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MMO Reference: DCO/2022/00010
Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020028
Identification Number: 20051136

22 September 2025

Dear Mr Cliff,

Planning Act 2008, Morgan Offshore Wind Ltd, Proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Transmission Assets Order

Deadline 5 Submission Summary

On 12 December 2024, the Marine Management Organisation (the MMO) received notice under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA 2008) that the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) had accepted an application made by Morgan Offshore Wind Limited and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited (the Applicants) for determination of a development consent order for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Transmission Assets Order (the DCO Application) (MMO ref: DCO/2022/00010; PINS ref: EN020028).

The Applicants seeks authorisation for the construction, operation and maintenance of Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Transmission Assets, comprising of two onshore substations, 6 offshore export cables, 18 onshore export cables (6 circuits), 12 400 kilovolt (kV) grid connection cables (4 circuits) as well as the associated cables corridors with associated onshore and offshore infrastructure and all associated development (the Project). This document comprises of a summary of our Deadline 5 submission.

This written representation is submitted without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application throughout the examination process. This representation is also submitted without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.

Yours Sincerely,

Marine Licensing Case Manager

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1. Comments on Annex 2.5 Applicants Responses (REP4-099)

1.1 The MMO has reviewed and provided comments on the Applicants response to the Examination Authorities' (ExA) first Written Questions.

1.2 Seasonal Restrictions

1.2.1 The MMO acknowledges the removal of high order UXO from DCO. Low-order UXO mitigation will be secured within the MMMP, and a seasonal restriction within the Liverpool Bay SPA has been set out in Commitment 130. The MMO questions how the commitment will be secured within the DML?

1.2.2 The MMO highlights that some low-order UXO clearances have resulted in high-order explosions. We ask the Applicants if they have confidence that all low order clearances will remain low.

1.2.3 A meeting was held between the Applicants and the MMO on 21 July 2025 to discuss. A method statement will be supplied prior to clearance activities for MMO approval.

1.2.4 The MMO requests how the Applicants would provide information on the methods and details for UXO inspections?

1.2.5 The MMO highlights that there is currently no mechanism to manage in-combination impact concerns post-consent, therefore, the MMO requests further clarity on when UXO activities will take place.

1.2.6 The MMO questions if there is confidence that all low order clearances will remain low order, thus highlighting the need for separate UXO marine licences to assess worse-case scenarios.

1.3 UXO Clearance – Marine Mammals

1.3.1 Mitigation within the MMMP is still in discussions between the Applicants and the MMO.

1.3.2 The MMO discuss the updated MMMP in Section 6 of our Deadline 5 submission.

1.4 Commercial Fisheries

1.4.1 The Applicants are not committing to preparing an Underwater Sound Management Strategy (UWSMS).

1.4.2 Condition 18(f) of Schedules 14 & 15 secures the preparation of a Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan. The MMO will defer to NFFO and IFCA and review their responses.

1.4.3 The MMO highlights concerns from the local fishing industry stakeholders and refers the Applicants to the PINS website for comments.

1.5 Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment

1.5.1 The MMO highlights new commitments made by the Applicants regarding cable protection within the MCZ. The MMO welcomes these submissions and will review comments made by Natural England at Deadline 5.

1.6 Outline Offshore Cable Specification and Installation Plan

1.6.1 The MMO discuss the updated CSIP in Section 4.2 of our Deadline 5 submission.



1.7 Outstanding Concerns

1.7.1 The MMO summarises which outstanding concerns have been resolved, and which are topics of ongoing discussion.

2. Response to Examining Authority's Questions 2 (ExQ2) (PD-011)

2.1 The MMO responded to a number of questions.

3. Response to the ExAs Commentary and Questions on the Draft DCO (PD-012)

3.1 The MMO responded to a number of commentary/questions.

4. Comments on the Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment updates (APP-219)

4.1 Physical Processes

4.1.1 The MMO reviewed clarifications received by the Applicants regarding cable exposure to shoreline retreat at the landfall location.

4.1.2 The MMO notes that further spatial and temporal analysis is required.

4.1.3 If the Applicants cannot demonstrate a long-term large-scale accretionary trend, the MMO deems it reasonable to consider the impact of the cable exposure if the shoreline was to retreat.

5. Comments on Annex 5.3 Commitments Register F05 (REP4-019)

5.1 Physical Processes

5.1.1 The MMO reviewed and acknowledged new and updated commitments submitted by the Applicant's at Deadline 4.

5.1.2 The MMO requests the Applicant's definition of '*urgent circumstances*' for CoT135.

5.2 Fisheries and Fish Ecology

5.2.1 The MMO has no outstanding concerns regarding fisheries and fish ecology for this project.

6. Comments on updated Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (REP4-070)

6.1 General Comments

6.1.1 The MMO welcomed the inclusion of seals and associated legislation within the MMMP. The MMMP will be reviewed and finalised post-consent.

6.1.2 The amendments to the MMMP appear to be minor, therefore the MMO have no further comments on underwater noise impacts currently.



7. Comments on updated Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP) (REP4-074)

7.1 Benthic Ecology

7.1.1 The MMO welcomes the inclusion of the 'Pre-construction' phase and INNS in the monitoring plan, alongside further amendments to some wording for clarity purposes.

