

# **XLINKS MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT**

## **Guide to the Application**

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**For Issue**

## XLINKS MOROCCO – UK POWER PROJECT

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This document provides a guide to the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Xlinks Morocco to UK Power Project made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the ‘Secretary of State’) pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). The United Kingdom (UK) elements of the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project (the ‘Project’) and for ease of reference, the UK elements of the Project are referred to in this chapter as the ‘Proposed Development’.
- 1.1.2 In August 2023, the Applicant sought direction from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the ‘Secretary of State’) under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to confirm that elements of the Proposed Development should be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required. A direction was duly made on 26 September 2023 confirming the Secretary of State’s conclusion that the Proposed Development is nationally significant and therefore is development requiring development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.3 Therefore, the Applicant is seeking a DCO for the construction of two converter stations to the immediate west of the existing Alverdiscott 400 kV substation, with associated underground electricity cables to the Cornborough Range (Landfall), North Devon, and offshore cable infrastructure within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), alongside additional works to facilitate the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 This guide aims to help the Examining Authority and interested parties understand the draft DCO Application through signposting to the documents that make up the Application.
- 1.1.5 Regulation 5 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (APFP Regulations) sets out the documents that all draft DCO applications must include. It also provides at Regulation 5(2)(q) for the submission of “any other documents considered necessary to support the application” as well as at Regulation 5(2)(o) for “*any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the proposals.*”
- 1.1.6 Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations sets out the specific documentation required in support of draft DCO applications for particular types of development, including generating stations and grid connections. It should be noted that the Applicant is of the understanding that the Proposed Development does not fall into the typical category for Regulation 6 elements; however, a Grid and Cable Connection Statement (Document Ref. 7.5) has been submitted as the Applicant believes it has benefits for the DCO.
- 1.1.7 The Proposed Development constitutes an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, and, therefore, the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) and requirements contained therein apply.
- 1.1.8 This Guide to the Application has also been prepared in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(q) of the APFP Regulations as a document which the Applicant considers necessary to support the Application.

## 2 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Proposed Development Description

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development forms part of the wider Project proposed by the Applicant to develop a sub-sea electricity connection between the UK and Morocco. The Project would be an electricity generation facility entirely powered by solar and wind energy combined with a battery storage facility. Located in Morocco's renewable energy rich region of Guelmim Oued Noun, the Applicant proposes to install 11.5 Gigawatts peak (GWp) generation capacity that would cover an approximate area of 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> and would be connected exclusively to the UK via High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) sub-sea cables. The wider Project would include an offshore route of approximately 4,000 km, which would run through Moroccan, Spanish, Portuguese, and French Waters before arriving within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development is for the construction of two converter stations to the immediate west of the existing Alverdiscott 400 kV substation, with associated underground electricity cables to the Cornborough Range (Landfall), North Devon, and offshore cable infrastructure within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), alongside additional works to facilitate the Proposed Development. The Statement of Need (Document Ref. 7.1) provides further details around the need for the Proposed Development.

### 2.2 The Order Limits

- 2.2.1 The Order Limits are shown on the Location, Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plans (Document Ref. 2.1), Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.2), and Works Plan (Document Ref. 2.3) which accompany this Application.
- 2.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises approximately 37.3ha of land permanently that is located within the administrative areas of Torridge District Council (TDC) and Devon County Council (LCC). However, parts of an Abnormal Indivisible Loads route on the east side of the River Torridge fall within the administrative boundary of North Devon District Council (NDDC).

## 3 OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

3.1.1 The documents submitted as part of the Application have been grouped into the below document parts noted within Table 3.1 to accord with the Planning Inspectorate’s (PINS) Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents (version 11) published in August 2022.

**Table 3.1 – Parts of the Application**

Document Part	Context
Part 1 – Application Form	Contains the completed application form, the Application cover letter, this Guide, the electronic application index, and the section 55 checklist completed by the Applicant demonstrating the Application can be accepted pursuant to section 55 of the PA 2008.
Part 2 – Plans; Drawings; Sections	Contains relevant plans for the Proposed Development, as required by the APFP Regulations and other plans provided to support the Application
Part 3 – Development Consent Order (DCO)	Contains the draft Statutory Instrument containing the legal powers the Applicant is seeking, together with separate documents explaining the provisions of the DCO and how other required consents will be obtained.
Part 4 – Compulsory Acquisition Information	Provides evidence for why legal powers of compulsory acquisition are sought, as well as information on how the Proposed Development is to be funded and details of the land interests that are required for the Proposed Development.
Part 5 – Reports and Statements	Contains the Consultation Report and its supporting appendices relating to the pre-application consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development and how consultation feedback has been taken into account.
Part 6 – Environmental Statement	Provides environmental information and an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, as well as a description of proposed mitigation measures.
Part 7 – Other Documents – Other Documents	Contains additional documents pertaining to the Proposed Development, required by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations and considered by the Applicant to be required to support the application in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(q) of the APFP Regulations.

