

MORGAN OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT: GENERATION ASSETS

Statement of Expertise

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Image of an offshore wind farm

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Prepared for:

Morgan Offshore Wind Ltd.

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1 STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Overview

1.1.1.1 In accordance with Regulation 14(4) of the 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, the Environmental Statement has been prepared by competent experts. RPS has been commissioned by the Applicant to lead the EIA for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets (hereafter referred to as the 'Morgan Generation Assets'). This Appendix forms the statement of expertise of the Environmental Statement prepared for the Morgan Generation Assets.

1.1.2 EIA management

1.1.2.1 The team responsible for the production of the Environmental Statement has been led by the Applicants, supported by lead EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) consultant RPS. RPS is a registrant of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Quality Mark. This means that RPS adheres to the following quality mark commitments:

- EIA Management – A commitment to using effective project control and management processes to deliver quality in the EIAs co-ordinated and the Environmental Statements produced
- EIA Team Capabilities – A commitment to ensuring that all EIA staff have the opportunity to undertake relevant continuing professional development
- EIA Regulatory Compliance – A commitment to delivering Environmental Statements that meet the requirements established within the appropriate UK EIA Regulations
- EIA Context and Influence – A commitment to ensuring that all EIAs co-ordinated are effectively scoped and with transparent indication of how the EIA process, and any consultation undertaken, influenced the development proposed and any alternatives considered
- EIA Content – A commitment to undertaking assessments that include: a robust analysis of the relevant baseline; assessment and transparent evaluation of impact significance; and an effective description of measures designed to monitor and manage significant effects
- EIA Presentation – A commitment to deliver Environmental Statements that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner
- Improving EIA Practice – A commitment to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with IEMA to deliver a mutually agreed set of activities, on an annual basis, and by making appropriate examples of or work available to the wider EIA community.

1.1.2.2 The Environmental Statement has been prepared by a number of RPS in-house and subcontracted topic specialists.

1.2 Topic authors

1.2.1 Volume 2 – EIA chapters

Physical process

1.2.1.1 The physical processes EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is a Principal Engineer for the Water Environment and Flood Risk Management Team at RPS. They have a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering, a Masters of Sciences (MSc) in Engineering Computation and a Doctorate in Computational Fluid Dynamics from Queen’s University, Belfast. They have over 22 years’ post-doctoral experience in coastal modelling and have been involved in offshore wind projects for more than 14 years. This includes undertaking offshore modelling and environmental assessments for Oriel Wind Farm (Parkwind), Mona Offshore Wind Project (bp/EnBW) and Berwick Offshore Wind Farm (SSE). Additionally, they undertook the environmental assessment relating to the Marine Energy Testing Area on behalf of Marine Energy Wales and also examined seabed morphology for Robin Rigg (E.On) which was Scotland’s first offshore wind farm.

1.2.1.2 They have been a lead member in a numerous projects relating to offshore and estuarine hydrodynamics, offshore energy, water quality and sediment transport. This includes areas such as marine aquaculture licencing, aggregate extraction, dredging plume modelling and sea dumping and undertaking EIA modelling studies for major port developments such as Sheerness, Port of Leith, Port of Belfast and Port of Cork.

Benthic subtidal ecology

1.2.1.3 The benthic subtidal ecology EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead has a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford and an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection from the University of Bangor. They are a member of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology and a Chartered Marine Scientist. They have 12 years’ of experience working in the offshore wind sector. They have specialised in providing technical inputs to the EIA process, including benthic ecology and marine mammal assessments. They have gained experience in working for a range of clients including the offshore renewables industry, oil and gas sector and port developments. They have experience of EIA in support of Development Consent Order (DCO) and Marine Licence applications including design and agreement of appropriate mitigation measures to reduce impacts on sensitive species and habitats.

Fish and shellfish ecology

1.2.1.4 The fish and shellfish ecology EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is an Associate Director at RPS and has a Bachelor of Sciences (BSc) (Hons) in Marine Biology and Oceanography. They are a member of the Society for Underwater Technology and are the Secretary of the Marine Environmental Science Special Interest Group. They are also a member of the East of England Marine Science and Technology Sector Council and hold a Professional membership with the Fisheries Society of the

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British Isles. They have over 14 years' global marine survey and consulting experience, with seven years of which focusing on fish and shellfish.