7.1.2 Updates to the IPMP will be submitted at Deadline 5 to include adaptive measurements.

7.2 Commercial Fisheries

7.2.1 The IPMP will include engineering asset integrity surveys to monitor cable burial status during Operation and Maintenance phases. The MMO supports this proposal.

8. Comments on the Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (OOOMP) (REP4-072)

8.1 General Comments

8.1.1 The MMO notes the conditions which have been updated upon the MMO's request and welcomes these amendments.

8.2 Benthic Ecology

8.2.1 The MMO confirms the amendments to benthic ecological interests are appropriate.

8.3 Fish Ecology

8.3.1 The MMO has no further comments or concerns regarding the updates the licence conditions pertaining to fish ecology and fisheries.

9. MMO Comments on outstanding Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) issues (REP4-082)

9.1 General Comments

9.1.1 The MMO confirms that most issues previously discussed have been closed and agreed.

9.1.2 Benefit of the Order (Article 6), Force Majeure (Condition 17(1)), Adaptive Management and UXO Clearance (number of low order clearances) remain outstanding topics of discussion.

9.1.3 The MMO had a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025 where the Applicant's discussed amendments to Condition 17(1) (Force Majeure) and Condition 19(2) (Timing of MMO reviews); the MMO welcomes these changes and notes these will be submitted at Deadline 5.

9.2 Fish and Shellfish Ecology – Monitoring and Mitigation

9.2.1 The MMO confirms that the Applicant's assertion to not include monitoring of fish receptors or fish habitats due to impacts being either minor adverse or negligible is acceptable.



10. Clarification for Sediment Analysis Requirements

10.1 General Comments

10.1.1 The MMO notes that a response provided at Deadline 4 regarding the Dredge and Disposal Site Characterisation Plan - Baseline Environment (APP-227) required clarification regarding sample analysis timeframes.

10.1.2 The MMO have provided the Applicants with confirmation of the wording, which is accordance with the official MMO sediment analysis guidance on gov.uk.

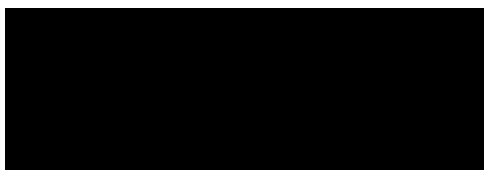
11. MMO Comments on other Stakeholder's Deadline 4 Responses

11.1 Natural England (NE)

11.1.1 The MMO highlights ongoing topics of concern for NE.

11.1.2 The MMO highlights that in a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025, the Applicant's informed the MMO that discussions are ongoing with NE and they will be providing updates at Deadline 5 to close out several concerns.

Yours Sincerely,



Marine Licensing Case Manager



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Yours Sincerely,

Marine Licensing Case Manager

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1. MMO's comments on Annex 2.5 Applicants responses (REP4-099)

1.1 General Comments

- 1.1.1 The MMO provided updates at Deadline 3 (REP3-085). The Applicants have reviewed these submissions and have provided updated comments. The MMO has only provided further comments where we believe a response is required.
- 1.1.2 The MMO notes the removal of bp Alternative Energy Investments Ltd. (bp), and the addition of JERA Nex bp (JNbp) as a joint Applicants throughout all updated plans and documents. Ownership of Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd has also changed from Zero-E Offshore Wind S.L.U. (Spain) (a Cobra group company) (Cobra) and Flotation Energy Ltd, to Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners' (CIP) fifth flagship fund, Copenhagen Infrastructure V (CI V).

1.2 ExA Questions (ExQ1) – Table 2.1: Q7.2.4 Seasonal Restrictions

Please confirm that following the removal of high order Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance from the deemed marine licenses submitted by the applicants at D2 [REP2-004] you are now content that no seasonal restriction on construction activities is required during the cod and herring spawning seasons.

- 1.2.1 The MMO highlighted that our position is that no Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearances should be included within the DCO but welcomed the removal of high order UXO from the DCO on a without prejudice basis. It is the Applicants' position that it is appropriate and justified to include low-order UXO clearance activities within the DCO, noting that high-order UXO clearance has been removed from the draft DCO (REP3-009).
- 1.2.2 The MMO notes that the Mona Offshore Wind Project included low order UXO and that Morgan Generation Assets DCO has also included low order UXO. The MMO still maintains that UXO should not be included within the Deemed Marine Licences (DML). The MMO would also add that a number of projects have not included UXO within the DML to align with our position. The MMO is still reviewing the Morgan decision and the impacts to the position on this matter and will discuss this with the Applicants at the earliest opportunity and provide an update as an additional submission (if accepted by the ExA) or at Deadline 6.
- 1.2.3 The MMO notes that the Applicants have included all necessary activities, and all such activities have been subject to a robust assessment process. This includes UXO clearance activities, with suitable mitigation in the Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) (REP2-026)) and committed to not clearing UXO within the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) between November – March, inclusive, as set out under CoT130 in the Commitments Register (REP3-013). The MMO questions how the commitment will be secured within the DML?
- 1.2.4 The MMO notes Condition 20 of Schedules 14 and 15 (REP3-009) includes a number of requirements and specifies the maximum number of clearances (22 and 3 respectively) the MMO is largely content on a without prejudice basis that should the secretary of State (SoS) include low order UXO that these conditions provide the required information for the UXO clearance works at the post consent stage. The MMO would like to ask the Applicants how we would be provided the information of the methods and details for the UXO inspections?



