

MORGAN OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT: GENERATION ASSETS

Statement of Common Ground between Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Natural Resources Wales

Deadline: 6

Application Reference: EN010136

Document Number: MRCNS-J3303-RPS-10182

Document Reference: S_D6_NRW

27 February 2025

F02



Image of an offshore wind farm

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Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
F01	Deadline 2	RPS	Morgan Offshore Wind Ltd.	Morgan Offshore Wind Ltd.	October 2024
F02	Deadline 6	RPS	Morgan Offshore Wind Ltd.	Morgan Offshore Wind Ltd.	February 2025

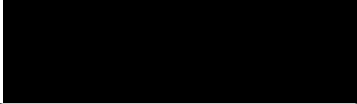
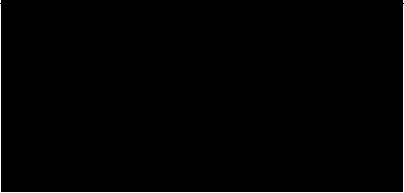
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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Applicant	Morgan Offshore Wind Limited.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Morgan Offshore Wind Project	The Morgan Offshore Wind Project is comprised of both the generation assets and offshore and onshore transmission assets, and associated activities.
Morgan Array Area	The area within which the wind turbines, foundations, inter-array cables, interconnector cables, scour protection, cable protection and offshore substation platforms (OSPs) forming part of the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets will be located.
Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets	This is the name given to the Morgan Generation Assets project as a whole (includes all infrastructure and activities associated with the project construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning).
The Planning Inspectorate	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AEoI	Adverse Effect on Integrity
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CRM	Collision Risk Model
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EWG	Expert Working Groups
HRA	Habitat Regulation Assessment
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
ISAA	Information to Support Appropriate Assessment
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
MPCP	Marine Pollution Contingency Plan
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
sCRM	Stochastic Collision Risk Model
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body

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Acronym	Description
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
UWSMS	Underwater Sound Management Strategy
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

Units

Unit	Description
kV	Kilovolts
m	Metre

1 Statement of Common Ground between Morgan Offshore Wind Project and Natural Resources Wales

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Overview

1.1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between Morgan Offshore Wind Limited (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Advisory, hereafter referred together as the parties. The SoCG sets out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets (hereafter referred to as the ‘Morgan Generation Assets’).

1.1.1.2 The need for a SoCG between the Applicant and NRW is set out within the Rule 6 letter that was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 5 August 2024 (PD-001).

1.1.1.3 This document is intended to provide the Examining Authority with an overview of the level of common ground between the parties. The SoCG will facilitate further discussion between the parties and will be updated during the Morgan Generation Assets Examination and submitted at the Deadlines indicated in the Rule 6 letter (PD-001).

1.1.2 Morgan Generation Assets Elements under Natural Resources Wales’s Remit

1.1.2.1 The statutory purpose of NRW is set out by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. In the exercise of its functions NRW must pursue sustainable management of natural resources in relation to all of its work in Wales and apply the principles of sustainable management of natural resources in so far as that is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions.

1.1.2.2 NRW’s duty (in common with the other public bodies covered by the Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015) is to carry out sustainable development. This means, in general terms, looking after air, land, water, wildlife, plants, and soil to improve Wales’ well-being, and provide a better future for everyone. NRW are also advisors to the Welsh Government on the natural heritage and resources of Wales and its coastal waters. NRW’s remit extends across the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments of Wales.

1.1.2.3 The elements of the Morgan Generation Assets which may affect the interests of Natural Resources Wales, covering the offshore works. These are detailed in Schedule 1 (Authorised Project), Part 1 (Authorised Development) of the draft DCO (Document Reference C1).

1.1.2.4 This SoCG covers the following topics of relevance to Natural Resources Wales:

- Satisfaction with matters relating to marine ornithology and ecology in relation to Welsh sites, including:
 - Marine mammals
 - Offshore ornithology
 - Habitats Regulations Assessment.

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1.1.3 Overview of Morgan Generation Assets

1.1.3.1 Morgan Generation Assets is a proposed offshore wind farm located in the east Irish Sea. The Morgan Generation Assets will include offshore infrastructure and consists of:

- Morgan Array Area: This is where the wind turbines, Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs), foundations (for both wind turbines and OSPs), inter-array cables and interconnector cables will be located.

