



National Infrastructure Planning
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email: morganoffshorewindproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and any Other Person invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010136

Date: 5 August 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 4, 6, 9 and 13

Application by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets

Appointment of the Examining Authority, invitation to the Preliminary Meeting, draft Examination Timetable, Procedural Decisions and Notification of Hearings

My name is Susan Hunt and I have been appointed by the Secretary of State as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an Examination of the above application. The other members of the ExA are Janine Laver and Stephen Bradley. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed here ([project webpage](#)).

We are in the pre-examination stage of the application. This means we have accepted the application and are preparing to examine it. We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when considering how we will examine this application.

Other Infrastructure Projects

All parties should be aware that this application for the **Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets** relates to offshore works in the Irish Sea only. The transmission assets, with electricity connection to the National Grid, will form part of a separate Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets project (EN020028) (the Transmission Project) will include onshore works such as landfall,



cables and substations in north west England. It is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration by a separate ExA in Autumn 2024.

You may also be aware of other proposals for offshore wind related projects in and around the Irish Sea and onshore, in England, Wales and the Isle of Man. The Examination of those projects will also be conducted separately. Therefore, to ensure that we receive your submissions in relation to the **Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets**, please take care to make them in accordance with the specific procedures for this project as set out in this letter, and as subsequently notified.

We will consider overlapping matters during our Examination, including the cumulative effects with the other projects. The way that we intend to deal with the interrelationship with the other projects is set out in **Appendices D and G** to this letter and will also be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting.

Interested Parties who have submitted a Relevant Representation which relates only to the onshore works should be aware that they will need to submit a separate representation to the Transmission Project at the appropriate time.

Should you decide to only make representations in relation to the Transmission Project and not to the **Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets**, and subsequently do not wish to be involved in the Examination process on the basis of the separate projects, please inform the case team in writing as soon as possible by using the '[Have Your Say](#)' tab on the [project webpage](#) or by emailing the [project mailbox](#).

The Preliminary Meeting

You are invited to the Preliminary Meeting on **Tuesday 10 September 2024** to discuss **the procedure** for the Examination of the application for the **Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets**. Notification of the time and place of the meeting, the draft agenda and instructions on how to observe or participate are set out at **Appendix A** of this letter.

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to us about how the application should be examined. This will include consideration of the Examination process information, which is set out in **Appendix B**, and the draft Examination Timetable, which is set out in **Appendix E**. More information is also provided in Planning Inspectorate [Advice Note 8.3](#). The Preliminary Meeting is **not** an opportunity for you to give your views about what you do or do not like about the application. The merits or disadvantages of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed.

You are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to take part in the Examination. If you are an Interested Party then you can make written submissions during the Examination and participate in hearings regardless of whether or not you attend the Preliminary Meeting. Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.



The final Examination Timetable will be published after the Preliminary Meeting.

Written submissions about how the application should be examined

The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the Examination of applications for Development Consent Orders and **representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process.**

We are now requesting written submissions about how the application should be examined. We particularly wish to hear from you if you consider changes need to be made to the draft Examination Timetable set out at **Appendix E** and/ or if you wish to comment about the arrangements for future Examination hearings.

Your submission should be made by using the 'Have Your Say' tab on the [project webpage](#) or emailing the [project mailbox](#) on or before the Procedural Deadline (**Tuesday 27 August 2024**). **Appendix I** to this letter provides further information about submitting at Examination deadlines.

Notification of Initial Hearing

To enable early exploration of the issues, we have made a Procedural Decision to hold the following initial hearing:

- Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on **Tuesday 10 September 2024** on the Scope of the Development and Interrelationship with other Infrastructure Projects

Notification of the time and place of this hearing and instructions on how to observe the hearing and make a request to speak are set in **Appendix F**. A draft agenda is included, and a final agenda will be issued at least 5 working days in advance of the hearing date.

Format of the Preliminary Meeting and Hearings

As noted above, the Examination will principally be a written process supplemented by hearings. More information is provided in [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#), [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#)). We have decided that the Preliminary Meeting and initial hearing will be blended events where some attend at the venue in person, and some attend using Microsoft Teams. Both blended and fully virtual events form part of the Planning Inspectorate's operating model. We remain flexible and will confirm the format of any hearings to be held during the Examination Stage when we provide formal notification of each hearing at least 21 days in advance of it taking place.

After the Preliminary Meeting we will issue a letter (known as the Rule 8 letter) setting out the finalised Examination Timetable.



Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made a number of further Procedural Decisions, some of which require submissions by the Procedural Deadline (**Tuesday 27 August 2024**). We would draw particular attention to the requirements placed on the Applicant in this regard. The Procedural Decisions are set out in full in **Appendix G** and are summarised as follows:

- 1) Statements of Common Ground
- 2) Statement of Commonality
- 3) Examination Progress Tracker
- 4) Local Impact Reports
- 5) Site Inspections
- 6) Comments on Relevant Representations
- 7) Updated Documents
- 8) Interrelationship Report with other Infrastructure Projects
- 9) Draft Development Consent Order amendments
- 10) Closing Statements
- 11) Additional Submissions

In order to front-load the Examination and maximise the available time for resolution of any issues, the draft Examination Timetable in **Appendix E** includes a request for several key submissions at Deadline 1, including an Interrelationship Report with other infrastructure projects, Local Impact Reports and Written Representations. To meet this deadline, parties will need to make substantial progress on these documents **before** the Preliminary Meeting.

Your Status in the Examination

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document '[What is My Status in the Examination?](#)'. If your reference number begins with '200' or 'MGOW' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'MGOW-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'MGOW-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document. Please contact the Case Team, if having read that, you are still unsure about your status.