- 1.2.5 The MMO would add that NE, JNCC, and The Wildlife Trust (TWT) have raised concerns in relation to including UXO within the DMLs and this is linked with the in-combination impact assessment. Although the Applicants have committed to not clearing UXO November to March, and most of the cable is not directly within a Marine Protected Area, there is still a concern that there will be an in-combination impact at population level, and at this stage it is not clear when all activities will take place. Therefore, the MMO would highlight that there is currently no mechanism to manage this concern post consent.
- 1.2.6 The MMO would also highlight that it is not our intention to hinder the delivery of the project to contribute to the UK Government targets for Net Zero, and notes a wildlife licence will be required and it is MMO's best practice to process both the UXO marine licence and the wildlife licence alongside each other to ensure all issues including in combination are managed at the same time. Therefore, there are still licence requirements post consent and the MMO does not see why a UXO clearance marine licence cannot also be applied for at this time.
- 1.2.7 The MMO also highlighted that some low order UXO clearance campaigns have led to accidental high order explosions and would question if there is still confidence that all low order clearances will remain low order. The Applicants is content that this can be done through the method statement required in Condition 20(1)(a) of Schedule 14 and 15 of the DML. On UXO marine licences the MMO currently includes a high order worst case assessment to ensure that if a new method was to be used that this allows an assessment of an accidental high order. Without high order in the DML, the MMO would highlight that it may be less likely to approve a new or novel method of low order clearance as we would need the confidence to approve the method and ensure there would be no accidental high order. If there was a high order detonation, then there would be a breach of the licence and enforcement action would have to be taken.

1.3 ExA Questions (ExQ1) – Q1: 7.3.2 UXO Clearance – Marine Mammals

Do the amendments to the DMLs address your concerns regarding UXO clearance?

- 1.3.1 The MMO noted that details of specific mitigation measures within the Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) are still in discussion with the Applicants. The MMO have provided an updated to our stance in Section 6 of this document.
- 1.3.2 Following best practice for the industry, the Applicants have prepared an outline MMMP (updated at Deadline 4, REP4-070) and have secured under Condition 20 of Schedule 14 and 15 in the draft DCO (REP3-009) the submission of a detailed MMMP in accordance with the outline MMMP post-consent once the final details of the project are known. Comments on the updated MMMP can be found in Section 6 of this document.

1.4 ExA Questions (ExQ1) – Q1: 17.2.3 Commercial Fisheries

Are you content with the applicants' response to your suggestion that there should be a programme to monitor the impact of the project on bass and other commercial fisheries pages 62 and 63 of [REP1- 086]?

- 1.4.1 The MMO has provided an updated response regarding the Underwater Sound Management Strategy (UWSMS) in Section 2 of this document.



- 1.4.2 The MMO notes that Condition 18(f) of Schedules 14 and 15 of the draft DCO (REP3-009) secures the preparation of detailed Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan(s) (FLCP) which must be accord with the outline FLCP (REP3-028).
- 1.4.3 The MMO notes that the National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations (NFFO) and Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCA) have also been asked to consider if they are content with the outline FLCP and the MMO will review their responses.
- 1.4.4 The MMO would like to highlight that we have had correspondence and complaints from local fishers on the impact of multiple projects within the Liverpool Bay area. We have directed the individuals to the PINS website to provide comments within Examination. These comments are in relation to Bass numbers and a reduction in catch. The complaint directly links to the current geophysical surveys which are classed as low-risk activities and less impactful than the construction activities, therefore consideration of the in-combination impacts should be reviewed.
- 1.4.5 The MMO considered it unlikely that the low sea bass numbers could be solely related the presence of geotechnical survey vessels, however further evidence may be provided on the impact and wanted to highlight the fishers' concerns.

1.5 Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment (Table 2.3, Section 2.11))

The MMO will maintain a watching brief on this document and discussions in relation to MCZs and would remind the Applicants that any mitigation secured through these assessments will need to be included within the conditions on the DML.

- 1.5.1 The MMO notes that the Applicants have noted that Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register submitted at Deadline 3 (REP3- 013) contains details of how all the commitments relevant to the Fylde MCZ are secured through the draft DCO (REP3-009).
- 1.5.2 The MMO notes that a new commitment in the Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (OOOMP) at Deadline 4 (REP4-072) to limit deployment of cable protection outside the Fylde MCZ to 10 years / limit of the cable protection Max Design Scenario (MDS) – whichever is first. Following this, deployment of cable protection during the operation and maintenance phase would require a new marine licence application. Within the Fylde MCZ, the Applicants are committed to limiting the deployment of cable protection, without the requirement for a new marine licence, to the first two years of the operation and maintenance phase. The Applicants would highlight that this timing is required to allow for any 'snagging' delays in construction phase deployment and to cover the Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) divestment period. Following this two-year period, any further deployment of cable protection during the operation and maintenance phase within the Fylde MCZ would require a new marine licence application.
- 1.5.3 The MMO notes the inclusion of a commitment to 'no rock dumping within Fylde MCZ' in the draft DCO submitted at Deadline 4 (REP4-008).
- 1.5.4 The MMO notes a new commitment that should benthic compensation be required, the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) will be the preferred and prioritised option, and the project-led options would only be considered where the MRF option is not made available to the Applicants (see Volume 1, Annex 5.3: Commitments Register, REP4-018).



