MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

Outline Biosecurity protocol

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Contents

Glossary

Term	Meaning
400 kV grid connection cables	Cables that will connect the proposed onshore substations to the existing National Grid Penwortham substation.
Applicants	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (Morgan OWL) and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (Morecambe OWL).
Baseline	The status of the environment without the Transmission Assets in place.
Code of Construction Practice	A document detailing the overarching principles of construction, contractor protocols, construction-related environmental management measures, pollution prevention measures, the selection of appropriate construction techniques and monitoring processes.
Commitment	This term is used interchangeably with mitigation and enhancement measures. The purpose of commitments is to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset significant adverse environmental effects. Primary and tertiary commitments are taken into account and embedded within the assessment set out in the ES.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The process of identifying and assessing the significant effects likely to arise from a project. This requires consideration of the likely changes to the environment, where these arise as a consequence of a project, through comparison with the existing and projected future baseline conditions.
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
Intertidal Infrastructure Area	The temporary and permanent areas between MLWS and MHWS.
Local Planning Authority	The local government body (e.g., Borough Council, District Council, etc.) responsible for determining planning applications within a specific area.
Mean High Water Springs	The height of mean high water during spring tides in a year.
Mean Low Water Springs	The height of mean low water during spring tides in a year.
Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets	The offshore and onshore infrastructure connecting the Morgan Offshore Wind Project and the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm to the national grid. This includes the offshore export cables, landfall site, onshore export cables, onshore substations, 400 kV grid connection cables and associated grid connection infrastructure such as circuit breaker compounds. Also referred to in this report as the Transmission Assets, for ease of reading.
National Grid Penwortham substation	The existing National Grid substation at Penwortham, Lancashire.
Onshore Infrastructure Area	The area within the Transmission Assets Order Limits landward of Mean High Water Springs. Comprising the offshore export cables from Mean High Water Springs to the transition joint bays, onshore export cables, onshore substations and 400 kV grid connection cables, and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure including temporary and permanent compound areas and accesses. Those parts of the Transmission Assets Order Limits proposed only for ecological mitigation/biodiversity benefit are excluded from this area.

Term	Meaning
Onshore Order Limits	See Transmission Assets Order Limits: Onshore (below).
Onshore substations	The onshore substations will include a substation for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Transmission Assets and a substation for the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Transmission Assets. These will each comprise a compound containing the electrical components for transforming the power supplied from the generation assets to 400 kV and to adjust the power quality and power factor, as required to meet the UK Grid Code for supply to the National Grid.
Order limits	The limits within which the Transmission Assets may be carried out.
Substation	Part of an electrical transmission and distribution system. Substations transform voltage from high to low, or the reverse by means of electrical transformers.
Transmission Assets	See Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (above).
Transmission Assets Order Limits	The area within which all components of the Transmission Assets will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning
Transmission Assets Order Limits: Onshore	The area within which all components of the Transmission Assets landward of Mean High Water Springs will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds). Also referred to in this report as the Onshore Order Limits, for ease of reading.
Toolbox Talks	A short presentation to the workforce on a single topic (e.g., health and safety, best practice).

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AA	Accredited Agent
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
COSHH	Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
PCA	Property Care Association
UK	United Kingdom

Units

Unit	Description
cm	Centimetre
g/l	Grams per litre
m	Metres
%	Percentage

1 Outline Biosecurity Protocol

1.1 Background

1.1.1.1 This document forms the Outline Biosecurity Protocol prepared for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets (referred to hereafter as 'the Transmission Assets').

1.2 Implementation

1.2.1.1 This Outline Biosecurity Protocol forms an appendix to the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (document reference J1). Following the granting of consent for the Transmission Assets, detailed Biosecurity Protocols will be prepared as a part of the detailed Code of Construction Practice(s) on behalf of Morgan OWL and/or Morecambe OWL, prior to commencement of the relevant stage of works and will follow the principles established in this Outline Biosecurity Protocol. The detailed Biosecurity Protocol will require approval by the relevant planning authority following consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Applicants and all appointed contractors will be responsible for the implementation of the detailed Biosecurity Protocols.

1.2.1.2 The Applicants have committed to implementation of detailed Biosecurity Protocols via the following commitment, CoT73 (see Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register, document reference F1.5.3), and is secured by inclusion of Requirement 8 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (document reference C1) Schedules 2A & 2B. Below sets out the requirement wording for Project A (Project B's requirement mirror those of Project A for this requirement and are, therefore, not repeated):

8.—(1) No stage of the Project A onshore works or Project A intertidal works may commence until for that stage a code of construction practice has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority following consultation as appropriate with Lancashire County Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency and, in relation to the Project A intertidal works or, if applicable to the Project A offshore works, the MMO.

(2) Each code of construction practice must accord with the outline code of construction practice and include, as appropriate to the relevant stage…

(l) biosecurity protocol (in accordance with the outline biosecurity protocol);...

(3) The code of construction practice approved in relation to the relevant stage of the Project A onshore works must be followed in relation to that stage of the Project A onshore works.

