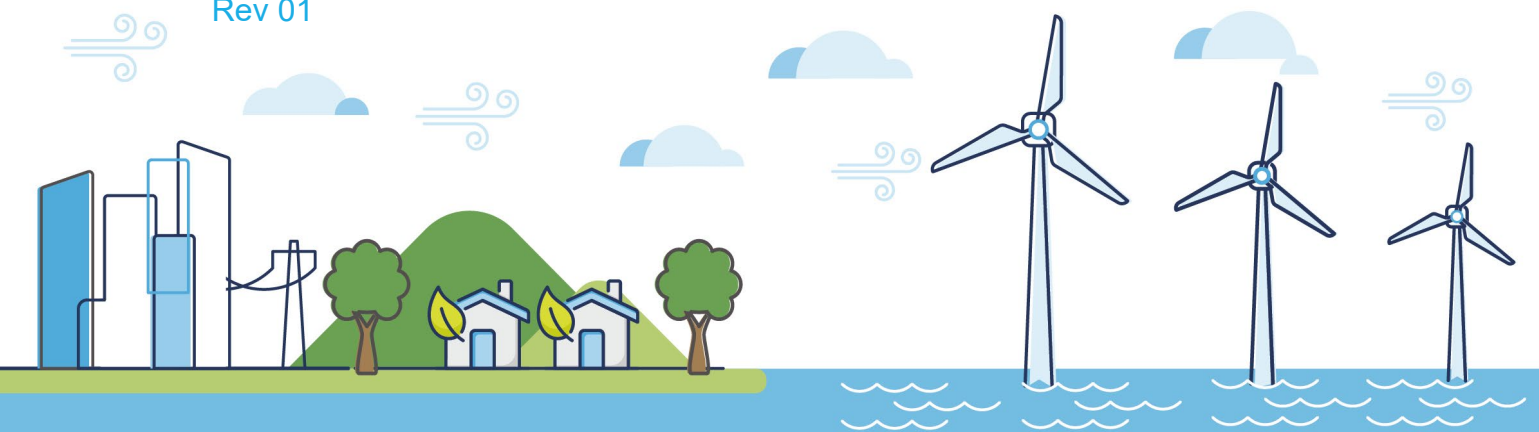
# Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets Development Consent Order Documents

## Volume 4 Marine Plan Policy Review

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## **Contents**

1	Introduction .....	13
2	Marine Plan Policy Review .....	15
3	References .....	112

**Table**

Table 2.1 Policy compliance table to the North West Marine Plan ..... 16

## Glossary of Acronyms

ADD	Acoustic Deterrent Device
AEol	Adverse Effect on Integrity
AEZ	Archaeological Exclusion Zone
AfL	Agreement for Lease
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BWM	The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention)
CBRA	Cable Burial Risk Assessment
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CFWG	Commercial Fisheries Working Group
CRNRA	Cumulative Regional Navigation Risk Assessment
DCO	Development Consent Order
DDV	Drop Down Video
DML	Deemed Marine Licence
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
EPS	European Protected Species
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
FLCP	Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
HAT	Highest Astronomical Tide
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
GBBG	Great Black-Backed Gull
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
LBBG	Lesser Black-Backed Gull
LDNP	Lake District National Park
LEA	Local Economic Area
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species

IPMP	In-Principle Monitoring Plan
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
MA	Monitoring Area
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MBES	Multi Beam Echosounder
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MCZA	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
MNR	Marine Nature Reserve
MNR(2)	Marine Noise Registry
MP	Marine Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPCP	Marine Pollution Contingency Plan
NE	Natural England
NPS	National Policy Statement
NRA	Navigation Risk Assessment
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSN	National Site Network
OOMP	Outline Offshore Operation and Maintenance Plan
OSP(s)	Offshore substation platform(s)
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PEXA	Practice and Exercise Areas
PTS	Permanent Threshold Shift
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Skills Economic Area
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area

SSS	Side Scan Sonar
TCE	The Crown Estate
UK	United Kingdom
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
WTG	Wind turbine generator

## Glossary of Unit Terms

%	percent
GW	gigawatts
km	kilometre
km <sup>2</sup>	square kilometre
kV	kilovolt
m	metre
MtCO <sub>2</sub> e	metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent
m <sup>2</sup>	square metre
nm	nautical miles



## Glossary of Terminology

Applicant	Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd
Application	This refers to the Applicant's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). An application consists of a series of documents and plans which are published on the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) website.
Agreement for Lease (AfL)	Agreements under which seabed rights are awarded following the completion of The Crown Estate (TCE) tender process.
Climate change impact	An impact from a climate hazard which affects the ability of the receptor to maintain its functions or purpose.
Climate change resilience	The ability of a project and its receptors to prepare for, respond to, recover from and adapt to changes in the climate in a manner that ensures it retains much of its original function and purpose.
Demersal	Living on or near the seabed.
Diadromous	Migrating between fresh and salt water.
Elasmobranch	Any cartilaginous fish of the subclass Elasmobranchii, which includes sharks, rays and skates.
Embodied emissions	Embodied (or embedded) carbon or emissions are the greenhouse gas emission associated with the manufacturing of construction or infrastructure materials (i.e. material extraction, material processing, transport to manufacturer, manufacturing) and the transport of those materials to the project site.
Environmental Net Gain	An approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand
European sites	Designated nature conservation sites which include the National Site Network (designated within the UK) and Natura 2000 sites (designated in any European Union country). This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance (SCI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach, and information to support, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for certain topics. The EPP provides a mechanism to agree the information required to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Development Consent Order application. This function of the EPP helps Applicants to provide sufficient information in their application, so that the Examining Authority can recommend to the Secretary of State whether or not to accept the application for examination and whether an appropriate assessment is required.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders through the EPP.
Generation Assets (the Project)	Generation assets associated with the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. This is infrastructure in connection with electricity production, namely the fixed foundation wind turbine generators (WTGs), inter-array cables, offshore substation platform(s) (OSP(s)) and possible platform link cables to connect offshore substations.

Greenhouse gas (GHG)	A greenhouse gas is a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect.
Inter-array cables	Cables which link the WTGs to each other and the OSP(s).
Landfall	Where the offshore export cables would come ashore.
Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets	The transmission assets for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. This includes the offshore substation platforms (OSP(s)) <sup>1</sup> , interconnector cables, Morgan offshore booster station, offshore export cables, landfall site, onshore export cables, onshore substations, 400 kilovolts (kV) cables and associated grid connection infrastructure such as circuit breaker infrastructure. Also referred to in this document as the Transmission Assets, for ease of reading.
Offshore export cables	The cables which would bring electricity from the offshore substation platform to the landfall.
Offshore substation platform(s)	A fixed structure located within the windfarm site, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the WTGs and convert it into a more suitable form for export to shore.
Permanent threshold shift	Physical or permanent auditory injury causing a permanent shift in the auditory threshold.
Platform link cable	An electrical cable which links one or more OSP(s).
Ramp-up	In the piling process, ramp-up forms the second part of the soft-start procedure and follows on from the initial low-energy blows. It comprises a 10-minute period of piling, starting at the low-energy blow level, and gradually increasing in hammer energy. The maximum hammer energy required (operational power for that specific pile) must not be reached within this 10-minute ramp-up period.
Safety Zone	An area around a structure or vessel which should be avoided, as set out in Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004 and the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007.
Seabed features	Features seen on the seafloor in the Side Scan Sonar (SSS) or multibeam bathymetry data, which are interpreted to represent heritage assets or potential heritage assets. Also includes magnetic anomalies, which may represent shallow buried ferrous material of archaeological interest.
Scour protection	Protective materials to avoid sediment being eroded away from the base of the foundations due to the flow of water.

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<sup>1</sup>At the time of writing the Environmental Statement (ES), a decision had been taken that the offshore substation platforms (OSPs) would remain solely within the Generation Assets application and would not be included within the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Transmission Assets. This decision post-dated the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that was prepared for the Transmission Assets. The OSFs are still included in the description of the Transmission Assets for the purposes of this Application document as the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) carried out in respect of the Generation/Transmission Assets is based on the information available from the Transmission Assets PEIR.

Soft-start	The procedure used to commence piling at a lower hammer energy. The soft-start procedure consists of low-energy blows for 10 minutes which are immediately followed by ramp-up for 10 minutes.
Study area	This is an area which is defined for each Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) topic, which includes the offshore development area as well as potential spatial and temporal considerations of the impacts on relevant receptors. The study area for each EIA topic is intended to cover the area within which an effect can be reasonably expected.
Technical stakeholders	Technical stakeholders are considered to be organisations with detailed knowledge or experience of the area within which the Project is located and/or receptors which are considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Examples of technical stakeholders include Marine Management Organisation (MMO), local authorities, Natural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
Weather	Atmospheric conditions prevailing at specific moments in time or over short time periods, defined by climate variables, such as temperature and precipitation.
Wind turbine generator (WTG)	A fixed structure located within the windfarm site that converts the kinetic energy of wind into electrical energy.
Windfarm site	The area within which the WTGs, inter-array cables, OSP(s) and platform link cables will be present.



# The future of renewable energy

A leading developer in Offshore Wind Projects

# 1 Introduction

1. The Applicant is Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd, a joint venture between Zero-E Offshore Wind S.L.U. (Spain) (a Cobra group company), and Flotation Energy Ltd (Flotation Energy).
2. With 80 years of experience, Cobra is a historically significant Group in the development of industrial infrastructure and service provision, and one of the key players in the renewable energy sector in Spain and Latin America. The Group possesses the capacity and determination to develop, build, and operate industrial and energy infrastructures that demand a high level of service, grounded in excellence in integration, technological innovation, and financial robustness. Their unrivalled knowledge and understanding of floating offshore wind developments is a significant advantage in delivering high quality and efficient projects, coupled with their commitment to environmental stewardship. Their experience as a major player in offshore wind is based on a 50MW project in operation and over 11.2GW under development.
3. Flotation Energy, headquartered in Edinburgh, Scotland, sits at the heart of the energy transition. It's determined to support the big switch to sustainable, clean and affordable energy through the application of innovative offshore wind technology. An ambitious offshore wind developer, Flotation Energy has a 13GW portfolio that covers both fixed and floating developments globally, with projects in the UK, Ireland, Taiwan, Japan and Australia. Whilst Flotation Energy develops projects independently, it also recognises the strategic value of partnership and collaboration to deliver proven, cost-effective solutions.
4. This document, **Marine Plan Policy Review** (Document Reference 4.7), forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the proposed Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets, hereafter referred to as "*the Project*".
5. The Project relates only to the Generation Assets of the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm (including wind turbine generators, inter-array cables, offshore substation platform(s) and possible platform link cables). A separate DCO application for the Transmission Assets associated with the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm and the Morgan Offshore Wind Project (another proposed windfarm to be located in the Irish Sea) will be sought.
6. This document has been prepared pursuant to Regulation 5(2)(q) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and forms part of a suite of supporting documents for the DCO application.