Awards of Costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against a party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. Please refer to: '[Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders](#)'.

Examination correspondence and management of information

Given the volume of letters that are to be sent we aim to communicate by email as this is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer. Please tell



the Case Team if you have received a letter by post but are able to receive information by email.

The Examination documents will be published on the [project webpage](#). Please look at the project webpage if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents. Examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Appendix H**.

The '[Get updates](#)' function on the left-hand side of the project webpage gives you the opportunity to receive email updates at key stages during the Examination. To facilitate an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. Please view the PINS [Privacy Notice](#) to find out how we handle this information.

We look forward to working with all parties during the Examination.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Hunt

Susan Hunt
Lead Member of the Examining Authority

Appendices

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting
- C** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- D** Interrelationship with other projects
- E** Draft Examination Timetable
- F** Notification of initial hearing with draft timetable
- G** Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- H** Availability of Examination Documents
- I** Information about submitting at Examination deadlines

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.



APPENDIX A

AGENDA FOR THE PRELIMINARY MEETING

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by **Tuesday 27 August 2024** if you intend to participate in the Preliminary Meeting and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the Preliminary Meeting then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical event at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Tuesday 27 August 2024** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Tuesday 27 August 2024**.

Please note that by attending the event either in person or online you are agreeing to be filmed for the purposes of the online livestream of the event and the recording of the event which will be published on the [project page](#). A limited number of seats will be available for observers who wish not to be filmed at the venue. Please contact the case team to notify them if you prefer not to be filmed at the event. A transcript of the event will also be published on the project page of our website after the event.

Date: **Tuesday 10 September 2024**

Registration Process: **09.30am**

Meeting start time: **10.00am**

Venue: **Blended event at Princess Royal Suite,
Princess Royal Strand, Aintree Racecourse,
Ormskirk Road, Aintree, Liverpool, United
Kingdom, L9 5AS 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: **Invited parties who have pre-registered**

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting	
09:30	Registration and seating available at venue for in-person attendees
09:30	<p>Virtual Registration Process</p> <p>Please arrive at 09:30 to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.</p>
10.00am	<p>Preliminary Meeting</p> <p>The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10.00am. The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.</p>
Item 1	The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the Examination process – Appendix B of this letter.
Item 3	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Appendix C to this letter
Item 4	Procedural Decisions taken by the Examining Authority – Appendix G to this letter.
Item 5	Draft Examination Timetable, including dates and locations of hearings and Accompanied Site Inspections – Appendix E to this letter
Item 6	Any other matters
Close of the Preliminary Meeting	

If you are participating using Microsoft Teams please join the virtual lobby promptly using the instructions that will be sent to you. The event will start at **10.00am** irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

It may take some time to admit participants from the virtual lobby, your patience whilst you are waiting is appreciated.

The agenda for the Preliminary Meeting is subject to change at the discretion of the Examining Authority (ExA), although in making changes the ExA will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all Interested Parties.

Any request to participate in the Preliminary Meeting **must include** the following information and be made on the [Event Participation Form](#):

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of your letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;

- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable);
- confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person; and
- the agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make.

APPENDIX B

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRELIMINARY MEETING

Background

The Preliminary Meeting (PM) will be a blended event with some participants attending in person and some taking part virtually using Microsoft Teams.

The Examining Authority (ExA) will aim to keep the proceedings focused and as efficient as possible. This Appendix provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the ExA's introductory remarks. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

The Examining Authority and the Case Team

The members of the ExA, Susan Hunt, Janine Laver and Stephen Bradley will introduce themselves at the start of the PM.

The ExA will be supported by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. During the Registration Process a member of the Case Team will welcome and admit participants, and will be available to answer questions by email before and after the PM. The contact email address is:
morganoffshorewindproject@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The PM is being held to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Morgan Offshore Wind Farm Generation Assets, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the PM and Examination as the 'Proposed Development'. The application has been made by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited, which will be referred to as 'the Applicant'.

You will find information about the application and, in due course, documents produced for the Examination on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website ([project webpage](#)). The project webpage has links to the Examination Timetable, Relevant Representations and Examination documents and Examination procedure. You are encouraged to look at the [project webpage](#) if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the Examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss the arrangements for the Examination of the application. It focuses on the process only, and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals. Questions, representations and discussions about the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development are reserved for the Examination itself which will begin after the close of the PM.

The PM will be your opportunity to influence the process that the ExA intends to follow. The agenda for the PM is attached to this Rule 6 letter at **Appendix A**. It is important to have this letter and the agenda in front of you and to refer to them during the course of the PM. You may wish to print these in advance of the PM for reference.

Government guidance and policy

The application is a NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) being an application for the construction of an offshore wind turbine generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 100 megawatts and therefore is within the scope of section 15 of the PA2008.

The National Policy Statements (NPS) for Energy Infrastructure, specifically the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5) (all designated on 17 January 2024) apply to this Examination and to decision-making relating to this application.

The ExA will consider the Proposed Development in accordance with the NPSs and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deems to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) “*must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS*” (s104(3)), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the Proposed Development would not outweigh its benefits.

The SoS is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated National Policy Statement (NPS). In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs, or the validity of NPSs themselves. The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities’ development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the PM will establish the procedures and timetable for the Examination of the Proposed Development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the SoS to consider and decide the application. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

- The positions and representations of all Interested Parties (IPs);
- any Local Impact Reports (LIR) prepared and provided by local authorities (and the Isle of Man Government; see **Appendix G**);
- other prescribed matters; and
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the relevant SoS’s decision.