- 3.1.2 The remainder of this Guide (sections 4 to 10) provides a summary of the purpose of the documents and plans included within each part described in Table 3.1 above.
- 3.1.3 In addition, Appendix A provides a document schedule, which is a live document that will be updated during subsequent stages of the Application should additional documents be required, or updates be made to documents.
- 3.1.4 A copy of all of the Application submission documents will be available on the PINS website following acceptance by the Secretary of State.

## 3.2 Document Referencing

- 3.2.1 Documents are numbered in sequence within the respective parts (as outlined in Appendix A of this Guide), with the part number being the first digit of a document number. This is followed, where relevant, by the volume number, the document number, and where required the chapter and/or Appendix number.

## 3.3 Control documents

- 3.3.1 Control documents are used to set the parameters for and secure the mitigation proposed for the Proposed Development.
- 3.3.2 The Application contains a number of Control Documents within the Draft Development Consent Order (and its Schedules) (Document Ref. 3.1) and act as legal controls for the Proposed Development. This list of Control Documents is as follows:
- Works Plans (Document Ref. 2.3);
  - Rights of Way Plans (Document Ref. 2.4);
  - Vegetation Removal Plan (Document Ref. 2.5);
  - Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plans (Document Ref. 2.7);
  - Converter Site Parameter Plan (Document Ref. 2.10);
  - Commitments Register (Document Ref. 6.1.3.1);
  - Design Principles (Document Ref. 7.4);
  - Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.7);
    - Appendix A – Outline Pollution Prevention Plan
    - Appendix B – Site Resource and Waste Management Plan
    - Appendix C – Dust Management Plan
    - Appendix D – Outline Soil Management Plan
    - Appendix E – Outline Arboricultural Method Statement
  - Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.9);

- Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.10);
- Outline Public Rights of Way Management Pan (Document Ref. 7.11);
- Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.12);
- Outline Accommodation Strategy (Document Ref. 7.13);
- Outline Decommissioning Strategy (Document Ref. 7.17);
- Outline Offshore Biosecurity Plan (Document Ref. 7.19);
- Outline Bentonite Breakout Plan (Document Ref. 7.20);
- Outline Operational Drainage Strategy (Document Ref. 7.22); and
- Outline Skills and Employment Strategy (Document Ref. 7.23).

3.3.3 The list above forms part of the list of Certified Documents set out at Schedule 13 of the draft DCO (Document Ref. 3.1) which includes other documents such as the Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.2) that form the overarching legal controls for the Proposed Development.

3.3.4 Some Control Documents are Compliance Documents and must be complied with when certain activities are carried out. These are:

- Works Plans (Document Ref. 2.3);
- Rights of Way Plans (Document Ref. 2.4);
- Vegetation Removal Plan (Document Ref. 2.5);
- Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plans (Document Ref. 2.7); and
- Design Principles (Document Ref. 7.4).



## 4 PART 1 – APPLICATION FORM

- 4.1.1 The Application Cover Letter (Document Ref. 1.1) provides a brief description of the Proposed Development, its location, and a general introduction to the Application. In addition, the recent advice set out by PINS has been addressed here as to where the Applicant is adhering to it.
- 4.1.2 The purpose of the Guide to the Application (Document Ref. 1.2) is referred to above.
- 4.1.3 The Application Form (Document Ref. 1.3) is the standard application form required by Section 37(3)(b) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 5(1) of the APFP Regulations to be submitted with the Application. It provides a high-level summary of the Proposed Development and the documents that have been submitted with the Application.
- 4.1.4 A Section 55 Checklist (Document Ref. 1.4) is included to demonstrate how the Application fulfils the conditions for acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate under Section 55 of the 2008 Planning Act.
- 4.1.5 The Electronic Application Index (Document Ref. 1.5) is the list of electronic file names, reference numbers for each document, and the Regulation numbers provided in each part submitted with the Application.