7. Paragraph 4.5.8 of the “*Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy EN-1*” expects the Applicant to complete a Marine Plan (MP) assessment as part of the DCO application;  
  
*“Applicants for a Development Consent Order must take account of any relevant Marine Plans and are expected to complete a Marine Plan assessment as part of their project development, using this information to support an application for development consent.”*
8. This document has been prepared to meet the requirements in paragraph 4.5.8 of EN-1. It demonstrates how this Project complies with all relevant MP policies in the area. The relevant MP for the Project is the North West Inshore and North West Offshore MP, referred to as the North West MP. The North West MP was prepared by the MMO and was agreed and adopted by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2021 for the purposes of Section 51 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
9. **Table 2.1** sets out the MP policies in a coherent format. This table identifies the policies that this Project complies with, and policies that are not applicable to this Project.

## 2 Marine Plan Policy Review

Table 2.1 Policy compliance table to the North West Marine Plan

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-INF-1	Proposals for appropriate marine infrastructure which facilitates land-based activities, or land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activities (including the diversification or regeneration of sustainable marine industries), should be supported.	NW-INF-1 supports the integration of the marine and terrestrial systems. It does so by encouraging proposals (and other measures) that maintain or improve existing, or provide new, sustainable marine or land-based infrastructure that facilitates activity in the other system.	Screened in	The Project will produce electricity in the marine environment which will then be exported via the separate Transmission Assets DCO to the UK power grid, thereby facilitating land-based activities which will use that low-carbon electricity.	<b>Chapter 5 Project Description of the Environmental Statement (ES)</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.
NW-INF-2	(1) Proposals for alternative development at existing safeguarded landing facilities will not be supported. (2) Proposals adjacent and opposite existing safeguarded landing facilities must demonstrate that they avoid significant adverse impacts on existing safeguarded landing facilities.	Landing facilities in the North West Inshore Marine Plan area are critical for enabling industries, including shipping, tourism/travel (e.g. to Ireland and the Isle of Man), offshore wind, fisheries and aggregates. By protecting existing landing facilities, identifying the	Screened out	The Project is located approximately 30km from the shore of the Lancashire coast and, therefore, it is away from any safeguarded landing facilities.  The Project will not develop any safeguarded landing facilities into alternative	<b>Outline Offshore Operation and Maintenance Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.6)  <b>Outline Port Access and Transport Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.7)	Policy not applicable to application.



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>(3) Proposals for alternative development at existing landing facilities (excluding safeguarded sites) should not be supported unless that facility is no longer viable or capable of being made viable for waterborne transport</p> <p>(4) Proposals adjacent and opposite existing landing facilities (excluding safeguarded sites) that may have significant adverse impacts on the landing facilities should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>	<p>difference in safeguarding, NW-INF-2 mirrors similar provisions in terrestrial planning and supports the continued operation of vital existing landing facilities.</p>		<p>developments.</p> <p>The Project would, however, require landing facilities for constructing, maintaining, operating and decommissioning the offshore wind farm.</p> <p>The Applicant and the selected port operator(s) will enter into commercial agreements for using landing facilities, thereby, ensuring any safeguarded facilities will remain occupied, by enabling marine activities. The construction and operation and maintenance of this Project would ensure that the use of landing port(s) will remain viable for any</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				safeguarded activities therein.		
NW-CO-1	<p>Proposals that optimise the use of space and incorporate opportunities for co- existence and co- operation with existing activities will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on, or displace, existing activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding.</p>	NW-CO-1 encourages proposals to be spatially planned, take account of existing activities, and promote co- existence. The policy ensures that new proposals seek to avoid creating conflicts and to minimise their footprint, or optimise it where it may not be feasible to minimise	Screened in	<p>The Project prioritises use of previously developed seabed and co- operation with other users, consistent with its Project Objective 4, to optimise co- existence and co- ordination with existing activities. The Project recognises that these other activities in the Irish Sea include oil and gas infrastructure, cables, vessels, fishers, pleasure yachts, civilians and military aircraft.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken with all relevant third parties who may interact with the</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Consultation Report Appendices Part 1 to Part 4</b> (Document Reference 4.1.1 to 4.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries</b> (Document Reference 5.1.13)</p> <p><b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.14)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.1 Navigation Risk Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.1)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				offshore works and mitigation has been identified, where appropriate, to maximise the opportunity for co-existence.	<p><b>Chapter 16 Civil and Military Aviation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.16)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p> <p><b>Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.3)</p>	
NW-AGG-1	Proposals in areas where a licence for extraction of aggregates has been granted or formally applied for should not be authorised, unless it is demonstrated that the proposal is compatible with aggregate extraction.	NW-AGG-1 safeguards marine aggregate licence areas from other activities unless it is demonstrated that the other activities are compatible with marine aggregate extraction. This enables continuity of the supply of construction	Screened out	<p>There is no aggregate extraction within the windfarm site.</p> <p>In line with The Crown Estate (TCE) Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 bidding rules, aggregate licence areas are excluded from the Agreement</p>	<p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17</b></p>	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
		aggregate and supports local and national objectives and economies		for Lease (AfL) area.	<b>Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)	
NW-AGG-2	Proposals within an area subject to an Exploration and Option Agreement with The Crown Estate should not be supported unless it is demonstrated that the proposal is compatible with aggregate extraction.	NW-AGG-2 safeguards marine aggregate Exploration and Option Agreement areas to enable the aggregate industry to explore defined areas in order to identify commercially viable aggregate resource. Proposals will only be supported if they are compatible with marine aggregate extraction. This enables the future supply of construction aggregate and supports local and national objectives and economies.	Screened out	There are no sites subject to an Exploration and Option Agreement for aggregate extraction within the windfarm site.  In line with TCE Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 bidding rules, aggregate licence areas are excluded from the AfL area.	<b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)  <b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)  <b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-AGG-3	<p>Proposals in areas of high potential aggregate resource that may have significant adverse impacts on future aggregate extraction should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- significant adverse impacts on future aggregate extraction so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>	NW-AGG-3 ensures that proposals consider areas of high potential aggregate resource, as defined by the British Geological Survey. It ensures that any impacts on access to commercially viable marine sand and gravel resources in the future are managed, enabling secure access to sufficient supply of aggregate resources.	Screened in	<p>The Project is in an area of high potential aggregate resource. The construction of the Project requires dredging and subsequent disposal of the dredged material.</p> <p>Dredging and disposal of the dredged material is a licensable marine activity under Section 66 of the MCAA.</p> <p>The Applicant is applying to designate the Project windfarm site as a disposal site for material arising due to construction activities (i.e. seabed preparation/sand wave levelling (dredging) for</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Sediment Disposal Site Characterisation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.6)</p> <p><b>Other Consents and Licences Required</b> (Document Reference 4.15)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>foundations and cable installation and/or drilling for foundations). It is proposed that these areas are included within the Deemed Marine Licence (DML) in the draft DCO.</p> <p>The footprint of construction and operation and maintenance of the Project represents a very small proportion of the total AfL area. As such, any impacts on future aggregate extraction activity would be minimal.</p> <p>Finally, there would be restriction around installed inter-array cables and platform link cables (if required) and</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				WTGs/OSPs if future aggregate extraction activity takes place. Consultation was undertaken with relevant stakeholders to ensure future co-existence.		
NW-AQ-1	Proposals within existing or potential strategic areas of sustainable aquaculture production must demonstrate consideration of and compatibility with sustainable aquaculture production. Where compatibility is not possible, proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture production must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise	The policy does not prevent non-aquaculture developments or activities; it supports sustainable aquaculture production by spatially defining areas where all proposals are required to demonstrate consideration of and compatibility with sustainable aquaculture.	Screened out	The Project is not in an existing or potential strategic area of sustainable aquaculture production.	<b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.10)  <b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries</b> (Document Reference 5.1.13)	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture production so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding</p>					
NW-AQ-2	Proposals enabling the provision of infrastructure for sustainable aquaculture and related industries will be supported	<p>NW-AQ-2 aims to tackle barriers to aquaculture by encouraging the provision, maintenance and development of marine and land infrastructure to support sustainable aquaculture and related industries.</p> <p>This policy supports sustainable aquaculture projects by encouraging the direct development of infrastructure, as well as supporting connectivity between</p>	Screened out	The Project does not provide infrastructure for sustainable aquaculture.	<b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)	Policy not applicable to application.