Other infrastructure projects

The ExA would like to highlight to all parties at an early stage of the process that the scope of the Examination for the **Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets** is in relation to offshore works within the Irish Sea only. The cables, landfall and substations associated with the grid connection, which includes onshore works within North West England, will form part of a separate NSIP (**The Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets project**), which is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration by a separate ExA in Autumn 2024. There are also a number of other infrastructure projects in and around the Irish Sea. The way that we intend to deal with the interrelationship with the other projects is set out in **Appendices D and G** and this will be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting.

Preliminary Meeting invitees

The Applicant is invited to the PM and is generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made.

Everyone who has made a valid Relevant Representation has been registered as an Interested Party (IP) and has been invited to the PM. All IPs are entitled to involvement in the Examination.

Certain bodies are Statutory Parties and they have been invited to the PM. Statutory Parties can elect to become IPs without having made a valid Relevant Representation by notifying the ExA in writing.

The ExA has the power to involve people who are not IPs in the Examination as though they are IPs, including by inviting them to the PM. However, this is only done in exceptional circumstances, for example if it was clear that the application would materially affect a person, they are not automatically an IP or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

The ExA has invited the following bodies to the PM as Other Persons:

- Manx Utilities
- Isle of Man Department of Infrastructure
- The Republic of Ireland
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
- NatureScot

Conduct of the Preliminary Meeting

The ExA estimates that the PM will take up to two hours to complete. In running the event partly virtually there will be limitations on the number of people who can speak at any one time. During the PM, participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. The ExA will also provide breaks during the PM as appropriate.

A digital recording of the PM will be made available on the project webpage as soon as practicable following the close of the PM. The recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application to find out what was discussed at the PM. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which the ExA meets the legal requirement to hold the PM (and any other hearings) in public. In this regard, **anyone speaking at the PM will need to introduce themselves each time they speak**, to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the close of the PM.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation applies. Participants must do their best to avoid providing any information which should otherwise be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form so that personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the Case Team for guidance before they place personal and private information into the public domain.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the SoS's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point or if you are present at the venue, please speak to a member of the Case Team.

The Examination process

The Examination of NSIPs follows different processes to those, for example, of a Public Inquiry into a planning appeal following the refusal of planning permission. The main differences are that the Examination of NSIPs are primarily a written process and hearings take on an inquisitorial approach as opposed to an adversarial one.

This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the Applicant or to witnesses will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft Examination Timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Local authorities and the Isle of Man Government can submit LIRs if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are

provided, they must be considered by the SoS in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the SoS and their residents.

- IPs can make Written Representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.
- IPs can respond to the ExA's written questions (ExQ) and comment on responses to these written questions provided by others.
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the Applicant agrees. SoCGs can also usefully include matters that are not agreed or are outstanding.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a series of numbered Deadlines for receipt of written submissions. Timely submissions received by the relevant Deadline and that address its purpose will be accepted. **Documents received after the relevant Deadline are only accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties.** Circumstances where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the Examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, clear and evidenced answers to every question that is relevant to their interests as well as engaging fully with any other related processes such as the completion of SoCGs.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the Examination Timetable for the wider benefit of the Examination. The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination by the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close of the PM. This requirement is set by legislation, and while the ExA will try to accommodate all relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft Examination Timetable.

The statutory time limit for the Examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the Applicant and IPs, it will be very helpful to the ExA if these could be progressed as early as possible.

Hearings

The draft Examination Timetable includes provision for hearings, at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an **Open Floor Hearing** (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representation, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions

should be based on representations previously made in writing, but they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission. Rather, they should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested of each speaker following the hearing.

As with all Examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the Deadline shown in the Examination Timetable and in accordance with the instructions. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The ExA has the discretion to hold **Issue Specific Hearings** (ISHs) if it would aid in the Examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful than reliance on written evidence only. The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing. Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is satisfied that the issues can be fully considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions, and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a number of dates reserved for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics to be discussed at an ISH in their written or oral representations to the PM.

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice, and they are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided by the Applicant with the application, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the SoS decides to grant consent, as any consent will be subject to Requirements (ie conditions) set out in the DCO.

At hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require visual presentations. Any supporting detail/information can be provided in writing following the event by the relevant Deadline.

Site inspections

As part of the Examination process the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied.

The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. Notes of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) are published on the [project webpage](#).

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an ASI.

The ExA may decide to hold USIs to relevant nominated locations, supported by the submission of additional written, photographic, video or even drone material if this would be preferable to not visiting sites or holding ASIs in circumstances which could make them difficult and unduly time-consuming to conduct (for example if public health restrictions are in place). The ExA may also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of a USI on an access required basis (ARSI).

The draft Examination Timetable includes a Deadline for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. These will be used to inform further USIs/ ARSIs as well as possible ASIs.

APPENDIX C

INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF PRINCIPAL ISSUES

This is the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues prepared as required under section 88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It has been prepared by the Examining Authority (ExA) following its reading of:

- the application documents;
- the Relevant Representations received in respect of the application; and
- its consideration of any other important and relevant matters.

This initial assessment has guided the ExA in forming a provisional view as to how the application is to be examined. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of the issues that will be subject to examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation to the Secretary of State after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed is alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not listed as main issues.

It should also be noted that whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as main issues, the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these in mind.