Marine mammals

- 1.2.1.5 The marine mammal EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is an Associate Director at RPS. They have a BSc (Hons) in Applied Marine Biology from the Heriot-Watt University of Edinburgh, an MRes in Marine and Coastal Ecology and Environmental Management from the University of York and a PhD in Designing Marine Protected Areas from the University of Cambridge. They are a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). They have over 20 years' of experience in marine mammal assessments for the offshore renewables industry as well as providing ecological advice to inform policy and legislation and technical advice to industry in EIA and HRA. They have previous experience as an Expert Witness with respect to marine mammals for offshore wind farms in the UK.

Offshore ornithology

- 1.2.1.6 The offshore ornithology EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at NIRAS Group (UK) Ltd (NIRAS). The technical lead is a Principal Consultant at NIRAS who has over 11 years' experience in ornithological monitoring and impact assessment. They hold a Master's degree in Marine Environmental Protection from the University of Bangor. They also hold a BSc in Marine Biology and Zoology from the University of Bangor. They are an associate member of CIEEM. For the past 11 years, they have specialised in the assessment of the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on birds in the offshore environment.
- 1.2.1.7 They have led, managed and supported EIAs, HRAs and/or the examination process for numerous offshore wind farm developments including The Crown Estate's Round 4 and Extensions Plan-level assessments, Hornsea Three, Moray West, Hornsea Project Two, Hornsea Project One, Burbo Bank Extension and Walney Extension.
- 1.2.1.8 To complement this, they have excellent knowledge of ornithological impact assessment and have provided modelling and data/statistical analysis inputs to such assessments, covering collision risk modelling, displacement analysis and non-breeding screening assessment and have a working knowledge of population modelling techniques. They have been instrumental in developing innovative project-specific analysis techniques and assembling information to support the ornithological assessments for multiple projects throughout the application and examination phases including an approach to screening breeding birds in the non-breeding season and consideration of the uncertainty present in cumulative and in-combination assessments.

Commercial fisheries

- 1.2.1.9 The commercial fisheries EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at Environmental Resources Management (ERM). The technical lead is a Partner at ERM, with a BSc (Hons) in Marine Biology and an MSc in Applied Hydrobiology, both from the University of Wales. They have over 24 years' professional experience as a marine environmental consultant,

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specialising in EIA and consenting for offshore sectors including marine aggregates, ports and harbours, oil and gas and offshore renewables. They have provided support to numerous Round 1, 2 and 3 offshore wind farm projects in UK waters, as well as advising a number of clients in the wave and tidal sector. They have provided Expert Witness services to the Public Inquiry on the Morlais Tidal Energy Project, held in 2021.

Shipping and navigation

- 1.2.1.10 The shipping and navigation EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at NASH Maritime Ltd. The technical lead is a Project Director at NASH Maritime with over 30 years' experience in marine engineering and environmental projects throughout the marine energy and water industries. They lead the technology arm at NASH Maritime providing support to clients on implementing safety and vessel traffic management systems for ports and offshore developments. They are a Member of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, Associate Member of the Nautical Institute and a Member of the International Navigation Association. They have experience supporting examinations and providing evidence in a range of forums including Thanet offshore wind farm and other port related enquiries.

Marine archaeology and cultural heritage

- 1.2.1.11 The marine archaeology EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is a Senior Marine Consultant at RPS who holds a Masters of Arts (MA) (Hons) from the University of Glasgow and an MA from the University of Southern Denmark. They have over six years' experience supporting the renewable energy sector specialising in marine archaeology and have experience as a technical specialist in offshore renewable energy as a marine archaeologist and marine archaeology consultant.
- 1.2.1.12 The cultural heritage EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is a Director at RPS, who has a BA (Hons) and PhD in Archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL). They are a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries with more than 25 years of professional experience within the historic environment sector in the UK. This time has provided them with an excellent and wide-ranging understanding of the policy and guidance regarding historic environment across all parts of the UK. They have been employed by contracting and consulting organisations that provide archaeological and historic environment services to a wide range of clients. These include transport and infrastructure providers as well as public agencies and private sector developers. They have undertaken EIAs for complex projects across several sectors of development. These include major infrastructure projects such as HS2 and the Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station, and onshore and offshore wind farms such as the Rhyd y Groes repowering scheme on Anglesey. They are currently heritage lead on a number of proposed wind and solar farms across Wales.

