

A large, abstract teal graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several curved, overlapping shapes that resemble a stylized wind turbine or a leaf.

# Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

Pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure  
Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)  
Regulations 2017

PRJ00101-XRHD-PLN-COS-REP-000028

## Document Control

SIGN OFF		
Name (Role)	Signature	Date
Mark Hazelton (Project Director)		19 June 2026

DOCUMENT CONTROL					
Document Number		PRJ00101-XRHD-PLN-COS-REP-000028			
Document Title		Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment			
Rev.	Date [dd mmm yyyy]	Description	Prepared	Checked	Approved
01	18 June 2026	Final version	MJW	KW	KW

## Contents

Document Control .....	i
Glossary.....	iv
Acronyms .....	vii
1 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Development Background .....	1
1.2 Need for the Development.....	3
1.3 Development Infrastructure Overview.....	3
1.4 Purpose of this Document .....	4
2 MCZA Screening Methodology .....	5
2.1 Legislative Framework .....	5
2.2 MCZA Stages .....	6
2.3 Cumulative Effects .....	8
3 Is the Activity Within or Near to an MCZ? .....	10
4 Screening of Impacts on Protected Features.....	18
4.1 Skomer MCZ.....	18
4.2 North-West of Lundy MCZ.....	20
4.3 Lundy MCZ .....	23
4.4 Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ.....	24
5 Cumulative Effects .....	25
6 Screening Summary .....	31
7 References.....	32

## Figures

Figure 1.1 Location of the Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm..... 2

Figure 3.1 Zones of Influence and MCZs Screened In to the MCZA ..... 17

## Tables

Table 2.1 Cumulative Tiers (Planning Inspectorate, 2024)..... 9

Table 3.1 MCZs Identified within a 100km Area of Search from the Offshore Scoping Boundary ..... 11

Table 4.1 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the Skomer MCZ..... 19

Table 4.2 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the North-West of Lundy MCZ..... 22

Table 4.3 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the Lundy MCZ ..... 24

Table 4.4 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ ..... 25

Table 5.1 Plans and Projects Screened In to the MCZA Cumulative Impact Assessment ..... 27

Table 6.1 Screening Summary ..... 31

## Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Agreement for Lease (AfL)</b>	Agreement under which exclusive rights to develop a floating offshore wind farm in the defined area and serve an option to move into a Lease are awarded to the Applicant. A separate Transmission Agreement for Lease may also be awarded, conferring equivalent rights in relation to the export cable route and associated transmission infrastructure.
<b>Applicant</b>	The legal entity submitting all relevant consent applications the Development, namely Gwynt Glas OWF Limited.
<b>Anchors</b>	Seabed-embedded or seabed-seated devices that hold the mooring lines in place, preventing floating offshore infrastructure from drifting under environmental forces.
<b>Array Scoping Boundary</b>	The area being considered at scoping stage for location of the array.
<b>Cable protection</b>	Measures and materials used to protect inter-array and / or offshore export cables from external hazards, as well as protecting cables at infrastructure crossing points.
<b>Cumulative Effect Assessment (CEA)</b>	The assessment of the combined effect of the Development in combination with the effects of a number of different (defined cumulative) schemes, on the same single receptor / resource.
<b>Development</b>	Gwynt Glas OWF, encompassing generation assets within the array and associated transmission assets.
<b>Other Deepwater Offshore Wind innovative foundation designs</b>	Other Deepwater Offshore Wind innovative foundation designs (here after referred to as innovative deepwater solutions) is an emerging and new turbine technology relying on innovative solutions which may include, inter alia, turbines where support structures are not solely buoyant, and where there are rigid support structures transferring loads to the seabed
<b>Floating substructure (FSS)</b>	A floating structure which provides buoyancy and, in conjunction with the Station Keeping System (SKS), supports a superstructure (e.g. wind turbine, offshore substation or similar), and maintains movement within acceptable limits.
<b>Inter-Array Cables</b>	The subsea power cables which electrically connect the wind turbines to each other and to the Offshore Transmission Station(s).
<b>Interconnector Cables</b>	Subsea cables which link Offshore Transmission Station(s).
<b>Offshore Export Cables</b>	The cables which would bring electricity from the Offshore Transmission Station(s) to the onshore TJB Pit.

Term	Definition
<b>Offshore Export Cable Corridor</b>	The area within which the Offshore Export Cable would be installed.
<b>Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary</b>	The area being considered at scoping stage for location of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor.
<b>Offshore Scoping Boundary</b>	The area being considered at scoping stage for location of all offshore infrastructure required for the Development, which extends seaward of MHWS.
<b>Offshore Transmission Station(s)</b>	A fixed structure located within the array, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbines and convert it into a more suitable form for export to shore.
<b>Other Deepwater Offshore Wind innovative foundation designs</b>	Other Deepwater Offshore Wind innovative foundation designs (here after referred to as innovative deepwater solutions) is an emerging and new turbine technology relying on innovative solutions which may include, inter alia, turbines where support structures are not solely buoyant, and where there are rigid support structures transferring loads to the seabed.
<b>Scoping Report</b>	The report that is produced in order to request a Scoping Opinion from the SoS as well as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in relation to Marine Licensing.
<b>Scour protection</b>	Material installed around subsea infrastructure to prevent the removal of seabed sediment by hydrodynamic forces.
<b>Station Keeping System</b>	The system (including mooring lines and anchors) used to hold a wind turbine within its excursion limit and maintain the intended orientation of the wind turbine substructure.
<b>Subsea Transmission Station(s)</b>	A Subsea Transmission Station(s) is a seabed-mounted electrical installation that collects power from offshore wind turbines and steps up the voltage for efficient export to shore via high-voltage export cables. It performs the same core function as an offshore substation, but without the need for a surface platform.
<b>Subsea Power Collector(s)</b>	A Subsea Power Collector(s) is a seabed-mounted electrical hub used to collect, route and distribute power from multiple Inter-Array Cables within an offshore wind farm. It operates at array voltage and does not normally include voltage transformation, providing layout flexibility and efficient cable management.
<b>Transition Joint Bay</b>	The TJB is an underground structure at the landfall that houses the joint between the Offshore Export Cables and the Onshore Export Cables.

Term	Definition
Wind turbine	A wind turbine converts wind energy into electrical energy. The main components include rotor assembly (composed of three blades and a hub); nacelle (containing the generator, shaft and gearbox, power electronic converter and transformer); and a tower (containing lifting equipment and switchgear).

## Acronyms

TERM	DEFINITION
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CfD	Contracts for Difference
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
FSSs	Floating substructures (FSSs)
GW	Gigawatt(s)
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
km	Kilometres
km <sup>2</sup>	Square Kilometres
LR5	Leasing Round 5
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MCZA	Marine Conservation Zone Assessment
MEEB	Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit

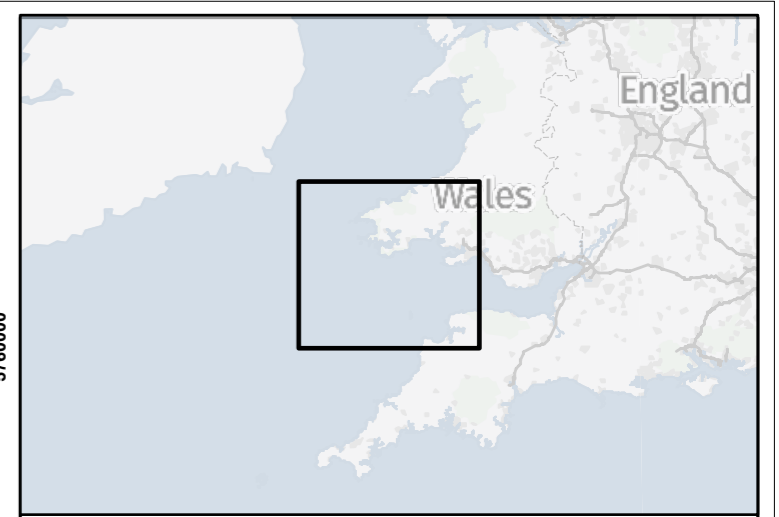
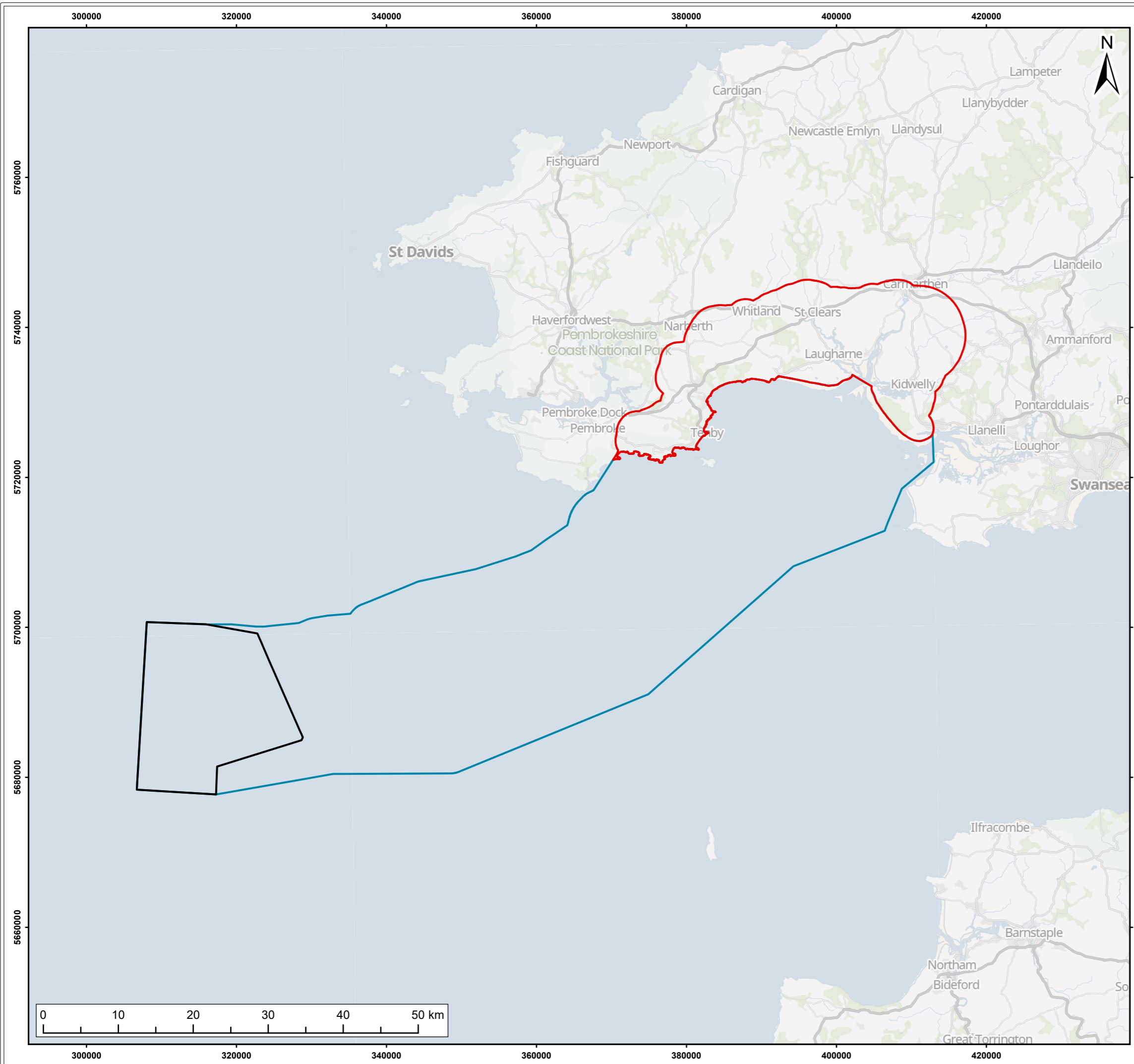
TERM	DEFINITION
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NPS EN1	Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy
NPS EN-3	National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
OFTO	Offshore Transmission Owner
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PDA	Project Development Area
PDE	Project Design Envelope
RIAA	Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SACO	Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives
SKS	Station keeping systems
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
SSC	Suspended Sediment Concentration
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
ZoI	Zone of Influence

# 1 Introduction

1. This Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZA) has been prepared for Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Limited (hereafter the 'Applicant') in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA), 2009.
2. The proposed Gwynt Glas Floating Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter the 'Development') would be located approximately 42 kilometres (km) off the south-west coast of Pembrokeshire in the Celtic Sea, with an anticipated capacity of up to 1.5 gigawatt (GW) (see **Figure 1.1**). The Array Scoping Boundary covers approximately 369 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>). The Development would include offshore generating infrastructure and associated transmission assets. It is expected that the grid connection would be made at the proposed Llandyfaelog Substation in Carmarthenshire (to be built by National Grid), requiring the installation of underground export cables between the landfall and the grid connection point. Several landfall and onshore cable route options are currently under consideration, and a new Onshore Transmission Station(s) would be located near the proposed National Grid substation at Llandyfaelog. Further details on Development design are provided in Section 1.3 Purpose of this Document and Section 1.5 Development Description of the **Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report**.

## 1.1 Development Background

3. The Crown Estate's Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5 (LR5) was launched in July 2021, to identify and award Project Development Areas (PDAs) in the Celtic Sea for floating offshore wind projects, following extensive stakeholder engagement and environmental assessments. LR5 focused on three PDAs, each capable of supporting up to 1.5GW of generating capacity at the point of connection to the electrical transmission network (noting that the installed capacity may be higher due to overplanting), with developers selected through a competitive tender designed to maximise environmental sustainability and socio-economic benefits. Under each PDA, the developer has the option to construct the offshore wind project in up to three 'phases', each phase with a generating capacity of a minimum of 300GW.
4. The Applicant secured PDA 1, operating under a joint venture between EDF Power Solutions UK and ESB (Electricity Supply Board), with support from Pembrokeshire based DP Energy acting as an exclusive development partner. The Applicant will aim to deliver the Development and contribute to the United Kingdom's (UK) net-zero ambitions and deliver economic benefits to South Wales and beyond.
5. The Applicant has included other deepwater and innovative solutions to the scoping envelope to allow the assessment and analysis of such concepts and their suitability for the Development. Innovative deepwater solutions is a fast-developing area and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has included a definition to support such concepts in the Contracts for Difference (CfD) Allocation Round 8 that will run in the second half 2026 (DESNZ, 2026a and 2026b).



- Legend:
- Array Scoping Boundary
  - Onshore Scoping Boundary
  - Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary

Source: © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026  
 Base map: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack

Project:  
**Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm MCZ Screening Assessment**

Title:  
**Location of the Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm**

Figure: 1.1      Drawing No: PC6850-HAS-ZZ-ZZ-DR-GS-0115

Revision:	Date:	Drawn:	Checked:	Size:	Scale:
01	17/02/2026	MW	AS	A3	1:500,000

Co-ordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 30N



## 1.2 Need for the Development

6. The Crown Estate's Offshore Wind LR5 represents a critical opportunity to establish floating offshore wind at scale in the Celtic Sea, unlocking up to 4.5GW of new renewable generation capacity in deeper waters, supporting the development of floating offshore wind and the UK's net zero and energy security ambitions. By enabling early commercial deployment of floating wind, LR5 is intended to act as a springboard for a long-term offshore wind market, with the UK Government signalling the potential to unlock a further 12GW of capacity in the Celtic Sea in future leasing rounds (The Crown Estate, no date). This scale of development is expected to deliver substantial regional economic benefits, including significant investment in ports, manufacturing, fabrication, and marine services across South Wales and South-West England (The Crown Estate, no date).
7. The Development is a significant component of the UK's transition to a low-carbon energy system and its commitment to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
8. The UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan sets ambitious targets for the electricity system, including achieving around 43–50 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030, alongside a broader aim for clean sources to supply at least 95% of Great Britain's electricity.
9. The Welsh Government is also committed to net zero by 2050, with renewable energy targets including the following:
  - Generate 70% of Wales' electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030 (Welsh Government, 2026).
  - Achieve 1GW of renewable electricity and heat capacity in Wales under local ownership by 2030 (Welsh Government, 2022).
  - Ensure that all new energy projects from 2020 onwards include at least an element of local ownership (Welsh Government, 2022).
10. The Development, with a planned capacity of up to 1.5GW, would contribute substantially to these objectives by providing clean, reliable energy, enhancing energy security, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Furthermore, the Development supports regional economic growth, job creation, and skills development. Its delivery is essential to meeting statutory climate targets, improving resilience in the face of rising energy demand, and enabling the UK to maintain global leadership in renewable energy innovation.

## 1.3 Development Infrastructure Overview

11. The Development description at this stage is necessarily indicative. This reflects the use of a Project Design Envelope (PDE) approach, under which the description submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) and marine licence applications is based on realistic worst-case parameters for key elements of the Development rather than a finalised detailed design. The PDE defines the maximum extents and characteristics of the Development that could realistically be constructed, thereby enabling a robust assessment of potential environmental effects while retaining flexibility for subsequent design refinement.
12. The PDE approach is widely recognised and is an established method for assessing developments where detailed design is not fixed at the time of application. It has been formally recognised in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (DESNZ, 2025) and the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (DESNZ, 2025) and has been used in all offshore wind farm DCO applications to date. The approach is also consistent with the Planning Inspectorate's

Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (Planning Inspectorate, 2018), which states that: “The ‘Rochdale Envelope’ is an acknowledged way of dealing with an application comprising EIA development where details of a project have not been resolved at the time when the application is submitted.”