1. Aviation and Radar
Including (but not limited to) issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on safety and operations of civil and military aviation and radar • Effects to Radar Early Warning Systems on existing offshore infrastructure
2. Biodiversity and Ecology
Including (but not limited to) issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benthic ecology and marine physical processes • Fish and shellfish ecology • Marine mammal ecology • Ornithology
3. Commercial Fisheries
Including (but not limited to) issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement of any fishing activities and any consequent social, economic or environmental effects

4. Habitats Regulations Assessment
<p>Including (but not limited to) issues relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogation of data and information on which the HRA would be based • Screening of protected sites, likely significant effects, and those taken forward for assessment • Likelihood of adverse effects on the integrity of habitat sites including information to assess any potential derogation • In-combination effects
5. Other Offshore Infrastructure and Other Sea Users
<p>Including (but not limited to) issues relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and gas infrastructure • Telecommunications and electricity transmission infrastructure • Other offshore renewable energy installations • Recreational sea users • Mechanisms for co-existence and/ or co-operation
6. Shipping and Navigation
<p>Including (but not limited to) issues relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of safe marine navigation • Effects on routeing and operations of ferries, commercial shipping and ports, including deviation and adverse weather routing for lifeline ferry services and any consequent social, economic or environmental effects • Effects to marine communications and mobile radar operations
<p>Common to all topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sources, methodology and assumptions behind the Environmental Assessment • Cumulative effects with other offshore wind farms and associated grid connection projects • Transboundary effects • Social or economic effects • Proposals and security for mitigation and monitoring

APPENDIX D

INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PROJECTS

Other infrastructure projects

There are a number of other infrastructure projects within and around the Irish Sea and in England, Wales and the Isle of Man, which are either consented, in Examination or pre-Examination or pre-Application. Including:

- Mona Offshore Wind Project
- Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets
- Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets
- Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm
- Awel y Mór Offshore Wind Farm

The Examining Authority

The Secretary of State has appointed the Examining Authority (ExA) for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets to examine this project alone. The Examinations of the other projects will be conducted by other ExA, as separately appointed by the Secretary of State (or by the Isle of Man Government for Moir Vannin Offshore Wind Farm).

Therefore, the ExA will carry out the Examination for this project only and will have no responsibility for the Examination of those other projects. Similarly, the ExA for the other projects will have no responsibility for the Examination of this one.

Examination documents, communications, and submissions

All documents, communications and submissions will be available through the project webpages and will be dealt with separately from those for the other projects. Therefore, to ensure that we receive your submissions for this project, please take care to make them in accordance with the specific procedures for this project, as set out in this letter, and as subsequently notified by the ExA.

If you wish to make submissions in relation to another project, you should do so separately at the appropriate time for that project. Any representations made in relation to a different project received by the ExA will not be forwarded to that project.

Examination timetable

The ExA's draft Examination timetable is set out in **Appendix E**. The ExA anticipates that several parties will also wish to participate in the Examination of one or more of the other projects, as well as this one. The ExA is also aware that there is likely to be an overlap of the Examination stage of this project with that for one or more other

projects. As such, the ExA recognises the potential for resource challenges for parties wishing to participate in more than one Examination at the same time.

The ExA has developed the draft Examination Timetable as necessary for its Examination. Consistent with that, it has also sought to increase the opportunity for the Examination Timetables for other projects to be able to identify Deadlines and events that do not clash with those for this project.

To do this the ExA has sought to maximise the time between Deadlines and events by minimising the number of Deadlines. If the ExA decides to change the Examination Timetable, then it will seek to minimise any overlap with events and deadlines for other projects.

Overlapping issues

The Applicant has submitted a Cumulative Effects Assessment for each relevant chapter in the Environmental Statement. The location of the above listed projects is set out at Figure 1.4 of Annex 5.1 (Cumulative effects screening matrix) [[APP-031](#)].

Given the proximity of some of these projects, the ExA has recognised the importance of considering cumulative and in-combination effects with other offshore wind farm and associated grid connection projects, as set out in its Initial Assessment of Principal Issues in **Appendix C**.

Recognising the potential for the information available on other projects to change during the Examination, the draft Examination Timetable in **Appendix E** sets out a request for the Applicant to provide a '**Report on the interrelationship with other infrastructure projects**' at Deadline 1 (Thursday 3 October 2024) and for it to be updated at regular intervals during the Examination.

The content of the report is to include the matters set out in **Appendix G** under the heading of '**8. Report on the interrelationship with other infrastructure projects**'.

APPENDIX E

DRAFT EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to **complete** the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p>Pre-Examination Procedural Deadline</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written submissions on the Examination Procedure, including any submissions about the draft Examination Timetable • Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs) • Summaries of all RR's exceeding 1500 words • Submission of Pre-examination Progress Tracker (Appendix G) • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting including which agenda items you wish to speak on (Appendix A) • Requests to participate in the Issue Specific Hearing on Tuesday 10 September 2024 • Suggested locations for site inspections for consideration by the ExA, including justification, and whether such locations can be seen from public land or require private access 	<p>Tuesday 27 August 2024</p>
2.	<p>Preliminary Meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 September 2024</p> <p>10:00</p>
3.	<p>Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1)</p> <p>ISH1 on the Scope of Development and Interrelationship with other Infrastructure Projects</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 September 2024</p> <p>14:00</p>

4.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable • Any Written Questions deemed necessary arising from ISH1 (if required) 	<p>As soon as possible following the Preliminary Meeting</p>
5.	<p>Deadline 1</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions for ISH1, including written submissions of oral cases and comments on any oral submissions put at the hearing • Written Representations (WRs) including summaries if exceeding 1500 words • Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words (if not provided at the pre-Examination Procedural Deadline) • Responses to RRs (if not provided at the pre-Examination Procedural Deadline) • Local Impact Reports from any local authorities and the Isle of Man Government • Initial Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) and Statement of Commonality (or as combined with the Progress Tracker) (Appendix G) • Submission of Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects (Appendices D and G) • Requests by Interested Parties to be heard at an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA • Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically • Comments on any further information/ additional submissions accepted by the ExA • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	<p>Thursday 3 October 2024</p>
6.	<p>Deadline 2</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p>	<p>Tuesday 22 October 2024</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs • Comments on LIRs • Responses to any written questions arising from ISH1 (if supplied) • Applicant's Progress Tracker / Statement of Commonality • Applicant's first update to the draft DCO • Applicant's first update to the Guide to the Application • Applicant's draft itinerary for ASI (if required) • Any other updated documents and statements from the Applicant deemed necessary following responses at Deadline 1 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	
7.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Questions (ExQ1) 	<p>Tuesday 29 October 2024</p>
8.	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ1 • Comments on the Applicant's first update to the draft DCO • Comments on the progress tracker / Statement of Commonality • Comments on the Applicant's draft itinerary for the ASI (if required) • Notification of wish to attend the ASI (if required) • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 2 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	<p>Tuesday 12 November 2024</p>
9.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final itinerary for the ASI (if required) 	<p>Tuesday 19 November 2024</p>