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
		marine operations and land infrastructure, which will ensure that opportunities for aquaculture are realised.				
NW-CAB-1	<p>Preference should be given to proposals for cable installation where the method of protection is burial.</p> <p>Where burial is not achievable, decisions should take account of protection measures for the cable that may be proposed by the applicant. Where burial or protection measures are not appropriate, proposals should state the case for proceeding without those measures.</p>	NW-CAB-1 supports and encourages cable burial where possible to meet the needs of the sector while enabling co-existence with other users of the North West Marine Plan areas.	Screened in	<p>Cables will typically be buried to a depth of 1.5m (with a maximum depth of 3m) below the surface. The final burial depth will be confirmed by the results of the Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA), secured by the DML in the draft DCO.</p> <p>The laying of unburied cables and use of cable protection will be minimised, with the maximum volume of cable protection established as a</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Cable Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.2)</p> <p><b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 7 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes</b></p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>Design Parameter in the draft DCO and also outlined within <b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b>. Typical cable protection measures will include, but are not limited to, the use of rock berms or gravel bags, concrete mattresses, bagged solutions or flow dissipation devices, which will be explored and determined post-consent. Cable crossings will also be protected by deploying cable protection measures.</p> <p>Furthermore, the DML in the draft DCO requires the Applicant to confirm the final location and volume of cable and scour protection.</p>	<p>(Document Reference 5.1.7)</p> <p><b>Chapter 9 Benthic Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.9)</p> <p><b>Outline Scour Protection and Cable Protection Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.8)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-CAB-2	Proposals demonstrating compatibility with existing landfall sites and incorporating measures to enable development of future landfall opportunities should be supported. Where this is not possible proposals will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate	NW-CAB-2 seeks to avoid the loss of existing and potential future landfall sites and supports all proposals that consider the requirement for future cable landfall opportunities, ensuring that socially and economically vital cable activities can continue.	Screened out	This Project is entirely offshore.  The Transmission Assets will bring electricity onshore and require a landfall location. The DCO application for the Transmission Assets will demonstrate compatibility with this policy.	<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b> (Document Reference 5.1.1)  <b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)	Policy not applicable to application.
NW-CAB-3	Where seeking to locate close to existing subsea cables, proposals should demonstrate compatibility with ongoing function, maintenance and decommissioning activities relating to the cable.	NW-CAB-3 protects the ongoing function, maintenance and decommissioning of subsea cables, up to the point of landfall.	Screened in	The Applicant will minimise risk of damage to existing subsea cables. The Applicant has consulted owners of existing subsea cables.  The Applicant will follow the European Subsea Cables Association Guideline No. 6,	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)  <b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)  <b>Cable Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>which recommends agreement between the windfarm developer and subsea infrastructure owner.</p> <p>The WTGs and OSP(s) will not be placed within 500m of cables unless agreed otherwise as secured in Protective Provisions in the draft DCO.</p> <p>Where practical, the layout will minimise the number of crossings of existing third-party infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-DD-1	In areas of authorised dredging activity, including those subject to navigational dredging, proposals for other activities will not be supported unless they are compatible with the dredging activity.	NW-DD-1 ensures continued safe access by vessels to ports and harbours over the lifetime of the North West Marine Plan. This policy discourages proposals that would cause significant adverse impacts on dredge activities, such as the need for related vessels to navigate to and from authorised dredge areas.	Screened out	<p>The Project is not located in areas of authorised dredging activity.</p> <p>In line with TCE Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 bidding rules, navigation dredging areas are excluded from the AfL area.</p> <p>The Applicant is, however, applying to designate the Project windfarm site as a disposal site for material arising due to construction activities (i.e. seabed preparation/sand wave levelling (dredging) for foundations and cable installation and/or drilling for foundations) in the</p>	<p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Sediment Disposal Site Characterisation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.6)</p> <p><b>Other Consents and Licences Required</b> (Document Reference 4.15)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p>	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>DML of the draft DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant will, as far as possible, dispose of sediment in the vicinity of the locations from which it was extracted.</p>		
NW-DD-2	<p>Proposals that cause significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal sites should not be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal sites must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate the significant</p>	<p>NW-DD-2 ensures that disposal sites are not compromised, reducing the need to designate new disposal sites that are not intended for alternative use, and so reducing environmental impacts. This policy discourages proposals that would cause significant adverse impacts on disposal activities, such as the need for vessels to navigate safely to and from disposal sites.</p>	Screened out	<p>The Proposal Development is not near any licensed disposal sites. The closest open marine disposal site is located in the inshore area, approximately 15km southeast of the windfarm site.</p> <p>The Applicant has avoided disposal sites during the site selection process. In line with Leasing Round 4 bidding rules, licensed disposal sites are</p>	<p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p>	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding.	Preserving licensed disposal sites, including where sites are being used for alternative use, will enable and facilitate the growth of ports and harbours within the North West Inshore Marine Plan area. Over the 20-year life span of the Plan, this may become more prevalent in the developing economic climate.		excluded from the AfL area.		
NW-DD-3	Proposals for the disposal of dredged material must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy. Where there is the need to identify new dredge disposal sites, including alternative use sites, proposals should be supported if they	This policy ensures that proposals have considered all steps within the waste hierarchy prior to the disposal of dredge material as a last resort.	Screened in	The Applicant is applying to designate the Project windfarm site as a disposal site for material arising due to construction activities (i.e. seabed preparation/sand wave levelling (dredging) for foundations and cable installation	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)  <b>Sediment Disposal Site Characterisation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.6)  <b>Other Consents and Licences Required</b>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	conform to best practice and guidance.			<p>and/or drilling for foundations). It is proposed that these areas are included within the DML in the draft DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant will, as far as possible, dispose of sediment in the vicinity of the locations from which it was extracted, such that sediment is disposed of within areas of similar sediment type and subject to the same sedimentary processes. There will be no net loss of sand from the Project windfarm site. This approach accords with the waste hierarchy, which encourages reusing materials before disposing of waste.</p>	<p>(Document Reference 4.15)</p> <p><b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.15)</p>	



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-OG-1	Proposals in areas where a licence for oil and gas has been granted or formally applied for should not be authorised unless it is demonstrated that the other development or activity is compatible with the oil and gas activity	This policy protects the supply of oil and gas by safeguarding areas where there are existing licences. However, this does not sterilise areas for other activities as proposals that demonstrate compatibility with oil and gas activities may be supported.	Screened in	<p>The Project is compatible with oil and gas activity, both existing and licensed but as yet unimplemented, and maximises reuse of previously developed seabed in co-operation and co-ordination with other users, in accordance with its Project Objective 3.</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> has assessed the potential effects on existing oil and gas infrastructure and future exploration, including Carbon Capture &amp; Storage (CCS), during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 16 Civil and Military Aviation and Radar</b> (Document Reference 5.1.16)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p> <p><b>Outline Offshore Operation and Maintenance Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.6)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>Any conflicts with vessels in transit and/or aviation activities, including increased vessel activity and helicopter operations associated with construction and operation and maintenance of Project infrastructure, are addressed in <b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> and <b>Chapter 16 Civil and Military Aviation and Radar</b>.</p> <p>As part of the mitigation measures in <b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b>, which have been embedded into the design of the Project, and in the Protective</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>Provisions in the draft DCO, WTGs and OSP(s) would not be placed within 500m of cables, pipelines, or umbilicals associated with oil and gas infrastructure. WTGs and OSP(s) would be separated (using at least a 1.5nm radius buffer zone) from oil and gas platforms with a helicopter deck.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing between the Applicant and relevant oil and gas operators on the terms of suitable cooperation and coexistence agreements and the Applicant is proposing Protective Provisions for the interest of existing oil</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				and gas operators in the draft DCO.		
NW-OG-2	Proposals within areas of geological oil and gas extraction potential demonstrating compatibility with future extraction activity will be supported	The policy gives clarity on dealing with potential future conflicts with other users who may want to use the same space as oil and gas extraction activities by supporting co-existence opportunities for different users of the North West Marine Plan areas.	Screened in	<p>The Applicant has assessed the potential effects on existing oil and gas infrastructure and future exploration, including CCS, during construction, operation/ maintenance and decommissioning in <b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b>. Residual effects are considered to be not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Discussions are on-going between the Applicant and relevant oil and gas operators on the terms of suitable cooperation and coexistence agreements and the</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				Applicant is proposing Protective Provisions for the interest of existing oil and gas operators in the draft DCO.		
NW-PS-1	In line with the National Policy Statement for Ports, sustainable port and harbour development should be supported. Only proposals demonstrating compatibility with current port and harbour activities will be supported. Proposals within statutory harbour authority areas or their approaches that detrimentally and materially affect safety of navigation, or the compliance by statutory harbour authorities with the Open Port Duty or the Port Marine Safety Code, will not be authorised unless there are exceptional	NW-PS-1 makes sure that proposals do not restrict current port and harbour activity or future growth, enabling long-term strategic decisions, and supporting competitive and efficient port and shipping operations. Policy NW-PS-1 applies to the inshore marine plan area only.	Screened in	<p>The Project is offshore and includes no development onshore, nor any port development, whereas Policy NW-PS-1 applies to inshore marine plan area.</p> <p>The Project will require port/harbour facilities and will ensure adequate facilities are available for accommodating construction, operation and decommissioning activities.</p> <p>The port/harbour for</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.14)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.1 Navigation Risk Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.1)</p> <p><b>Outline Offshore Operation and Maintenance Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.6)</p> <p><b>Outline Port Access</b></p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>circumstances. Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact upon future opportunity for sustainable expansion of port and harbour activities, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>			<p>construction, operation and maintenance will be decided post-consent.</p> <p>The Applicant will select available port/harbour based on availability and the Project's needs. Therefore, a Project benefit includes the sustaining of ports and harbour operations as associated socio-economic benefits. Workforce upskilling is expected to be realised during all project phases.</p> <p>The Applicant has consulted port operators during the pre-application process.</p>	<p><b>and Transport Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.7)</p> <p><b>Outline Skills and Employment Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.11)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-PS-2	Proposals that require static sea surface infrastructure or that significantly reduce under-keel clearance must not be authorised within or encroaching upon International Maritime Organisation routing systems unless there are exceptional circumstances.	NW-PS-2 confirms that proposals that compromise International Maritime Organisation (IMO) routes should not be authorised. NW-PS-2 enables and supports safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses. NW-PS-2 specifies that developments should not be authorised where the use of IMO routing systems may be compromised. Authorisation of proposals that impact on the use of IMO routing systems is very rare.	Screened in	<p>In line with TCE Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 bidding rules, IMO Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) and deep-water channels are excluded from the AfL area.</p> <p>Under-keel clearance will not be significantly reduced, due to the burying of cables to a target depth of 1.5m, where possible. The laying of unburied cables and use of cable protection will be minimised. Details of the Project will be promulgated to relevant marine stakeholders in advance of, and during, construction, and also during the operational and maintenance phase.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.14)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.1 Navigation Risk Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.1)</p> <p><b>Outline Scour Protection and Cable Protection Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.8)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-PS-3	Proposals that require static sea surface infrastructure or that significantly reduce under-keel clearance which encroaches upon high density navigation routes, strategically important navigation routes, or that pose a risk to the viability of passenger services, must not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances	NW-PS-3 confirms that proposals that pose a risk to safe navigation or the viability of these routes and services should not be authorised. NW-PS-3 aims to protect these routes and services by enabling and promoting safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses.	Screened in	<p>The Project does not impact on recognised sea lanes essential to international navigation.</p> <p>The Project western boundary has been modified to minimise the impact to passage plan routes of ferries and commercial vessels and minimise course changes for vessels navigating north-south. The Project alone effect on ferry routeing is assessed in <b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> as not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Impacts to shipping and navigation safety have been</p>	<p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.14)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.1 Navigation Risk Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.1)</p> <p><b>Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan</b></p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				assessed within a <b>Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA)</b> . The <b>NRA</b> embedded mitigation recommendations will be implemented such that all potential navigational safety risks are as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).	(Document Reference 6.9)	
NW-PS-4	Proposals promoting or facilitating sustainable coastal and/or short sea shipping as an alternative to road, rail or air transport will be supported where appropriate.	NW-PS-4 aims to support sustainable coastal or short sea shipping, where appropriate, as an alternative to road, rail or air methods.	Screened in	In line with the construction of other Offshore Wind Farms (OWFs), components could be delivered by vessels, assembled in the designated port/harbours and delivered to the windfarm site for final assembly. Delivering components to the port/harbour by sea has been proven to be more cost effective than land-	<b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)  <b>Outline Port Access and Transport Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.7)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				based transport for other OWFs. The entire process and workflow will, however, be determined post-consent.		
NW-REN-1	Proposals that enable the provision of renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains, will be supported.	<p>NW-REN-1 recognises the importance of the supply chain within the lifecycle of renewable energy projects.</p> <p>NW-REN-1 enables public authorities to support proposals that will reduce costs, ensuring that businesses are operating competitively and with a long-term strategy.</p>	Screened in	<p>The Project will be installing renewable energy technology to generate electricity offshore. The Project would therefore support the development of a supply chain specialising in offshore wind industry components.</p> <p>The Applicant will seek to maximise the local benefits associated with the Skills Employment Area (SEA), with the development, construction, operation and</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 20 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.20)</p> <p><b>Outline Skills and Employment Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.11)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project through its procurement process.</p> <p>Noting the Project is located entirely offshore, the SEA is defined in the <b>Outline Skills and Employment Plan</b> and comprises the following local authorities:            Liverpool, Halton, Sefton, Wirral, Copeland, South Lakeland, Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Fylde, Lancaster, West Lancashire, Wyre, Cheshire West and Chester, Denbighshire, and Flintshire.</p> <p>The <b>Outline Skills and Employment Plan</b> addresses the skills and employment needs</p>		