13. The Array Scoping Boundary and Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary are collectively referred to as the ‘Offshore Scoping Boundary’.
14. The Offshore Scoping Boundary lies in the Celtic Sea, and the Array Scoping Boundary is approximately 42km from shore at its closest point (Pembrokeshire, South Wales). The Development’s offshore infrastructure could comprise of:
  - ✦ Wind turbines;
  - ✦ Floating substructures (FSSs) and / or innovative deepwater solutions;
  - ✦ Station keeping systems (SKS) for FSSs;
  - ✦ Scour protection for subsea infrastructure;
  - ✦ Cables, including Inter-Array Cables, Interconnector Cables and Offshore Export Cables, and associated cable protection;
  - ✦ Offshore Transmission Station(s);
  - ✦ Midpoint Compensation Reactor(s);
  - ✦ Subsea Transmission Station(s), if required; and
  - ✦ Subsea Power Collector(s), if required.
15. Options for transferring electricity from the offshore wind farm to the onshore grid are currently being evaluated, including both High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) and High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) solutions. The preferred approach would be selected following assessment of the potential impacts of each option, alongside consideration of technical efficiency and cost effectiveness.

#### 1.3.1 Development Phasing

16. The Development may be constructed in up to three distinct Phases or ‘Projects’, with each Phase potentially comprising its own set of offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure. This phased approach provides flexibility in delivery and allows each phase to operate as a functionally separate package of generation and transmission assets. The arrangement has been intentionally designed so that, following commissioning, the transmission assets associated with each Phase could be transferred independently through the Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) regime. Further detail on phasing would be provided in the EIA with Development scenarios defined and reflected in each technical assessment.

#### 1.4 Purpose of this Document

17. This document sets out the screening stage of the MCZA. The MCZA has been prepared by the Applicant and would support the consideration of whether or not an activity is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) the protected features or physical processes of a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), either directly or indirectly. This enables the competent authority to ensure compliance with the MCAA.

18. Where it is considered that there is no potential for a significant effect as a result of the Development, it is proposed that the MCZ (or relevant feature of the MCZ) is ‘screened out’ from further consideration. Where the potential for a significant effect on the conservation objectives cannot be discounted, it remains ‘screened in’ and further assessment would be undertaken.
19. This MCZA considers MCZs in Welsh and English waters. There is no specific guidance on the delivery of a MCZA in Wales, however, guidance has been produced by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for MCZAs in English Waters (MMO, 2013). This MCZA is therefore based on the MMO guidance.
20. The MCZA also considers, best practice advice for offshore wind applications at the examination stage (Natural England and Defra, 2022) and is informed by the Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives (SACO) for each MCZ, where such advice is available.
21. The Crown Estate carried out an MCZA in parallel with the Celtic Sea Floating Windfarm Plan Level Habitats Regulation Assessment to provide the information required to fulfil its duties under Section 125 of the MCAA. This resulted in an MCZ Principles and Screening Report (NIRAS, 2022), a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) and MCZ Report (NIRAS, 2023) and an Addendum to the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5 RIAA (NIRAS, 2024). These have been reviewed to inform this MCZA.

## 2 MCZA Screening Methodology

### 2.1 Legislative Framework

22. The MCAA establishes a range of measures to manage the marine environment, including for designating and managing MCZs in England and Wales.
23. Section 126 of the MCAA describes the duties of public authorities in relation to certain decisions and “*applies where –;*
  - a. *A public authority has the function of determining an application (whenever made) for authorisation of the doing of an act, and*
  - b. *The act is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) –*
    - i. *The protected features of an MCZ;*
    - ii. *Any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependent.”*
  - c. *If the authority believes that there is or may be a significant risk of the act hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the MCZ, the authority must notify the appropriate statutory conservation body of that fact.”*
24. Furthermore, Section 126 of the MCAA describes the conditions that must be met for the authority to grant authorisation:
  5. *“The authority must not grant authorisation for the doing of the act unless the condition in subsection (6) or the condition in subsection (7) is met.*
  6. *The condition in this subsection is that the person seeking the authorisation satisfies the authority that there is no significant risk of the act hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the MCZ.*

7. *The condition in this subsection is that, although the person seeking the authorisation is not able to satisfy the authority that there is no significant risk of the act hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the MCZ, that person satisfies the authority that—*
- a. *there is no other means of proceeding with the act which would create a substantially lower risk of hindering the achievement of those objectives,*
  - b. *the benefit to the public of proceeding with the act clearly outweighs the risk of damage to the environment that will be created by proceeding with it, and*
  - c. *the person seeking the authorisation will undertake, or make arrangements for the undertaking of, measures of equivalent environmental benefit to the damage which the act will or is likely to have in or on the MCZ.”*
25. The Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) has responsibility under the MCAA to give advice on how to further the conservation objectives for the MCZ and identify the activities that are capable of affecting the designated features and the processes on which they are dependent.
- 2.2 MCZA Stages
26. The MMO guidance (2013) states that a MCZA consists of up to three stages. Not all stages may need to be completed, depending on the decisions made at each stage:
- ✦ **Screening** – the first stage of the MCZA is to check if/whether Section 126 of the MCAA applies to the application. Screening considers whether:
    - The plan, project or activity is in or near an MCZ; and
    - The plan, project or activity is capable of significantly affecting (without mitigation) (i) the protected features of an MCZ, or (ii) any ecological or geomorphological processes on which the conservation of the features depends.
  - ✦ **Stage 1 MCZ Assessment** - this Stage considers whether the proposed activity poses a risk that could hinder MCZ conservation objectives for the site in question. It considers if there are any interactions between activity-related pressures (e.g. seabed disturbance) and features of the MCZ to determine if there is a significant risk of hindering the conservation objectives and if public authorities can use their functions to further the conservation objectives. If mitigation to reduce identified impacts cannot be secured, and there are no other alternative locations for the activity, then the project would proceed to Stage 2.
  - ✦ **Stage 2 MCZ Assessment** - the Stage 2 assessment considers the socio-economic impact of the licensable activity, together with the risk of environmental damage. There are two parts to the Stage 2 assessment process:
    - Does the public benefit in proceeding with the licensable activity clearly outweigh the risk of damage to the environment that would be created by proceeding with it? If so,
    - Can the applicant secure, or undertake arrangements to secure, Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB) for the damage the licensable activity would have on the MCZ features?
27. **Plate 2.1** provides a summary of the MCZA process.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

