



Issue Specific Hearing 2 – Environmental Matters

Date: Tuesday 4 February 2025

Virtual/Online Registration: 9.30am

Meeting start time: 10.00am

Venue: The Grace Suite, Hilton Liverpool City Centre, 3 Thomas Steers Way, Liverpool L1 8LW and by virtual means using Microsoft Teams

Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered

Attendees: The Applicant and Interested Parties who have pre-registered

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 2	
Item 1	Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing
Item 2	Purpose of the Hearing
Item 3	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes; and Marine Sediment and Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scour protection: frond mattresses• Antifouling and biocides
Item 4	Benthic and Fish and Shellfish Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecological monitoring• Fish spawning and avoidance periods• Seasonal restriction on piling• Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) assessment: presence and charge weights (also item 5)



Item 5	Marine Mammals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UXO assessment (post consent)• Thresholds for behavioural disturbance• Cumulative effects: gas storage, Carbon Capture Storage, other Offshore Windfarm projects• Review of guidelines and best practice
Item 6	Offshore ornithology (including Habitats Regulations Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cumulative effects: other projects, decommissioning• Cumulative effects: Coordinated communication and mitigation• Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) displacement (red throated diver (RTD))• Liverpool Bay SPA: Habitats Regulations Assesment derogation case and effects on RTD and lesser black backed gull
Item 7	Other Environmental Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Assessment of effects on general and vulnerable populations○ Definition of magnitude of effects• Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Population and working age populations within the study areas○ Cumulative effects and co-ordination with other projects○ Outline Skills and Employment Plan Requirement 11 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP2-002]• Traffic and Transport<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion in relation to port identification and assessment of effects• Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion in relation to changes in Green house gasses
Item 8	Other Matters and Actions Points
Close of the Hearing	

In the event that it does not prove possible to complete the agenda, the hearing will resume on Thursday 6 February 2025 at 2.00pm at the same venue.



The ExA may refer to the following documents during the Hearing:

- The ExA's Rule 9 letter [[PD-006](#)];
- The ExA's First Written Questions [[PD-011](#)];
- The Applicant's response to the Rule 9 letter [[PD1-010](#)];
- The Applicant's response to RR [[PD1-011](#)];
- The Applicant's responses to the ExA's First Written Questions [[REP3-068](#)];
- The Applicant's comments on NE Risk and Issues Log [[REP2-028](#)];
- The Applicant's Comments on Deadline 2 Submissions by Interested Parties [[REP3-069](#)];
- The Applicant's In Principle Monitoring Plan [[REP3-045](#)];
- The Applicant's Schedule of Mitigation [[REP3-039](#)];
- The Applicant's outline Project Environmental Management Plan [[REP3-041](#)];
- The Applicant's draft outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol [[REP2-018](#)];
- ES Chapter 7: Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes [[REP3-012](#)] and figures [[REP3-036](#)];
- ES Chapter 10: Fish and Shellfish Ecology [[REP3-016](#)];
- ES Chapter 11 [[REP1-030](#)];
- The Applicant's; Marine Mammals Underwater Sound Management Strategy [[REP2-026](#)];
- The Applicant's Marine Mammal UXO Assessment [[REP1-046](#)];
- The Applicant's Ornithology Technical Note 1 [[REP3-056](#)];
The Applicant's Offshore Ornithology Technical Note 2 [[REP3-058](#)];
- The Applicant's Offshore Ornithology Technical Note 3 (Red-Throated Diver at Liverpool Bay SPA Update Assessment) [[REP1-082](#)];
- The Applicant's Marine Mammal Technical Note 1 (EIA) [[REP3-060](#)];
- The Applicant's Marine Mammal Technical Note 2 (HRA) [[REP3-062](#)];
- The Applicant's Report on Interrelationships with Other Infrastructure Projects [[REP1-078](#)];
- The Applicant's response to Actions from PM and ISH1 [[REP1-086](#)];
- The Applicant's Without Prejudice Derogation Case [[APP-029](#)];
- The Applicant's HRA Without Prejudice Compensation Measures [[REP1-093](#)];
- The Applicant's HRA Without Prejudice Derogation Case: Compensatory Measures for Red Throated Diver [[REP3-064](#)];
- The Applicant's outline Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan for Red Throated Diver [[REP3-065](#)];
- Natural England's responses to the ExA's Written Questions [[REP3-092](#)];
- Natural England's D3 submission [[REP3-090](#)] and [[REP3-091](#)];
- Natural England's Risk and Issues Log [[REP2-038](#)];
- Natural England's Technical Note [[REP2-036](#)];
- The MMO Deadline 3 submission summary document [[REP3-087](#)];
- The MMO Deadline 3 submission including the MMO response to the ExA's Written Questions, comments on D2 documents and general comments on other documents [[REP3-086](#)];



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- The MMO WR [[REP1-096](#)];
- The MMO D2 submissions [[REP2-035](#)];
- RSPB responses to the ExA's Written Questions [[REP3-113](#)];
- Morgan and Mona responses to the ExA's Written Questions [[REP3-107](#)];
- The Orsted IPs WR [[REP1-112](#)];
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)
- ES Chapter 19: Human Health [[REP1-040](#)]
- ES Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries [[APP-057](#)]
- ES Chapter 21: Climate Change [[APP-058](#)]
- Outline Skills and Employment Plan [[APP-0155](#)]

On 21 January 2025 the Government published a policy paper on 'Reducing Marine Noise'. The JNCC, Natural England and Cefas also published a position statement on the use of quieter piling methods and noise abatement systems when installing offshore wind turbine foundations.

Furthermore, the JNCC also published 'JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance in the marine environment'.

The ExA asks relevant participants to ensure they have familiarity with these documents prior to the hearings so that any implications can be discussed and are asked to come with potential responses in the form of proposed actions.