10.	<p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Specific Hearings (if required) • Open Floor Hearing (if required) • Accompanied Site Inspection (if required) 	Week commencing 25 November 2024
11.	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases (if required) • Applicant's mid-Examination Progress Tracker / update to the Statement of Commonality • Mid-Examination Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects • Applicant's second update to the draft DCO • Applicant's second update to the Guide to the Application • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 3 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	Tuesday 10 December 2024
12.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) 	Thursday 19 December 2024
13.	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2 (if required) • Comments on any other submissions received at Deadline 4 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	Thursday 9 January 2025
14.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required) 	Tuesday 28 January 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if required) 	
15.	<p>Reserve dates for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further Hearings (if required) 	W/c 10 February 2025
16.	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases (if applicable) Comments on responses to ExQ2 (if provided) Comments on the RIES (if provided) Comments on the ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the draft DCO (if provided) Finalised Statements of Common Ground Final Statement of Commonality / Close of Examination Progress Tracker Applicant's Closing Statement with summary of areas of disagreement Closing Statements from Interested Parties regarding matters that they have previously raised during the Examination and have not been resolved to their satisfaction (if desired) Final Report on interrelationship with other infrastructure projects Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report Final Guide to the Application Comments on any further information/submissions received by Deadline 5 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 	Tuesday 25 February 2025
17.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination of the application by the end of the period of six months.	Monday 10 March 2025

	<p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed.</p>	
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Submission times for Deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any Deadline in the timetable is 23:59 on the relevant Deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project webpage as soon as practicable after the Deadlines for submissions.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

APPENDIX F

NOTIFICATION OF INITIAL HEARING

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial hearing:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Venue and Joining details
Tuesday 10 September	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on the Scope of Development and Interrelationship with other Infrastructure Projects	Registration and seating available at venue from: 13:30 Virtual Registration Process from: 13:30 Hearing starts: 14:00	Princess Royal Suite, Princess Royal Strand, Aintree Racecourse, Ormskirk Road, Aintree, Liverpool, United Kingdom, L9 5AS and By virtual means using Microsoft Teams Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered
<p>NOTE: If the hearing is no longer required then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage, providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel them.</p>			

You must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Tuesday 27 August 2024 if you intend to participate in the hearing and provide all the information requested (see below).

If you simply wish to observe the hearing then you do not need to register as you will be able to either:

1. watch a livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin; and/or
2. watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

Alternatively, you can attend the physical hearing at the venue to observe the proceedings; however, to ensure there is adequate seating capacity at the venue we request that you register your attendance to **observe only** by **Tuesday 27 August 2024** using the [Event Participation Form](#). Please note that it may not be possible to participate on the day if you have not registered your wish to speak by **Tuesday 27 August 2024**.

Any request to participate in a hearing **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique reference number (found at the top of any letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate);
- email address (if available) and contact telephone number;
- name and unique reference number of any person/organisation that you are representing (if applicable); and
- for blended events, confirmation of whether you will participate virtually or in-person.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend any of the hearings, either virtually or in person.

Hearing agenda

The outline agenda for this hearing set is set below. A more detailed agenda may be published in accordance with the information set out above.

Outline Agenda	
1	Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing
2	Purpose of the hearing
3	Scope and description of the Proposed Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the Works as described in Schedule 1 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) • Design parameters as defined in Requirement 2 of the draft DCO and Condition 10 of the draft Deemed Marine Licences • Array layout principles including spacing and micro-siting • The Land Plan and status of Crown Land
4	The Isle of Man and Transboundary matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of the Isle of Man Government in the Examination • Transboundary matters including the Republic of Ireland • Other Persons status

5	<p>Interrelationship with other projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrelationship Report with other Infrastructure Projects – content and the Applicant’s progress on the Report • Forthcoming examination of the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets project and alignment of data • Expected timescales for submission of the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets project and implications for the commencement period proposed in Requirement 1 of the draft DCO • Updates to the Cumulative Effects Assessment and In-Combination assessment
6	<p>Review of Relevant Representations and Procedural Deadline submissions</p> <p>Principally relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and Ornithology: The principal issues raised by the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies in relation to the methodology in the ES and Habitats Regulations Assessment, including timescales for additional information to be submitted • Shipping and Navigation • Commercial Fishing • Deemed Marine Licence drafting including proposals and security for mitigation and monitoring
7	Any Other Matters
8	Close

Procedure at hearings

The Examination will principally be a written process (see the Planning Inspectorate’s [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. Please refer to the [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#) as these provide important information about hearing procedures.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Hearing livestream and recording

A link to a livestream for each hearing will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before any hearing is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe a hearing in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed.

APPENDIX G

OTHER PROCEDURAL DECISIONS MADE BY THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made the following Procedural Decisions:

1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Appendix C** to this letter, the ExA would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft Examination Timetable at **Appendix E** to this letter therefore establishes **Deadline 1** for submission of SoCGs.