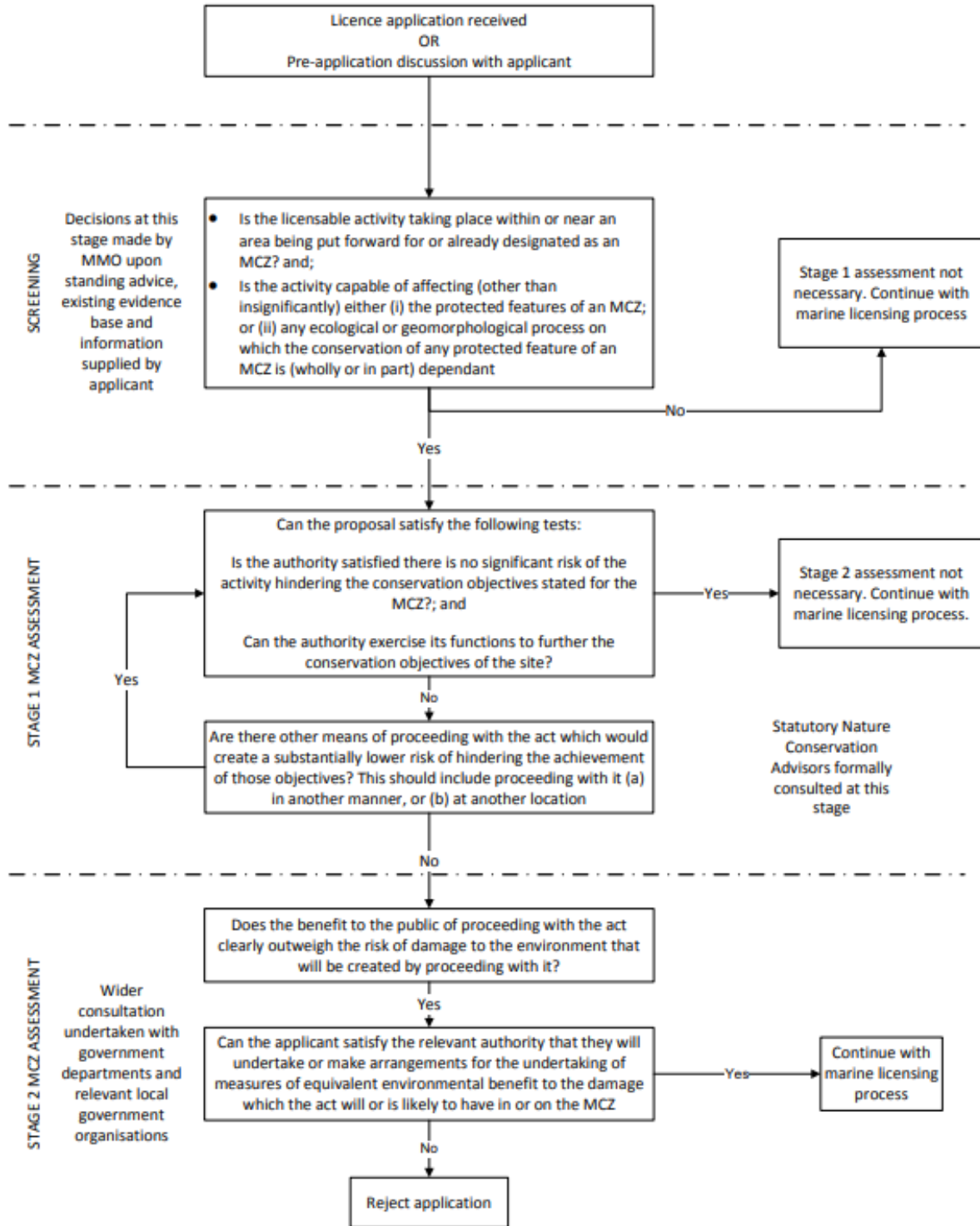


Plate 2.1 MCZA Process (source MMO, 2013)

## 2.3 Cumulative Effects

28. The MCAA does not provide any legislative requirement for explicit consideration of cumulative effects on the protected features of MCZs. However, the MMO guidelines (MMO, 2013) state that that in order for the MMO to fully discharge its duties under Section 69 (1) of the MCAA, cumulative effects must be considered as part of the MCZA.
29. The Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Planning Inspectorate, 2024) provides guidance on plans and projects that should be considered in the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA).
30. Only projects which are reasonably well defined and sufficiently advanced to provide information on which to base a meaningful and robust assessment would be included in the CEA. Projects which are sufficiently implemented during the site characterisation for the Development would be considered as part of the baseline for the MCZA. Where possible, the Applicant would use as-built project parameter information (if available) as opposed to consented parameters to reduce over-precaution (inaccuracies) in the CEA.
31. Offshore cumulative impacts may come from interactions with the following activities and industries:
  - ✦ Other wind farms;
  - ✦ Aggregate extraction and dredging;
  - ✦ Licensed disposal sites;
  - ✦ Navigation and shipping;
  - ✦ Commercial fisheries;
  - ✦ Sub-sea cables and pipelines;
  - ✦ Port/harbour development;
  - ✦ Oil and gas activities; and
  - ✦ Fisheries management areas.
32. Plans and projects that existed at the time of the relevant MCZ designation or the latest status reports, undertaken every 6 years (whichever is most recent), are considered to be part of the baseline environment.
33. The assessment would present relevant cumulative effects of projects based on their stage of development using the tiered approach as per The Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Planning Inspectorate, 2024) presented in **Table 2.1**.

## Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

Table 2.1 Cumulative Tiers (Planning Inspectorate, 2024)

TIER	CONSENTING OR CONSTRUCTION PHASE TO ASSIGN CONFIDENCE
Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✂ Under construction.</li> <li>✂ Permitted applications under the Planning Act or other regimes but not yet implemented.</li> <li>✂ Submitted applications under the Planning Act or other regimes but not yet determined.</li> <li>✂ All refusals subject to appeal procedures not yet determined.</li> </ul>
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✂ Projects on the Planning Inspectorate’s programme of projects.</li> </ul>
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✂ Projects on the Planning Inspectorate’s programme of projects where a scoping report has not been submitted.</li> <li>✂ Identified in the relevant Development Plan and emerging Development Plans, with appropriate weight given as they near adoption, recognising that there would be limited information available on the relevant proposals.</li> <li>✂ Identified in other plans and programmes, as appropriate, which set the framework for future development consents or approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.</li> </ul>














34. Projects classified under Tiers 1-3 are included in the MCZA screening where sufficient information is available. **Section 4.3** highlights plans and projects that have been considered in this screening report and those that are proposed to be included in the cumulative assessments within stage 1 of the MCZA.
35. For this screening assessment, Development activities and associated pressures are reviewed to determine whether they are capable of significantly affecting MCZs when combined with equivalent activities and associated pressures from other plans and projects. The potential for projects to act cumulatively on MCZs is considered in the context of the likely spatial and temporal extent of pressures.

### 3 Is the Activity Within or Near to an MCZ?

36. The first stage of the MCZ screening assessment is to determine whether the Development and associated activities are located within, or in proximity to, any MCZs.
37. An initial 100km area of search has been applied to identify MCZs within the wider region surrounding the Development. This distance has been adopted as a precautionary outer search radius, exceeding the regional study area for coastal processes and encompassing any receptors for which long-range impact pathways may exist. **Table 3.1** presents the MCZs identified within this search area, together with the distance to the nearest point of the Development.
38. Following identification of the MCZs within the search area, a zone of influence (ZoI) has been defined for relevant impact pathways. For benthic and physical processes (excluding underwater noise), the ZoI has been informed by an understanding of local hydrodynamic conditions. Analysis of ABPmer tidal ellipse data (ABPmer, 2008) indicates a maximum spring tidal excursion of approximately 15km across the Offshore Scoping Boundary. This distance is therefore considered to represent a realistic maximum extent for indirect effects such as sediment dispersal. The 15km ZoI is also consistent with screening distances applied within the MCZ Principles developed for The Crown Estate’s Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind Plan (NIRAS, 2022).
39. For underwater noise, which is not constrained by tidal excursion and may extend over substantially greater distances, a separate ZoI has been applied. The NIRAS (2022) MCZ Principles do not define a specific screening distance for underwater noise for marine mammals. A precautionary 50km ZoI has been applied at this stage to ensure that all plans and projects with the potential to contribute to overlapping noise fields are captured. This distance reflects the ability of impulsive noise, such as that generated during impact piling, to propagate over large distances in the marine environment. The approach is intentionally conservative for screening purposes. As the Development progresses through the DCO process, this initial ZoI would be refined through site-specific underwater noise modelling.
40. MCZs located beyond 100km from the Development are considered to have no plausible pathway for impact, either alone or in combination with other projects, and are therefore screened out of further assessment. Within the 100km ZoI, only those MCZs designated for mobile species (e.g. fish or marine mammals) are screened in beyond 15km, as indirect effects on benthic and physical features are not anticipated at these distances. **Table 3.1** identifies the MCZs located within the 100km search area, and both the 15km (benthic / physical) and 50km (underwater noise) ZoIs.
41. The application of the criteria set out above results in four MCZs being screened, as presented in **Table 3.1** and illustrated on **Figure 3.1**. These are considered further in **Section 4**.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

Table 3.1 MCZs Identified within a 100km Area of Search from the Offshore Scoping Boundary

MCZ	DISTANCE TO THE OFFSHORE SCOPING BOUNDARY (KM)	PROTECTED FEATURES	SCREENED IN / OUT	RATIONALE
Skomer	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i></li> <li> Pink seafan <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i></li> <li> Sponge communities</li> <li> Eelgrass <i>Zostera marina</i></li> <li> Algal communities</li> </ul>	In	<p>Grey seal has been screened in for further assessment as the MCZ is within the ZoI for underwater noise.</p> <p>All other protected features have been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.</p>
North West of Lundy	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Subtidal coarse sediment</li> </ul>	In	Subtidal coarse sediment has been screened in for further assessment as the MCZ is within the ZoI for benthic features.
Lundy	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Spiny lobster <i>Palinurus elephas</i></li> </ul>	In	Spiny lobster has been screened in for further assessment as the MCZ is within the ZoI for underwater noise.
Morte Platform	31.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> High energy circalittoral rock</li> <li> Moderate energy circalittoral rock</li> <li> Subtidal coarse sediment</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.
Bideford to Foreland Point	39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Low energy intertidal rock</li> <li> Moderate energy intertidal rock</li> <li> High energy intertidal rock</li> </ul>	In	Spiny lobster has been screened in for further assessment as the MCZ is within the ZoI for underwater noise.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

MCZ	DISTANCE TO THE OFFSHORE SCOPING BOUNDARY (KM)	PROTECTED FEATURES	SCREENED IN / OUT	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Intertidal coarse sediment</li> <li>➤ Intertidal mixed sediments</li> <li>➤ Intertidal sand and muddy sand</li> <li>➤ Intertidal underboulder communities</li> <li>➤ Littoral chalk communities</li> <li>➤ Low energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>➤ Moderate energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>➤ High energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>➤ Moderate energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>➤ High energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>➤ Subtidal coarse sediment</li> <li>➤ Subtidal mixed sediments</li> <li>➤ Subtidal sand</li> <li>➤ Fragile sponge &amp; anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats</li> <li>➤ Honeycomb worm <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs</li> </ul>		<p>All other protected features have been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.</p>