1.5.5 The MMO notes that the Applicants has confirmed that clarifications regarding the MCZ Screening and Stage 1 Assessment Report (APP-019) have been provided in the errata documents (REP1-064, REP2-028, REP3-039). Additionally, the Applicants provided a Stage 2 MCZ Assessment, including a without prejudice, in-principle Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB) Plan, at Deadline 1 (REP1-059) which updated the MDS for long term habitat loss of each of the features to account for the cable crossing occurring only within the subtidal mud feature. The Applicants confirm that an updated MCZ Screening and Stage 1 Assessment Report (APP-019) to include these clarifications/updates will be submitted at Deadline 5. The MMO welcomes the submission of an updated assessment report.

1.6 J15 Outline Offshore Cable Specification and Installation Plan (CSIP) (Table 2.5, Section 5.3)

The MMO notes that previous advice stated that the Applicants must ensure that target cable burial at the nearshore/landfall was defined with consideration for natural shoreline retreat and hence potential shoreline realignment (natural or managed). This is still unresolved and the MMO will maintain a watching brief.

1.6.1 The MMO has reviewed the Applicant's clarifications provided at Deadline 4 and has provided an updated response in Section 4 of this document.

1.7 Outstanding Concerns (Table 2.7)

Applicants Response to Rule 9 Letter (RR-1414-03)

1.7.1 The MMO notes that the Applicant's provided a response to the ExAs Rule 9 letter in March 2025 (AS-068 & AS-070).

1.7.2 The MMO can confirm that we have no further comments to make (other than what has already been discussed throughout examination) following a full review of the Applicant's response to the Rule 9 Letter.

DML Timescales (RR-1414-19)

1.7.3 The MMO confirms that the Applicants updated the DMLs and DCO at Deadline 4, and this matter has now been resolved. Further comments can be found in Section 8 of this document.

Force Majeure (RR-1414-20)

1.7.4 The MMO notes that this matter is still being reviewed, and further comments can be found in Section 3.2 of this document.

Environmental Statement: Construction Scenarios (RR-1414-22)

1.7.5 The MMO confirms that this matter was resolved at Deadline 4.

Cable Burial Risk Assessment (RR-1414-23)

1.7.6 The MMO acknowledges that the Applicants provided further clarity on the detail around location and design of cable protection. However, the MMO believes that further assessment is required. Please see our comments in Section 4.1 of this document.

Fish and Shellfish Ecology (RR-1414-24 & RR-1414-25)

1.7.7 The MMO can confirm that this matter was resolved at Deadline 4. Also see our comments on the SoCG in Section 9 of this document.



Underwater Noise (RR-1414-27)

- 1.7.8 The only outstanding comments are in relation to the inclusion of UXO within the DCO Application which will remain a disagreed position. Noting that should the Secretary of State include UXO, then we will ensure we are content with all the information within the DML and relevant plans.
- 1.7.9 All other comments have been responded to and although the MMO may not agree with the Applicants, this does not impact the conclusions and therefore on this occasion considers these matters closed.



2. MMO's Responses to Examining Authority's Questions 2 (ExQ2) (PD-011)

2.1 Critical National Priority Q2: 1.1.7

Are there any further submissions any party wishes to make on the potential application of CNP policy in this case (should it be required)?

2.1.1 The MMO will review other responses to this questions and highlights that ALL mitigation possible is applied during the examination period.

2.2 Benthic Ecology Matters with Natural England Q2: 7.2.2 – 7.2.7

2.2.1 The MMO will keep a watching brief and continue discussions with the Applicants regarding these matters.

2.3 Marine Mammals Q2: 7.4.1 – 7.4.3

UXO Clearance

Following recent meetings with the applicants and the discussion on this issue at ISH2 summarised in [REP4-104] at 5(c)(i) has NE's position on this issue changed? If there has been no change, provide the rationale for maintaining that position.

2.3.1 The MMO will keep a watching brief and continue discussions with the Applicants regarding these matters.

DML

Without prejudice to your position on the inclusion of UXO clearance in DMLs, comment on the maximum number of low order UXO clearances proposed by the applicants in the latest version of the draft deemed marine licences (22 for Morgan and 3 for Morecombe), paragraph 20(7) of Schedules 14 and 15 (REP4-007).

2.3.2 The MMO has provided further comments on UXO in Section 1.2 of this document. On a without prejudice basis, the MMO welcomes the maximum number of UXO clearances being stated on the DML.