SoCGs are requested to be prepared between the Applicant and the parties listed below. Each statement should include the following matters, together with the specific matters listed alongside the parties in the table below:

- Matters raised in Relevant Representations, Written Representations and Local Impact Reports where applicable.
- Compliance with planning policy and legislation.
- The draft Development Consent Order and any relevant articles, requirements, provisions, and Deemed Marine Licence conditions. Any Interested Party seeking a change to the draft Development Consent order should provide the form of words which are being sought.
- Methodology, baseline data, modelling and assumptions in the Environmental Assessment.
- Likely effects at all phases: construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning.
- Feasible and deliverable mitigation and the method for securing such mitigation, and associated monitoring.
- Content of any control documents.
- Cumulative effects.
- A summary of: i) matters agreed, ii) matters under discussion and a timescale for them to be resolved, and iii) matters not agreed, with reasons succinctly summarised.

The ExA would accept combined SoCGs from Interested Parties with similar/overlapping issues to other Interested Parties (for example, the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association and the Scottish Whitefish Producers Association) if it would enable those Interested Parties and the Applicant to make the best use of their resources.

Parties to the SoCG	Matters to be included in the SoCG (but not limited to such matters)
BAe Systems / Walney Aerodrome	Assessment of effects to civil or military aviation and proposed mitigation
Blackpool Airport	Assessment of effects to civil aviation and proposed mitigation

Chrysaor Resources (Irish Sea) Limited / Harbour Energy	Assessment of effects on REWS and microwave communications and proposed mitigation
Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects to marine archaeology • Effects to setting of terrestrial heritage assets including World Heritage Sites • Adequacy of Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeology and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries • Proposed temporary and permanent Archaeological Exclusion Zones and their radius or extent • Principles for cable laying and protection
Irish South and East Fish Producers' Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of baseline data • Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
Isle of Man Government (Territorial Sea Committee)	<p>Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seascape, Landscape and Visual receptors • Benthic Ecology and physical processes • Cultural Heritage (Terrestrial and marine) • Fish and Shellfish ecology • Shipping and lifeline ferry services • Social or economic receptors (direct and indirect)
Isle of Man Steam Packet Company	Effects on shipping and lifeline ferry services
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Matters relating to benthic ecology and offshore habitats and species
Manx National Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of archaeological assessment • Outline Offshore Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeology and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries • Agreement of proposed temporary and permanent Archaeological Exclusion Zones and their radius or extent
Marine Management Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Marine Policy Statement and North West Marine Plan 2021 • DCO and Deemed Marine Licence drafting and acceptability of conditions and outline plans • Assessment of effects and mitigations proposed, including cumulative impacts and effects for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marine physical processes & benthic ecology ○ Fish & shellfish ecology

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marine mammals and underwater noise ● Coverage and content of all the outline plan documents submitted with the application ● Time period secured for review and approval of detailed plans post-consent ● Principles of proposals for safety zone applications ● Principles for decommissioning
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compliance with Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 654 (and its Annex 1 Assessment of risks) and with mitigations proposed, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan ○ Design layout principles ● Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan ● Assessment and proposed mitigation of cumulative impacts and effects to shipping and ferry services ● Principles of proposals for safety zone applications
MoD Safeguarding	<p>Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary Surveillance Radar and mitigation measures ● aviation ● naval surface or sub-sea operations
NATS Safeguarding	<p>Assessment and mitigation of effects to Primary Surveillance Radar and mitigation measures</p>
Natural England	<p>Note: Natural England's Principal Areas of Difference Statement can be submitted in place of a Statement of Common Ground if preferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offshore protected species ● Protected habitats ● European sites and features relevant to HRA ● Landscape and Visual Impacts
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assessment of baseline data ● Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing ● Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
NatureScot	<p>Marine ornithology and ecology in relation to Scottish designated sites</p>
Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assessment of baseline data ● Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing ● Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
Natural Resources Wales	<p>Satisfaction with matters relating to marine ornithology and ecology in relation to Welsh designated sites</p>

Other wind operators who have made Relevant Representations	Assessment of effects to existing and proposed infrastructure including wake effects
RAF Valley aerodrome	Assessment and mitigation of effects on aviation
Ronaldsway Airport	Assessment of effects to civil aviation and proposed mitigation
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Assessment of effects on ornithology
Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of baseline data • Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
Scottish Whitefish Producers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of baseline data • Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan
Stena Line	Assessment of effects on shipping and scheduled ferry services and proposed mitigation
Trinity House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and mitigation of navigational safety effects • Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan • Outline Vessel Traffic Management Plan • Principles for Aids to Navigation plan • Principles of proposals for safety zone applications
The UK Chamber of Shipping	Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigation and Safety • Shipping Routes and scheduled services • Social and Economic receptors
West Coast Sea Products Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of baseline data • Assessment and proposed mitigation of effects on commercial fishing • Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan

The suggested content of the matters to be included in the SoCGs listed above is indicative and should not be taken to preclude the inclusion of any other matters that parties consider important and relevant.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the Examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need

not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or parties, and submitted by the **Applicant**.

2. Statement of Commonality

At each point that the updated SoCGs are submitted to meet a deadline in the Examination Timetable, the Applicant is requested to submit an updated Statement of Commonality. This document should provide an overview of the position of each SoCG at the relevant deadline, for example noting where discussions are ongoing and where a final, signed SoCG has been submitted. It would also assist the ExA to have summaries of commonality in respect of the main topics in the Examination. This material should be presented in a tabular, “traffic light” coloured format wherever possible.

It would be helpful and reduce duplication if the Statement of Commonality was combined with the Examination Progress Tracker (see below).