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

MCZ	DISTANCE TO THE OFFSHORE SCOPING BOUNDARY (KM)	PROTECTED FEATURES	SCREENED IN / OUT	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pink sea-fan <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i></li> <li>➤ Spiny lobster <i>Palinurus elephas</i></li> </ul>		
Hartland Point to Tintagel	40.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</li> <li>➤ Low energy intertidal rock</li> <li>➤ Moderate energy intertidal rock</li> <li>➤ High energy intertidal rock</li> <li>➤ Intertidal coarse sediment</li> <li>➤ Intertidal sand and muddy sand</li> <li>➤ Moderate energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>➤ High energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>➤ Moderate energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>➤ High energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>➤ Subtidal coarse sediment</li> <li>➤ Subtidal sand</li> <li>➤ Fragile sponge &amp; anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

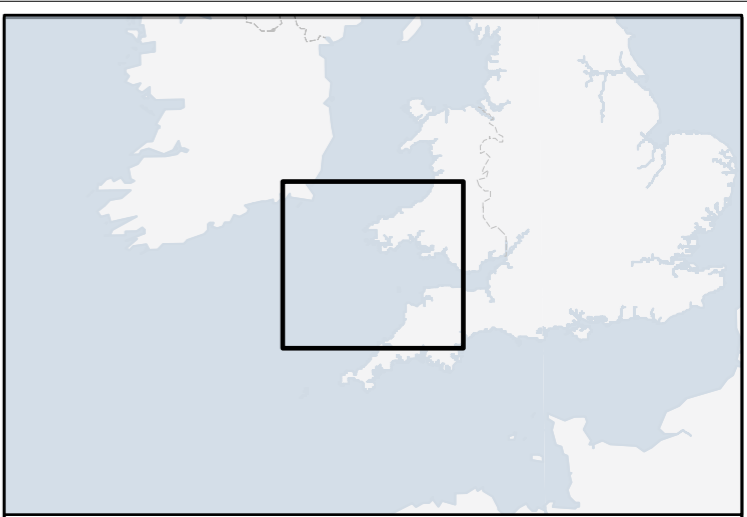
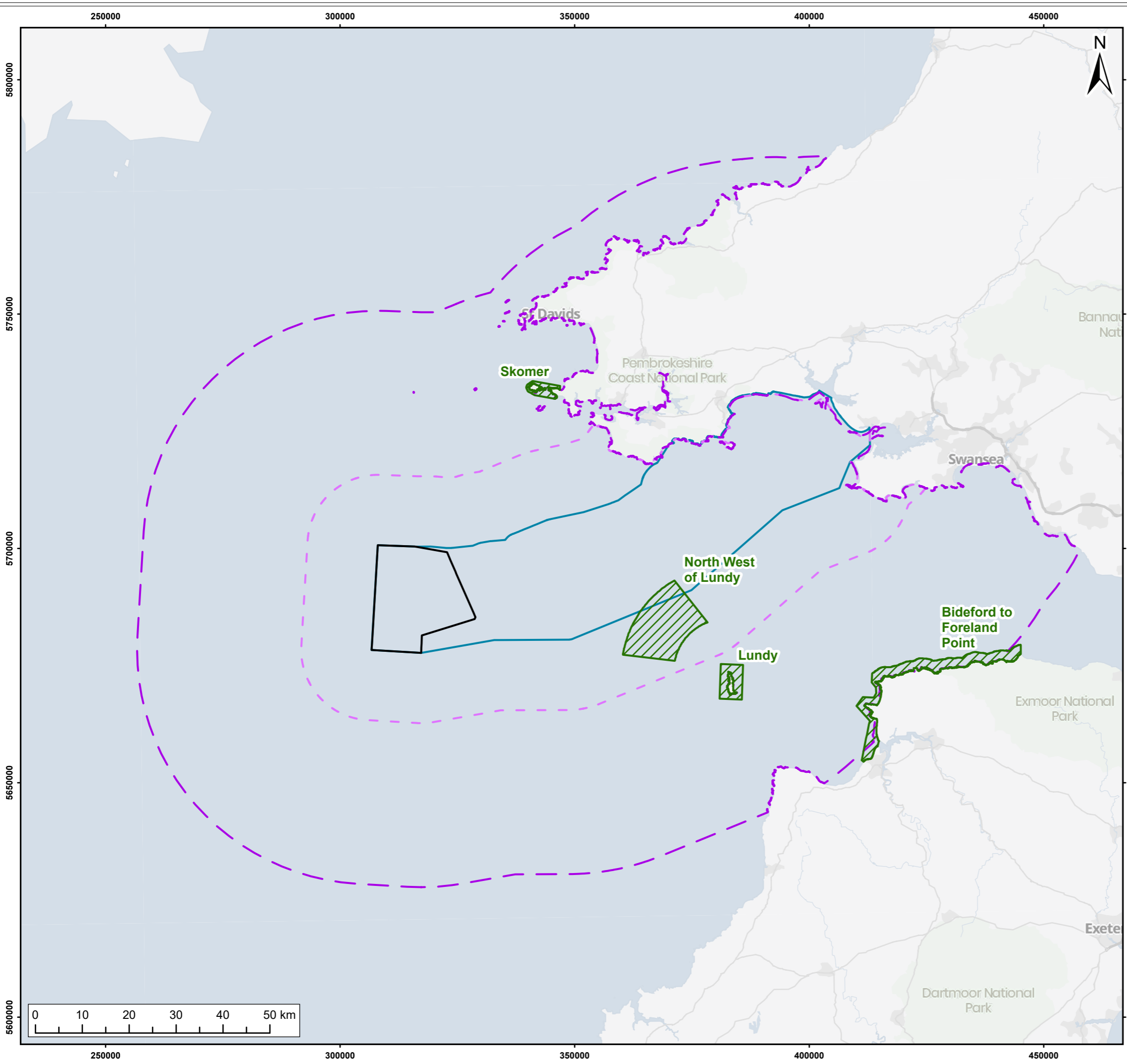
MCZ	DISTANCE TO THE OFFSHORE SCOPING BOUNDARY (KM)	PROTECTED FEATURES	SCREENED IN / OUT	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Honeycomb worm <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs</li> <li>✎ Pink sea-fan <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i></li> </ul>		
South-West Approaches to Bristol Channel	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Subtidal coarse sediment</li> <li>✎ Subtidal sand</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.
Padstow Bay and Surrounds	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Intertidal coarse sediment</li> <li>✎ Intertidal sand and muddy sand</li> <li>✎ Moderate energy intertidal rock</li> <li>✎ Moderate energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>✎ High energy intertidal rock</li> <li>✎ High energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>✎ High energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>✎ Pink sea-fan <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i></li> <li>✎ Spiny lobster <i>Palinurus elephas</i></li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for spiny lobster and benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.
Camel Estuary	82.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Coastal saltmarshes and saline reed beds</li> <li>✎ Estuarine rocky habitats</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

MCZ	DISTANCE TO THE OFFSHORE SCOPING BOUNDARY (KM)	PROTECTED FEATURES	SCREENED IN / OUT	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↻ Intertidal coarse sediment</li> <li>↻ Intertidal mud</li> <li>↻ Low energy intertidal rock</li> </ul>		
Newquay and the Gannel	91.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↻ Estuarine rocky habitats</li> <li>↻ Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</li> <li>↻ Low energy intertidal rock</li> <li>↻ Moderate energy intertidal rock</li> <li>↻ High energy intertidal rock</li> <li>↻ Intertidal coarse sediment</li> <li>↻ Intertidal mixed sediments</li> <li>↻ Intertidal sand and muddy sand</li> <li>↻ Intertidal mud</li> <li>↻ Moderate energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>↻ High energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>↻ Subtidal sand</li> <li>↻ Subtidal coarse sediment</li> <li>↻ High energy circalittoral rock</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the ZoI for giant goby and benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

MCZ	DISTANCE TO THE OFFSHORE SCOPING BOUNDARY (KM)	PROTECTED FEATURES	SCREENED IN / OUT	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Giant goby <i>Gobius cobitis</i></li> </ul>		
South of Celtic Deep	56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Moderate energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>✎ Subtidal coarse sediment</li> <li>✎ Subtidal mixed sediments</li> <li>✎ Subtidal sand</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the Zol for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.
North-East of Haig Fras	87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Subtidal coarse sediment</li> <li>✎ Subtidal mud</li> <li>✎ Subtidal sand</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the Zol for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.
East of Haig Fras	88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Fan mussel <i>Atrina fragilis</i></li> <li>✎ High energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>✎ Moderate energy circalittoral rock</li> <li>✎ Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities</li> <li>✎ Subtidal coarse sediment and mixed sediments mosaic</li> <li>✎ Subtidal mud</li> <li>✎ Subtidal sand</li> </ul>	Out	This MCZ has been screened out of further assessment as it is outside of the Zol for benthic features and therefore there is no pathway for effect.