1.1.4 Approach to SoCG

1.1.4.1 This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination phase and will be progressed during the examination phase of the Morgan Generation Assets. In accordance with discussions between the parties, the SoCG is focused on those issues raised by Natural Resources Wales within its response to Scoping, Section 42 consultation and as raised through the Evidence Plan process that has underpinned the pre-application consultation between the parties. This SoCG also includes those issues raised by Natural Resources Wales during the post-application phase (i.e. relevant representations and pre-examination meetings).

1.1.4.2 The structure of this SoCG is as follows:

- Section 1.1: Introduction
- Section 1.2: Summary of SoCG
- Section 1.3: Summary of consultation
- Section 1.4: Agreement Log.

1.2 Summary of SoCG

1.2.1 Overview

1.2.1.1 This SoCG outlines the consultation that has taken place between the parties during the pre-application and post-application phase of the Morgan Generation Assets. The agreement logs present the position reached on 27 February 2025 (Deadline 6).

1.2.2 Summary of Those Matters Agreed, Ongoing Points of Discussion and Not Agreed

1.2.2.1 Table 1.1 provides a summary of those matters agreed, an ongoing point of discussion or not agreed between the parties. All other matters pertaining to development will be deferred to Natural England.

Table 1.1: Summary of areas agreed, ongoing points of discussion and not agreed between the parties.

Topic	Agreed
Marine Mammals	All matters agreed or agreed with caveats .
Offshore Ornithology	All matters agreed or agreed with caveats except one point not agreed, but not material .
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	All matters agreed or agreed with caveats .

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1.3 Summary of Consultation

1.3.1.1 Table 1.2 below provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant with NRW, relevant to Physical Processes, Benthic Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology, Marine Mammals, and Offshore Ornithology during the pre-application phases of the Morgan Generation Assets. Table 1.3 below provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant with Natural Resources Wales during the post-application phases of the Morgan Generation Assets.

Table 1.2: Summary of pre-application consultation with Natural Resources Wales.

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory or non-statutory engagement	Summary of consultation
Evidence Plan steering group			
16/11/2021	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and gain feedback on Evidence Plan Identify key contacts and roles and responsibilities Discuss establishment of Expert Working Groups (EWGs) and key contacts for these
14/12/2021	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce high level feedback on the Offshore Wind Project cable routing process To identify red flags
29/06/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project updates, HRA Stage 1 Screening and ISAA methodology, Section 42 responses and agreement logs
17/10/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project updates, HRA Stage 1 Screening and ISAA methodology and approach to underwater sound impact management
Evidence Plan benthic ecology, fish and shellfish ecology and physical processes EWG			
17/02/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and gain feedback on Evidence Plan Discuss stakeholder comments on the survey scopes to date and any further data required Update on the progress of surveys and data analysis
01/04/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of the benthic survey scope of works
29/11/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key project updates Presentation of the baseline characterisation and modelling approach Initial outputs of impact assessment

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Date	Form of consultation	Statutory or non-statutory engagement	Summary of consultation
14/03/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the updated baseline characterisation for the Morgan Generation Assets Cumulative assessment approach and initial impact assessment approach to agreement
11/07/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of statutory consultation responses Updates baselines Agreement log
14/08/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of a technical note presenting the approach to physical processes modelling for the application
12/10/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the updates to the benthic ecology baseline characterisation to address statutory consultation responses. Physical processes and fish and shellfish ecology were not discussed
07/12/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the final impact assessment, final mitigation and monitoring requirements and progress to agreement

Evidence Plan marine mammal EWG

19/07/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree the marine mammal study areas, approach to baseline characterisation and approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including impact scoping
17/11/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the baseline characterisation and discuss and agree the approach to the underwater sound assessment and population modelling approach
09/02/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the updated baseline characterisation, underwater sound modelling outputs, and cumulative assessment
29/06/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the updated assessment and to discuss statutory consultation responses
10/10/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of technical note with approach to addressing outstanding items for agreement
05/12/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final impact assessment, final mitigation and monitoring requirements, and progress to agreement
23/04/2024	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the outline Underwater Sound Management Strategy (APP-068)

