



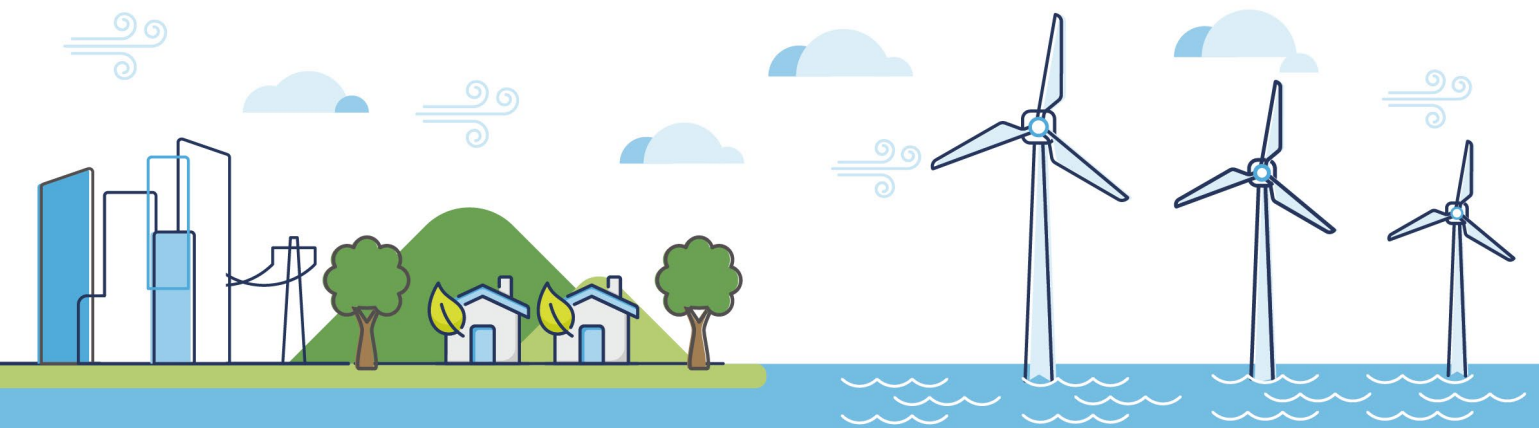
Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets Pre-Examination Documents

Volume 7

Response to Acceptance Section 51 Advice

PINS Document Reference: 7.1

Rev 01



Document History

Doc No	MOR001-FLO-CON-ENV-RFI-0001	Rev	01
Alt Doc No	n/a		
Document Status	Approved for Use	Doc Date	July 2024
PINS Doc Ref	7.1	APFP Ref	

Rev	Date	Doc Status	Originator	Reviewer	Approver	Modifications
01	July 2024	Approved for Use	Royal HaskoningDHV	Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd	Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd	n/a



The future of renewable energy

A leading developer in Offshore Wind Projects

Section 51 advice following issue of decision to accept the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets Development Consent Order application (EN010121) for examination

On 27 June 2024 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 (S55) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate made some initial observations in relation to the application and provided advice to the Applicant under section 51 (S51) of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations in a letter dated 27 June 2024.

Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd (the Applicant) has provided a response to the S51 advice below in **Table 1.1** and provided associated updated documents, namely:

- 2.2 Crown Land Plan (Rev 02)
- 2.6 Offshore Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites Plan (Rev 02)
- 4.13 Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (Rev 02)
- 4.13.1 Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (Tracked)
- 1.3 Guide to the Application (Rev 02)

These documents (as identified in the updated guide to the application provided) are not substantive updates to the previous revision but are provided for clarity and completeness to ensure S51 advice is acted upon fully and promptly.

Table 1.1 is structured to reflect the advice given in the letter dated 27 June 2024 to the Applicant and minor errors and omissions identified in box 30 of the S55 checklist undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate during acceptance.

Further correspondence was received from the Planning Inspectorate on the 11 July 2024 regarding an amendment to the title of Document 4.15 ([APP-034](#)) which was incorrectly named. The title has been amended and provided as a Rev 02 (Document Reference 4.15 Other Consents and Licences).