1.2.1.3 The Transmission Assets may adopt a staged approach to the approval of DCO requirements. This will enable requirements to be approved in part or in whole, prior to the commencement of the relevant stage of works in accordance with whether staged approach is to be taken to the delivery of the each of the offshore wind farms.

1.2.1.4 For onshore and intertidal works (landward of Mean Low Water Springs), this approach will be governed by the inclusion of Requirement 3 within the draft DCO, which requires notification to be submitted to the relevant planning authority/authorities detailing whether Project A or Project B relevant works will be constructed in a single stage; or in two or more stages to be approved prior to the commencement of the authorised development.

1.2.2 Pre-commencement surveys

1.2.2.1 Pre-commencement surveys will be undertaken by appropriately qualified ecologists that are competent in the identification of INNS, as defined by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Competency Framework (2021). These will ensure that there is up-to-date information on the location, distribution and extent of INNS within and surrounding the Intertidal Infrastructure Area and the Onshore Order Limits, as detailed in the Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (document reference: J1).

1.3 Biosecurity measures – general

1.3.1.1 To minimise the biosecurity risk, the following measures will be adhered to by all relevant staff and will be incorporated into the method statements for pre-construction surveys and construction works, where required. The measures may be updated pre-construction if further information on construction practices becomes available. General good practice measures to be followed at all times include:

- All construction work will be undertaken in accordance with CIRIA (C532) Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors (CIRIA, 2001) and CIRIA (C753) The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), wherever practical.
- No discharge to surface watercourses will occur without permission from the Environment Agency.
- All appropriate staff members and site personnel should be made aware of the location of INNS and should be informed of the necessary precautions required to prevent spread.
- All areas where INNS are present on site including a 3 metre (m) buffer should be fenced off where possible and signs erected indicating that INNS are present and that they should not be disturbed. The fencing should remain intact until the construction phase has been completed, or until it is confirmed by the ECoW that the INNS has been removed completely.
- Plant and other vehicles should be prevented from driving over any area which might contain INNS-contaminated soil.
- Potentially contaminated soil/rubble/gravel material should not be moved, disturbed or driven over unless it is as part of control action.
- When moving between sites or access points mud, plants and other materials will be removed from boots, vehicles and equipment using a

stiff brush where necessary. Boots will additionally be disinfected using an appropriate multipurpose disinfectant. Unused disinfectant would be disposed of in accordance with manufactures instructions/Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) data sheet.

- Whenever practicable, park on areas of hard-standing.
- Keep accesses to a minimum and whenever practicable, follow existing tracks. Schedule multiple site visits so that sites of greatest risk with regard to INNS, diseases or pathogens are visited at the end of the day.
- If any member of site staff comes into contact with material, that they suspect may be a risk (e.g. dead amphibians, livestock, or a suspected invasive plant) the following actions should be undertaken.
  - Make a note of the location of material (take photograph and if possible, note the location on a plan or take a phone GPS reading).
  - Notify the site supervisor and ECoW within 24 hours.
  - Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear and equipment that has come into contact with the suspect material using an appropriate disinfectant as advised by the ECoW (e.g., Virkon ® broad spectrum disinfectant or Propeller™ disinfectant for Phytophthora infection).
- Arrive at the construction site with clean footwear, equipment and vehicle(s).
- Whenever practicable, avoid the following:
  - areas with known plant disease (if relevant);
  - livestock areas;
  - contact with potentially infectious material e.g. Rhododendron, a primary host plant of Phytophthora diseases, especially when wilted/dying (i.e. showing signs of infection); and
  - areas of known *Chytridiomycosis* infection or other diseases or pathogens.
- Schedule multiple site visits where sites of greatest risk with regard to biosecurity are visited at the end of the day, to minimise risk of pathogen/INNS transmission.

When working in or near water

1.3.1.2 The Outline Biosecurity Protocol will be implemented to minimise the risk of spreading INNS and the main risks are associated with the transfer of aquatic plants or animals between watercourses or waterbodies. Where working in or near water, appropriate control measures will be implemented in addition to those measures listed in **paragraph 1.3.1.1**, such as those included in the following.

- Clean boots (using a hard bristle brush if necessary) and disinfect (away from waterbodies to prevent potential pollutant incidents) all equipment that might come into contact with water using Virkon ® suitable for wetland habitat (1% solution or 10g/l) (or other appropriate disinfectant)

prior to and at the end of each site visit. Any powder-free disposable gloves will be appropriately disposed of between site visits.

- Wheel washers and dust suppression measures to be used as appropriate, where necessary, to prevent the migration of pollutants.
- Ensure vehicle tyres and wheel arches are cleared of mud, plants and other organic material before leaving site and before moving from one farm to another. Leave removed material on site. Also, regular cleaning of access roads of any construction waste and dirt to be carried out.
- Regular cleaning of access roads of any construction waste and dirt to be carried out.
- Surface water flowing into the trenches during the construction period will be pumped via settling tanks or ponds to remove sediment and potential contaminants, before being discharged into local ditches or drains via temporary interceptor drains. Where gradients on site are significant, cable trenches will include a hydraulic brake (bentonite or natural clay seals) to reduce flow along trenches and hence reduce local erosion.
- Deep trenchless excavations and deep excavations for pile foundations to be mitigated by casing off perched groundwater units during construction works and sealing off once the casing is removed.
- Inert bentonite or natural clay seals may be used as a drilling fluid and to seal deep excavations where there is a risk that groundwater could be compromised, thereby reducing or eliminating the pathway whereby new contaminants can enter.
- Measures will be employed to intercept and treat run-off from the working corridor, for example by using sandbags, settlement tanks and lagoons. After treatment, discharge of any waters will be carried out so as to minimise physical impacts on channel morphology.