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Date	Form of consultation	Statutory or non-statutory engagement	Summary of consultation
Evidence Plan offshore ornithology EWG			
18/02/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and gain feedback on Evidence Plan Discuss stakeholder comments on the survey scopes to date (i.e. prior to Evidence Plan) and any further data required Update on the progress of surveys and data analysis
27/05/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of technical notes outlining the Applicants approach to the offshore ornithology baseline characterisation, displacement and Collision Risk Modelling (CRM) technical reports
13/07/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree the approach to baseline characterisation, cumulative study area to agree the approach to EIA, including impact scoping Presentation of the interim baseline characterisation and discuss and agree the approach to data analyses, including relevant modelling techniques and parameters
30/11/2022	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree key receptor species and to present the interim assessment of impacts and discuss and agree the relevant regional populations and protected sites/qualifying interests for assessment and approach to HRA Stage 1 screening
23/02/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree key receptor species and to present the interim assessment of impacts and discuss and agree the relevant regional populations and protected sites/qualifying interests for assessment and approach to HRA Stage 1 screening Discuss and agree scope of cumulative impact assessment and transboundary considerations To discuss and agree population assessment approaches and thresholds for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) and integrity
30/06/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to baseline characterisation for complete baseline data set and discuss and agree any amendments to previously agreed approaches. Statutory consultation responses
10/07/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of the technical note presenting the power analysis undertaken at the request of the EWG
19/10/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of updated baseline characterisation and impact assessment for the Environmental Statement

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Date	Form of consultation	Statutory or non-statutory engagement	Summary of consultation
08/12/2023	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of final impact assessment, comments on draft Environmental Statement, final mitigation and monitoring requirements
08/03/2024	Meeting	Non-statutory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of final impact assessment and HRA Discussion on remaining outstanding agreements.

Table 1.3: Summary of post-application consultation with Natural Resources Wales.

Date	Form of consultation	Statutory or non-statutory engagement	Summary of consultation
09/07/2024	Relevant representations	Statutory	Relevant representations of NRW.
19/09/2024	Meeting	Statutory	Initial discussion on SoCG content and scope.
28/11/2024	Meeting	Statutory	Ornithology clarification data proposed approach.
08/01/2025	Meeting	Statutory	Ornithology clarification data and remaining matters for resolution.
22/01/2025	Meeting	Statutory	Marine mammals remaining matters for resolution.
24/01/2025	Meeting	Statutory	Ornithology clarification data updates and further clarification to inform the RIES.

1.4 Agreement log

1.4.1 Overview

1.4.1.1 This section of the SoCG sets out the level of agreement between the parties. For each matter the status is identified as being either agreed, not agreed or an ongoing point of discussion, according to the criteria set out in Table 1.4 below.

Table 1.4: Position definitions and colour coding.

Position and colour coding	Definition of position
Agreed	The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.
Ongoing point of discussion	The matter is neither agreed or not agreed, and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties.
Not agreed, but not material	The matter is not considered to be agreed between the parties, but is not deemed material
Not agreed	The matter is not considered to be agreed between the parties.

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1.5 Marine Mammals

Table 1.5 sets out the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant component of the application (as identified in section 1.1.1.3) in relation to Marine Mammals.

Table 1.5: Agreement Log between the parties on Marine Mammals.

Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
EIA				
NRW.MM.1	Consultation	The Applicant has undertaken adequate consultation with NRW Advisory on potential impacts on marine mammals.	NRW Advisory agrees that the applicant has undertaken adequate consultation with NRW Advisory on potential impacts on marine mammals.	Agreed
NRW.MM.2	Consultation	The EIA has had due regard to matters raised by NRW Advisory through statutory and non-statutory consultation on potential impacts on marine mammals.	NRW Advisory agrees that the EIA has had due regard to matters raised by NRW Advisory.	Agreed
NRW.MM.3	Surveys	Agreement on approach to aerial surveys with respect to marine mammals.	NRW Advisory agrees with the data collected through surveys and literature including the data sources used to characterise the baseline, as well as the management unit approach adopted.	Agreed
NRW.MM.2	Baseline environment	Agreement on the baseline characterisation for marine mammals.	NRW Advisory agrees with the data collected through surveys and literature including the data sources used to characterise the baseline, as well as the management unit approach adopted.	Agreed
NRW.MM.3	Baseline environment	Agreement on approach to the baseline characterisation.	NRW Advisory can confirm that we agree with the approach to the baseline characterisation approach following discussions during EWG 06.	Agreed
NRW.MM.4	Scoping	Agreement to the scoping of impacts for the EIA for marine mammals.	NRW Advisory agrees with the scoping of impacts for the EIA for marine mammals.	Agreed
NRW.MM.5	Study area	The EIA study area for marine mammals is appropriate for the receptors and impacts assessed.	NRW Advisory agrees with the data collected through surveys and literature including the data sources used to characterise the baseline, as well as the management unit approach adopted.	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.MM.6	Project design envelope	The EIA chapter has identified, described and assessed the maximum design scenario for the EIA.	NRW Advisory agrees that the maximum design scenario has been identified, described, and assessed for the EIA.	Agreed
NRW.MM.7	Assessment methodology	The sensitivity of marine mammal receptors has been correctly identified and sufficiently described within the EIA.	NRW Advisory agrees that the sensitivity of marine mammal receptors has been correctly identified and sufficiently described within the EIA.	Agreed
NRW.MM.8	Assessment methodology	Agreement on approach to underwater sound modelling and approach to assessment of underwater sound impacts on marine mammals.	NRW Advisory broadly agrees with the approach to underwater sound modelling and mostly agree with the approach to assessment of underwater sound impacts. NRW Advisory are aware of the Applicant submitting an updated Environmental Statement chapter for Marine Mammals at deadline 6 (received via email 14/02/2025) that confirms the following amendments: ' <i>...The numbers presented represent a single point in time during vessel activity noting that there is no accepted method of modelling cumulative disturbance from vessels. However, given that the numbers in Table 4.44 have been estimated for disturbance out to 7km this provides a precautionary buffer against the modelled ranges of up to 3.6km</i> ' (paragraph 4.9.4.22) and ' <i>Table 4.44 Potential number of animals predicted to be disturbed at a single point in time per vessel...</i> '. Provided this same document is submitted into examination, we would expect to agree.	Agreed with caveats
NRW.MM.9	Assessment methodology	Agreement on approach to densities and reference populations.	NRW Advisory agree with the approach to densities and reference populations.	Agreed
NRW.MM.10	Assessment methodology	The list of projects screened into the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) in the EIA is appropriate.	NRW Advisory agrees with the list of projects screened into the CEA in the EIA.	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.MM.11	Assessment of the effects from the project alone	Other than piling and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) impacts, there will be no significant effects on marine mammal receptors in EIA terms for the Morgan Generation Assets alone.	NRW Advisory agrees with the overall conclusions presented in the EIA, as above in NRW.MM.8, provided that the Environmental Statement Chapter for Mammals is amended and submitted into Examination at Deadline 6, we would expect to agree with the Applicant.	Agreed with caveats
NRW.MM.12	Assessment of the effects from the project cumulatively	Other than piling and UXO impacts, there will be no significant effects on marine mammal receptors in EIA terms for the Morgan Generation Assets cumulatively.	Provided the points mentioned in MM.11 above are addressed, NRW would expect to agree with the Applicant.	Agreed with caveats
NRW.MM.13	Mitigation	For UXO impacts, although a significant effect (injury) on harbour porpoise was predicted in Volume 2, Chapter 4: marine mammals (REP5-024) for high order clearance of the maximum size of UXO, the Applicant has removed high-order UXO clearance from the draft DCO. The Applicant updated the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) (REP5-021) and Underwater Sound Management Strategy (UWSMS) (REP5-025) at Deadline 5 in light of feedback from Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCBs) during the Examination process. The MMMP states that if high order clearance is required after following the mitigation hierarchy, a separate licence will be required, and secondary measures (including noise abatement systems) will be applied if required. The MMMP and UWSMS will be agreed with stakeholders' post consent.	<p>NRW Advisory would in principle expect to agree that impacts to harbour porpoise will be managed and avoided through measures set-up post consent, following discussion with stakeholders.</p> <p>We welcome the Applicant's decision to remove high-order clearance from the draft DCO. Our position on the use of different UXO clearance methods (low-order compared to high-order) remains that all UXO clearance is restricted to low-noise methods only, and that high order clearance should only be used in exceptional circumstance.</p> <p>NRW Advisory agree, in principle, with the commitment to develop an UWSMS and that it should identify all potential noise sources associated with the project with further detail provided in associated mitigation plans. Whilst we acknowledge that further significant detail cannot be populated at this time, we consider it likely that the UWSMS could potentially reduce the magnitude of impacts to an acceptable level. We welcome the commitment of the Applicant to continue to engage with NRW Advisory to develop the USWMS pre and post-consent.</p>	Agreed with caveats