2.4 Information to Support Appropriate Assessment (ISAA) Q2: 9.3.1

Winter Vessel Movements and Offshore Ornithology

The applicants have added a new commitment CoT135 to the latest commitments register [REP4-018] - "The Applicants will not plan routine O&M activities in the original Liverpool Bay special protection area (SPA) (as designated in 2010), including a 2 km buffer between November and March (inclusive) unless in urgent circumstances". a) Are your concerns about adverse effects in the operation and maintenance phase resolved? If not, why not? b) Are you now in agreement that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of Liverpool Bay SPA arising from impacts to offshore ornithology features? If not, what concerns remain and how can the applicants address them?

2.4.1 Although the MMO defers the details to NE as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB), the MMO would like to understand how this will be secured on the DML and asks the Applicants for a definition of 'urgent circumstances'. The MMO undertakes compliance reviews post consent and needs to ensure that this is enforceable. The MMO will also engage with the Applicants and NE on this matter.



2.5 ISAA (Marine Mammals Adverse Effects on Integrity (AEol) conclusions) Q2:

9.3.2

Do you consider that the inclusion of low order UXO clearance has the potential to result in AEol to any marine mammals qualifying features of the SACs assessed within the HRA ISAA?

2.5.1 The MMO will keep a watching brief and continue discussions with the Applicants regarding these matters.

2.6 Commercial Fisheries Q2: 17.2.1 & 17.2.2

Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (OFLCP)

Are you content with the OFLCP [APP-218]? Are there any amendments/ additions that you would recommend?

2.6.1 The MMO will keep a watching brief over National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and Northwest Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's (NWIFCA) submissions.

2.7 Underwater Sound Management Strategy (UWSMS)

In response to Q17.2.3 of the ExA's first written questions [PD-008] MMO noted that the applicants were in the process of developing an UWSMS that might use Noise Abatement Systems such as bubble curtains and piling dampeners. In [REP4-099] the applicants have highlighted that they have not committed to the preparation of a USMS because no pile driving is required for the transmission assets. Do you have any comments given this clarification?

2.7.1 The MMO previously stated that the Applicants were in the process of developing an UWSMS. The Morgan Generation Assets and Morecambe Generation Assets applications have included this commitment to manage underwater sound emissions associated with pile driving, which may include the use of Noise abatement Systems (NAS). However, no pile driving is required for the Transmission Assets project, and therefore NAS is not being proposed for this project that would be covered by an underwater sound management strategy. The MMO and the Applicants discussed this point on 11 September 2025. The MMO understands that the Applicants have not committed to the preparation of an UWSMS and this was an error by the MMO.

2.7.2 However, the MMO set out in Section 1.2 that other interested parties (NE/JNCC) have raised concerns in relation to marine mammals and in-combination impacts, the MMO will continue discussions with the Applicants and interested parties but it may be worthwhile to have a similar document, should low order UXO be maintained in the DML to conduct an in-combination assessment should the in-combination impact be a concern. Although there isn't a Harbour Porpoise Special Area of Conservation (SAC) impacted a document could be similar to the Southern North Sea Site Integrity Plan on the East coast as this was also used for UXO clearances for East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two projects.

2.7.3 However, the MMO would require clear parameters set by the SNCB or SoS as part of the consent to be able to manage in-combination noise if this was identified as a concern. Since there is no SAC then the harbour porpoise thresholds cannot be utilised to manage the impacts.



3. MMO's Response to the ExAs Commentary and Questions on the draft development consent order (PD-012)

3.1 Articles

Q1.1.2(b): Article 6 – Benefit of the Order

Further to the recently made Morgan DCO, does the MMO have any further comments on the issues it has previously raised regarding Article 6?

- 3.1.1 The MMO is still reviewing the Morgan decision and the impacts to the position on this matter and will discuss this with the Applicants at the earliest opportunity and provide an update as an additional submission (if accepted by the ExA) or at Deadline 6.
- 3.1.2 The MMO notes that following a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025, they informed us that they will be maintaining their position on this matter.

3.2 Schedule 14: Marine Licence 1: Morgan Offshore Wind Project Transmission Assets

Q1.6.1: Part 1, Article 2 – Details of licenced marine activities

In paragraph (g) should there be reference to the specific Work No, rather than “Order limits” as included in the recent Mona and Rampion II Development Consent Orders (DCOs)?

- 3.2.1 The MMO notes that paragraph (g) currently states “*the disposal of up to 1,080,000 cubic metres of inert material of natural origin within the Order limits produced during seabed preparation for cable works and boulder clearance works at disposal site references to be provided to the MMO within the Order limits.*” The MMO has no preference on this wording as disposal will be authorised for the whole of the site up to the limits within the condition. The MMO will discuss this with the Applicants.

Q1.6.2 Condition 17 – Force majeure

The Examining Authority (ExA) suggests the inclusion of the additional wording that was agreed by the Secretary of State in condition 19 of the deemed Marine Licences in the Morgan DCO.

