



Meeting note

Project name	Morgan Offshore Windfarm
File reference	EN010124
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	8 June 2022
Meeting with	BP/EnBW
Venue	Microsoft Teams meeting
Meeting objectives	Projects update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

General Project Update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate of its intention of proceeding with the separation of the Morgan generation assets application from the joint Morgan/Morecambe offshore wind farm transmission assets application, as stated in the [previous update meeting](#). It is the Applicant's intention to submit a scoping report for the Morgan generation assets during the week commencing 13 June (**N.B: the scoping report has since been submitted**). This report will relate to the generation assets, including the wind turbines, the offshore substation within the generation assets order limits, the inter array and interconnector cables.

The Applicant shared their view that a number of the key potential consenting issues for the Morgan offshore wind farm are likely to arise from the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the generation assets (e.g. in relation to shipping and navigation, commercial fisheries and ornithology). The projects are seeking to maximise the time available to better understand the views of stakeholders and other interested parties on the potential impacts arising from the development of the generation assets.

The Applicant advised that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation 8 letter and shapefile for the generation assets were submitted in May 2022 and that a cumulative assessment of the transmission assets will be included in the transmission assets Development Consent Order (DCO) application, which will require a Direction under s35 of the PA2008 from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

A transmission scoping report is due to be submitted at Q3 2022, including the offshore substation within the transmission assets' order limits, the offshore and onshore export cables, the offshore booster substation and onshore substation. The Inspectorate queried what are the timescales for the

submission of the Section 35 Direction request to BEIS. The Applicant responded that timescales had not been finalised as yet.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant to expand on its intentions for a joint DCO application for the transmission assets with regard to the approach to EIA scoping. The Inspectorate asked for clarification or whether there would be an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO application covering both projects, to be informed by one formal scoping request covering both projects. The Applicant responded that currently it is envisaged that it would submit a single scoping request for both Morgan and Morecambe transmission assets. The Applicant is currently working through the project design of the Morgan transmission assets and the approach to EIA, and this will be confirmed with The Planning Inspectorate in due course.

Statutory and non-statutory consultation

The Applicant updated the Inspectorate of the expected EIA scoping for the generation assets which will be during the week commencing 13 June (**N.B: the scoping report has since been submitted**). Phase 1 of the non-statutory community consultation would commence in Q3 2022 with the phase 2 statutory consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) planned for Q1 2023. The Applicant gave an overview of its approach to the statutory and non-statutory consultation based on the Inspectorate's [Advices Notes](#) using an Evidence Plan Process (EPP) to engage with the key stakeholders, discussing the methodology and scope of surveys.

The Inspectorate queried whether the non-statutory consultation would take place after the scoping process has finished. The Applicant confirmed that this would be the case.

Update on stakeholder engagement

The Applicant confirmed that it has met with a variety of government stakeholders through the EPP, including the Marine Management Organization (MMO), Natural England (NE), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Trinity House and other Non Governmental Organisations such as The Wildlife Trusts. The Applicant also emphasised that ferry companies have been contacted through the Marine Navigation Engagement Forum (MNEF), which has been set up for 9 months with 3 meetings held so far.

Aviation stakeholders and local airports around the Irish sea have been contacted. Cable, pipeline and oil and gas companies have been informed of the ongoing surveys to minimise the impact to their operations. A first round of local authority engagement has taken place with the next step being the community introduction to the project.

Offshore surveys

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that several surveys have already been completed. These include shallow geotechnical and benthic survey, winter marine traffic survey and intertidal benthic survey. Ongoing surveys include marine mammal and bird aerial surveys, to be completed March 2023, deep geotechnical array area surveys, export cable corridor studies, shallow geotechnical and benthic survey and summer marine traffic surveys.

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The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to request a follow up meeting after scoping to follow on any advice that the Inspectorate might give.