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				<p>of these areas and provide a targeted and effective approach to development of local skills for the Project.</p> <p>The Applicant is required to prepare a Skills and Employment Plan post-consent which accords with the principles in the Outline Skills and Employment Plan. This commitment is secured in the draft DCO.</p>		
NW-REN-2	Proposals for new activity within areas held under a lease or an agreement for lease for renewable energy generation should not be authorised, unless it is demonstrated that the Project or activity will not reduce the ability to construct, operate or	NW-REN-2 protects areas identified for energy developments from other activities that could affect the sites' ability to generate energy. It enables the development of safe, profitable and efficient	Screened in	The Project is a new activity in the AfL area with a new lease agreement secured. The Applicant intends to construct and operate an OWF in accordance with the terms set out in the	<p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	decommission the existing or planned energy generation projects.	marine businesses.		AfL with the TCE.		
NW-REN-3	Proposals for the installation of infrastructure to generate offshore renewable energy, inside areas of identified potential and subject to relevant assessments, will be supported.	NW-REN-3 supports the identification of future leasing rounds and provides a level of certainty for other activities as to where future development may occur.	Screened in	<p>The Project is within “Offshore Wind High Potential Future Development Area” and is a preferred project under TCE Leasing Round 4. An ES for the Project has been prepared, considering all relevant topics set out in the Project Scoping Report and the Planning Inspectorate’s Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>All relevant ES assessments have been prepared by competent personnel and additional advice and guidance has been obtained from</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Consultation Report Appendices Part 1 to Part 4</b> (Document Reference 4.1.1 to 4.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 6 EIA Methodology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.6)</p> <p><b>Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion</b> (Document Reference</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>technical stakeholders through the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) and targeted consultation. The EPP provides additional ongoing statutory stakeholders' input into the assessment process.</p>	5.4)	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-HER-1	<p>Proposals that demonstrate they will conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets will be supported.</p> <p>Where proposals may cause harm to the significance of heritage assets, proponents must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>- any harm to the significance of heritage assets.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate, then public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the harm to the significance of heritage assets.</p>	<p>This policy aims to conserve and enhance marine and coastal heritage assets by considering the potential for harm to their significance.</p> <p>The policy will ensure that assets are considered in the decision-making process and will make provisions for those assets that are discovered during developments.</p>	Screened in	<p>Potential effects on heritage assets are assessed in <b>Chapter 15 Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>.</p> <p>The Project will avoid all direct impacts to known heritage assets. The approach to mitigation is to avoid these features via Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZ).</p> <p>In order to account for unexpected archaeological finds, a formal protocol for archaeological discoveries will be implemented during construction through the Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 15 Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b> (Document Reference 5.1.15)</p> <p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.4)</p> <p><b>Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation</b> (Document Reference 6.10)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>The Outline Offshore WSI is secured in the DML of the draft DCO.</p> <p>Pre-construction seabed survey will include investigation and identification of seabed features and these works will be covered by an Archaeological Method Statement, which will be approved in advance by the relevant regulator for heritage assets (Historic England).</p>		
NW-SCP-1	Proposals should ensure they are compatible with their surroundings and should not have a significant adverse impact on the character and visual resource of the seascape and landscape of the area.	The aim of the policy is to manage significant adverse impacts on the seascape and landscape of the North West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan areas. It will make sure that an	Screened in	The Project is located within the expansive waters of the Irish Sea and approximately 30km off the coast of Lancashire. The Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact	<p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Chapter 18 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.1.18)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>The location, scale and design of proposals should take account of the character, quality and distinctiveness of the seascape and landscape. Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on the seascape and landscape of the area should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate, the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh significant adverse impacts to the seascape and landscape of the area. Proposals within or</p>	<p>area's value, quality and its capacity to accommodate change is considered and that the scale and design of a proposal is compatible with its surroundings.</p> <p>The policy's primary aim is to make provisions for those areas of seascape without statutory designation.</p> <p>The policy also supports those areas with existing statutory designation, such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and World Heritage Sites. Defined Heritage Coasts are also supported although they do not hold statutory designation.</p>		<p>Assessment (SLVIA) considers that the sensitivity of this seascape to changes associated with the Project is low.</p> <p>Existing operational OWFs already form a key defining characteristic of the seascape and they extensively influence the elevation of the southern fells of the Lake District National Park (LDNP). The Project is subsumed behind the existing operational OWFs (from Cumbria in the north and from Merseyside and North Wales in the south) and represents an introduction of new elements that are</p>	<p><b>Appendix 18.3 SLVIA Viewpoint Assessment</b> (Document Reference 15.2.18.3)</p>	

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	<p>relatively close to nationally designated areas should have regard to the specific statutory purposes of the designated area. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p>			<p>already substantially characteristic in the baseline seascape.</p> <p>Significant visual effects identified would be contained within the areas of the Fylde and Sefton coasts, where people have a high sensitivity to changes in the sea views, which are considered to be a fundamental part of the appeal of the coast and settlements at Blackpool, Lytham St Anne's and Southport. Although there would be localised significant effects on views from this section of coast, these visual effects do not translate into significant effects on</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>the perceived landscape character, which is extensively urbanised, and its urban/settled character would not be changed as a result of the Project.</p> <p>The Project does not undermine the statutory purpose of the LDNP, or any AONBs, nor compromise the purposes of their designations.</p> <p>Measures are embedded as part of the Project to avoid, minimise or reduce any significant environmental effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, as far as possible. The reduction of the windfarm site area</p>		

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				<p>and the revision of WTG parameters since the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) stage has also narrowed the spread (east to west) and the apparent scale of the Project. The siting (and spread) of the Project, at a comparatively long distance offshore, forms the key designed-in measure which minimises potential for significant effects experienced in coastal views.</p> <p>The proposed Design Code in the <b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3) includes a requirement to</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				consider Seascape/Landscape impact in designing the final layout of the windfarm.		
NW-FISH-1	Proposals that support a sustainable fishing industry, including the industry's diversification, should be supported.	NW-FISH-1 supports long-term strategic proposals that enable the fishing industry to diversify or build in resilience to manage climate change risks and maximise opportunities for sustainable use of marine resources.	Screened in	<p>Potential effects and associated mitigation measures are assessed in <b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries.</b></p> <p>The Applicant is committed to ongoing liaison with fishers throughout all stages of the Project.</p> <p>The preparation of a Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (FLCP) is secured in the draft DCO. The Applicant would participate in any regional</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries</b> (Document Reference 5.1.13)</p> <p><b>Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.3)</p> <p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.4)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>Commercial Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) meetings if they are set up in the local area to facilitate commercial fisheries dialogue.</p> <p>As set out in the In-Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP), the Applicant will collate data on commercial fisheries landings by port on a monthly basis and monitor variation in fishing activity, to understand whether changes in fishing activity have occurred.</p> <p>Data would be reported and agreed in the FLCP, which would be developed post-consent. A data collection period of a</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				minimum of five years is being proposed.		
NW-FISH-2	<p>Proposals that enhance access for fishing activities should be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access for fishing activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>	NW-FISH-2 supports enhanced access for sustainable fishing activities and seeks to limit significant adverse impacts from other marine activities on access for fishing activities, enabling continued sustainable marine resource use and generating prosperous, resilient and cohesive coastal communities.	Screened in	<p>Potential effects and associated mitigation measures are assessed in <b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries</b>.</p> <p>The key fishery activity within the windfarm site is potting. Levels of displacement from the windfarm site would not be significant during the operation and maintenance phase, given that access will be available beyond an assumed 50m advisory operating distance of individual WTGs and OSP(s).</p> <p>Construction would</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries</b> (Document Reference 5.1.13)</p> <p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.4)</p> <p><b>Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.3)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>lead to a localised and intermittent loss of access to fishing grounds due to exclusion distance from construction activities for the Project alone. Other potential Irish Sea developments together with Marine Protected Area (MPA) management measures are the main factors raising the cumulative effect to be significant in EIA terms.</p> <p>Additional mitigation (for UK potting fleets), following Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) guidance (and future updates to this guidance), including justifiable, evidence-</p>		