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.MM.14	Mitigation	For piling impacts, although a significant cumulative effect (in EIA terms) is predicted on bottlenose dolphin, any such effects will be managed and avoided through measures set out in the Outline UWSMS (REP5-025) and Outline MMMP (REP5-021) (including the commitment to noise abatement systems for secondary measures if driven piling is undertaken), which will be agreed with stakeholders post consent. The Applicant updated the Outline MMMP (REP5-021) and Outline UWSMS (REP5- 025) at Deadline 5 in light of feedback received from SNCBs during Examination.	<p>We welcome the Applicant's updates and amendments to the Outline UWSMS (REP5-025) and Outline MMMP (REP5-021) presented at Deadline 5. We can consider this matter agreed.</p> <p>NRW Advisory would in principle expect to agree that impacts to bottlenose dolphin will be managed and avoided through measures set-up post consent, following discussion with stakeholders.</p> <p>NRW Advisory agree, in principle, with the commitment to develop an UWSMS and that it should identify all potential noise sources associated with the project with further detail provided in associated mitigation plans. Whilst we acknowledge that further significant detail cannot be populated at this time, we consider it likely that the UWSMS could reduce the magnitude of impacts to an acceptable level. We welcome the commitment of the Applicant to continue to engage with NRW Advisory to develop the USWMS pre and post-consent.</p>	Agreed
NRW.MM.15	Mitigation and monitoring	The mitigation measures and conditions outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals (REP5-024), the Commitments Register (REP5-029), the Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels (REP5-046), the MMMP (REP5-021) and UWSMS (REP5-025).are appropriate and will ensure significant effects alone and cumulatively are avoided. The Applicant updated the Outline MMMP (REP5-021) and Outline UWSMS (REP5- 025) at Deadline 5 in light of feedback received from SNCBs during Examination.	We welcome the Applicant's updates and amendments to the Outline UWSMS (REP5-025) and Outline MMMP (REP5-021) presented at Deadline 5. NRW Advisory would in principle agree that the mitigation measures and conditions outlined in AS-010 and APP-076 are appropriate, noting our current comments on the draft outline UWSMS. We welcome post consent discussions and review of the final UWSMS.	Agreed with caveats

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.MM.16	Assessment of interrelated effects	Agreement on the approach and conclusion of the inter-related effects assessment in Volume 2, Chapter 15: Inter-related Effects (APP-019) and Volume 2, Chapter 4: Marine mammals (APP-022).	<p>Given the mitigation measures planned, including development of the MMMP and UWSMS, NRW anticipate being able to agree with the overall conclusion in the ES [AS-010] and PD1-009 provided agreement is reached on mitigation measures post-consent and secured through relevant conditions.</p> <p>Whilst we acknowledge that further significant detail cannot be populated at this time, we consider it likely that the UWSMS could reduce the magnitude of impacts to an acceptable level. We welcome the commitment of the Applicant to continue to engage with NRW to develop the UWSMS pre and post-consent.</p>	Agreed with caveats

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1.6 Offshore Ornithology

Table 1.6 sets out the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant component of the application (as identified in section 1.1.1.3) in relation to Offshore Ornithology.

Table 1.6: Agreement Log between the parties on Offshore Ornithology.

Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
EIA				
NRW.OO.1	Consultation	<p>The Applicant has undertaken adequate consultation with NRW Advisory on potential impacts on Offshore Ornithology.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p>	<p>Good progress was made through the EWG during the pre-application process, with broad agreement on most areas. However, some approaches to assessments presented in the application differed to those agreed through the EWG process or had not been discussed with the EWG before the submission, specifically, the method taken to kittiwake age class apportioning during the breeding season using the Hornsea 2 approach (see comments in our Relevant and Written Representations). We welcome and acknowledge the work the Applicant has through the examination, particularly the additional submissions at Deadline 5 [REP5-033] and the additional submission by the Applicant, accepted by the Examining Authority on 31 January 2025 [AS-013], which largely follow the advice provided by NRW Advisory.</p> <p>We note that as the Morgan Generation Assets project is located wholly in English waters, NRW's primary area of interest for offshore ornithology for this project is on impacts to Welsh designated sites.</p>	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.OO.2	Consultation	The EIA has had due regard to matters raised by NRW Advisory through statutory and non-statutory consultation on potential impacts on offshore ornithology.	See comments on NRW.OO.1 above.	Agreed
NRW.OO.3	Surveys	Agreement on broad approach to aerial surveys.	NRW Advisory agree with the broad approach to aerial surveys.	Agreed
NRW.OO.4	Scoping	Agreement to the scoping of impacts for the EIA for offshore ornithology.	NRW Advisory Agree on this point.	Agreed
NRW.OO.5	Baseline environment	Agreement on the baseline characterisation for offshore ornithology.	NRW Advisory Agree on this point. Power analysis report has been reviewed by NRW Advisory and the work undertaken does provide NRW Advisory with some confidence that the digital aerial surveys conducted are fit for purpose in terms of baseline characterisation for consideration in EIA and HRA.	Agreed
NRW.OO.6	Project design envelope	The EIA chapter has identified, described and assessed the maximum design scenario for the EIA.	NRW Advisory agree that the application sets out the Maximum Design Scenario and that this scenario is assessed.	Agreed
NRW.OO.7	Assessment methodology	The sensitivity of offshore ornithology receptors has been correctly identified and sufficiently described within the EIA.	NRW Advisory agree that the sensitivity of offshore ornithology receptors has been correctly identified and sufficiently described.	Agreed
NRW.OO.8	Assessment methodology	Agreement on the approach to displacement assessment methodology.	As a range of % displacement and % mortality rates have been considered and assessed (as presented in REP5-033 and the additional submission accepted by the ExA on 31 January 2025, [AS-013]), as advised by NRW Advisory, NRW Advisory agree with the approach to displacement assessment methodology.	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.OO.9	Assessment methodology	<p>Agreement on the approach to collision risk assessment methodology.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory.</p>	<p>NRW Advisory agrees with the approach of using the stochastic Collision Risk Model (sCRM) and largely agree with the input parameters used. However, it should be noted that NRW Advisory advise the use of the species-group avoidance rates rather than the species-specific avoidance rates and use of flight speeds from Alerstam et al. (2007) or Pennycuick (1997) (as was advised during the EWG). We note that in the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' [REP5-033] submitted at Deadline 5, the Applicant has presented potential impacts from the project alone and cumulatively/in-combination for using the species-group avoidance rates and SNCB advised flight speeds. Therefore, NRW Advisory are content with this, and we have based our advice on the predicted impacts based on these input parameters.</p>	Agreed with caveats

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.OO.10	Assessment methodology	Use of the latest species-specific avoidance rates from Ozsanlav-Harris et al. (2023) in the non-migratory CRM.	<p>The use of species-specific versus species-group avoidance rates was discussed with the Expert Working Group (EWG) and the SNCBs (NE/NRW/JNCC) advised that due to the paucity of offshore, species-specific data that undermines the confidence we can place in species-specific rates at this stage, we currently advise that the species group avoidance rates are used in assessments.</p> <p>We note that in Section 5.7.5 of Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology (APP-057) the Applicant has presented potential from the project alone for using both the species-specific and species-group avoidance rates. We also note that in the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' [REP5-033] submitted at Deadline 5, the Applicant has presented potential impacts from the project alone and cumulatively/in-combination for using the species-group avoidance rates. Therefore, NRW Advisory are content with this, and we have based our advice on the predicted impacts using the SNCB advised species-group avoidance rates and other input parameters (e.g. flight speeds).</p>	Agreed with caveats
NRW.OO.11	Assessment methodology	Agreement on the approach to migratory bird collision risk assessment methodology.	NRW Advisory confirms agreement to the approach set out by the Applicant in EWG05 during that meeting as set out in EWG05 meeting minutes.	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.OO.12	Assessment methodology	<p>The list of projects screened into the CEA in the EIA is appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p>	<p>NRW Advisory agrees with the projects screened into the EIA cumulative assessment. The Applicant has also undertaken a 'gap fill' exercise for historic projects and these have been included in the cumulative and in-combination assessments in the updated assessments submitted at Deadline 5 [REP5-033] and its subsequent update accepted into the examination by the ExA on 31 January 2025 [AS-013]. The Applicant has also included in these assessments quantitative figures for projects with data that have become available since the submission (updated Morecambe Generation Assets and Llŷr 1).</p>	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.OO.13	Assessment of the effects from the project alone and cumulatively with other projects	<p>There will be no significant effects on ornithology receptors in EIA terms for the project alone and cumulatively with other plans and projects.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p>	<p>As the Morgan Generation Assets project is located wholly in English waters, NRW's primary area of interest for offshore ornithology for this project is on impacts to Welsh designated sites, namely Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (covered under HRA) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (covered under EIA). With regard to EIA scale impacts from the project alone, we defer advice to Natural England (NE), with the exception of impacts to Welsh SSSIs.</p> <p>Following the updates undertaken by the Applicant through the examination to the assessments of impacts to the features of the Pen y Gogarth/Great Orme's Head SSSI, particularly at Deadline 4 [REP4-029], we can agree that there would be no significant adverse effects on the guillemot, razorbill and kittiwake features of the site from impacts from the project alone. We can also agree that there would be no significant adverse effects on the guillemot and razorbill features from impacts from the project cumulatively with other plans and projects (see Section 1.1 of REP5-083a).</p> <p>However, we consider there is the potential for the cumulative impacts to have the potential to give rise to a moderate (i.e. significant) adverse impact to the kittiwake feature of the Pen y Gogarth/Great Orme's Head SSSI. However, we are content that the Applicant has provided proportionate mitigation (through the air draught height) for kittiwake for this site (see Section 1.1 of REP5- 083a).</p>	Not agreed, but not material