## 5 PART 2 – PLANS, DRAWINGS, SECTIONS

- 5.1.1 In addition to the Location, Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (Document Ref. 2.1), ten additional plans are submitted as part of the Application.
- 5.1.2 In accordance with Regulation 5(4) of the APFP Regulations, where there is a plan comprising three or more separate sheets, a key plan is provided to enable the reader to understand the relationship between the different sheets.
- 5.1.3 The Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.2) illustrate the land required for or affected, by the Proposed Development. This includes (a) land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any right to use land (b) land in which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes, and other private rights and (c) land over which temporary possession is sought. These plans correspond to and should be read in conjunction with the Book of Reference (Document Ref. 4.3). Land Plans are required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(i) of the APFP Regulation.
- 5.1.4 The Onshore and Offshore Works Plans (Document Ref. 2.3.1 and 2.3.2) demonstrate the relationship between the proposed location of the Proposed Development and the limits of deviation within which the development and works may be carried out. The areas on the Works Plans are numbered, and these correspond to the numbered works set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (Document Ref. 3.1) which are proposed to be authorised by the DCO. Work Plans are required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(j) of the APFP Regulation.
- 5.1.5 The Tree and Hedgerow Schedule (Document Ref. 2.5) illustrates the tree and hedgerows that are being proposed to be removed to allow for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. They are required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulation.
- 5.1.6 Indicative Converter Site Plan, Section and Engineering Drawings (Document Ref. 2.6) are provided to demonstrate the anticipated design and layout of the Proposed Development. They are required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulation.
- 5.1.7 Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plans (Document Ref. 2.7) illustrate any new or altered means of access, permanent and temporary alteration of streets, and street works. They are required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulation.
- 5.1.8 Onshore and Offshore Crown Plans (Document Ref. 2.8.1 and 2.8.2) are provided to demonstrate the land within the Order Limits which belong to the Crown Estate. Crown Plans are required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(n) of the APFP Regulation.
- 5.1.9 Special Category Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.9) are provided to demonstrate the land within the Order Limits that fall within Special Category Land.

- 5.1.10 A Converter Site Parameter Plan (Document Ref. 2.10) has been submitted to demonstrate the parameters of the Converter Stations which form part of the DCO Application.
- 5.1.11 Other plans/drawings illustrating the Proposed Development are provided in the Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.1).

## 6 PART 3 – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

6.1.1 Under Regulation 5(2)(b), the Applicant is required to submit a draft DCO with the Application for an order granting development consent. The Draft Development Consent Order (Document Ref. 3.1) is the draft statutory instrument which contains the legal powers that the Applicant is seeking to enable it to construct and operate (including maintenance) the Proposed Development should consent to be granted. It sets out the parameters for what development would be permitted. It is comprised of 46 articles and 16 schedules. The Schedules are outlined below:

- **Schedule 1 (Authorised development)** – lists the works that would be authorised by the grant of development consent, which are shown on the Works Plans (Document Ref. 2.3) and to which the Schedule refers;
- **Schedule 2 (Requirements)** – sets out the conditions that the Applicant would be required to accord with when implementing the development authorised by the DCO;
- **Schedule 3 (Procedure Regarding Certain Approvals)** – provides a bespoke procedure for dealing with an application made to the relevant authority (as defined in the Schedule) for any consent, agreement or approval required or contemplated by the provisions of the DCO.
- **Schedule 4 (Onshore Parameters)** – sets out the authorised development from Schedule 1;
- **Schedule 5 (Streets or Public Rights of Way to be Temporarily Closed)** – is split into two parts –
  - Part one – Streets or public rights of way to be temporarily stopped up for which a diversion is to be provided
  - Part two – streets or public rights of way to be temporarily stopped up for which no diversion is to be provided
- **Schedule 6 (Access to Works)** – containing details of the permanent access, and the other for temporary access that would be created as a result of the Proposed Development.
- **Schedule 7 (Modification of compensation and compulsory purchase enactments for creation of new rights)** – is split into two parts –
- **Schedule 8 (Land of which only temporary possession may be taken)** – sets out the land of which only temporary possession may be taken.
- **Schedule 9 (Deemed Marine License)** – is split into three parts –
  - Part one – General
  - Part two – Conditions
  - Part three – Procedure for the discharge of conditions

- **Schedule 10 (Traffic Regulation Orders)** – Sets out areas where traffic regulation measures are proposed;
- **Schedule 11 (Protective Provisions)** – sets out protective provisions for the benefit of statutory undertakers whose equipment may be affected by the authorised development. This is set out in four parts, including:
  - Part one – Protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers
  - Part two – Electronic Communications Code
  - Part three – For the Protection of Drainage Authorities
  - Part four – for the protection of the environment agency
- **Schedule 12 (Amendment to local legislation)** – lists the historic legislation that the Applicant is seeking to disapply for the purposes of the Proposed Development.
- **Schedule 13 (Certified Documents)** - contains a list of documents that would be 'certified' if the DCO is made by the Secretary of State.

- 6.1.2 The Explanatory Memorandum to the draft DCO (Document Ref. 3.2), as Required under Regulation 5(2)9c) of the APFP Regulations, explains the purpose and effect of each provision in the draft DCO including why it is considered necessary. It also identifies examples of precedents from other DCOs where applicable.
- 6.1.3 The Applicant requires a range of consents and agreements to construct and operate the Proposed Development. As explained in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Draft Development Consent Order (Document Ref. 3.1), some of these are included in the Order. However, there are other consents from different regulatory organisations and territories that will be required separately from the Order. The need for such consents and how they are to be obtained is explained in the Other Consents and Agreements document (Document Ref. 7.21).
- 6.1.4 Finally, the Applicant is submitting a Validation Report (Document Ref. 3.3) alongside the draft Development Consent.