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				<p>based disturbance payments, lowers the residual Project impact to minor adverse and not significant in EIA terms. The Applicant has identified monitoring that would be used to inform discussions with stakeholders, and other developers, in the region related to co-existence with commercial fisheries, which would inform any required updates to the FCLP, which would remain in place for the lifetime of the Project. The Applicant would attend any regional CFWG meetings if they are set up in the local area to facilitate commercial</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				fisheries dialogue.		
NW-FISH-3	<p>Proposals that enhance essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migratory routes, should be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery and feeding grounds, and migratory routes, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>	<p>NW-FISH-3 recognises that the protection of habitats and the services they provide can enhance fish populations, supporting the long-term existence of the fisheries.</p> <p>NW-FISH-3 encourages and supports proposals that deliver biodiversity gain for essential fish habitats.</p> <p>NW-FISH-3 enables sustainable use of marine resources within environmental limits, alongside productive fisheries, by requiring proposals to avoid impacts on essential fish habitats or, if avoidance of impacts is not</p>	Screened in	<p>The windfarm site overlaps, or is in close proximity to, a number of fish spawning and nursery grounds, including sandeel, common sole, herring, plaice, cod, whiting and mackerel. Impacts from the Project on these spawning and nursery grounds, together with fish feeding grounds and migration routes, have been assessed as not significant.</p> <p>Given the lack of potential for significant effects upon key active demersal spawning grounds, and in keeping with the guiding principles of monitoring as set out</p>	<p><b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.10)</p> <p><b>Chapter 9 Benthic Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.9)</p> <p><b>Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries</b> (Document Reference 5.1.13)</p> <p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.4)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
		possible, to manage impacts on essential fish habitats.		<p>in the IPMP, no site-specific monitoring of fish resource is proposed.</p> <p>It has been calculated that 2.3km<sup>2</sup> of seabed in the windfarm site (less than 3% of the site) would be disturbed for seabed preparation and foundation placement, and inter-array cable and platform link cable installation. The disturbance would be minimal, temporary and localised compared to the size of the spawning grounds, which cover large areas across the region beyond the study area.</p>		
NW-EMP-1	Proposals that result in a net increase in	NW-EMP-1 seeks to maximise sustainable	Screened in	The Project has been assessed to	<b>Chapter 20 Socio-economics, Tourism</b>	Policy has been

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>marine-related employment will be supported, particularly where they meet one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) are aligned with local skills strategies and support the skills available</li> <li>2) create a diversity of opportunities</li> <li>3) create employment in locations identified as the most deprived</li> <li>4) implement new technologies</li> </ol> <p>- in, and adjacent to, the North West Marine Plan areas.</p>	<p>economic activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, both now and into the future.</p>		<p>support 70 jobs in the Local Economic Area<sup>2</sup> (LEA) and 1,320 jobs across the UK at the peak of construction of the Project. During operation and maintenance, the Project could support 110 jobs in the LEA and 190 jobs across the UK each year.</p> <p>The Outline Skills and Employment Plan seeks to maximise economic benefits by nurturing a highly skilled workforce capable of driving innovation and productivity in</p>	<p><b>and Recreation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.20)</p> <p><b>Outline Skills and Employment Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.11)</p>	<p>considered and the application is compliant.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Local Economic Area used in the economic assessment includes regions of North West England and Wales. Further information is in **Chapter 20 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation** (Document Reference 5.1.20).

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				the offshore windfarm sector through partnerships with local businesses and suppliers. The plan also aims to foster a diverse and inclusive workforce addressing their skills and employment needs.		
NW-CC-1	Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance habitats that provide flood defence or carbon sequestration will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem service must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid	Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance habitats that provide flood defence or carbon sequestration will be supported.	Screened in	The Project does not have significant adverse impacts on habitats providing flood defence or carbon sequestration.  The Applicant has provided and will continue to seek opportunities to provide benefits to the local natural environment. Further information on potential opportunities to	<b>Environmental Benefit and Net Gain Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.4)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.			conserve, restore or enhance habitats is found in <b>Environmental Benefit and Net Gain Statement.</b>		
NW-CC-2	Proposals in the North West Marine Plan areas should demonstrate for the lifetime of the project that they are resilient to the impacts of climate change and coastal change	NW-CC-2 adds provision to enable enhanced resilience of developments, activities and ecosystems within the North West Marine Plan areas to the effects of climate change and coastal change.	Screened in	Assessment has been undertaken to consider the potential effects of climate change during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Project. The Climate Change Resilience Assessment is set out in <b>Chapter 21 Climate Change.</b>  WTGs and fixed substructures are being designed with	<b>Chapter 21 Climate Change</b> (Document Reference 5.1.21)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				sufficient safety margins to account for extreme weather events, such as storm surges and high winds.		
NW-CC-3	<p>Proposals in the North West Marine Plan areas, and adjacent marine plan areas, that are likely to have significant adverse impact on coastal change, or on climate change adaptation measures inside and outside the proposed project areas, should only be supported if they can demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant</p>	<p>NW- CC-3 ensures proposals do not exacerbate coastal change, enabling communities to be more resilient and better able to adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk where identified.</p> <p>NW-CC-3 supports proposals that do not compromise existing adaptation measures, which will enable an improvement in the resilience of coastal communities to coastal erosion and flood risk.</p>	Screened out	<p>The Project is entirely offshore and does not affect the coastline.</p> <p>The Project would have no effect on coastal change. However, the Project produces energy from a renewable source and reduces the reliance on carbon intensive energy generating activities, therefore making a positive impact on climate change, albeit indirectly.</p> <p>The Applicant has also contributed resources to the</p>	<p><b>Environmental Benefit and Net Gain Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.4)</p> <p>Chapter 7 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes (Document Reference 5.1.7)</p> <p><b>Chapter 21 Climate Change</b> (Document Reference 5.1.21)</p>	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				Fylde Sand Dunes Project aimed at creating the start of new dune ecosystems along the coast, as detailed in the <b>Environmental Benefit and Net Gain Statement</b> .		
NW-CCUS-1	Decommissioning programmes for oil and gas facilities should demonstrate that they have considered the potential for re-use of infrastructure.	This policy encourages the consideration of infrastructure re-use by oil and gas operators prior to decommissioning.	Screened out	Decommissioned oil and gas facilities are not part of the Project.	N/A	Policy not applicable to application.
NW-CCUS-2	Carbon capture, usage and storage proposals incorporating the re-use of existing oil and gas infrastructure will be supported.	This policy encourages re-use by supporting new carbon capture, usage and storage proposals that utilise still viable oil and gas infrastructure.	Screened out	The Project does not include carbon capture, usage or storage.	N/A	Policy not applicable to application.
NW-CCUS-3	Proposals associated with the deployment of low carbon infrastructure for	NW-CCUS-3 supports the development of low carbon industrial clusters where low	Screened out	Low carbon infrastructure for industrial clusters is not part of the	N/A	Policy not applicable to application.



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	industrial clusters should be supported.	carbon infrastructure, including carbon capture, usage and storage technologies could be deployed.		Project.		
NW-AIR-1	<p>Proposals must assess their direct and indirect impacts upon local air quality and emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Proposals that are likely to result in increased air pollution or increased emissions of greenhouse gases must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>- air pollution and/or greenhouse gas emissions in line with current national and local air quality objectives and legal requirements.</p>	NW-AIR-1 ensures that proposals consider and address where they may cause direct or indirect air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions and manage these accordingly.	Screened in	<p>Given its offshore location, the Project will not affect air quality. Offshore air quality has been scoped out of the environmental assessment.</p> <p>A GHG assessment has been undertaken for the Project as set out in <b>Chapter 21 Climate Change</b>.</p> <p>Embodied carbon in construction materials is expected to be the largest contributor to construction emissions (81.7% of the total). Estimated construction</p>	<p><b>Chapter 5 Project Description</b> (Document Reference 5.1.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 6 EIA Methodology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.6)</p> <p><b>Chapter 21 Climate Change</b> (Document Reference 5.1.21)</p> <p><b>Appendix 21.1 Greenhouse Gas Assessment Methodology</b> (Document Reference 5.2.21.1)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

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				emissions (including embodied carbon, vessels and helicopters) would amount to a maximum total of 0.88 MtCO <sub>2e</sub> , constituting around 0.05% of the UK 5th Carbon Budget (2028 to 2032), is considered to be low and is significantly outweighed by the estimated 36 MtCO <sub>2e</sub> displaced from fossil fuel energy generation over the 35-year operational period. This more than mitigates the emissions from all phases of the Project.		
NW-ML-1	Public authorities must make adequate provision for the prevention, re-use, recycling and disposal	Litter at sea often originates on land. Increase in development, access, recreation and	Screened in	The draft DML proposes a condition on “chemical, drilling and debris” which requires that: “The	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)	Policy has been considered and the application is

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>of waste to reduce and prevent marine litter.</p> <p>Public authorities should aspire to undertake measures to remove marine litter within their jurisdiction.</p>	<p>tourism in the North West Marine Plan areas may result in increased litter, and an adverse impact on the environment on which these activities rely. Preventing marine litter through effective waste management is vital. Addressing marine litter along the coastline is also an important step towards dealing with this problem.</p>		<p>undertaker must ensure that no waste concrete slurry or wash water from concrete or cement works are discharged into the marine environment. Concrete and cement mixing and washing areas must be contained to prevent run off entering the water through the freeing ports".</p> <p>Secured in the draft DML of the draft DCO, the Applicant will ensure that objects dropped on the seabed during works associated with the Project which are likely to cause a marine hazard would be reported to the MMO within 24 hours and</p>	<p><b>Outline Project Environmental Management Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.2)</p>	<p>compliant.</p>

