



Inception Meeting note

Project name	Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm
Case reference	EN0110036
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date of meeting	12 May 2026
Meeting with	Meeting with Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicant (or others) could rely.

The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the inception meeting note could be delayed by up to 6 months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

1. The proposed development

Detailed description of the proposed development

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm is a joint venture between EDF power solutions UK and Ireland and ESB (Electricity Supply Board), with DP Energy acting as an exclusive development partner. The project would be located approximately 42 kilometres (km) off the southwest coast of Pembrokeshire in the Celtic Sea, with an anticipated capacity of up to 1.5 gigawatt (GW). The array area covers approximately 369 square kilometres (km²). The project 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 substation is likely to be located near the proposed National Grid substation at Llandyfaelog. The applicant confirmed a Marine Licence will be sought from

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (on behalf of the Welsh Ministers) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The applicant explained development is at an early stage and that Carmarthenshire County Council is likely to be host local authority. The Applicant is discussing the substation connection point with National Grid which is likely to be Llandyfaelog. The applicant intends to use standard cable laying and trenchless solutions where available. This will be subject to detailed design. The applicant stated the cable routes and installation techniques will be confirmed by the time of the dDCO submission.

The applicant confirmed they will be seeking consent for 66 to 118 turbines depending on the size of turbine chosen. The maximum tip height would be 310m. The applicant is currently considering a wide range of technologies for the foundations including mooring lines and anchoring systems. The applicant will be monitoring the floating demonstrator projects before deciding which technology to proceed with. The applicant will be seeking consent for up to three offshore substation platforms and potentially a reactive midpoint compensation platform.

The Inspectorate enquired as to whether the project is wholly in Welsh waters. The applicant confirmed following the meeting that the scoping boundary does include English waters.

The Inspectorate advised the applicant to consider what elements of the proposed development are integral or associated development against the requirements in the Planning Act 2008 and ensure this is described in the explanatory memorandum.

Early engagement with statutory bodies, local authorities, and other stakeholder engagement to date

As the development is still in early stages and the applicant is awaiting confirmation of the grid connection site, they have begun engaging with the following local authorities:

- Pembrokeshire County Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Swansea Council
- Neath Port Talbot Council

The Inspectorate asked the applicant if they are considering the use of Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) to assist Statement of Common Grounds (SoCGs) with local authorities or other bodies that have been contacted. The applicant explained PADSS are being considered and SoCGs will be developed as the project progresses.

The Applicant confirmed they have not yet formally engaged with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The Inspectorate informed the applicant that the MMO provide a chargeable pre-application service, so it's important to begin conversations with them as soon as possible, along with Natural England and other public bodies.

The applicant listed other bodies it has engaged with, including NRW and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The applicant also noted that they are holding regular discussions with fishing bodies.

No other “hard to reach groups” have currently been identified.

The applicant confirmed Compulsory Acquisition powers will be sought. Land referencing is in early stages, however, the applicant intends to reach agreement with landowners where possible.

Environmental constraints and issues

The applicant noted several onshore constraints, including Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Gower National Landscape, and Pembrey Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), historic landscapes and the South Pembrokeshire and Gower Heritage Coast. Also noted were areas of ancient woodland with pockets of ancient woodland across the scoping boundary, with higher densities around Amroth and Llanddowror. Mining risk areas to the east and west of the scoping boundary were highlighted by the Coal Authority.

The Applicant listed several offshore environmental constraints, including:

- Carmarthen Bay Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire SPA
- Burry Inlet SPA and Ramsar site
- North West of Lundy Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
- Lundy MCZ
- Morte Platform MCZ
- Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Bristol Channel Approaches SAC
- West Wales Marine SAC
- Pembrokeshire Marine SAC

The applicant confirmed the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have given high level oversight of uses of sites. They also listed several MoD sites in the area, including:

- Castlemartin
- Manorbier
- Pendine
- Pembrey
- South West MDA AIAA
- Southern Fleet Exercise Area

Environmental Surveys

The discussed ongoing environmental survey work:

Planned onshore surveys

- Coastal birds surveys are underway and scheduled to run until Q1 2028.
- Preliminary onshore ecological surveys planned for late 2026, with further surveys planned for early 2027.
- Onshore bird surveys planned for early 2027.
- Seascape, landscape and visual photography surveys planned for winter 2026/summer 2027

Planned offshore surveys

- Geophysical survey of the export cable corridor is planned for spring 2027, with benthic ecology survey to be carried out following this.
- Shipping and navigation surveys planned for winter 2026/ summer 2027.
- A more detailed campaign of geophysical and geotechnical surveys (including unexploded ordinance (UXO) surveys) is planned to run during 2029-2032.

EIA scoping

The applicant informed the Inspectorate that it is planning to submit a scoping request in June 2026. The Inspectorate reminded the applicant to provide the GIS shapefile at least 10 days in advance of the scoping request and that the pre-application fee needs to be paid prior to submitting the scoping report.

Consenting programme and introduction to the pre-application programme document

- Initial consultation Q2 2026
- Scoping June 2026
- Further consultation Q4 2027
- Targeted consultation Q2 2028
- DCO application submission September 2028

The applicant confirmed webinars with local councils are taking place shortly as part of initial consultation activities.

The applicant confirmed it will further develop the project programme once guidance is published following the implementation of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025.

The applicant discussed the pre-application service tiers, primary service features including draft document review service and the use of templates. The Inspectorate directed the applicant to the Prospectus for further information on the pre-application service and supplementary documents which the applicant may choose to use. The Inspectorate advised the applicant that if it wishes to change pre-application service tier once confirmed, it will need to give three months' notice.

Welsh language

The applicant confirmed it will comply with all Welsh language requirements, including translation of non-technical documents and bilingual information and consultation material.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Applicant to provide updated programme document with planned pre-app planning inspectorate engagement including Evidence Plan.
- Applicant to confirm if scoping date is likely to change.
- Inspectorate to send pre-application service tier confirmation.

Annex A

Meeting attendees

Organisation	Role
Planning Inspectorate	Operations Manager
Planning Inspectorate	Operations Lead
Planning Inspectorate	Operations Lead
Planning Inspectorate	Case Manger
Planning Inspectorate	Case Officer
Planning Inspectorate	Environmental Services - Operations Lead
Planning Inspectorate	Associate Environmental Advisor
Planning Inspectorate	Senior Environmental Advisor
Planning Inspectorate	Environmental Advisor
Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm	Development Director
Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm	Consent and Environment Manager
Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm	DCO Coordinator
Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm	Onshore Consents Manager
Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm	Offshore Consents Manager