



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Morgan Offshore Wind Farm
<b>File reference</b>	EN010136
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	10 January 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	BP/EnBW
<b>Venue</b>	MS Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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.

### Project Overview

A joint meeting was held for Morgan and Mona Offshore wind farms, which are two separate projects in the Irish Sea. Morgan Offshore Wind Farm is located in North-Western English waters, and Mona is located primarily in Welsh waters, with a slight overlap of English waters. The Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 Agreements for Lease signing concluded in January 2023. Each station has a capacity of 1.5 GW, and when combined provide a total capacity of 3 GW, which the Applicant stated would be enough to power 3.4 million UK households.

### Consenting Strategy

The Proposed Development will seek a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the generation assets, inter array cables, interconnector cables and offshore substation platforms.

The Applicant is progressing a joint DCO application with Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm for the onshore transmission assets.

### Consultation Update

The Applicant explained that non-statutory consultation was undertaken between June and August 2022. It also confirmed that non-statutory consultation for the transmission assets (to be a separate DCO application) was undertaken between October and December 2022.

The Applicant confirmed that it is holding ongoing expert topic groups within the Evidence Plan Process, as well as marine navigation engagement forums. Additionally, the Applicant confirmed the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) consultation will commence between April and May 2023 (see below). The Applicant confirmed that Morecambe, Morgan and Mona Offshore wind farms will be consulting simultaneously.

## **Survey and Assessment Updates**

The Applicant confirmed that aerial bird surveys are scheduled to be completed in March 2023. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant had considered the impact of bird flu, to which it confirmed that engagement is ongoing with Natural England and further discussions will include such issues. The Inspectorate stated that Natural England (NE) have advised that any survey work approach should be discussed with them. The Applicant confirmed that they have been in discussions with NE.

The Applicant acknowledged stakeholder concerns relating to shipping and navigation. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders, including bridge simulations and a Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA). The NRA has taken into account the Mona, Morgan and Morecambe offshore windfarms and the Applicant acknowledged the potential for cumulative effects.

The Applicant confirmed that it has made revisions to the application site boundaries for both Morgan and Mona since scoping, to increase the distance between the two projects. These revisions will be explained within the PEIR, however will not be reflected within the NRA presented in the PEIR given time constraints. The Applicant confirmed it would update the NRA to reflect the boundary changes for the application.

## **PEIR Consultation**

The Applicant confirmed the PEIR consultation is planned for publication in late March 2023. The PEIR consultation is planned to include the following:

- Draft Environmental Statement;
- Draft Development Consent Order;
- Preliminary Works Plans;
- Draft deemed Marine Licence; and
- Code of Construction Practice (CoCP).

The Inspectorate queried if a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment would also be included in the PEIR. The Applicant confirmed that a screening of the likely significant effects would be included (**post meeting note: the Applicant advised that the PEIR will include draft Information to Support an Appropriate Assessment**). The Inspectorate noted that the statutory consultation would overlap with that planned for the Mona Offshore Wind Farm and highlighted the need to clearly differentiate between the two projects to avoid confusion, particularly for consultees not familiar with the PA2008 process.

## **Indicative Timelines**

Q1 2023: PEIR Submission

Q1 2024: DCO Submission

**AOB:**

The Applicant noted that there are no section 43 local authorities as the Proposed Development is located solely in the marine area. It queried which local authorities to consult with, explaining that it currently proposes to consult with those based on the onshore transmission boundary as well as those likely to be visually affected. The Inspectorate agreed this was a sensible approach, but explained that it is unable to agree consultation bodies with Applicants. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider how the Applicant for the Triton Knoll offshore wind farm previously addressed this matter. The Inspectorate also noted that the bodies it consulted in relation to scoping were listed in the Scoping Opinion and the Applicant could use this to inform their consultation, however the Applicant should not rely on that list.

The Applicant confirmed it intends to submit its DCO application in Q1 2024. It sought advice from the Inspectorate on whether to submit the application in parallel with Mona Offshore Wind Farm, or with a time lag. The Inspectorate confirmed that ultimately this a matter for the Applicant to decide. However this is clearly a matter that should be given attention and would benefit from further discussion at subsequent meetings.

**Next Steps:**

In view of the number of NSIPs within the same area, on very similar timescales, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant that it may be beneficial to hold more regular meetings, the frequency of which would be considered and agreed.