- 3.2.2 The MMO had a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025 where they confirmed that they will be updating the wording suggested by the Secretary of State (SoS) in the Morgan DCO: “*If due to stress of weather or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of the master of a vessel, and which the master of a vessel by the exercise of reasonable diligence is unable to prevent, avoid or remove, the master of a vessel determines that it is necessary to deposit the authorised deposits within or outside of the Order limits because the safety of human life or of the vessel is threatened, within 48 hours the undertaker must notify full details of the circumstances of the deposit to the MMO*”.
- 3.2.3 The MMO welcomes the updates by the Applicants.
- 3.2.4 The MMO is still reviewing the Morgan decision and the impacts to the position on this matter and will discuss this with the Applicants at the earliest opportunity and provide an update as an additional submission (if accepted by the ExA) or at Deadline 6. The MMO is aiming to work with the Applicants, so all positions are clear at Deadline 6.



Q1.6.3 Condition 19

Should 19(2) be deleted as agreed by the Secretary of State in the Morgan DCO (condition 21 of the deemed Marine Licences)?

3.2.5 Regarding Condition 19(2), the MMO had a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025 where they confirmed that the timing of the MMO's review will be deleted ahead of Deadline 5. The MMO welcomes this amendment.

Q1.6.4 Condition 20 – Low order unexploded ordnance clearance

a) Clarify what is mean by “large debris”. Should this be defined?

b) Is an underwater sound management strategy required for low order UXO clearance (as included in condition 22 of the deemed Martine Licences in the Morgan DCO)?

3.2.6 Q1:6.4 – The MMO asks the Applicants to clarify what is meant by ‘large debris’ within Condition 20.

3.2.7 Q1:6.4 - The MMO noted at Deadline 4 that within the Morgan DCO, an UWSMS is required for low order UXO clearance. Upon meeting with the Applicants and reviewing their Deadline 4 response, the MMO now considers that an UWSMS is not necessary for the Transmission Assets Projects. However, the MMO set out in Section 2.7 of this document that other interested parties (NE/JNCC) have raised concerns in relation to marine mammals and in-combination impacts, the MMO will continue discussions with the Applicants and interested parties, but it may be worthwhile to have a similar document, should low order UXO be maintained in the DML to conduct an in-combination assessment should the in-combination impacts be a concern.

3.2.8 The MMO has provided an update in Section 2.7 of this document.

3.3 Schedules 14, 15, 16 and 17 – Marine Licences

Q1.7.1 Marine Licences – General

Provide an update on any outstanding concerns you have on the draft Marine Licences in Schedules 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the draft Development Consent Order, including where relevant any suggested alternative drafting if agreement cannot be reached.

3.3.1 The MMO has provided an update in Section 1.7 of this document on the outstanding matters. There are no new matters at this stage.

Q1.7.2 Marine Licences – General

Are any amendments/ additions needed to the draft Marine Licences following the recent grant of Development Consent for the Morgan generation assets project?

3.3.2 The MMO is still reviewing the Morgan decision and the impacts to the position on this matter and will discuss this with the Applicants at the earliest opportunity and provide an update as an additional submission (if accepted by the ExA) or at Deadline 5. The MMO is aiming to work with the Applicants, so all positions are clear at Deadline 5.



4. MMO's comments on Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment updates (APP-219)

4.1 Physical Processes

4.1.1 The MMO notes that the Applicants provided further clarification on previous concerns on the risk of future cable exposure due to shoreline retreat at the landfall location. These clarifications in points have been outlined below:

- The detailed assessment of beach level variability, as set out in the Outline Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA), identifies intertidal variability of up to ± 1.5 metres (m). Accordingly, the target Depth of Lowering (DoL) for cable burial has been conservatively established at 3.0 m below beach surface level. This ensures that even under conditions of maximum recorded variability, the minimum burial depth would remain at least 1.5m, sufficient to prevent cable exposure and associated risks.
- In terms of shoreline retreat, the analysis undertaken by the Applicants, to inform the CBRA, also confirms a trend of sediment accumulation and dune migration seaward, rather than significant shoreline recession, at the selected landfall site. This indicates a limited likelihood of future shoreline retreat posing a risk to the buried cables. The Applicants confirm that the potential for future shoreline changes, including the scenario of natural realignment and retreat, has been factored into the burial depth design. The design approach adopted incorporates a conservative burial DoL of 3.0m to mitigate the risk of cable exposure due to future beach-level variations, including scenarios involving shoreline retreat.

4.1.2 The MMO notes that whilst the information provided by the Applicants is useful, more spatial and temporal detail about the dynamics of the landing site is required to allay concerns. The cable will land adjacent to the mouth of an estuary, presumably a highly dynamic environment. It follows that the stated accretional trends should be contextualised with respect to the surrounding area. Notably, is there a section of nearby beach that has eroded? If so, would the cable remain buried if the landing site were to erode by a similar extent? Moreover, the period over which the stated observed trends should be considered with respect to the install life of the cable. Indeed, the stated accretionary trend of the landing site provides little assurance if the period over which this observation was made is significantly less than the install life of the cable.

4.1.3 If the Applicants cannot supply the additional information demonstrating a long-term, large-scale accretionary trend, the MMO deems it is reasonable to request that the Applicants consider the impact of the cable exposure if the shoreline was to retreat.