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>that objects would be recovered where they may pose a hazard to other marine users and where recovery is possible. This condition also requires the bunding of all reservoirs and containers to prevent releases into the marine environment.</p> <p>The DML also requires the preparation of a Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) to be undertaken, post-consent, with the approval of the MMO following relevant consultation. The PEMP includes a marine pollution</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>contingency plan, chemical risk assessment, waste management and disposal arrangements.</p> <p>The Applicant has therefore proposed a mechanism to allow the MMO to fulfil its duty to control marine litter via the discharge of relevant conditions post-consent.</p>		
NW-ML-2	<p>Proposals that facilitate waste re-use or recycling to reduce or remove marine litter will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that could potentially increase the amount of marine litter in the marine plan areas must include measures to, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid</p>	NW-ML-2 makes sure proposals avoid, minimise or mitigate waste entering the marine environment and encourages support for improvements in waste management and removal of marine litter, during construction and over the lifetime of the development.	Screened in	Secured in the draft DCO, the Applicant will develop a PEMP, which includes a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP), chemical risk assessment, waste management and disposal arrangements.	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Outline Project Environmental Management Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.2)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	b) minimise c) mitigate - waste entering the marine environment.	Proposals that cannot avoid, minimise or mitigate waste entering the marine environment will not be supported.		The Applicant will ensure that any objects likely to cause a hazard to other marine users dropped on the seabed during works associated with the Project are reported to the MMO within 24 hours and that objects are recovered where they may pose a hazard to other marine users and where recovery is possible.		
NW-WQ-1	Proposals that protect, enhance and restore water quality will be supported. Proposals that cause deterioration of water quality must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid	NW-WQ-1 supports activities with a primary objective to protect, enhance and restore water quality.  NW-WQ-1 also manages activities that may cause deterioration of water quality by	Screened in	The Project will result in very low or, at worse, minor adverse effects on marine water quality. Suspended sediment plumes arising from the construction will be localised and temporary.	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)  <b>Chapter 7 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes</b> (Document Reference 5.1.7)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	b) minimise c) mitigate - deterioration of water quality in the marine environment.	ensuring that adverse impacts from proposals must be avoided, minimised and mitigated.		<p>The Applicant will follow the mitigation hierarchy: avoid, minimise and mitigate against the deterioration of water quality, where required, through the embedded mitigation measures in the design of the Project. These measures, such as the bunding of all containers to prevent releases into the environment, prevention of run off of concrete slurry into the marine environment and reporting of any spill to the MMO Marine Pollution Response Team, are secured in the DML of the draft DCO.</p> <p>Pollution control measures will also</p>	<p><b>Chapter 8 Marine Sediment and Water Quality</b> (Document Reference 5.1.8)</p> <p><b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> (Document Reference 5.5)</p> <p><b>Outline Project Environmental Management Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.2)</p>	

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				be contained within the final PEMP, which will be produced and implemented to cover the construction and the operation and maintenance phases of the Project.		
NW-ACC-1	<p>Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the marine area, including the provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on public access should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>- adverse impacts so</p>	<p>NW-ACC-1 supports proposals for appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to, and within, the marine area, including those providing services for tourism and recreation activities.</p> <p>NW-ACC-1 also provides clarity on how public access should be protected and ensures that proposals do not have a significant adverse impact on</p>	Screened in	<p>The Project is not in a location frequently accessed by recreational vessels, suggesting the area of the Project is not well accessed by the public.</p> <p>During construction, major maintenance and decommissioning phases Safety Zones of up to 500m from the outer extremity of structures above or below water will be applied for. 50m</p>	<p><b>Safety Zone Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.14)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p> <p><b>Other Consents and Licences Required</b></p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	they are no longer significant.	existing public access.		<p>Safety Zones will be applied for around partially completed Project structures or complete Project structures undergoing commissioning.</p> <p>The application of these Safety Zones in the windfarm site would not affect public accessibility for the purpose of tourism and recreation, noting the area has low recreational use.</p> <p>During the operational phase of the windfarm, separation of WTGs would allow passage through the windfarm site.</p>	(Document Reference 4.15)	
NW-TR-1	Proposals that promote or facilitate sustainable	NW-TR-1 supports these established	Screened in	The Project is not in a location frequently	<b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b>	The policy has been

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>tourism and recreation activities, or that create appropriate opportunities to expand or diversify the current use of facilities, should be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant</p>	<p>industries through promotion of sustainable tourism and recreation at appropriate locations.</p> <p>To minimise stakeholder conflict, this policy also addresses the potential impact of proposals on existing tourism and recreation use, or future potential activities; those proposals that cannot avoid, minimise and mitigate significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities are unlikely to be supported.</p>		<p>accessed by recreational vessels (<b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b>).</p> <p>The cumulative impacts on ferry routeing that could impact upon tourism including to the Isle of Man have been minimised by mitigation including the reduction in the western boundary of the windfarm site. No significant impacts on tourism have been identified.</p> <p>Whilst significant visual impacts have been identified within the areas of the Fylde and Sefton coasts in <b>Chapter 18 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact</b></p>	<p>(Document Reference 5.1.14)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p> <p><b>Chapter 18 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.1.18)</p> <p><b>Chapter 20 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.20)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.1 Navigation Risk Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.1)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.2 Cumulative Regional Navigation Risk</b></p>	<p>considered and the application is compliant.</p>

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<b>Assessment</b> , this has not been associated with any potentially significant impacts on tourism (see <b>Chapter 20 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.20) and <b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)).	<b>Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.2)	
NW-SOC-1	Those bringing forward proposals should consider and demonstrate how their development shall enhance public knowledge, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the marine environment as part of (the design of) the proposal.	NW-SOC-1 seeks to increase the general knowledge, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment by people of the many values provided by the marine environment through encouraging proposals that incorporate these factors.	Screened in	The Project enhances public knowledge of the marine environment. Through site surveys, the applicant has gathered a significant amount of information about the seabed condition, sediment character, marine biology, presence of	<b>Appendix 7.1 Geophysical Survey Report</b> (Document Reference 5.2.7.1)  <b>Appendix 9.1 Benthic Characterisation Survey Report</b> (Document Reference 5.2.9.1)  <b>Appendix 9.2 Marine Evidence-based</b>	The policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

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				<p>mammals and birds, and potential artefacts. This information helps regulators, the scientific community and, by extension, the public, to understand the character of the marine environment. This information will also shape the design and layout of the Project and has contributed to formulating embedded design mitigation measures across all relevant topics in the ES.</p> <p>The Applicant is also making ornithological and marine mammal aerial survey data publicly available, which will help update the models</p>	<p><b>Sensitivity Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.9.2)</p> <p><b>Appendix 11.2 Marine Mammal Information and Survey Data</b> (Document Reference 5.2.11.2)</p> <p><b>Appendix 12.1 Offshore Ornithology Technical Report</b> (Document Reference 5.2.12.1)</p> <p><b>Appendix 12.2 Aerial Survey Two Year Report Mar 2021 to Feb 2023</b> (Document Reference 5.2.12.2)</p> <p><b>Appendix 15.1 Archaeological Assessment of Geophysical Data</b> (Document Reference</p>	

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				for other local OWFs and provides important information on bird and marine mammal presence in the area to support conservation efforts.	5.2.15.1)	
NW-DEF-1	Proposals in or affecting Ministry of Defence areas should only be authorised with agreement from the Ministry of Defence.	NW-DEF-1 aims to avoid conflict between defence activities and new proposals within the North West Marine Plan areas. This policy will ensure defence interests are not hindered.	Screened out	<p>There are no defence activities within or potentially affected by the windfarm site.</p> <p>The Applicant has avoided Practice and Exercise Areas (PEXA) and heavily surveyed routes during the site selection process.</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)</p> <p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p> <p><b>Chapter 14 Shipping and Navigation</b> (Document Reference 5.1.14)</p>	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
					<p><b>Chapter 16 Civil and Military Aviation and Radar</b> (Document Reference 5.1.16)</p> <p><b>Chapter 17 Infrastructure and Other Users</b> (Document Reference 5.1.17)</p>	
NW-MPA-1	<p>Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts, with</p>	<p>NW-MPA-1 encourages and supports proposals for activities that further the conservation objectives of marine protected areas.</p> <p>NW-MPA-1 also ensures proposals take account of adverse impacts on individual sites and the overall network, protecting important habitats, species and geological features, and</p>	Screened in	<p>Through the site selection process, the Project avoided spatially overlapping with any MPAs, including Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). There are no Annex I biogenic or geogenic reef features within the windfarm site.</p> <p>The Project site is</p>	<p><b>Design Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.3)</p> <p><b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</b> (Document Reference 4.9)</p> <p><b>Habitats Regulations Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case</b> (Document Reference 4.11)</p> <p><b>Marine Conservation Zone Assessment</b></p>	The policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	due regard given to statutory advice on an ecologically coherent network.	enabling the successful and continued management of these sites.		<p>located adjacent to the Liverpool Bay SPA and, although the construction and operation and maintenance ports have yet to be decided, it is possible that vessel traffic to the site may be required through the SPA. The Project has determined that potential impacts could be mitigated by measures including a Code of Conduct for vessel crew potentially passaging through this area to minimise impacts on designated features.</p> <p>No hindrance to the conservation objectives of any MPA were identified. The Applicant's assessments for the</p>	<p><b>Screening Report</b> (Document Reference 4.12)</p> <p><b>Marine Conservation Zone Report</b> (Document Reference 4.13)</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) concluded that an Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEol) would not occur for the Project alone on National Site Network features and there would be no measurable contribution of the Project to in-combination effects. However, the Applicant has prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case for Lesser Black Backed Gull (LBBG), in the event that the SoS cannot conclude the Project has no AEol.		
NW-MPA-2	Proposals that enhance a marine protected	NW-MPA-2 ensures proposals account	Screened in	The Project does not overlap with any	<b>Report to Inform Appropriate</b>	The policy has been



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>area's ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the marine protected area network, will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have adverse impacts on an individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, and so reduce the resilience of the marine protected area network, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> </ul> <p>- adverse impacts.</p>	<p>for adverse impacts on each impacted individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change, improving resilience and working towards a well-managed marine protected area network.</p>		<p>MPA.</p> <p>The ES outlines how impacts have been avoided, minimised and mitigated. The <b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> summarises the mitigations identified through the EIA process, for each of the technical chapters and how these have been secured.</p> <p>The RIAA concludes that an AEoI on any of the National Site Network features would not occur for the Project alone and there would be no measurable contribution of the Project to in-combination effects.</p>	<p><b>Assessment</b> (Document Reference 4.9)</p> <p><b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> (Document Reference 5.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 21 Climate Change</b> (Document Reference 5.1.21)</p>	<p>considered and the application is compliant.</p>