## 7 PART 4 – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION INFORMATION

- 7.1.1 Part 4 provides the evidence to justify the legal powers sought for compulsory acquisition as well as information on how the Proposed Development is to be funded. The Statement of Reasons (Document Ref. 4.1), which is required to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations, explains that there is a compelling case in the public interest which would justify the Applicant's exercise of powers of compulsory acquisition in order to acquire land and rights permanently and to use land temporarily to enable it to construct and operate (including maintenance) the Proposed Development. The Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought (Document Ref. 4.4) should be read alongside the Statement of Reasons, which sets out the status of negotiations with landowners and the powers sought over the Order land.
- 7.1.2 The Funding Statement (Document Ref. 4.2) details how the Proposed Development, including any compulsory purchase acquisition of any land, would be funded. The submission of a Funding Statement is required (where applicable) under Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations.
- 7.1.3 The Book of Reference (Document Ref. 4.3) identifies all the parties who own or occupy land and/or have an interest in or right over the land affected by the Proposed Development and/or who may be entitled to make a 'relevant claim' as defined in Section 57 of the 2008 Planning Act. It is structured in four parts in accordance with the regulatory requirements:
- Part 1: Categories 1 & 2: Owners, Lessees, Tenants, Occupiers, Other Interest, Power to Convey or Release Land;
  - Part 2: Category 3: Section 10 Land Compensation Act 1965 and Part 1 Land Compensation Act 1973; and
  - Part 3: Easements or other private rights proposed to be interfered with, suspended or extinguished;
  - Part 4: Crown Interests

## 8 PART 5 – REPORTS/STATEMENTS

8.1.1 Part 5 includes the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) and its supporting appendices (Document Ref. 5.2). The Consultation Report explains how the Applicant has complied with the consultation requirements set out Part 5 (section 37(3)(c)) in the PA 2008; the APFP Regulations and the EIA Regulations. The report also accords with the guidance set out in 'Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process' published by the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities in March 2015 and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report.

8.1.2 The Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1 – Executive Summary.
- Chapter 2 – Introduction
- Chapter 3 – Non-Statutory Consultation
- Chapter 4 – Stakeholder and community engagement prior to statutory consultation
- Chapter 5 – EIA Scoping
- Chapter 6 – Approach to statutory consultation
- Chapter 7 – Statutory Consultation
- Chapter 8 – Responses to the Statutory Consultation
- Chapter 9 – Additional targeted Statutory Consultation
- Chapter 10- Ongoing engagement
- Chapter 11 – Consultation

8.1.3 Appendices of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2) are included within the report as follows:

- Appendix A-1 to A-4
- Appendix B-1 to B-3
- Appendix C-1 to C-4
- Appendix D-1 to D-4
- Appendix E-1 to F-1
- Appendix G-1 to G-3
- Appendix H-1
- Appendix I-1
- Appendix J-1 to J-2
- Appendix K-1 to K-3
- Appendix L-1
- Appendix M-1 to M-2

## 9 PART 6 – ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

- 9.1.1 The Applicant has conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Development to consider what significant effects the Proposed Development is likely to have on the surrounding environment.
- 9.1.2 The ES also provides general information on the Proposed Development including its context, a full description of the Proposed Development and its construction, the main alternatives considered, the consultation process that was part of the EIA, and any relevant technical information that has been used to assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.
- 9.1.3 Part 6 reports the findings of the EIA within the Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4) and its supporting appendices and figures.
- 9.1.4 The Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4) is formed of the following Volumes and Chapters:

Chapters of the Environmental Statement	Document Reference
<b>Volume 1</b>	
Chapter 1 – Introduction	6.1.1
Chapter 2 – Policy and Legislation	6.1.2
Chapter 3 – Project Description	6.1.3
Chapter 4 – Need and Alternatives	6.1.4
Chapter 5 – Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology	6.1.5
<b>Volume 2</b>	
Chapter 1 – Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation	6.2.1
Chapter 2 – Historic Environment	6.2.2
Chapter 3 – Hydrology and Flood Risk	6.2.3
Chapter 4 – Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions	6.2.4
Chapter 5 – Traffic and Transport	6.2.5
Chapter 6 – Noise and Vibration	6.2.6
Chapter 7 – Air Quality	6.2.7
Chapter 8 – Land Use and Recreation	6.2.8
<b>Volume 3</b>	
Chapter 1 – Benthic Ecology	6.3.1
Chapter 2 – Fish and Shellfish Ecology	6.3.2
Chapter 3 – Commercial Fisheries	6.3.3