5. MMO's Comments on Annex 5.3 Commitments Register F05 (REP4-019)

5.1 Physical Processes

- 5.1.1 The MMO has reviewed the additional commitment CoT114 on pages 25 and 53. CoT114 has been added to provide detail of the project's commitment to bury permanent infrastructure to a target depth of 3m within the intertidal area defined between Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).
- 5.1.2 The MMO notes in CoT133, the Applicants have stated that no cable/scour protection shall be permanently deployed in the intertidal area between MLWS and MHWS. This will be updated within the Outline Offshore Cable Specification and Installation Plan (CSIP). The MMO will wait for a revised CSIP to confirm this but believes it would be beneficial if this commitment was clear on the face of the DML as a condition.
- 5.1.3 The MMO notes in CoT134 the Applicants have stated that as part of the detailed process, micro-sitting of the offshore export cables within the offshore export cable corridors will be considered where successful burial could pose a challenge, or where a higher risk of remedial works such as external cable protection may be required.
- 5.1.4 The MMO notes in CoT135, the Applicants have stated that they will not plan routine O&M activities in the original Liverpool Bay SPA (as designated in 2010), including a 2km buffer between November and March (inclusive) unless in urgent circumstances. The MMO would request the Applicants definition of '*urgent circumstances*'. In addition to this the MMO would request this is conditioned on the face of the DML.
- 5.1.5 The MMO notes in CoT136, the Applicants have stated that should benthic compensation be required, the Marine Recovery Fund would be the preferred option over the project-led options.
- 5.1.6 The MMO is aware that a new commitment will be included at Deadline 5 to include the engagement with other offshore energy operators (for example: Simultaneous Operations with Spirit Energy).

5.2 Fisheries and Fish Ecology

- 5.2.1 The MMO notes and welcomes the additional commitments of relevance to fish ecology, namely CoT47, CoT71, and CoT133.
- 5.2.2 The MMO does not have any outstanding concerns regarding fisheries and fish ecology for this project.



6. MMO's Comments on updated Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (REP4-070)

6.1 General Comments

- 6.1.1 The MMO welcomes the inclusion of seals and the associated legislation within the Outline MMMP document.
- 6.1.2 The MMO notes that in Section 1.6.6, the Applicants have stated that with regards to the UXO post-clearance search, the approach to communication will be reviewed and finalised post-consent and will be set out in the final MMMP(s). The MMO is in agreement with this approach.

6.2 Underwater Noise

- 6.2.1 The MMO notes that the amendments to the MMMP appear to be minor only. Therefore, we have no further comments on underwater noise impacts currently.



7. MMO's Comments on updated Offshore in Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP) (REP4-074)

7.1 Benthic Ecology

- 7.1.1 The MMO notes that with regards to benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology the Applicants have concluded that all residual effects are deemed to be minor adverse or lower significance. The MMO is satisfied with these conclusions.
- 7.1.2 The MMO notes and welcomes the inclusion of the '*Pre-construction phase*' within the monitoring plan. The Applicants aim to set a pre-construction baseline against which to monitor the temporal and spatial recovery of the benthic communities within the Fylde MCZ through post-construction benthic sampling, in order to evaluate the effects of construction activities and the progression of community recovery over time. The MMO notes that monitoring will be carried out via baseline surveys to describe the spatial extent of pre-construction benthic communities. The monitoring will occur under Condition 18(1)(d) pre-construction plans and documentation, and DCO Schedule 15 (Marine Licence 2: Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Transmission Assets).
- 7.1.3 The MMO notes change from benthic ecology to seabed sediments in relation to impacts on recovery of sediments in the Fylde MCZ.
- 7.1.4 The MMO notes and welcomes the inclusion of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) within the IPMP.
- 7.1.5 The MMO notes that the amendments to the document pertaining to benthic ecological interests are appropriate.
- 7.1.6 Following a meeting with the Applicant's on 11 September 2025, the MMO is aware that updates to the IPMP will be submitted at Deadline 5 to include adaptive measurements based on our comments made at Deadline 4. The MMO welcomes these updates and we look forward to reviewing these in due course.

7.2 Commercial Fisheries

- 7.2.1 The MMO notes that the proposal will include engineering asset integrity surveys to monitor the burial status of the export cables during the operation and maintenance phase to ensure that cables remain adequately buried and to reduce the risk of snagging by commercial fishing gear. The MMO supports this proposal.



8. MMO's Comments on Outline Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan (OOOMP) (REP4-072)

8.1 General Comments

8.1.1 The MMO is pleased to see that Condition 11(3) has been updated to amend the approval timeframe for MMO from four months to six months prior to commencement of the operation of licensed activities.

8.1.2 The MMO notes the inclusion of updated Condition 11 wording for Schedules 14 & 15:

Condition 11(4) - The MMO must determine an application for approval made under this condition within a period of six months commencing on the date the application is received by the MMO, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the undertaker. All operation and maintenance activities must be carried out in accordance with the approved plan.

Condition 11(5) - An annual maintenance report must be submitted to the MMO within one month following the first anniversary of the date of first operation of the authorised development (notified in accordance with Condition 28 (Completion of construction)) and every year thereafter until the permanent cessation of operation.

Condition 11(6) - The annual maintenance report in sub-paragraph (5) must provide a record of the licensed activities during the preceding year, the timing of activities and methodologies used.