**Legend:**

- Array Scoping Boundary
- Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary
- Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

**Zone of Influence**

- 15 km
- 50 km

Source: © Haskoning UK Ltd, 2026, © Natural Resources Wales, © Natural England  
 Base map: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack, © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023.

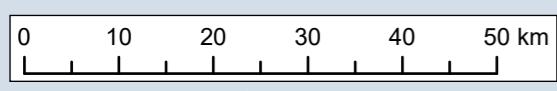
Project:  
**Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm MCZ Screening Assessment**

Title:  
**Zone of Influence and MCZs Screened In**

Figure: 3.1      Drawing No: PC6850-HAS-ZZ-OF-DR-GS-0110

Revision:	Date:	Drawn:	Checked:	Size:	Scale:
01	25/03/2026	MW	MJW	A3	1:800,000

Co-ordinate system: ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 30N



## 4 Screening of Impacts on Protected Features

42. This section considers the potential for any impacts as a result of the Development, alone or cumulatively with other plans and projects, on the protected features of the MCZs identified in **Section 3**, or any physical processes on which the features are dependent.

### 4.1 Skomer MCZ

#### 4.1.1 Protected Features

43. Skomer MCZ has species and habitats of national and international importance. The MCZ was established in 2014 and is situated around the island of Skomer and the Marloes Peninsula in Pembrokeshire, Wales. The features designated for the Skomer MCZ are:

- ✧ Grey seal;
- ✧ Pink seafan *Eunicella verrucosa*;
- ✧ Sponge communities;
- ✧ Eelgrass *Zostera marina*; and
- ✧ Algal communities.

#### 4.1.2 Conservation Objectives

44. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and others carry out monitoring for a range of species at Skomer, including of the features for which the MCZ has been designated. The most recent Project Status Report for Skomer MCZ relates to data collected during 2024 (Burton *et al.*, 2025). This includes the following details:

- ✧ Grey seals at Skomer MCZ are considered to be in favourable condition based on survey results over the last 10 years;
- ✧ Recommendation that the status of Pink seafan is reported as declining and in unfavourable condition;
- ✧ Sponge community feature for Skomer MCZ is stable and in favourable condition;
- ✧ Eelgrass – no information on eelgrass was recorded, however the 2024 Project Status Report (Burton *et al.*, 2024) reported the eelgrass feature to be in favourable condition; and
- ✧ There was insufficient data to make an assessment of the algal community status.

#### 4.1.3 Potential Impacts

45. The Skomer MCZ is approximately 40km from the Array Scoping Boundary and 25km from the Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary. At this distance, there is no pathway for potential direct or indirect effects on benthic habitats and species from construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) or decommissioning activities as they are well beyond the 15km ZoI for suspended sediment. They are therefore **screened out** of the assessment, and only grey seals are a potential receptor.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

46. The potential impacts on grey seals during construction, O&M and decommissioning are applicable throughout the lifetime of the Development. They are:
- ✎ Temporary disturbance;
  - ✎ Vessel collision;
  - ✎ Physical presence of infrastructure;
  - ✎ Underwater noise;
  - ✎ Toxic contaminants;
  - ✎ Suspended sediments via prey effects; and
  - ✎ Secondary entanglement.
47. All the above impacts have the potential to significantly affect (without mitigation) grey seal designated under the Skomer MCZ and are **screened in** to Stage 1 MCZA.

4.1.3.1 Summary of Pressures Screening in to MCZA Stage 1

48. A summary of impacts screened in to MCZA Stage 1 for the Skomer MCZ is presented in **Table 4.1**.

*Table 4.1 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the Skomer MCZ*

POTENTIAL IMPACT	CONSTRUCTION	O&M	DECOMMISSIONING
Temporary disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Vessel collision	✓	✓	✓
Physical presence of infrastructure	x	✓	x
Underwater noise	✓	✓	✓
Toxic contaminants	✓	✓	✓
Suspended sediments via prey effects	✓	✓	✓
Secondary entanglement	x	✓	x

## 4.2 North-West of Lundy MCZ

### 4.2.1 Protected Features

49. The North-West of Lundy MCZ contains a large area of subtidal coarse sediment which is characterised by a species poor *Mediomastus fragilis*, *Lumbrineris* spp. and venerid bivalves in circalittoral coarse sand or gravel. This coarse sand sediment habitat supports sparse infaunal communities of segmented bristle worms, venus clams, small crustaceans, and the tiny pea urchin. The epifaunal component supports tubeworms, barnacles, echinoderms, and amphipods. Coarse sediments include coarse sand, gravel, pebbles and shingle. The habitat is often unstable due to tidal currents and/or wave action (Defra, 2019a). The North-West of Lundy MCZ is designated for one broadscale marine habitat feature, namely subtidal coarse sediment.

### 4.2.2 Conservation Objectives

50. The conservation objective for the North-West of Lundy MCZ is to 'Recover to Favourable Condition'.

51. For the protected feature, favourable condition means that, within a zone:

- ✦ Its extent is stable or increasing; and

- ✦ Its structure and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities (including diversity and abundance of species forming part of or inhabiting the habitat) are sufficient to ensure that its condition remains healthy and does not deteriorate.

52. For the purposes of this MCZ, any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitat is sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable its recovery. For the purpose of determining whether a protected feature is in favourable condition within the meaning of this designation, any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

### 4.2.3 Potential Impacts

53. The Offshore Export Cable Scoping Area overlaps the North-West of Lundy MCZ. The spatial coverage of subtidal coarse sediment is provided in the MCZ feature map (Defra, 2019b) and shows that subtidal coarse sediment spans the entire MCZ.

#### 4.2.3.1 Construction

54. Potential impacts during construction include those from Offshore Export Cable laying and associated cable protection, and pre-construction works (including any seabed preparation, boulder clearance and unexploded ordnance (UXO) investigation).
55. These impacts include:
- ✎ Temporary physical disturbance;
  - ✎ Increased suspended sediment concentrations and sediment deposition;
  - ✎ Remobilisation of contaminated sediments;
  - ✎ Pollution events resulting from the accidental release of pollutants;
  - ✎ Introduction of marine invasive non-native species (INNS); and
  - ✎ Disturbance from noise and vibration.
56. Of the above potential impacts, the feature of North West of Lundy MCZ is considered sensitive (Natural England, 2025a) to the following:
- ✎ Temporary physical disturbance;
  - ✎ Increased suspended sediment concentrations and sediment deposition; and
  - ✎ Introduction of marine INNS.
57. Therefore, these impacts have the potential to hinder the conservation objectives of the North-West of Lundy MCZ and would be taken through to Stage 1 MCZA.

#### 4.2.3.2 O&M

58. Potential impacts during O&M include those from the physical presence of infrastructure on the seabed (i.e. export cables and any cable protection, Subsea Power Collector(s), Subsea Transmission Station(s) and Midpoint Compensation Platform(s), if required) which would result in permanent habitat loss. The presence of infrastructure on the seabed may also alter the processes on which the habitat and its characteristic species are dependent.
59. Maintenance activities also have the potential to result in temporary impacts, similar to those occurring during construction, but smaller in extent and therefore of a lower magnitude.
60. Impacts may also arise as a result of the operation of cables by creating electromagnetic fields and generating heat.
61. These impacts include:
- ✎ Permanent habitat loss;
  - ✎ Temporary physical disturbance;
  - ✎ Increased suspended sediment concentrations (SSCs) and sediment deposition;
  - ✎ Remobilisation of contaminated sediments;
  - ✎ Pollution events resulting from the accidental release of pollutants;
  - ✎ Interactions of electromagnetic field (EMF);
  - ✎ Introduction of marine INNS;

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

- ✎ Colonisation of introduced substrate;
  - ✎ Disturbance from noise and vibration; and
  - ✎ Sediment heating from subsea cables.
62. Of the above potential impacts, the feature of North-West of Lundy MCZ is considered sensitive (Natural England, 2025a) to the following:
- ✎ Permanent habitat loss;
  - ✎ Temporary physical disturbance;
  - ✎ Increased SSCs and sediment deposition;
  - ✎ Interactions of EMF;
  - ✎ Introduction of marine INNS;
  - ✎ Colonisation of introduced substrate; and
  - ✎ Sediment heating from subsea cables.
63. Therefore, these impacts have the potential to hinder the conservation objectives of the North-West of Lundy MCZ and would be taken through to Stage 1 MCZA.