1.3.1.3 Any INNS-contaminated material that is being disposed of off-site must be taken to a waste disposal facility that is licensed to receive such waste. The landfill site should supply evidence of its licence.

1.3.1.4 Before any INNS-contaminated waste is moved off site, soil sampling results will be required from the affected area, and the results sent to the receiving landfill site for their approval before they will accept the waste. There is a standard turnaround time of two weeks for laboratories to assess soil samples. The range of contaminants required to be tested for will depend on the existing and previous use of the site, and surrounding area. If the site contains hazardous waste, then Waste Acceptance Criteria analysis will be required.

1.3.1.5 All works that include the movement or disposal of INNS-contaminated material should be conducted by specialist contractors under detailed INNS-specific method statements.

1.3.2 Notifiable animal diseases and plant pests and pathogens

1.3.2.1 The risk of the spread of notifiable animal diseases and plant pests and pathogens is likely to be low unless there is a known outbreak on or adjacent to the Onshore Infrastructure Area or Intertidal Infrastructure Area. There will be no necessity to enter yards or enclosures where livestock are regularly kept, which will greatly reduce the risk of spreading animal diseases.

1.3.2.2 As reported in Volume 3, Annex 3.3: Phase 1 habitat survey, national vegetation classification and hedgerow survey technical report of the Environmental Statement, the vast majority of the Intertidal Infrastructure Area and Onshore Infrastructure Area comprises improved or poor semi-improved grassland. As such, across most of the Onshore Order Limits there is a low risk of encountering notifiable plant pests and pathogens, which are often are more likely to be present in areas cultivated for arable crops.

1.3.2.3 Notwithstanding, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) should be contacted prior to construction to request the following information for construction works area or areas through which vehicles staff or equipment will move any:

- known or suspected outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases or plant pests and pathogens in the construction works area or areas through which vehicles staff or equipment will move;
- Restricted Infected Areas; or
- Plant Health Control orders which are currently in force.

1.3.3 Dynamic risk assessment

1.3.3.1 In the absence of a known outbreak within the Intertidal Infrastructure Area and the Onshore Infrastructure Area, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Guidance to staff who visit farms (HSE, 2015) provides appropriate biosecurity measures for farm visits, assuming there will be no close contact with livestock or disturbance of arable crops. This includes the following measures, which will be implemented as part of the Outline Biosecurity Protocol, where practicable.

- Keep farm accesses to the minimum necessary and follow existing tracks.
- Park off farm or on hard standing away from livestock.
- Vehicles taken onto farms should be visibly free of animal excreta, slurry etc.
- Footwear, waterproof clothing, vehicles and equipment should be clean before entering a farm for the first time.
- Before moving between farms, visible faecal contamination (e.g. manure, slurry etc.) should be cleaned from the outside of the vehicles which should be disinfected using on-farm facilities. If this is not possible, vehicles should be cleaned before being taken onto another farm with livestock.

- Footwear should be cleaned and disinfected before moving between farms with a multipurpose disinfectant that is effective against viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens.
- Restrict the amount of equipment taken onto site to only what is required.
- Avoid driving through wooded areas; areas with known outbreaks of plant or animal diseases; and livestock areas.
- Schedule multiple site visits so that sites of greatest risk with regard to INNS, diseases or pathogens are visited at the end of the working day.

1.3.3.2 Areas of known risk, such as areas with known outbreaks of animal or plant diseases, or confirmed presence of INNS, will have been identified and demarcated in advance via pre-construction surveys. In addition, consultation with Defra and ongoing monitoring by the ECoW or competent ecologist will also be undertaken. The following measures would be undertaken.

- Make a note of the location of material (take photograph and, if possible, note the location on a plan or take a phone GPS reading).
- Notify the site supervisor and ECoW within 24 hours.
- Clean and disinfect clothing, footwear and equipment that has come into contact with the suspect material using an appropriate disinfectant as advised by the ECoW (e.g. Virkon ® broad spectrum disinfectant or Propeller™ disinfectant for Phytophthora infection).

1.3.3.3 If there is a known outbreak of a particular notifiable animal disease or a plant pest/pathogen, this will be identified through the pre-works checks with Defra and the landowner. Where this is the case, additional biosecurity measures may be necessary.

1.3.3.4 In the first instance, the landowner should be consulted on specific biosecurity measures in place, and these will be followed. Additional advice should be sought from Defra and any control measures specified by Defra will be followed.

1.4 References

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