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.OO.14	Mitigation and monitoring	The mitigation measures and conditions outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Offshore ornithology (APP-023), the Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels (REP5-046), and the Commitments Register (REP5-029) are appropriate and will ensure significant effects are avoided.	<p>NRW Advisory welcome the offshore ornithology mitigation measures put forward in APP-023 and the subsequent updates at Deadline 5, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum lower blade tip height (air draught) of 34 m above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT), which allowing for -4 m tidal offset between LAT and mean sea level (MSL) is an air draught of 30 m above MSL (see Table 5.26 of APP-023). • Development of, and adherence to, an offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels [REP5-046] will be included within the Offshore EMP. • Development and adherence to an offshore EMP that will include a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) which will include planning for accidental spills, address all potential contaminant releases and include key emergency details. <p>As a result of the Applicant's updates at Deadline 5, we can agree that the mitigation measures proposed are appropriate.</p>	Agreed

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1.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Table 1.7 sets out the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant component of the application (as identified in section 1.1.1.3) in relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Table 1.7: Agreement Log between the parties on Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
Marine mammals				
NRW.HRA.MM.1	Assessment methodology	Agreement on approach to LSE Screening for Marine Mammals.	NRW Advisory agree on this point.	Agreed
NRW.HRA.MM.2	Assessment Methodology	All European sites within Welsh waters with marine mammal features that have the potential for LSE have been identified within the HRA Stage 1 screening and considered in the Stage 2 ISAA.	NRW Advisory agree on this point.	Agreed
NRW.HRA.MM.3	Assessment Methodology	The list of projects screened into the in-combination assessment in the HRA is appropriate.	NRW Advisory agree on this point.	Agreed
NRW.HRA.MM.4	Assessment of the effects from the project cumulatively with other projects	There will be no adverse effects on integrity (AEol) on SACs with marine mammal features for the project alone and in-combination with other plans and projects.	NRW Advisory can confirm that we agree with the overall conclusions of the ISAA alone and in combination with other plans and projects notwithstanding any written representations raised that are currently ongoing points of discussion.	Agreed
Offshore ornithology				
NRW.HRA.OO.1	Screening	Agreement to the screening of impacts for the HRA for offshore ornithology.	NRW Advisory agrees with the screened impacts.	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.2	Screening	Agreement on the approach to identifying sites and features in the HRA Stage 1 Screening.	This is agreed, with caveats. As noted in our Relevant Representations (RR-027), the approach taken by the Applicant in this assessment may be considered appropriate regarding the project alone assessment for this particular project, where there is potential connectivity to a very large number of sites, but the likelihood of substantial impacts is generally low. It should be acknowledged however (this is where the caveat should be considered), that this approach will not necessarily be appropriate for all offshore wind cases.	Agreed with caveats

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.3	Screening	Agreement on approach to HRA Stage 1 Screening using outputs for CRM, displacement assessment and associated apportioning.	This is agreed, with caveats. As was noted during the EWG, NRW Advisory consider LSE is a coarse screening filter, should be simple, and if further evidence is brought in, then effectively this should be part of the Appropriate Assessment (AA). This provides a transparent approach that can be followed through the ISAA. NRW Advisory would therefore expect all sites where a qualifying feature has been recorded on the development site and where there is potential connectivity (e.g. within foraging range) and a potential impact pathway (e.g. displacement or collision) and hence the potential to undermine the conservation objectives for the feature, to be carried through to the AA phase. Any additional work looking at e.g. apportioning impacts and assessments of predicted impacts against baseline mortality etc. should be included in the AA. However, following discussions with the Applicant during the EWG, a compromise solution was reached, which is the approach taken in the assessment. As noted on point NRW.HRA.OO.2 above, the approach taken by the Applicant may be considered appropriate for this project alone. It should be acknowledged however (this is where the caveat should be considered), that this approach will not necessarily be appropriate for all offshore wind cases.	Agreed with caveats