Chapter 4 – Marine Mammals and Turtles	6.3.4
Chapter 5 – Shipping and Navigation	6.3.5
Chapter 6 – Other Marine Users	6.3.6
Chapter 7 – Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	6.3.7
Chapter 8 – Physical Processes	6.3.8
Chapter 9 – Offshore Ornithology	6.3.9
<b>Volume 4</b>	
Chapter 1 – Climate Change	6.4.1
Chapter 2 – Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources	6.4.2
Chapter 3 – Socio-economics and Tourism	6.4.3
Chapter 4 – Human Health	6.4.4
Chapter 5 – Inter-related Effects	6.4.5

9.1.5 The Environmental Statement includes the relevant Appendices which support the findings discussed within the each of the relevant volume of the Environmental Statement. The Appendices are listed as follows:

<b>Appendices of the Environmental Statement</b>	
<b>Volume 1</b>	
Appendix 1.1: Statement of Expertise	
Appendix 3.1: Commitments Register	
Appendix 3.2: Onshore Crossing Schedule	
Appendix 3.3: Offshore Crossing Schedule	
Appendix 3.4: Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment	
Appendix 5.1: Scoping Responses	
Appendix 5.2: Transboundary Screening	
Appendix 5.3: Cumulative Effects Assessment Screening Matrix	
<b>Volume 2</b>	
Appendix 1.1: Phase 1 Habitat Survey	
Appendix 1.2: Ecological Desk Study	
Appendix 1.3: Dormouse Report	
Appendix 1.4: Bat Activity and Remote Detector Surveys	
Appendix 1.5: Preliminary Ground Level Bat Tree Roost Assessment	
Appendix 1.6: Otter and Water Vole Survey	
Appendix 1.7: Badger Survey	
Appendix 1.8: Breeding, Wintering and Migratory Bird Surveys	

Appendix 1.9: Reptile Survey
Appendix 1.10: Aquatic Invertebrate Survey
Appendix 1.11: River Condition Assessment
Appendix 1.12: Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service Meeting Notes
Appendix 2.1: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment
Appendix 2.2: Onshore Geophysical Survey Report
Appendix 2.3: Preliminary Trial Trenching Report
Appendix 2.4: Settings Assessment
Appendix 3.1: Flood Risk Assessment
Appendix 3.2: Onshore Water Framework Directive Assessment
Appendix 3.3: Surface Water Abstraction Licences, Discharge Consents and Pollution Incidents
Appendix 4.1: Desk Top Study, Preliminary Risk Assessment and Site Reconnaissance
Appendix 4.2: Private Water Supply Desk Based Assessment
Appendix 5.1: Base Traffic Flow Data
Appendix 5.2: Personal Injury Accident Data
Appendix 5.3: Construction Traffic Generation
Appendix 5.4: Traffic and Transport Assessment Calculations
Appendix 5.5: Junctions 10 Modelling Output
Appendix 5.6: Indicative Access Designs
Appendix 6.1: Baseline Sound Survey
Appendix 6.2: Construction Noise and Vibration
Appendix 6.3: Operational Noise Assessment
Appendix 8.1: Agricultural Land Classification
<b>Volume 3</b>
Appendix 1.1 Intertidal Survey Report
Appendix 1.2 Benthic Habitat Disturbance Calculations
Appendix 3.1 Commercial Fisheries Baseline
Underwater Noise Technical Assessment
Appendix 5.1 Navigational Risk Assessment
Appendix 5.2 Outline Navigational Safety and Vessel Management Plan
Appendix 7.1 Marine Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Appendix 7.2 Archaeological assessment of geophysical data
Appendix 7.3 Stage 1 and 2 Marine Geoarchaeological Assessment

Appendix 7.4 Palaeolandscapes assessment of sub-bottom profiler data
Appendix 7.5 Outline Offshore Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation
Appendix 7.6 Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries
Appendix 8.1 Sediment source concentrations and assessment of disturbance
Appendix 8.2 Wave and Tidal Conditions Technical Note
Appendix 8.3 Sediment Sample Chemistry Results
Appendix 8.4 GEOxyz Environmental Report
<b>Volume 4</b>
Appendix 1.1: Greenhouse Gas Assessment
Appendix 1.2: Climate Change Risk Assessment
Appendix 2.1: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources Planning Policy
Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report
Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report
Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology
Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations
Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey Report and Arboricultural Impact Assessment

9.1.6 Finally, the Environmental Statement includes the relevant figures which support the findings discussed within each of the volumes of the Environmental Statement. The figures are as follows:

<b>Figures of the Environmental Statement</b>
<b>Volume 1</b>
Figure 1.1: Site Location
Figure 1.2: Site Location - Onshore Elements
Figure 3.1: Onshore Infrastructure Area
Figure 3.2: Offshore Cable Corridor
Figure 3.3: Converter Site Location Plan
Figure 3.4: Utilities Diversion Plan
Figure 3.5: Highways Improvements
Figure 3.6: Onshore Cable Crossing Locations
Figure 3.7: Construction Access Routes Plan
Figure 3.8: Abnormal Indivisible Loads Routes Plan
Figure 3.9: Indicative Landfall HDD Exit Locations
Figure 3.10: Offshore Cable Corridor live cable crossings
Figure 3.11: Boulder densities along Offshore Cable Corridor
Figure 3.12: Offshore Cable Corridor burial risk - jetting

Figure 3.13: Offshore Cable Corridor burial risk - mechanical cutter
Figure 3.14: Offshore Cable Corridor burial risk - ploughing
Figure 3.15: Indicative rock placement along Offshore Cable Corridor
Figure 3.16: Biodiversity mitigation and enhancement opportunities
<b>Volume 2</b>
Figure 1.1: Onshore Ecology Study Area
Figure 1.2a: Statutory Designated Sites within the Onshore Ecology Study Area
Figure 1.2b: Non-Statutory Designated Sites within the Onshore Ecology Study Area
Figure 1.3: Predicted Key Bat Flightlines
Figure 1.4: Biodiversity mitigation and enhancement opportunities
Figure 1.5: Cumulative developments screened into the onshore ecology and nature conservation cumulative assessment
Figure 2.1: Historic Environment Study Area
Figure 2.2: Designated Heritage Assets within the 1 km Settings Study Area
Figure 2.3: Designated Heritage Assets within the 5 km Settings Study Area
Figure 2.4: Other Projects and Plans Considered within the Historic Environment CEA
Figure 3.1: Hydrology and Flood Risk Study Area
Figure 3.2: Hydrological Setting
Figure 3.3: Water Framework Directive Catchments
Figure 3.4: Bedrock Geology
Figure 3.5: Superficial Deposits
Figure 3.6: Designated Sites
Figure 3.7: Flood Map for Planning
Figure 3.8: Flood Warning Areas and Flood Alert Areas
Figure 3.9: Cumulative Developments Screened into the Hydrology and Flood Risk assessment
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9.1.7 Other documents within Part 6 of the application include the Non-Technical Summary of the ES (Document Ref. 6.5).



## 10 PART 7 – OTHER DOCUMENTS

- 10.1.1 Part 7 provides other documents which the Applicant has submitted to adhere to the APFP Regulations and/or which are considered by the Applicant to be required to support the Application. These documents have been submitted under Regulation 5(2)(q) as they are documents which are considered to be necessary to support the Planning Application.
- 10.1.2 The Statement of Need (Document Ref. 7.1) explains the need for the Proposed Development and extends the case made in the National Policy Statements relevant to energy infrastructure for low carbon energy generation. It draws upon established and emerging primary analysis and opinion by respected third parties, to support the case that the Project and Proposed Development is required to ensure that the UK remains on track to meet its legally binding carbon emissions reduction targets while enhancing national security of supply, and at a cost which, in relation to other electricity generation infrastructure developments, provides value for money for end-use consumers.
- 10.1.3 The Planning Statement (Document Ref. 7.2) details the Proposed Development compliance with the relevant planning policy framework at both national and local levels and other matters which the Applicant considers are important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision. As part of the Planning Statement, there are the following annex's –
- Annex 1 – Planning Policy Compliance Tables
  - Annex 2 – Project Description and Consideration of Options Document
  - Annex 3 – Planning History
  - Annex 4 – Section 35 Direction
- 10.1.4 The Design Approach Document (Document Ref. 7.3) provides information regarding the context of the Proposed Development's location and context, the design approach and evolution, the green infrastructure strategy, and the detailed design process.
- 10.1.5 The Design Principles (Document Ref. 7.4) document provides information on the detailed design of the Proposed Development. Commitments are required to secure elements of the design that are not covered within the control documents listed above. The principles will inform the detailed design that is secured via a requirement of the draft DCO.
- 10.1.6 The Grid Connection and Cable Statement (Document Ref. 7.5) has been submitted. It outlines the details for the Proposed Development to both the National Grid Substation and wider Project.