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				The Project is designed to be resilient to the impacts of climate change and would not affect any MPA's ability to adapt to climate change. The Project also contributes to the transition to net zero and the decarbonisation of the power generating sector, which helps to combat the impacts of climate change, albeit indirectly.		
NW-MPA-3	Where statutory advice states that a marine protected area site condition is deteriorating or that features are moving or changing due to climate change, a suitable boundary change to ensure continued protection of the site and coherence	NW-MPA-3 ensures flexibility by supporting boundary changes to improve the resilience of the marine protected area network. NW-MPA-3 enables adaptive management to help mitigate the loss of	Screened out	In October 2017, the boundary of Liverpool Bay SPA immediately to the east of the Project was extended to the location of the eastern boundary of the windfarm site. Given the boundary change is recent,	N/A	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	of the overall network should be considered.	features within sites, and support adaptation to climate change.		any further boundary change to the MPA is not foreseeable.		
NW-MPA-4	Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on designated geodiversity must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.	NW-MPA-4 makes sure proposals account for significant adverse impacts on designated geodiversity, protecting important geological and geomorphological features that underlie and determine the character of our landscape and seascape.	Screened in	Through the design development process, the Applicant has refined the western boundary of the windfarm site which means the site no longer contains sand waves and the prevalence of mega ripples has reduced.  No significant effects are identified in the ES on receptors of inherent geological or geomorphological value or function.  The Applicant would undertake surveys which are intended to validate the key predictions in the	<b>Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b> (Document Reference 5.1.4)  <b>Chapter 7 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Process</b> (Document Reference 5.1.7)  <b>Outline Written Scheme of Investigation</b> (Document Reference 6.10)  <b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.4)	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>ES. Pre-construction surveys would inform micro-siting, which would be used where possible to help minimise requirements for seabed preparation and any impact on geodiversity. Pre-construction surveys will include high resolution bathymetric, MBES and SSS surveys within the windfarm site which would provide information on seabed changes. The Applicant would also survey the seabed post-construction.</p> <p>These pre-construction surveys would also have geo-archaeological objectives, i.e.</p>	<p><b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> (Document Reference 5.5)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				identifying Palaeolithic remains. Post-construction survey would include archaeological assessment of geophysical data to monitor effects on offshore assets. There are opportunities for data sharing and for the creation of joined-up objectives for post-consent investigation and mitigation, including links with academic and industry wide research initiatives ( <b>Outline Written Scheme of Investigation</b> )		
NW-BIO-1	Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species will be supported.  Proposals that may have	NW-BIO-1 encourages and supports proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species.	Screened in	The ES demonstrates how impacts have been avoided, minimised and mitigated on the distribution of priority habitats and	<b>Chapter 9 Benthic Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.9)  <b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>significant adverse impacts on the distribution of priority habitats and priority species must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.</p>	<p>NW- BIO-1 seeks to maintain the distribution of priority habitats and priority species through the management of significant adverse impacts. Proposals that cannot avoid, minimise and mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for, significant adverse impacts will not be supported.</p>		<p>species.</p> <p><u>Benthic Ecology:</u> There are no Annex I biogenic or geogenic reef features within the windfarm site and the impact for all phases of the Project is considered not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p><u>Fish:</u> The assessment considered impacts on protected species (basking shark, diadromous and elasmobranch fish) and the impact for all phases of the Project is considered not significant in EIA terms.</p> <p><u>Marine Mammals:</u> The assessment has</p>	<p>5.1.10)</p> <p><b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> (Document Reference 5.1.11)</p> <p><b>Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b> (Document Reference 6.5)</p> <p><b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.12)</p> <p><b>Other Consents and Licences Required</b> (Document Reference 4.15)</p> <p><b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</b> (Document Reference 4.9)</p> <p><b>Habitats Regulations</b></p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>considered impacts on cetacean species and seals and on protected sites for cetacean and seal species, due to their potential connectivity to the Project. With embedded mitigation measures, the impacts have been assessed as not significant in EIA terms. The Applicant will apply for a European Protected Species (EPS) License and develop a <b>Marine Mammals Mitigation Protocol (MMMP)</b> if Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance and/or piling of foundations is required.</p> <p><u>Birds</u>: The assessment has considered impacts</p>	<p><b>Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case</b> (Document Reference 4.11)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>on protected species (i.e. common scoter and red-throated diver) and protected sites for birds, due to their connectivity to the Project. The cumulative impacts for all ornithological receptors are not significant in EIA terms, except for Great Black-Backed Gull (GBBG), for which a cumulative collision risk of moderate adverse has been assessed, noting that the contribution of the Project would be so small, there would be no potential for additional Project mitigation to make a measurable difference to the assessment conclusion.</p>		



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				No hindrance to the conservation objectives of any MPA were identified. The Applicant's assessments for the RIAA concluded that an AEoI would not occur for the Project alone and there would be no measurable contribution of the Project to in-combination effects. However, the Applicant has prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case for LBBG, in the event that the SoS cannot conclude the Project has no AEoI.		
NW-BIO-2	Proposals that enhance or facilitate native species or habitat adaptation or	NW-BIO-2 supports and encourages proposals that enhance or facilitate	Screened in	The Project has assessed the impacts on native and migratory	<b>Chapter 9 Benthic Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.9)	Policy has been considered and the

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>connectivity, or native species migration, will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may cause significant adverse impacts on native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid</p> <p>b) minimise</p> <p>c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant</p> <p>d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.</p>	<p>native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration.</p> <p>NW-BIO-2 requires proposals to manage negative effects which may significantly adversely impact the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems. Proposals that cannot avoid, minimise and mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for significant adverse impacts, will not be supported.</p>		<p>species and concluded no significant adverse effects on benthic ecology, fish and shellfish ecology, or marine mammals. Offshore ornithology has no Project alone significant impacts and while a significant cumulative impact on GBBG has been identified, the Project's contribution to the effect is very small.</p> <p>The <b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> sets out embedded mitigation measures proposed in the EIA process to reduce impacts on respective receptors.</p> <p>The Project has opportunities for enhancement. The</p>	<p><b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.10)</p> <p><b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> (Document Reference 5.1.11)</p> <p><b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.12)</p> <p><b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> (Document Reference 5.5)</p> <p><b>Environmental Benefit and Net Gain Statement</b> (Document Reference 4.4)</p>	application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>footprint of physical structures, i.e. foundation of the WTGs and OSP(s) would be colonised by marine species and lead to a localised increase in biodiversity. The new physical structures would provide ecological niches for new species to colonise which are currently absent from the windfarm site. This should be balanced, however, against the removal of a limited footprint of widely locally present, natural sandy habitat to install the proposed marine infrastructure.</p>		
NW-BIO-3	Proposals that conserve, restore or enhance coastal habitats, where	NW-BIO-3 encourages and supports proposals that deliver	Screened out	The Project is entirely offshore, approximately 30 km from the Lancashire	N/A	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals must take account of the space required for coastal habitats, where important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, and demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) avoid</li> <li>b) minimise</li> <li>c) mitigate</li> <li>d) compensate for - net habitat loss.</li> </ul>	<p>biodiversity gain by conserving, enhancing or restoring coastal habitats.</p> <p>NW-BIO-3 also requires proposals to manage net habitat loss as a result of coastal squeeze to support the functioning of healthy and resilient coastal and intertidal ecosystems. Proposals that cannot avoid, minimise and mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for net habitat loss, will not be supported.</p>		coast. Policy NW-BIO-3 relates to coastal habitats.		
NW-INNS-1	Proposals that reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of non-native invasive species should be	NW-INNS-1 aims to avoid or minimise damage to the marine area from the introduction or transport of invasive	Screened in	The draft DCO requires the Applicant to prepare a PEMP in accordance with the <b>Outline PEMP</b> . The	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)	Policy has been considered and the application is

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>supported.</p> <p>Proposals must put in place appropriate measures to avoid or minimise significant adverse impacts that would arise through the introduction and transport of invasive non-native species, particularly when:</p> <p>1) moving equipment, boats or livestock (for example fish or shellfish) from one water body to another</p> <p>2) introducing structures suitable for settlement of invasive non-native species, or the spread of invasive non-native species known to exist in the area.</p>	<p>non-native species.</p> <p>Proposals that do not put in place appropriate measures to avoid or minimise significant adverse impacts that would arise through the introduction and transport of invasive non-native species will not be supported.</p> <p>NW-INNS-1 also aims to support those projects that attempt to reduce the risk and/or introduction of invasive non-native species, such as eradication projects.</p>		<p>PEMP must include pollution contingency plans and measures to minimise the potential spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). Vessels will be maintained per the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Ballast water will be handled according to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM).</p> <p>The Applicant would undertake Drop Down Video (DDV) surveys post-construction in line with engineering</p>	<p><b>Outline Project Environment Management Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.2)</p> <p><b>In-Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.5)</p>	compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				inspections to monitor the potential colonisation by INNS on any hard substrates.		
NW-INNS-2	Public authorities with functions to manage activities that could potentially introduce, transport or spread invasive non-native species should implement adequate biosecurity measures to avoid or minimise the risk of introducing, transporting or spreading invasive non-native species.	NW-INNS-2 aims to avoid or minimise the introduction and spread of marine, invasive non-native species by encouraging public authorities with relevant functions throughout the North West to implement adequate biosecurity measures, increase awareness of invasive non-native species and provide suitable guidance to help reduce their adverse impacts on the marine environment, which could include the eradication of existing invasive species.	Screened out	This policy advises public authorities to implement measures to avoid the transport of INNS. The Applicant is a private company.	N/A	Policy not applicable to application.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
NW-DIST-1	<p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on highly mobile species through disturbance or displacement must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>	<p>NW-DIST-1 reduces the effects of disturbance and displacement by requiring proposals to manage impacts, highlighting good practice and encouraging strategic management of unauthorised activities.</p> <p>NW-DIST-1 enables people to appreciate marine biodiversity and act responsibly to protect and recover populations of rare, vulnerable and valued species. Proposals that cannot avoid, minimise and mitigate significant adverse impacts will not be supported.</p>	Screened-in	<p>The ES and the RIAA assess potential effects of the Project upon highly mobile species including birds, fish and marine mammals.</p> <p><u>Ornithology:</u> Disturbance and displacement from construction and operation activities would not result in a significant effect from the Project alone or cumulatively. Best practice for vessel management will be adhered to minimise disturbance to red-throated diver and common scoter. Vessels will be restricted to existing navigation routes where possible.</p>	<p><b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</b> (Document Reference 4.9)</p> <p><b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.10)</p> <p><b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> (Document Reference 5.1.11)</p> <p><b>Chapter 12 Offshore Ornithology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.12)</p> <p><b>Schedule of Mitigation</b> (Document Reference 5.5)</p> <p><b>Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b> (Document Reference 6.6)</p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p><u>Fish</u>: Project effects are not identified to be significant for fish and shellfish for disturbance or displacement, including noise or barrier effects. Embedded mitigation measures include burying cables with a target depth of 1.5m, where ground conditions allow, which would reduce effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF). Where burial not possible cable protection would be applied to minimise EMF effects.</p> <p><u>Marine Mammals</u>: Assessment has been made on Harbour porpoise,</p>	<p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.3)</p>	