In addition, correspondence was received from the Planning Inspectorate on the 23 July 2024 in line with the Rule 4 letter regarding an amendment to the key in Figure 7.1 (packaged within Document Reference 5.3.7; [APP-091](#)). A key for the bathymetry data has been added and this is provided as a Rev 02.

As such, the following are also provided:

- 4.15 Other Consents and Licences (Rev 02)
- 4.15.1 Other Consents and Licences (Tracked)
- 5.3.7 Chapter 7 Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes Figures (Rev 02)

Table 1.1 Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd response to the S51 advice

Item and Document reference	Section 51 advice	Applicants response
<p>Chapter 15 Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (Document Reference 5.1.15 (APP-052))</p>	<p><i>“Geotechnical survey data collected in 2023 has been analysed for its archaeological interest. Environmental Statement (ES) paragraph 15.46 states that further geotechnical investigations are planned to be undertaken in 2024 to acquire additional data. The date of availability to the ExA (once appointed) of the further geotechnical data and archaeological analysis is required in order to inform the examination timetable. The Applicant is requested to confirm this as soon as practicable.”</i></p>	<p>The Applicant notes, as detailed below, that the 2024 survey data is not considered to be required to inform the examination timetable.</p> <p>The baseline understanding of the potential submerged prehistory assets presented in the ES was based on an archaeological review of geophysical data conducted in 2021 and geotechnical data acquired during a survey undertaken in 2023. The assessment of this data indicated there was low potential for preservation of deposits or surfaces that may form or contain submerged prehistory assets. In line with the Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation (Outline OWSI), data from future geotechnical surveys (intended to aid design work), such as that planned and underway for 2024, will be reviewed as part of an ongoing process outside the ES. The approach to geoarchaeological assessment of the 2024 survey data was set out in a Method Statement shared with Historic England prior to the start of the survey work, alongside a Stage 1 Geoarchaeological Assessment technical report of the 2023 data. As agreed through the Method Statement, the 2024 data will be assessed and the results will be shared with Historic England, as part of ongoing consultation, through a Stage 1 Geoarchaeological Assessment technical report. Considering the low potential for submerged prehistory assets within the Project, the Applicant does not expect the results of the 2024 geotechnical survey to change the outcome of the ES. The commitment, as mitigation for potential unknown archaeological assets, to ongoing assessment and consultation with Historic England is further captured within the Outline OWSI submitted with the DCO</p>

Item and Document reference	Section 51 advice	Applicants response
		<p>Application (Document Reference 6.10 (APP-154)) designed to capture the process of assessment for future surveys. This is secured by a condition of the Deemed Marine Licence included within the draft DCO (Document Reference 3.1 (APP-012), Part 2 of Schedule 6, para. 9(1)(f)).</p> <p>For information, the 2024 geophysical and geotechnical surveys of the array area commenced on 10 April 2024 and are expected to finish in late August 2024, with logs provided to the projects' retained archaeologist for analysis (with, as described above, reports provided to Historic England). Laboratory testing of samples and associated reporting, which will provide further data in terms of the mechanical properties of soils, is expected to be available in Quarter 2 of 2025. These surveys are designed to provide further information on ground conditions to support the detailed design process and are not relied on for the assessments within the ES.</p>
Offshore Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites (Document Reference 2.6 (APP-010))	<p><i>“Noting comments in the section 55 checklist, at box 30, the Applicant is requested as soon as possible, to provide the Inspectorate with a plan or a series of plans (noting the scale required) showing all the statutory and non-statutory designated sites that have been considered as part of the application.”</i></p> <p><i>“This document does not include any reference to the relevant Ramsar sites that are in the vicinity of the Proposed Development and discussed within the HRA. It is</i></p>	<p>An update to the plan has been provided (Document Reference 2.6 (APP-010), Rev 02, Offshore Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites)). This update consists of a series of plans as a set of drawings to present relevant statutory conservation sites, including Ramsar sites, assessed within the Application. Given the varying scales of the drawings now supplied, key non-statutory sites assessed within the application are also presented.</p>