- 10.1.7 The Statutory Nuisance Statement (Document Ref. 7.6) identifies the matters set out in Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisances and considers whether the Proposed Development would engage one or more of those matters, as required by Regulation 5(2)(f) of the APFP Regulations. Where any matters may be potentially engaged, this statement sets out its proposals for mitigating or limiting them.
- 10.1.8 The Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.7) sets out the measures that will be included in a detailed onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan to control potential environmental and amenity impacts of construction on the onshore elements of the Proposed Development. As part of this document, there are a number of management plans appended including:
- Outline Pollution Prevention Plan
  - Outline Site Resource and Waste Management Plan
  - Outline Dust Management Plan
  - Outline Soil Management Plan
  - Outline Arboricultural Method Statement
- 10.1.9 The Outline Onshore Written Scheme of Investigation (Document Ref. 7.8) summarises the onshore archaeological work requirement for the Proposed Development. This would be superseded by a final Onshore Written Scheme of Investigation post-consent which will be approved via the DCO requirement.
- 10.1.10 The Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.9) sets out the measures that will be included in a detailed offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan to control potential environmental and amenity impacts of construction on the offshore elements of the Proposed Development.
- 10.1.11 The Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.10) sets out the measures that will be included in a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan which will be approved via a DCO requirement.
- 10.1.12 The Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.11) sets out the measures that will be included in a detailed Public Rights of Way Management Plan which is secured via a DCO Requirement.
- 10.1.13 The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Ref. 7.12) sets out the measures that will be provided in a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan secured via a DCO Requirement for the traffic generated during the Proposed Development's construction phase.
- 10.1.14 An Outline Accommodation Strategy (Document Ref. 7.13) sets out how the construction phase of the Proposed Development has particular impact on peak workforce numbers in terms of accommodation.

- 10.1.15 The Offshore Water Framework Directive Assessment (Document Ref. 7.14) addresses any adverse impacts of the Proposed Development upon the ecological and chemical status of waterbodies, and identifies any relevant mitigation measures.
- 10.1.16 The Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment (Document Ref. 7.15) identifies the process taken to ensure whether a proposed activity can be carried out near or within an MCZ without damaging the protected features of the zone
- 10.1.17 A Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (Document Ref. 7.16) has been submitted to support the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the Proposed Development.
- 10.1.18 The Outline Decommissioning Strategy (Document Ref. 7.19) has been submitted to inform the Environmental Statement by providing a summary of how the Decommissioning would be carried out. However, it should be noted that The DCO does not provide for the decommissioning of the Proposed Development and a separate assessment and consent will be undertaken and obtained in advance of decommissioning if required. Under requirement 16 of the DCO a Decommissioning Strategy will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to the operation of the Proposed Development.
- 10.1.19 The Outline Offshore Biosecurity Plan (Document Ref. 7.19) identifies a set of measures to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) in marine environments.
- 10.1.20 The Outline Bentonite Breakout Plan (Document Ref. 7.20) is a contingency plan that outlines how to respond to a drilling fluid breakout during horizontal directional drilling (HDD).
- 10.1.21 The Other Consents and Agreements (Document Ref. 7.21) has been submitted to show the interrelation of the Proposed Development and DCO with required consents and agreements within both the UK and further afield into the other jurisdictions.
- 10.1.22 The Outline Operational Drainage Plan (Document Ref. 7.22) sets out the measures that will be included in a detailed Operational Drainage Plan which is secured via a DCO Requirement.
- 10.1.23 The Outline Skills and Employment Strategy (Document Ref. 7.23) outlines how the Applicant would promote the delivery of economic benefits generated by the Proposed Development to people and businesses in the local area.

## Appendix A: Draft DCO Application Document Schedule

	Application Document Reference	APFP Regulation	Document	Version	Submission Date
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Application Form</b>				
	EN10164/APP/1.1	Reg 5(2)(q)	Application Covering Letter	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/1.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Guide to the Application	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/1.3	Reg 5(1)	Application Form	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/1.4	Reg 5(2)(q)	Section 55 checklist	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/1.5	Reg 5(2)(q)	Electronic Application Index	1	20/11/2024
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>Plans/Drawings Sections</b>				
	EN10164/APP/2.1	Reg 5(2)(o)	Location Order Limits and Grid Coordinate Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.2	Reg 5(2)(i)	Land Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.3.1	Reg 5(2)(j)	Onshore Works Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.3.2	Reg 5(2)(j)	Offshore Works Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.4		<b>NOT USED</b>		
	EN10164/APP/2.5	Reg 5(2)(o)	Tree and Hedgerow Schedule	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.6	Reg 5(2)(o)	Indicative Converter Site Plan with Sections and Engineering Drawings	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.7	Reg 5(2)(k)	Rights of Way and Streets and Access Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.8.1	Reg 5(2)(n)	Onshore Crown Land Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.8.2	Reg 5(2)(n)	Offshore Crown Land Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.9	Reg 5(2)(i)(iv)	Special Category Land Plans	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/2.10	Reg 5(2)(n)	Converter Site Parameter Plan	1	20/11/2024
<b>Part 3</b>	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b>				
	EN10164/APP/3.1	Reg 5(2)(b)	Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/3.2	Reg 5(2)(c)	Explanatory Memorandum	1	20/11/2024