4.2.3.3 Decommissioning

64. The potential impacts during decommissioning are expected to be the same as those for construction stage, but of a smaller scale.

4.2.3.4 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1

65. A summary of impacts screened in to MCZA Stage 1 for the North-West of Lundy MCZ is presented in **Table 4.2**.

*Table 4.2 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the North-West of Lundy MCZ*

POTENTIAL IMPACT	CONSTRUCTION	O&M	DECOMMISSIONING
Temporary physical disturbance	✓	✓	✓
Permanent habitat loss	x	✓	x
Increased suspended sediment concentrations and sediment deposition	✓	✓	✓
Remobilisation of contaminated sediments	x	x	x
Pollution events resulting from the accidental release of pollutants	x	x	x
Introduction of marine invasive non-native species	✓	✓	✓
Colonisation of introduced substrate	x	✓	x

POTENTIAL IMPACT	CONSTRUCTION	O&M	DECOMMISSIONING
Disturbance from noise and vibration	x	x	x
Interactions of electromagnetic field	x	✓	x
Sediment heating from subsea cables	x	✓	x
Cumulative Impacts	✓	✓	✓

### 4.3 Lundy MCZ

#### 4.3.1 Protected Features

66. The Lundy MCZ is designated for one feature, the spiny lobster. Lundy is a rocky island located at the frontier between the Atlantic Ocean and the Bristol Channel. It rises as a granite outcrop about 114 meters above sea level and it has an area of 852 hectares. Many of the marine habitats and species within the site boundary are already protected under the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations hence, in 2013 Lundy was officially designated as a MCZ with spiny lobster as its only feature (Natural England, 2025b).

67. Spiny lobster has been **screened in** to this assessment due to the MCZ being within the 50km Zol for underwater noise.

#### 4.3.2 Conservation Objectives

68. The conservation objective for the Lundy MCZ is to 'Recover to Favourable Condition'.

69. For the protected feature favourable condition means that a population within a zone is supported in numbers which enable it to thrive, by maintaining:

- ✦ The quality and quantity of its habitat; and
- ✦ The number, age and sex ratio of its population.

70. Any temporary reduction of numbers of a species is to be disregarded if the species is sufficiently thriving and resilient to enable its recovery. Any alteration to a feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded when determining whether a protected feature is in favourable condition.

#### 4.3.3 Potential Impacts

71. The Lundy MCZ is approximately 17km south-east of the Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary and over 50km away from the Array. Therefore, the potential impacts on spiny lobster would be limited to those that arise from activities within the Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary.

72. The potential impacts on spiny lobsters during construction, O&M and decommissioning are applicable throughout the lifetime of the Development and are limited to:

- ✦ Underwater noise and vibration.

73. Underwater noise and vibration have the potential to significantly affect (without mitigation) spiny lobster designated under the Lundy MCZ and are **screened in** to Stage 1 MCZA.

#### 4.3.3.1 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1

74. A summary of impacts screened in to MCZA Stage 1 for the Lundy MCZ is presented in **Table 4.3**.

*Table 4.3 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the Lundy MCZ*

POTENTIAL IMPACT	CONSTRUCTION	O&M	DECOMMISSIONING
Underwater noise and vibration	✓	✓	✓

#### 4.4 Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ

##### 4.4.1 Protected Features

75. The Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ protects a wide range of intertidal and subtidal habitats and species. From beaches of intertidal sand exposed at low tide and covered at high tide, lines of hard slate running from east to west with intertidal gullies, channels and rock pools containing seaweed species of conservation interest to subtidal sediment and rock habitats and biogenic reefs, which are permanently submerged (Natural England, 2025c). The features designated for the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ are:

- ✧ Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats;
- ✧ High energy circalittoral rock;
- ✧ High energy infralittoral rock;
- ✧ High energy intertidal rock;
- ✧ Honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs;
- ✧ Intertidal coarse sediment;
- ✧ Intertidal mixed sediments;
- ✧ Intertidal sand and muddy sand;
- ✧ Intertidal underboulder communities;
- ✧ Littoral chalk communities;
- ✧ Low energy infralittoral rock;
- ✧ Low energy intertidal rock;
- ✧ Moderate energy circalittoral rock;
- ✧ Moderate energy infralittoral rock;
- ✧ Moderate energy intertidal rock;
- ✧ Pink sea-fan *Eunicella verrucosa*;
- ✧ Spiny lobster *Palinurus elephas*;
- ✧ Subtidal coarse sediment;
- ✧ Subtidal mixed sediments; and
- ✧ Subtidal sand.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

76. Only spiny lobster has been **screened in** to this assessment due to the MCZ being within the 50km ZoI for underwater noise and outside of the 15km ZoI for benthic features.

4.4.2 Conservation Objectives

77. The conservation objectives for the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ have been determined as ‘Recover to Favourable Condition’ for spiny lobster and subtidal sand, and ‘Maintain in Favourable Condition’ for all other protected features.

78. For each protected feature, favourable condition means that, within a zone:

- Its extent is stable or increasing; and
- Its structure and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities (including diversity and abundance of species forming part or inhabiting the habitat) are sufficient to ensure that its condition remains healthy and does not deteriorate.

79. Any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitat is sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable its recovery.

4.4.3 Potential Impacts

80. The Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ is approximately 39km south-east of the Offshore Export Cable Scoping Boundary and over 50km away from the array. Therefore, the potential impacts on spiny lobster would be limited to those that arise from activities within the offshore cable corridor scoping boundary.

81. The potential impacts on spiny lobsters during construction, O&M and decommissioning are applicable throughout the lifetime of the Development and are limited to:

- Underwater noise and vibration.

82. Underwater noise and vibration have the potential to significantly affect (without mitigation) spiny lobster designated under the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and are **screened in** to Stage 1 MCZA.

4.4.3.1 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1

83. A summary of impacts screened in to MCZA Stage 1 for the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ is presented in **Table 4.4**.

*Table 4.4 Summary of Impacts Screened In to MCZA Stage 1 for the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ*

POTENTIAL IMPACT	CONSTRUCTION	O&M	DECOMMISSIONING
Underwater noise and vibration	✓	✓	✓

## 5 Cumulative Effects

84. There is potential for cumulative effects on features of the MCZs screened in **Section 3** to arise with other plans or projects during construction, O&M of the Development. In order to screen plans and projects, a conservative range of 50km from the Offshore Scoping Boundary (within the Celtic Sea) has been used (**Figure 3.1**). Where projects or plans ZoI overlaps the MCZ screened in for the Development, they are **screened in** to the cumulative assessment.

---

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

85. Plans and projects that existed at the time of the MCZ designation or the latest status reports (whichever is most recent) are considered to be part of the baseline environment. The MCZs screened in **Section 3** were designated and/or have status reports in the following years:
- ✦ Skomer MCZ was designated in 2014, with its latest status report undertaken in 2026 (Lock *et al.*, 2026);
  - ✦ North West of Lundy MCZ was designated in 2019 – no status reports are available;
  - ✦ Lundy MCZ was designated in 2013 – no status reports are available; and
  - ✦ Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ was designated in 2016, with its latest status report published in 2021 (Natural England, 2021).
86. **Table 5.1** provides the screening of plans and projects to be considered in the MCZA Stage 1 cumulative assessment.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

Table 5.1 Plans and Projects Screened In to the MCZA Cumulative Impact Assessment

PLAN OR PROJECT	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD	PLAN/PROJECT HAS POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MCZ				TIER STATUS	SCREENING ASSESSMENT
		SKOMER MCZ	NORTH WEST LUNDY MCZ	LUNDY MCZ	BIDEFORD TO FORELAND POINT MCZ		
Erebus Offshore Wind Farm	2028 – 2030	No	No	No	No	1	Projects are anticipated to be operational by the time construction starts for the Development. Any ongoing effects of maintenance activity from these offshore wind farms would be highly localised and are outside the 15km Zol for increases in SSCs. Therefore, they are <b>screened out</b> of further assessment.
White Cross Offshore Wind Farm	2026 - 2029	No	No	No	No	1	
PDA 2 (Offshore Wind Farm)	Unknown	No	No	No	No	3	Outside of the 15km Zol for benthic features and 50km Zol for underwater noise for all MCZs.
PDA 3 (Offshore Wind Farm)	Unknown	No	No	Yes	No	3	Although construction timescales for PDA 3 are currently unknown, the site lies within the 50 km Zol for underwater noise associated with Lundy MCZ. It has therefore been <b>screened in</b> to the assessment at this stage. As further project information becomes available, the potential impact pathways would be reviewed to refine the assessment.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