Other sea users

- 1.2.1.13 The other sea users EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is a Principal Consultant at RPS who has a BSc in Ocean Sciences and Underwater Studies from the University of Plymouth and

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an MSc in Integrated Environment Studies from the University of Southampton. They are a chartered Environmentalist, a Science Council Chartered Scientist, and an IEMA Affiliate member. They have over 18 years' experience in the energy sector specialising in Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), Health, Safety and Environmental Management Systems. They've worked as an EIA Offshore Coordinator, Human Topic Lead and HSE Lead for offshore wind projects.

Seascape, landscape and visual resources

- 1.2.1.14 The seascape, landscape and visual resources EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is Principal Landscape Architect at RPS. They hold a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture and have almost 30 years professional experience in the field of landscape design and landscape and visual impact assessment. They are a full member of the Irish Landscape Institute and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute UK. They have advised on landscape and visual matters pertaining to projects in a diverse range of sectors including transport (road and rail), renewables (Oriel, East Anglia One, Humber Gateway and a confidential Offshore Wind Project in Ireland), power and mining and minerals, and have influenced engineering designs towards better outcomes for landscape and visual amenity.

Aviation and radar

- 1.2.1.15 The aviation and radar EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at Osprey Consulting Services. The technical lead is a Principal Consultant at Osprey Consulting Services and Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society. They joined Osprey in 2011, a Subject Matter Expert (SME) with many years' experience in the independent assessment of potential technical impact of wind turbine developments on aviation stakeholders and aeronautical equipment (including communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS)). They have over 23 years' aviation experience at senior military level in the Air Traffic Management (ATM) environment (operational and safety management), policy maker (for aerodromes and military low flying) with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Technical Advisor to the military Flight Planning System Implementation Team. They have a military ATM audit pedigree, which has been the foundation of their safety, as well as operational credibility, on some of the issues facing civil and military Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP).

Climate change

- 1.2.1.16 The climate change EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is an Associate Director at RPS. They are also a member of the IEMA Working Group and co-author of the updated Greenhouse Gases in EIA Guidance document. They have comprehensive experience and technical knowledge in the principles of sustainability including corporate responsibility, Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, and climate change. They provide advice and technical expertise across all work stages supporting development projects and organisations through key milestones. They are experienced in the assessment

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of impacts of climate change and carbon footprint analysis across a variety of sectors most notably within offshore wind.

Socio-economics

- 1.2.1.17 The socio-economics EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at Hardisty Jones Associates (HJA). The technical lead is a Director of HJA with 24 years' experience of all aspects of economic development consulting. They are an experienced project manager and leader with strengths in EIA, economic impact forecasting and modelling, stakeholder consultation, understanding the implications of economic analysis, survey development/management, and strategy and policy development. They are a Fellow of the Institute of Economic Development. They have worked for a wide range of public and private sector clients across the UK and have acted as Expert Witness for both at Inquiries and Examinations in Public. Prior to founding HJA in 2011, they enjoyed an 11 year career at DTZ (now Cushman & Wakefield), latterly heading its economic development team across Wales and South West England. They acted as a Board Director of the Institute of Economic Development from 2015-2023.

Human health

- 1.2.1.18 The human health EIA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is the Director of Health and Social Impact at RPS. They are the first author of the 2022 IEMA guides for 'Determining Significance for Human Health in EIA' and 'Effective Scoping of Human Health in EIA' and the Institute of Public Health Impact Assessment guidance 2021. They are also first author of the World Health Organisation 2021 review of international practice on health in EIA and Strategic Environmental Assessment. They are a registered public health practitioner with the Faculty of Public Health, as well as an Honorary Research Fellow and Member of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Health in Impact Assessments at the University of Liverpool. They have over 18 years' experience as a professional consultant, with a public health, environmental science and legal practice background. They are chair of the health section of the International Association for Impact Assessment. They are experienced with renewables and linear projects, as well as many other sectors. As an expert witness they have demonstrated robust health assessment at Public Inquiry.