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	EN10164/APP/3.3	Reg 5(2)(c)	Validation Report	1	20/11/2024
<b>Part 4</b>	<b>Compulsory Acquisition Information</b>				
	EN10164/APP/4.1	Reg 5(2)(h)	Statement of Reasons	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/4.2	Reg 5(2)(h)	Funding Statement	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/4.3	Reg 5(2)(d)	Book of reference	1	20/11/2024
	EN10164/APP/4.4	Reg 5(2)(h)	Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought	1	20/11/2024
<b>Part 5</b>	<b>Reports and Statements</b>				
	EN010164/APP/5.1	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices A-1 to A-4	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices B-1 to B-3	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices C-1 to C-4	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices D-1 to D-4	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices E-1 to F-1	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices G-1 to G-3	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices H-1	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices I-1	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices J-1 to J-2	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices K-1 to K-3	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendix L-1	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/5.2	Reg 5(2)(q)	Consultation Report – Appendices M-1 to M-2	1	20/11/2024
<b>Part 6</b>	<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>				
	<b>Environmental Statement Volume 1 - Chapters</b>				
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 1 – Introduction	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 2 – Policy and Legislation	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 3 – Project Description	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 4 – Need and Alternative	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 5 – EIA Methodology	1	20/11/2024
	<b>Environmental Statement Volume 1 - Appendices</b>				

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	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 3.1 - Commitments Register	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 3.2 - Onshore Crossing Schedule	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 3.3 - Offshore Crossing Schedule	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 3.4 - Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 5.1 - Scoping Responses	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 5.2 - Transboundary Screening	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 5.3 - Cumulative Effects Assessment Screening Matrix	1	20/11/2024
	<b>Environmental Statement Volume 1 - Figures</b>				
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	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 1.2 - Site Location - Onshore Elements	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.1 - Onshore Infrastructure Area	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.2 - Offshore Cable Corridor	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.3 - Converter Site Location Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.4 - Utilities Diversion Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.5 - Highways Improvements	1	20/11/2024
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	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.7 - Construction Access Routes Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.8 - Abnormal Indivisible Loads Routes Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.9 - Indicative Landfall HDD Exit Locations	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.10 - Offshore Cable Corridor live cable crossings	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.11 - Boulder densities along Offshore Cable Corridor	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.12 - Offshore Cable Corridor burial risk - jetting	1	20/11/2024

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	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.13 - Offshore Cable Corridor burial risk - mechanical cutter	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.14 - Offshore Cable Corridor burial risk - ploughing	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.15 - Indicative rock placement along Offshore Cable Corridor	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.1	Reg 5(2)(a)	Figure 3.16 - Biodiversity mitigation and enhancement opportunities	1	20/11/2024
<b>Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Chapters</b>					
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 1 – Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 2 – Historic Environment	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 3 – Hydrology and Flood Risk	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 4 – Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 5 – Traffic and Transport	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 6 – Noise and Vibration	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 7 – Air Quality	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Chapter 8 – Land Use and Recreation	1	20/11/2024
<b>Environmental Statement Volume 2 - Appendices</b>					
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	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 1.3 - Dormouse Report	1	20/11/2024
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	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 1.5 - Preliminary Ground Level Bat Tree Roost	1	20/11/2024
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	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 1.6 - Otter and Water Vole Survey - CONFIDENTIAL	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 1.7 - Badger Survey	1	20/11/2024

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EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 1.9 - Reptile Survey Part 1	1	20/11/2024
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EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 1.11 - River Condition Assessment	1	20/11/2024
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EN010164/APP/6.2	Reg 5(2)(a)	Appendix 2.2 - Onshore Geophysical Survey Report	1	20/11/2024
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	EN010164/APP/7.6	Reg 5(q)(f)	Statutory Nuisance Statement	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.7	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.7	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix A - Outline Pollution Prevention Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.7	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix B - Outline Site Resource and Waste Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.7	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix C - Outline Dust Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.7	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix D - Outline Soil Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.7	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix E - Outline Arboricultural Method Statement	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.8	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Onshore Written Scheme of Investigation	1	20/11/2024

## XLINKS MOROCCO – UK POWER PROJECT

	EN010164/APP/7.9	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.10	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.11	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.12	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.13	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Accommodation Strategy	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.14	Reg5(2)(q)	Offshore Water Framework Directive Assessment	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.15	Reg5(2)(q)	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.16	Reg5(2)(q)	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.17	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Decommissioning Strategy	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.18		<b>NOT USED</b>		
	EN010164/APP/7.19	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Offshore Biosecurity Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.20	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Bentonite Breakout Plan	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.21	Reg5(2)(q)	Other Consents and Agreements	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.22	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Operational Drainage Strategy	1	20/11/2024
	EN010164/APP/7.23	Reg5(2)(q)	Outline Skills and Employment Strategy	1	20/11/2024