Item and Document reference	Section 51 advice	Applicants response
	<p><i>noted that the Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment (Figure 1.1) does however include this information. This information should be provided on one plan where possible.”</i></p>	
<p>Consultees identified on a precautionary basis</p>	<p><i>“Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the Examination of the application. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.”</i></p>	<p>The Applicant confirms the notice of acceptance has been sent to all listed in Box 6 of the S55 checklist as noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utility Assets Limited ▪ Northern Gas Networks Limited ▪ CNG Services Ltd ▪ ES Pipelines Ltd ▪ ESP Connections Ltd ▪ ESP Networks Ltd ▪ ESP Pipelines Ltd ▪ GTC Pipelines Limited ▪ Leep Gas Networks Limited ▪ Quadrant Pipelines Limited ▪ Aidien Ltd ▪ Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
Minor errors and omissions		
<p>Crown Land Plan (Document Reference 2.2 (APP-010))</p>	<p><i>“The map scale is 1:50,000 (smaller than the Requirement in Regulation 5(3) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms</i></p>	<p>An update to the plan at a scale of 1:25,000 has been produced (Document Reference 2.6 Rev 02, Crown Land Plan). At this scale the blue shaded area identified, which relates to seabed bathymetry on the base mapping used, is not visible.</p>

Item and Document reference	Section 51 advice	Applicants response
	<p><i>and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations). The plan is wholly offshore therefore the Inspectorate takes a proportionate view that no one is prejudice by this matter. The blue shaded area to left of the legend not identifiable, appears that the Applicant may have placed red line boundary over an existing navigational map, labelling unclear but may be seabed depth.”</i></p>	
<p>Draft Development Consent Order (Document Reference 3.1 (APP-012)) and ES Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference 5.1.5 (APP-042))</p>	<p><i>“Requirement 2 of the dDCO includes values regarding maximum design parameters. The maximum volume of natural material for disposal is stated to be 1,416,463m³, however it is unclear in the ES as to where this figure has been derived. Further clarification of this is required prior to examination.”</i></p>	<p>This total is derived from the following values presented in the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5 Project Description (Document Reference 5.1.5 (APP-042)) based on the realistic worst-case scenario (gravity based structure (GBS) foundations). The value for drill arisings from monopiles is not included in this total value as these activities would not occur together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identified in Table 5.14 of the Project Description (Chapter 5) - Construction phase: Sediment displaced during seabed preparation for wind turbine generators (WTGs) and offshore substation platforms (OSPs) for GBS foundations = 481,463m³ ▪ Identified in Table 5.15 of the Project Description (Chapter 5) Construction phase: Sediment displaced during seabed levelling prior to cable installation (inter array and platform link cables) = 80,000m³ ▪ Identified in Table 5.18 of the Project Description (Chapter 5) Construction phase: Sediment displaced during cable installation = 540,000m³ ▪ Identified in Table 5.21 of the Project Description (Chapter 5) Operation and maintenance phase: Sediment displaced during

Item and Document reference	Section 51 advice	Applicants response
		<p>cable repair/replacement and reburial over the operational period (35 years (9,000m³ per year) = 315,000m³)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Therefore, the maximum volume of natural material for disposal total = 1,416,463m³
<p>Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (Document Reference 4.13 (APP-032))</p>	<p><i>“ES Volume 5 - Appendix 11.5 Marine Mammal Consultation Responses incorrectly labelled as Appendix 11.5 - Marine Mammal CEA Project Screening in Certified documents list in the draft Development Consent Order.”</i></p> <p><i>“Impact 3 in Table 3.7 refers to 37 pin piles but since each Wind Turbine Generator foundation has four pin piles, this number does not appear to be correct.”</i></p>	<p>The error has been noted and will either be corrected in a new revision of the draft DCO submitted around the date of the Preliminary Meeting or at Deadline 1, depending on matters raised in relevant representations.</p> <p>Impact 3 should state 37 pin-piled foundations (148 pin-piles) rather than 37 pin piles. The error has been noted and updated in a revised document (Document Reference 4.13, Rev 02, Marine Conservation Zone Assessment) but does not impact the assessment made which has been undertaken on the maximum number of pin piles (four per foundation).</p>