



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Operations Group 3
Temple Quay House
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By email only

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by Mersey Tidal Power Project for an Order granting Development Consent for the Mersey Tidal Power Project. Scoping consultation and notification of the Applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the Applicant if requested.

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development. We appreciate that the deadline for submitting responses has passed. Please accept our apologies for this, our review of the proposal took longer than expected. It would be appreciated if the MOD's response could be passed onto the developer as a late response.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the MOD as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, technical sites or maritime defence assets and interests.

The Mersey Tidal Power Project proposals comprise a steel and concrete tidal range barrage across the mouth of the river Mersey which include locks to facilitate marine traffic and associated infrastructure to connect to the transmission system. A request for a Scoping Opinion has been prepared and submitted. This representation has been prepared in response to the Mersey Tidal Power EIA Scoping Report: Volume 1 Chapters, Volumes 2a, 2b, 2c, Figures and Volume 3 Appendices.

Offshore Development

The applicant has identified through Chapter 16 Shipping and Navigation and Chapter 26 Infrastructure and Other Marine Users the potential effects of the offshore elements of the proposed development.

Chapter 16 identifies various potential impacts on shipping and navigation. The project will entail the construction of a barrage across the mouth of the river Mersey. The offshore development area does not coincide with any military danger areas or Practice and Exercise Areas (PEXA).

Paragraph 26.6.23 and 26.6.24 identify MOD ranges within the wider North West of England. MOD acknowledge, and we agree that the offshore development area would not intrude into any of the ranges identified.

Onshore Development

The scoping submission states that the tidal barrage requires an overhead line or underground cable connection route in order to transmit the electricity generated by the tidal barrage to the National Grid Transmission System or to SP Energy Networks distribution system. It also mentions that from each bank, areas of reclaimed land will be created.

The potential impacts of the development on military and civil aviation are explored in chapter 27. The potential for the development to have an effect on Military Low Flying activity is set out in paragraphs 27.6.10 and 27.6.13.

Paragraph 27.6.10 identifies that the development area is not within any part of a Tactical Training Area but would occupy an area in which military low flying training may be conducted. The scoping boundary area is located within Low Flying Area 8 (LFA 8) in which fixed wing military aircraft engaged in low flying training may fly as low as 250 feet or 76.2 metres above ground level to conduct low level flight training.

The submission indicates that the project will involve the development of other onshore surface infrastructure. At this stage details of the location, form and function of any such infrastructure is not provided. Similarly, no details for the equipment that would be used in the implementation of such a development are currently available. The development of tall or narrow profile structures or the use of cranes, plant or other equipment with a height of 50 metres above ground level or greater ("Crane arcs may be above 145m", page 57, Scoping Report Volume 1 Chapters) may form an obstacle to low flying aircraft. The introduction of obstacles to low flying aircraft, and the mitigation of any effects, should be taken into account in the preparation of this development proposal.

Through paragraphs 27.6.15 that applicant notes that the onshore development area does not project into any Practice, Exercise, or Danger Area. The potential for the development to impact on the operation and capability of MOD radars is addressed in paragraphs 27.6.19, 27.6.20, and 27.6.21. The MOD acknowledge and agree with these conclusions.

Unexploded Ordnance

The potential for unexploded ordnance (UXO) to be present within the development area is acknowledged within chapter 23 Geology and Ground Conditions, specifically between paragraphs 23.6.38 and 23.6.39, at paragraph 23.6.74 and 23.6.103.

The MOD acknowledge that, due to wartime activity aimed towards the docks, historic UXO is likely to be present within the development area. The developer should evaluate the possible presence of unexploded ordnance before commencing any development both on or offshore.

It is acknowledged that, at this stage, detailed designs for the various proposed structures and their locations may not have been finalised, as such these representations are limited to the principle of the development only.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and information detailed in the developer's documents published on the project website as of the date of this letter. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities. If any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Andy White | Assistant Safeguarding Manager
Defence Infrastructure Organisation