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>Bottlenose dolphin, Common dolphin, Risso's dolphin, White-beaked dolphin, Mink Whale, Grey seal and Harbour seal. For the Project alone and cumulatively, there are negligible to minor effects of disturbance from underwater noise with mitigation applied. Mitigation measures include soft start and ramp-up, and development of the <b>MMMP</b> (secured in the draft DCO) which will be updated with the most appropriate mitigation measures post-consent if required. Vessel operators will use good practice to reduce any risk of collisions with</p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				marine mammals.		
NW-UWN-1	Proposals that result in the generation of impulsive sound must contribute data to the UK Marine Noise Registry as per any currently agreed requirements. Public authorities must take account of any currently agreed targets under the Marine Strategy Part One Descriptor 11.	NW-UWN-1 supports the established noise registry to determine baselines, levels of impulsive sound and management options through the recording and assessment of the distribution and timing of impulsive sound sources in the marine environment. This will enable effective marine management and protection of biodiversity or viable populations of species.	Screened in	<p>The Applicant is required to develop a Monitoring Plan and a MMMP secured by the DML in the draft DCO. The MMMP will be developed as a noise control measure for piling activities and UXO clearance (if required).</p> <p>The MMMP would include mitigation measures, including soft-start and ramp-up, mitigation zone, ADD to minimise potential impacts of any physical or Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS). If pile foundations are proposed,</p>	<p><b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Document Reference 3.1)</p> <p><b>Other Consents or Licenses Required</b> (Document Reference 4.15)</p> <p><b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.10)</p> <p><b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> (Document Reference 5.1.11)</p> <p><b>Appendix 11.1 Underwater Noise Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.11.1)</p> <p><b>Appendix 11.2 Marine Mammal Information</b></p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>underwater noise measurements of the first four piled foundations would be undertaken to validate the assessments in the ES. The results would be reported to the MMO and for lessons learnt, which might benefit future projects.</p> <p>The Applicant will apply to the MMO for an EPS Licence for piling and UXO clearance if required, which will detail the most appropriate mitigation available closer to the time of the activities taking place.</p> <p>Recording data to the Marine Noise Registry (MNR(2)) is part of the EPS requirements. Data</p>	<p><b>and Survey Data</b> (Document Reference 5.2.11.2)</p> <p><b>Appendix 11.3 Marine Mammal Unexploded Ordnance Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.11.3)</p> <p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.5)</p> <p><b>Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b> (Document Reference 6.6)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				submitted to the MNR(2) would include proposed applications detailing planned noise-producing activities followed by the submission of a close-out report providing an accurate account of the activities after completion.		
NW-UWN-2	<p>Proposals that result in the generation of impulsive or non-impulsive noise must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate</p> <p>- adverse impacts on highly mobile species so they are no longer</p>	<p>NW-UWN-2 supports management of underwater noise, requiring proposals to take appropriate noise reduction actions.</p> <p>NW-UWN-2 enables clear and proportionate regulation to make sure marine activity respects environmental limits and protects biodiversity.</p>	Screened in	<p>During construction, piling (if required) would generate underwater noise. Applied mitigation measures would reduce the risk of any physical or PTS to marine mammals. Measures could include soft-start and ramp-up, controlling the strike rate, managing the number of strikes and activation of ADD.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.10)</p> <p><b>Chapter 11 Marine Mammals</b> (Document Reference 5.1.11)</p> <p><b>Appendix 11.1 Underwater Noise Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.11.1)</p> <p><b>Appendix 11.3 Marine</b></p>	Policy has been considered and the application is compliant.

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	<p>significant.</p> <p>If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding</p>			<p>A MMMP would be developed post-consent in consultation with the MMO if piling and/or UXO clearance are required, which would set out the required mitigation measures.</p> <p>Underwater noise monitoring of the first four piles would be required under DML condition to ensure that noise levels were no higher than assessed and to validate the conclusions of the ES and RIAA.</p> <p>The Applicant will apply to the MMO for an EPS Licence for piling and UXO clearance if required,</p>	<p><b>Mammal Unexploded Ordnance Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.11.3)</p> <p><b>In Principle Monitoring Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.3)</p> <p><b>Draft Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol</b> (Document Reference 6.6)</p> <p><b>Other Consents or Licenses Required</b> (Document Reference 4.15)</p>	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>which will detail the most appropriate mitigation available closer to the time of the activities taking place.</p> <p>Effects of underwater noise from operation, maintenance, and decommissioning is assessed to be not significant and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.</p>		
NW-CE-1	<p>Proposals which may have adverse cumulative effects with other existing, authorised, or reasonably foreseeable proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid</p>	<p>While cumulative effects are considered in relevant assessments and decision-making, the increasing use of the marine area reinforces the need to consider and address cumulative effects, of both terrestrial and</p>	Screened in	<p>All topics in the ES have assessed the cumulative effects and the methodology has been agreed with technical stakeholders. The RIAA and MCZA have also assessed the cumulative impacts on the National Site Network and MPAs</p>	<p><b>Chapter 6 EIA Methodology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.6)</p> <p><b>ES Chapters 7 – 22</b> (Document Reference 5.1.7 – 5.1.22)</p> <p><b>Appendix 14.2 Cumulative Regional Navigation Risk</b></p>	<p>The policy has been considered and the application is compliant.</p>

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
	b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse cumulative and/or in- combination effects so they are no longer significant.	maritime projects, in line with the aims set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement. In conjunction with and in support of other relevant North West plan policies, this policy is intended to ensure relevant effects, including those that may seem less significant in their own right, are taken account of and addressed. In doing so, the policy will help to ensure that the cumulative effect on the wider environment of the North West marine area and other relevant receptors are effectively managed.		respectively.  Topics are identified to have cumulative impacts:  <u>Shipping and Navigation:</u> <b>Appendix 14.2 Cumulative Regional Navigation Risk Assessment (CRNRA)</b> has been conducted in coordination with other Round 4 Irish Sea Projects (Mona and Morgan Offshore Wind Projects). The CRNRA concludes that, with the embedded mitigation measures in place, including project boundary changes made since PEIR by all three projects, the potential effects on	<b>Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.2.14.2)  <b>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</b> (Document Reference 4.9)  <b>Habitats Regulations Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case</b> (Document Reference 4.11)  <b>Marine Conservation Zone Assessment</b> (Document Reference 4.13)  <b>Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-Existence Plan</b> (Document Reference 6.3)	

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>           navigational safety are no more than Medium Risk, but ALARP and therefore Tolerable with no further risk controls warranted. This has been assessed as not significant in EIA terms. Significant cumulative effects to ferry routeing have been identified, however the contribution made by the Project is considered low and no additional mitigations required by the Project are identified. However, engagement with ferry operators is planned to continue as the Project progresses. An addendum to the <b>CRNRA</b> was prepared to consider the additional         </p>		



Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>cumulative risks from Mooir Vannin OWF that might result to vessel traffic identified within the CRNRA. While unacceptable cumulative navigation risks were identified when also considering the proposed Mooir Vannin OWF project, the Project is not considered to contribute to these high-risk areas.</p> <p><u>Offshore Ornithology:</u> The risk to ornithological receptors from cumulative displacement and collisions has been assessed as no greater than minor adverse significance for all species, except for GBBG, for</p>		

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				<p>which a cumulative collision risk of moderate adverse has been assessed, noting that the contribution of the Project would be so small, there would be no potential for additional Project mitigation to make a measurable difference to the assessment conclusion.</p> <p>The Applicant's assessments for the RIAA concluded that no AEoI would occur for the Project alone and there would be no measurable contribution of the Project to in-combination effects. However, the Applicant has prepared a Habitats</p>		

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				<p>Regulations Assessment Without Prejudice Derogation Case for LBBG, in the event that the SoS cannot conclude the Project has no AEol.</p> <p><u>Commercial fisheries</u>: The commercial fisheries assessment found significant cumulative effects during construction (noting only a small contribution from the Project) for the UK and IoM potting fleet, related to reduction in access and/or displacement impacts, and the UK and IoM dredge fleet, due to a reduction in access as well as disruption to the scallop resource. Additional</p>		

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				<p>Project mitigation as part of a fisheries liaison and coexistence plan is to be further developed following FLOWW group guidance, including justifiable, evidence-based, disturbance payments, is expected to reduce effects from the Project. The Applicant is also committed to monitoring fishing effort and is open to participating in a regional commercial fishery working group alongside other projects, given the cumulative effects identified across the region.</p>		
NW-CBC-1	Proposals must consider cross-border impacts throughout the lifetime of the	NW-CBC-1 requires a considered approach to enhance cross-	Screened in	Within the ES, there is a transboundary assessment contained within	<b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1)	The policy has been considered and the

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	<p>proposed activity. Proposals that impact upon one or more marine plan areas or terrestrial environments must show evidence of the relevant public authorities (including other countries) being consulted and responses considered.</p>	<p>border co-operation between the terrestrial and marine planning systems in the North West Marine Plan areas and the neighbouring administrations of Scotland, the Isle of Man and Wales.</p>		<p>each chapter. The closest cross-border authorities to the Project include the Isle of Man Government and Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Assessments have considered cross-border protected areas and sensitive highly-mobile species as appropriate.</p> <p>Natural England, NRW and the IoM Government were included in the EPP process and/or formal consultations. Evidence of these consultations can be found in the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Document Reference 4.1). Consultation on the DCO application will</p>	<p><b>Consultation Report Appendices Part 1 to Part 4</b> (Document Reference 4.1.1 – 4.1.4),</p> <p><b>Chapter 6 EIA Methodology</b> (Document Reference 5.1.6)</p> <p><b>ES Chapters 7 – 22</b> (Document Reference 5.1.7 – 5.1.22)</p> <p><b>Chapter 23 Summary: Generation and Transmission Assets Assessment</b> (Document Reference 5.1.23)</p>	<p>application is compliant.</p>

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<p>be undertaken by PINS and will include relevant cross-border authorities as appropriate.</p> <p>The Project covers the offshore Generation Assets of the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm. The associated Transmission Assets (including proposed onshore infrastructure) are subject to a separate DCO application with associated relevant local authority consultation. The Transmission Assets are assessed within the cumulative and in-combination assessments, and a summary of effects is provided in <b>Chapter 23</b></p>		

Policy Reference	Policy Text	Policy Aim/Rationale	Policy screened in or out from EIA assessment	Project assessment of plan policy (include why policy screened out)	Relevant Documents	Plan policy assessment result
				<b>Summary: Generation and Transmission Assets Assessment</b>		

### 3 References

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023). *Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1)*.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2021). *North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan*.