PLAN OR PROJECT	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD	PLAN/PROJECT HAS POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MCZ				TIER STATUS	SCREENING ASSESSMENT
		SKOMER MCZ	NORTH WEST LUNDY MCZ	LUNDY MCZ	BIDEFORD TO FORELAND POINT MCZ		
Llyr 1 Offshore Wind Farm	2027 – 2028	No	No	No	No	1	Project is anticipated to be operational by the time construction starts for the Development. Any ongoing effects of maintenance activity from these offshore wind farms would be highly localised and are outside the 15km Zol for increases in SSCs. Therefore, it has been <b>screened out</b> of further assessment.
Llyr 2 Offshore Wind Farm	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	Although construction timescales for Llyr 2 are currently unknown, the site lies within the 50 km Zol for underwater noise associated with Skomer MCZ and Lundy MCZ, and within the 15km Zol for benthic features for North West Lundy MCZ. It has therefore been <b>screened in</b> to the assessment at this stage. As further project information becomes available, the potential impact pathways would be reviewed to refine the assessment.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

PLAN OR PROJECT	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD	PLAN/PROJECT HAS POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MCZ				TIER STATUS	SCREENING ASSESSMENT
		SKOMER MCZ	NORTH WEST LUNDY MCZ	LUNDY MCZ	BIDEFORD TO FORELAND POINT MCZ		
Greenlink (FID1203)	N/A	No	No	No	No	1	Project is operational and any suspended sediments arising from maintenance activities would be highly localised and are beyond the 15km Zol for benthic features. It has been <b>screened out</b> of further assessment.
Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	Although construction timescales for Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone are currently unknown, the site lies within the 50 km Zol for underwater noise associated with Skomer MCZ and Lundy MCZ, and within the 15km Zol for benthic features for North West Lundy MCZ. It has therefore been <b>screened in</b> to the assessment at this stage. As further project information becomes available, the potential impact pathways would be reviewed to refine the assessment.

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Marine Conservation Zone Screening Assessment

PLAN OR PROJECT	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD	PLAN/PROJECT HAS POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MCZ				TIER STATUS	SCREENING ASSESSMENT
		SKOMER MCZ	NORTH WEST LUNDY MCZ	LUNDY MCZ	BIDEFORD TO FORELAND POINT MCZ		
Morlais Tidal Stream Project (Anglesey)	2026 – 2027	No	No	No	No	1	Project is anticipated to be operational by the time construction starts for the Development. Any ongoing effects of maintenance activity from these offshore wind farms would be highly localised and are outside the 15km Zol for increases in SSCs. Therefore, it is <b>screened out</b> of further assessment.
Milford Haven Two Disposal Site	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	No	1	Within the 15km Zol for benthic features for North West Lundy MCZ and the 50km Zol for underwater noise for Lundy MCZ.
Milford Haven Three Disposal Site	N/A	No	No	No	No	1	Operational before designation of all MCZs – considered as part of baseline.
Swansea Bay (Outer) Disposal Site	N/A	No	No	No	Yes	1	Operational before designation of all MCZs – considered as part of baseline.
Nobel Banks Marine Aggregate Site	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes	1	Operational before designation of all MCZs – considered as part of baseline.

## 6 Screening Summary

87. This MCZ Screening Assessment indicates that there is potential for activities associated with the Development to hinder the conservation objectives of the Skomer, North West of Lundy, Lundy and Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ's, alone or cumulatively with other plans and projects. **Table 6.1** provides a summary of the designated features and impacts **screened in** for Stage 1 Assessment.

*Table 6.1 Screening Summary*

Site	Features Screened In	Impacts Screened In (Alone and Cumulatively)
Skomer MCZ	Grey seal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↘ Temporary disturbance;</li> <li>↘ Vessel collision;</li> <li>↘ Physical presence of infrastructure;</li> <li>↘ Underwater noise;</li> <li>↘ Toxic contaminants;</li> <li>↘ Suspended sediments via prey effects; and</li> <li>↘ Secondary entanglement</li> <li>↘ Cumulative impacts</li> </ul>
North West of Lundy MCZ	Subtidal coarse sediment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↘ Temporary physical disturbance</li> <li>↘ Permanent habitat loss</li> <li>↘ Increased suspended sediment concentrations and sediment deposition</li> <li>↘ Introduction of marine invasive non-native species</li> <li>↘ Colonisation of introduced substrate</li> <li>↘ Interactions of electromagnetic field</li> <li>↘ Sediment heating from subsea cables</li> <li>↘ Cumulative Impacts</li> </ul>
Lundy MCZ	Spiny lobster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↘ Underwater noise and vibration</li> <li>↘ Cumulative impacts</li> </ul>
Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ	Spiny lobster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↘ Underwater noise and vibration</li> <li>↘ Cumulative impacts</li> </ul>

## 7 References

ABPmer (2008). Atlas of UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources. (Accessed: June 2026) Available at: <http://www.renewables-atlas.info/>

Burton, M, Lock, K, Massey, A, Jones, J. (2024). Skomer Marine Conservation Zone, Project Status Report 2023. NRW Evidence Report 752, <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/rtyb0xg1/skomer-marine-conservation-zone-project-status-report-2023.pdf>

Burton M, Lock, K, Massey, A & Jones, J. (2025). Skomer Marine Conservation Zone, Project Status Report 2023. NRW Evidence Report 845, <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/pz4l5srw/skomer-marine-conservation-zone-project-status-report-2024.pdf>

Defra (2019a). North West of Lundy MCZ: Factsheet. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f565f95d3bf7f4d7651d774/mcz-north-west-lundy-2019.pdf>

Defra (2019b). North West of Lundy MCZ: Feature Map. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f565f83d3bf7f4d6cb10850/north-west-lundy-mcz-feature-map.pdf>

DESNZ (2025a) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1), Crown Copyright. Available at [overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf](#)

DESNZ (2025b) NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3), Crown Copyright. Available at [national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf](#)

DESNZ (2026a) DRAFT AR8 Contract Allocation Framework: List of Changes. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a1d4cfd59fb7a60f827f556/AR8\\_CfD\\_List\\_of\\_changes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a1d4cfd59fb7a60f827f556/AR8_CfD_List_of_changes.pdf)

DESNZ (2026b) Consultation outcome. Government response to the proposed refinements for Allocation Round 8 and future allocation rounds (accessible webpage). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-refinements-for-allocation-round-8-and-future-rounds/outcome/government-response-to-the-proposed-refinements-for-allocation-round-8-and-future-allocation-rounds-accessible-webpage>

Lock, K., Burton, M., Jones, J. and Massey, A. (2026) *Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Annual Report 2025/26*. NRW Evidence Report No. 956. Natural Resources Wales. Available at: <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/pgabbihv/skomer-marine-conservation-zone-annual-report-2025-26.pdf> (Accessed: June 2026).

Marine Management Organisation (2013). Marine Conservation Zones and Marine Licensing. Available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d5131ec025c74178bbdbc5906058beef>

Natural England (2021). Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ 2019 Survey Report. Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6006445045972992>

Natural England (2025a). Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas, Advice on Operations: North West of Lundy MCZ. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/FAPMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UKMCZ0064&SiteName>

[=north%20west%20of%20lundy&SiteNameDisplay=North+West+of+Lundy+MCZ&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=0](#)

Natural England (2025b). Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas, Advice on Operations: Lundy MCZ. Available at:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/FAPMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UKMCZ0010&SiteName=lundy%20mcz&SiteNameDisplay=Lundy+MCZ&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=1>

Natural England (2025c). Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas, Advice on Operations: Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ. Available at:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/FAPMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UKMCZ0029&SiteName=bideford%20to%20foreland%20point&SiteNameDisplay=Bideford+to+Foreland+Point+MCZ&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=1>

Natural England and Defra (2022). Offshore wind – best practice advice to facilitate sustainable development. Available at: <https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2022/04/13/offshore-wind-best-practice-advice-to-facilitate-sustainable-development/>

NIRAS (2022). The Celtic Sea Floating Wind MCZ Principles & Screening report. Available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/217032bff7cf4445b88914bc0c31a1b7>

NIRAS (2023). Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5, Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment. Available at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c94ca80f13204b92959f999d1d440a9c/>

NIRAS (2024). Addendum to the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5 RIAA, available at:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/f28432d050ec466eb0041561351e2dea/page/Introduction/>

Planning Inspectorate (2018). *Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope*. [online] GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope>.

Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment#contents> (Accessed: June 2026).

The Crown Estate (no date). Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5. Available at:

<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/our-business/marine/round-5> (Accessed: June 2026).

Welsh Government (2022). Net Zero Strategic Plan. Available at:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-12/welsh-government-net-zero-strategic-plan.pdf> (Accessed: June 2026)

Welsh Government (2026). Press Release: New deal to unlock full potential of renewable energy in Wales. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/new-deal-unlock-full-potential-renewable-energy-wales> (Accessed: June 2026)