



Meeting note

Project name	Morgan Offshore Wind Farm Generational Assets
File reference	EN010136
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 January 2024
Meeting with	bp EnBW
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project 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.

Project Update

The Applicant detailed a reduction to the array area and the maximum length of array cables. Monopile foundations have been removed as an option, which the Applicant noted would reduce the potential impacts from underwater noise. To promote co-existence with fishing activities the Proposed Development has committed to maintaining an area within the array boundary which will be free from turbines and offshore substation platforms.

The Applicant is planning to have one Development Consent Order (DCO) and two Deemed Marine licences due to the offshore electricity transmission.

Submission Programme

The Applicant confirmed that DCO application submission was anticipated for April 2024.

The Applicant advised that the submission would not include a Book of Reference, as the Crown Estate was the only Person with Interest in Land (PIL), and it did not expect to have any protective provisions, as there were no cable crossings. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure that all aspects of Regulation 7 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 are considered before making the DCO application. It also referred to advice issued for the Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm (OWF), Little Crow Solar Farm and East Northants Resource Management Facility Western Extension projects, relating to this matter.

Summary of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) outcomes and Likely Significant Effects in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Regarding HRA, the Applicant explained that it had reached a conclusion of no Adverse Effects on Integrity, alone or in-combination, for any protected sites or features.

The Applicant confirmed that there was no indication of a need for a derogation case from any of the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), however they will make a final decision after submission. The Inspectorate advised that should SNCB discussions change before submission and SNCBs indicate that the Proposed Development is likely to adversely impact a protected site, as set out in National Policy Statement EN-3 the Applicant should include information to assess potential derogations with the application (this can be on a 'without prejudice' basis).

The Applicant explained that it had been engaging with the SNCBs regarding the HRA in-combination assessment, particularly regarding historic projects for assessment of bird collision risk and underwater sound impacts on marine mammals and fish.

The Applicant discussed the areas identified as having likely significant effects in the EIA so far (noting that the EIA is not yet complete), which will be presented in the DCO application.

The Inspectorate enquired about progress on the Piling Strategy, as discussed at the last Steering Group meeting. The Applicant confirmed that the Piling Strategy had been renamed and, relevant mitigation measures would be set out in the application including an underwater sound management strategy (included in the application). The Applicant noted that another Expert Working Group meeting was required prior to DCO application submission.

Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) approach

The Applicant detailed their cumulative assessment approach for the Proposed Development, covering Morgan/ Morecambe Transmission Assets, Morecambe Generation and other Tier 1 to 3 projects, including Mona OWF and Orsted's Moor Vannin.

Summary of outstanding issues and potential areas of disagreement

The Applicant confirmed it was in discussions with external bodies. Navigational safety concerns had been mitigated through project boundary amendments, however, potential impacts to adverse weather routing are still being considered. Impacts on ferry companies remained.

AOB

The Applicant stated it was unlikely to submit draft documents to the Inspectorate for review.

The Inspectorate and Applicant discussed document submission, including how to submit confidential information.

The Applicant proposed holding cumulative impact hearings, combining the Proposed Development, Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Transmission Assets and Mona OWF and the Inspectorate advised that this was not currently feasible.

The Inspectorate enquired whether the Applicant had considered potential venues for blended events. The Applicant advised that Blackpool and Barrow-in-Furness had been used for consultation events. It was discussed that events could be held wholly virtual, depending on the interest.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant and the Inspectorate to trial submission method prior to DCO submission.
- The Applicant to submit the Shapefile to the Inspectorate. COMPLETED
- The Applicant to decide whether a meeting ahead of submission to discuss the logistics of submission is required.