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.4	Assessment methodology	<p>All European sites with offshore ornithology features with the potential for LSE have been identified within the HRA Stage 1 screening and considered in the Stage 2 ISAA.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013) which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p>	<p>Following the Applicant's Deadline 5 submissions [REP5-033] and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), we agree that all Welsh designated sites with offshore ornithology features with the potential for LSE have been identified and assessed.</p>	Agreed
NRW.HRA.OO.5	Assessment methodology	<p>Agreement on the approach to apportioning assessment methodology.</p>	<p>Following the Applicant's updated assessments at Deadline 5 [REP5-033] and subsequent update to this in AS-013, NRW Advisory agree with the kittiwake age class apportionment rates used for Skomer Skokholm and seas off Pembrokeshire SPA Kittiwake component of the seabird assemblage qualifying feature of the site.</p>	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.6	Assessment methodology	<p>The list of projects screened into the in-combination assessment in the HRA are appropriate.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p>	<p>NRW Advisory agrees with the projects screened into the EIA in-combination assessment. NRW Advisory are content with the projects included in the HRA in-combination assessments. Following the Applicant's gap-filling of historical projects and inclusion of these in the in-combination assessments, together with the updates in the updated assessments at Deadline 5 [REP5-033] and the subsequent update to this in AS-013, we are content with the projects screened into the HRA in-combination assessments.</p>	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.7	Assessment of the effects from the project alone	<p>There will be no AEol on SPAs with ornithology features for the project alone.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p>	Following the Applicant's updates at deadlines 1,4 and the updates and commitments at Deadline 5 (as set out in REP5- 033) and the subsequent update in AS-013, we can agree that there will be no AEoSI for all relevant Welsh SPAs from the project alone (see our responses in Section 1.4 REP5-038a and Appendix 2 of AS-012 for further details).	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.8	Assessment of the effects from the project in-combination with other projects	<p>There will be no AEol on SPAs with ornithology features for the project in-combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted several documents for examination demonstrating that further regard has been given to NRW Advisory's advice during the pre-application phase and matters discussed and agreed upon through the EWG process. This includes the document 'S_D5_16.2 Annex 16.2 to Ornithological assessment clarification data Welsh sites' (REP5-033) submitted at Deadline 5 and the Updated ornithological clarification data in relation to Natural Resources Wales submissions from the Applicant received on 31 January 2025 (AS-013), which provides further clarification of the assessments as advised by NRW Advisory. In addition, the Applicant submitted an Offshore Ornithology CEA and In-combination Gap-filling of Historical Projects Note (REP1-010) at Deadline 1, following the SNCB methodology for quantifying impacts from historical projects.</p> <p>The Applicant and NRW(A) have undertaken further engagement between Deadline 5 and 6 with regard to northern gannet at Grassholm SPA and have provided the additional clarification information to allow NRW Advisory to confirm their position on adverse effects on site integrity.</p>	<p>Following the Applicant's updates at deadlines 1,4 and the updates and commitments at Deadline 5 (as set out in REP5- 033), and in the subsequent update in AS-013, we can agree that there will be no AEoSI for all relevant Welsh SPAs from the project in-combination with other plans and projects (see our responses in Appendix 2 of AS-012for further details).</p> <p>Following the Applicant's revised assessment for northern gannet at Grassholm SPA, we can agree that there will be no AEoSI for the gannet feature of the SPA from the project in-combination. Please see AS-012 response for further details.</p>	Agreed

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Reference Number	Discussion point	Applicant's Position	Natural Resources Wales Position	Status
NRW.HRA.OO.9	Mitigation	<p>The mitigation and management measures are appropriate to ensure significant effects and AEoSI are avoided for marine ornithological receptors.</p> <p>The Applicant updated the Measures to minimise disturbance to marine mammals and rafting birds from transiting vessels (REP5-046) at Deadline 5 in light of feedback received from SNCBs during Examination.</p>	<p>We note the measures listed in Table 5.26 of Volume 2, Chapter 5 [APP-023] of adherence to an offshore Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that will include measures to minimise disturbance to rafting birds from transiting vessels and has been updated at Deadline 5 following NRW Advisory requests (as set out in REP5-046) and include a MPCP. We note and agree that the offshore EMP is secured within the dML in Schedule 3 Part 2 of the draft DCO [REP5-017]. Therefore, based on the adoption of best practice vessel operations to minimise disturbance it is likely that an AEoSI from operation and maintenance vessel movements can be ruled out for these features of the SPA.</p>	Agreed