3. Examination Progress Tracker

The ExA requests that the Applicant submit an Examination Progress Tracker, in the form of a table, reporting on what it considers are the principal and other notable issues in the Examination. The ExA would like the Applicant to set this out by issue and/or sub issue, the Interested Parties which have raised them, the summary of the concerns raised, the progress being made to address them (if any), the up-to-date position and any progress to resolution. The Applicant could consider “traffic-lighting” the table for ease of reference.

The ExA requests an initial Progress Tracker to be submitted by the **Procedural Deadline (27 August 2024)** with subsequent deadlines set out in **Appendix E** including at mid-Examination and at the end of the Examination.

It would be helpful and reduce duplication if the Examination Progress Tracker was combined with the Statement of Commonality (see above).

4. Local Impact Reports

A Local Impact Report (LIR) is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority’s area (or any part of that area). Given that the Proposed Development is wholly offshore there are no local authorities falling under the definition in section 56A of the Planning Act 2008. However, the ExA welcomes LIRs from any local authorities who may wish to submit one, and specifically requests a LIR from the **Isle of Man Government**.

For more information about the importance and content of LIRs, see the Planning Inspectorate’s [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports](#).

All LIRs are requested to be submitted into the Examination no later than by **Deadline 1 (3 October 2024)** in order to front-load the Examination and maximise the available time.

5. Site Inspections

The draft Examination Timetable at **Appendix E** to this letter includes a date reserved for an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) on week commencing **25 November 2024**.

The ExA's starting position is that ASIs will be used only when it is necessary to inspect a site in the company of an Interested Party, for example when access to private land is required. It may also be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an 'access required' basis.

Interested Parties are invited to submit any suggested locations to be inspected by the ExA. Nominations for locations to be inspected must be received by the **Procedural Deadline (27 August 2024)**. You must indicate the reason for the nomination and the issues to be observed. You should also indicate whether access to private land would be required and if so, provide contact details for access. It would be helpful if nominations could be sent separately from any other written submission.

The Applicant is requested to prepare a draft itinerary for the ASI to be submitted by **Deadline 2 (22 October 2024)**. This should focus on private land to which access is required, taking account of:

- locations referred to in the Relevant Representations;
- any other locations at which the Applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects; and
- locations suggested by Interested Parties submitted by the Procedural Deadline.

Comments by Interested Parties on the Applicant's draft itinerary must be submitted by **Deadline 3 (12 November 2024)**.

The ExA will consider each suggested site location, including those provided in the Applicant's draft itinerary, to determine if it could be viewed from public land on an unaccompanied basis or if it is necessary to view it on an accompanied basis. The ExA will also consider if it would be appropriate to make arrangements for access only to be provided to specific sites such that they could be inspected as part of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on an access required basis.

The ExA will publish its final itinerary at least five working days before the date of the ASI.

Interested Parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development.

However, participants may be invited by the ExA to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

6. Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs)

Rule 3(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 requires written comments on any RRs to be submitted either on the date of the PM, or a date specified in the Rule 8 letter, which follows as soon as practicable following the PM, whichever is the later. To comply, the ExA has requested responses to RRs and summaries exceeding 1500 words by **Deadline 1 (3 October 2024)**. However, it would be helpful to the ExA, for the PM and the subsequent hearings, if comments on RRs could be submitted by the **Procedural Deadline (27 August 2024)**.

Comments on Relevant Representations should:

- specify the names of the parties making the representation and the relevant Examination Library reference in order to demonstrate that all Relevant Representations have been responded to; and
- where a detailed or tabular representation has been submitted, present responses in a comparable manner in order to ensure that all points are responded to in similar terms.

7. Request for regular updated documents throughout the Examination

The ExA requests that at each deadline, the Applicant submits an updated Application Guide, which provides a list of the most up-to-date documents before the Examination. The final version must be submitted by **Deadline 6 (25 February 2025)**, before the close of the Examination.

8. Report on the interrelationship with other infrastructure projects

Appendix D refers to the ExA's request for a 'Report on the interrelationship with other infrastructure projects'. The initial version shall be submitted at **Deadline 1 (3 October 2024)** and updated at regular intervals as set out in the draft timetable.

The Report should include:

- An overview of the Proposed Development and the other projects identified in **Appendix D**, including the timings for submission (or current Examination), construction phasing, grid connection and expected start of operation.
- The approach taken by the Applicant to coordinate the Proposed Development with the other projects, including during the Examination.
- A plan showing the order limits for the Proposed Development and the other projects and the locations of the main features of each, including array areas, cable routes and onshore connections to grid connection.

- Any provisions in the Development Consent Order required for the Proposed Development to be implemented satisfactorily in relation to other projects.
- Key survey data shared with other projects.
- Mitigation measures shared with other projects, and how they are to be secured.
- Summary of direct, indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts with the Transmission Assets Project, approach to avoidance of stranded assets, and any potential conditions or requirements (with reference to Annex 1 of Natural England's Relevant Representation).
- A summary of any other information on the other projects relied on for the cumulative effects assessment, the level of detail, and any changes since the application was prepared for submission. The detail of the cumulative effects assessment should remain in the ES, but the Applicant is to ensure that any changes are summarised in the Report.
- A summary of progress of coordination with the other projects, setting out the matters that have been agreed, any inconsistencies or outstanding matters, and the next steps.

9. Submission of draft Development Consent Order (DCO)

Where the Applicant submits an amended draft DCO at any deadline, the submission should include a new version number identifying that the submitted draft DCO is an amended version. Amended draft DCOs submitted by the Applicant must be accompanied by:

- Versions submitted in Microsoft Word. The version submitted at **Deadline 6 (25 February 2024)** must have been validated against the Statutory Instrument template.
- An amended Explanatory Memorandum.
- A consolidated schedule of changes listing all changes to the draft DCO since the application version, when (including the version number) and for what purpose each change was introduced.