1.2.2 Volume 3 and Volume 4 Technical annexes

Underwater sound

- 1.2.2.1 The underwater sound assessment has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at Seiche. The technical lead is an Associate Director at Seiche and is a leading underwater acoustic expert with over 25 years' experience. They are experienced in assessing the impacts of underwater sound from offshore and coastal projects on marine life. They have been underwater sound technical lead on numerous offshore wind projects (as well as wave and tidal development) and are considered a leading expert in undertaking EIA noise studies for complex offshore wind farm developments. They worked as a senior member of the team advising the UK government to review and make recommendations to improve marine mammal mitigation protocols and to

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assess the efficacy of acoustic deterrent devices and recently undertook a research project for National Resources Wales on sound modelling in Welsh waters. They have authored a number of technical papers on underwater acoustics and presented at a number of conferences. They are a Chartered Engineer, hold a bachelor's degree in physics, are a member of the Institute of Acoustics and Associate of the Acoustical Society of America. They are an active member of the UK Underwater Sound Forum, UK Oil and Gas underwater noise modelling group, BSI committee EH/1/7 on underwater acoustics and ISO/TC 43/SC 3/WG 5 "Measurement and modelling of underwater ambient sound".

Radar Early Warning Systems (REWS) technical report

- 1.2.2.2 The radar early warning systems (REWS) technical report has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at Radar Research at the University of Manchester. The technical lead is an award-winning engineering and research scientist specialising in radar and propagation modelling. Their research covers antennas and propagation as applied to radar, wireless communications and radio astronomy instrumentation. Their work on the propagation and multiple reflections of radar waves within complex environments such as wind farms has been internationally recognised within research communities as well as various industrial partners.

Helicopter Access Report

- 1.2.2.3 The helicopter access report has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at Anatec. The technical lead has over 30 years of experience working in risk assessment in the offshore renewable, oil and gas and marine sectors. They have been Project Director and Project Manager on a large number of offshore wind farm projects from Round 1 through to Round 3. They have also provided expert witness advice at a number of public inquiries for offshore wind farm projects. They were Project Manager on the identification of Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRAs) for the Department for Transport (DfT) as well as on the Risk Assessment of UK Search & Rescue Helicopters for the MoD and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). They have also project managed marine risk assessments for a large number of both onshore and offshore facilities including LNG Terminals, Nuclear intakes/outfalls, Marinas, oil and gas pipelines, gas storage facilities, cable routes, Floating Production Facilities, drilling rigs, Satellite Platforms and ports.

Airborne construction sound

- 1.2.2.4 The airborne construction sound assessment has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS. The technical lead is Technical Director of the RPS Acoustics Team with more than 23 years of experience in acoustics. They are a member of the Institute of Acoustics, Acoustical Society of America, Danish Acoustic Society and the Audio Engineering Society. They are a specialist acoustic consultant and engineer with a wide range of experience gained in the UK, Denmark and worldwide. They have worked with electroacoustics, psychoacoustics, architectural acoustics, vibrations and environmental acoustics. They have gained particular experience in the fields of architectural acoustics (building and room) working with the construction industry on a variety of projects, including residential, commercial, education, health and entertainment. They are an expert on the subject of room acoustics

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and room acoustic computer simulations, as well as a leading expert on the emerging field of archaeoacoustics. They have published several papers on the above subjects and on acoustics of offices. In relation to environmental acoustics, they have provided a wide variety of noise impact assessments for residential, commercial and industrial developments. They have specialised in noise impact assessments in relation to energy developments, both traditional and renewable energy.

1.2.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.2.3.1 The HRA has been undertaken by a technical lead and competent team at RPS with support from the relevant topic technical leads. The HRA team includes the Benthic Ecology, Fish and Shellfish, Marine Mammal and Offshore Ornithology technical leads, whose statements of expertise are provided within this appendix.
- 1.2.3.2 The HRA lead has a Bachelor of Sciences (BSc) (Hons) in Geology from the University of Leicester and an Advanced Postgraduate Certificate in Spatial Information Science and a university certificate in Ecology and Conservation from Birbeck, University of London. They are a practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (PIEMA). They have more than 20 years' marine consultancy experience and 10 years' experience in HRAs including for the offshore renewables, subsea cables and oil and gas sectors. This has included HRA lead on the Ossian Array Offshore Wind Farm coordinating the delivery of the HRA stage one LSE Screening Report and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment, HRA lead on the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmissions Assets for the Stage one LSE Screening Report and Information to Support Appropriate Assessment for PEIR and HRA Lead for Morven Array LSE Screening Report including stakeholder engagement through a scoping workshop.