10. Closing Statements

The ExA invites the Applicant and IPs to submit closing statements by **Deadline 6 (25 February 2024)**. Closing Statements should build upon the Examination Progress Tracker/ final Statement of Commonality. They should set out a concise record of the party's position prior to the close of the Examination, specifically where it sees that areas of disagreement remain. Closing Statements should summarise the parties' positions at the end of the Examination and must not introduce any new evidence.

11. Additional Submissions

In addition to the documentation submitted by the **Procedural Deadline (27 August 2024)** the ExA has exercised its discretion and made a Procedural Decision to accept the following Additional Submissions:

- i) Applicant's response to s51 advice (June 2024) and accompanying documents:
 - Draft DCO
 - Explanatory Memorandum
 - Land Plan
 - Statement of Expertise
 - Application Guide

- ii) Project name correction (email dated 29 May 2024)

APPENDIX H

AVAILABILITY OF EXAMINATION DOCUMENTS

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) of the [project webpage](#).

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the [Examination Library](#). This is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The [Examination Library](#) records and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. **Please quote the unique reference number from the [Examination Library](#) when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you will need to bring a form of identification and register as a library member in order to use a computer at these locations.

The opening hours and availability of information technology set out in the table below may be subject to changes. Please check the current circumstances with the relevant locations before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Westmorland and Furness Council	Barrow-in-Furness Library Ramsden Square, Barrow-in-Furness, United Kingdom, LA14 1LL	Monday: 09:30 – 18:00 Tuesday: 09:30 – 18:00 Wednesday: 09:30 – 18:00 Thursday: 09:30 – 18:00	A4 Black and White: £0.20 per side A4 Colour: £0.30 per side A3 Black and White:

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
		Friday: 09:30 – 17:00 Saturday: 10:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed <i>* Please note: This deposit location is closed on Bank and Public Holidays. Computer access is free for up to 2 hours per day and charges apply for use beyond this time limit.</i>	£0.30 per side A3 Colour: £0.40 per side
Douglas City Council	Henry Bloom Noble Library 8 Duke Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 2AY	Monday: 08:30 – 17:00 Tuesday: 08:30 – 17:00 Wednesday: 08:30 – 17:00 Thursday: 10:00 – 19:00 Friday: 08:30 – 17:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 16:00 Sunday: Closed	A4 Black and White: £0.20 per side A4 Colour: £0.50 per side
Penwortham Town Council	Penwortham Community Library Priory Lane Community Centre, Priory Lane, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire, United Kingdom, PR1 0AR	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 10:00 – 16:00 Wednesday: 10:00 – 16:00 Thursday: 10:00 – 16:00 Friday: Closed	<i>* Please note: Penwortham Community Library does not have printing facilities available.</i>

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
		Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed	
Lancashire County Council	<p data-bbox="528 427 788 461">The Harris Library</p> <p data-bbox="528 501 767 712">The Guild Hall, Lancaster Road, Preston, Lancashire, United Kingdom, PR1 1HT</p> <p data-bbox="528 757 826 1081"><i>* Please note this is a temporary address for this deposit location. This library may change location following the completion of the 'Harris Your Place' project.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="866 427 1062 495">Monday: 09:00 – 17:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 517 1062 584">Tuesday: 09:00 – 17:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 607 1062 674">Wednesday: 09:00 – 17:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 696 1062 763">Thursday: 09:00 – 17:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 786 1062 853">Friday: 09:00 – 17:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 875 1062 943">Saturday: 09:00 – 17:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 965 1062 999">Sunday: Closed</p> <p data-bbox="866 1055 1126 1379"><i>* Please note: Computer Access ends at 16:40 daily Monday to Saturday and that this library may be closed on Bank and Public Holidays.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1158 427 1310 573">A4 Black and White: £0.25 per side</p> <p data-bbox="1158 595 1310 696">A4 Colour: £0.60 per side</p> <p data-bbox="1158 719 1310 864">A3 Black and White: £0.25 per side</p> <p data-bbox="1158 887 1310 987">A3 Colour: £0.95 per side</p>
Ramsey Town Commissioners	<p data-bbox="528 1413 735 1480">Ramsey Town Library</p> <p data-bbox="528 1525 831 1626">Parliament Square, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 1RT</p>	<p data-bbox="866 1413 1062 1480">Monday: 09:00 – 16:30</p> <p data-bbox="866 1503 1062 1570">Tuesday: 09:00 – 16:30</p> <p data-bbox="866 1592 1062 1659">Wednesday: 09:00 – 16:30</p> <p data-bbox="866 1682 1062 1749">Thursday: 09:00 – 16:30</p> <p data-bbox="866 1771 1062 1839">Friday: 09:00 – 16:00</p> <p data-bbox="866 1861 1062 1928">Saturday: 09:00 – 16:30</p> <p data-bbox="866 1951 1062 2018">Sunday: Closed</p>	<p data-bbox="1158 1413 1310 1559">A4 Black and White: £0.10 per sheet</p> <p data-bbox="1158 1581 1310 1682">A4 Colour: £0.50 per sheet</p> <p data-bbox="1158 1704 1310 1850">A3 Black and White: £0.15 per sheet</p> <p data-bbox="1158 1872 1310 1973">A3 Colour: £1.00 per sheet</p>

APPENDIX I

THE 'HAVE YOUR SAY' SECTION OF THE PROJECT WEBPAGE

The 'Have your say' section is available on the [project webpage](#).

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either 200 or MGOW. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing.

If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file) or make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Appendix E** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the ['Have your Say'](#) section of the project website please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.