Condition 11(7) - Every fifth year, the undertaker must submit to the MMO, within one month of the anniversary of the date of first operation of authorised development (notified in accordance with Condition 28 (Completion of construction)), a consolidated maintenance report which will—

(a) include a review of licensed activities undertaken during the preceding five years with reference to the reports submitted in accordance with sub-paragraph (5) of this licence; and

(b) reconfirm the applicability of the methodologies and frequencies of the licensed activities permitted by this licence for the duration of this licence.

8.1.3 The MMO request that Condition 11(4) is updated to remove reference to MMO determination dates as this has been removed elsewhere in the DML.

8.1.4 The MMO asks the Applicants to amend Condition 11(5) to state that “*an annual maintenance report must be submitted to the MMO in writing within one month following the first anniversary of the date of first operation of the authorised development (notified in accordance with Condition 28 (Completion of construction)) and every year thereafter until the permanent cessation of operation.*”

8.1.5 The MMO is happy with the wording for Condition 11(6).

8.1.6 The MMO is happy with the wording for Condition 11(7).

8.2 Benthic Ecology

8.2.1 The MMO notes that the amendments to the document pertaining to benthic ecological interests are appropriate.



8.3 Fish Ecology

8.3.1 The MMO has no comments or concerns regarding the updates to licence condition 11 parts 4, 5, 6, 7(a), &7(b), and the amendments to the Transmission Assets operation and maintenance activities outlined in Table 1.1. The MMO notes and welcomes the additional commitments of relevance to fish ecology, namely CoT47 CoT71, and CoT133.



9. MMO's comments on outstanding Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) issues (REP4-082)

9.1 SoCG (REP3-085) General Comments

9.1.1 The MMO notes that most issues previously discussed have been closed out and agreed.

9.1.2 There remains some topics that either will not be agreed throughout examination, or that are still in discussion with the Applicants. We highlight these topics below:

- Article 6 Transfer of Benefit
- Force Majeure
- UXO Clearance (inclusion of UXO on the DML)
- Adaptive Management

9.1.3 Additionally, the MMO also welcomes the updated to Condition 19(2) Timing of MMO reviews which will be deleted in the updated draft DCO and Schedules 16 & 17 at Deadline 5.

9.1.4 The following topics were discussed and resolved in a meeting between the Applicants and the MMO on 21 July 2025:

- Marine Archaeology
- Use of artificial lighting
- Recovery of dropped objects
- Seabed preparation activities as a result of jack-up operations

9.1.5 The MMO notes that the Applicants have provided an updated OOOMP at Deadline 4 (REP4-072) to address these matters. Further comments on the OOOMP can be found in Section 8 of this document.

9.1.6 The MMO acknowledges that an updated IPMP has been submitted at Deadline 4 (REP4-074), which now includes a statement for physical processes, benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology, commercial fisheries, and marine archaeology to confirm that following the application of measures (commitments) adopted as part of the Transmission Assets, residual effects are deemed to be of minor adverse or lower significance. The MMO provides further comments on the IPMP in Section 7 of this document.

9.2 Fish and Shellfish Ecology - Monitoring and Mitigation

9.2.1 To facilitate a conclusion to SoCG reference MMO.FSF.15, the MMO has reviewed Volume 2, Chapter 3: Fish and shellfish ecology (APP-048). The MMO notes that monitoring of fish receptors or fish habitats is not proposed for the Transmission Assets scheme due to the residual significance of effect for all impacts being either minor adverse or negligible. The MMO is content with this decision.



10. Clarification for Sediment Analysis Requirements

10.1 General Comments

10.1.1 It was noted in a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025 that a response the MMO provided at Deadline 4 regarding the Dredge and Disposal Site Characterisation Plan - Baseline Environment (APP-227) required clarification regarding sample analysis timeframes.

10.1.2 The MMO emailed the Applicants on 17 September 2025 to confirm that the wording should read: *"You may use existing analytical data on the physical and chemical properties of sediments in support of your marine licence application. The information must be from a laboratory that has been validated by the MMO at the time of the analysis. The data must also have been collected within 3 to 5 calendar years from the date you submitted your marine licence application, and we accepted it."* This is in accordance with the official MMO sediment analysis guidance on gov.uk. Should the ExA require a PDF of this document, please request this.



11. MMO's Comments on other Stakeholder's Deadline 4 Responses

11.1 Natural England (REP4-140 & REP4-141)

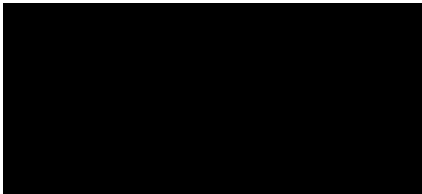
- 11.1.1 The MMO notes that Natural England (NE) still has ongoing concerns towards the impacts to sand dune within Lytham St. Annes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). NE has highlighted that impacts on dune slack vegetation need to be thoroughly assessed and a more precautionary approach with regards to the recoverability/resilience of dune slacks need to be considered. In addition, NE has highlighted that additional detailed dune slack surveys across the study area are required and that these should be undertaken during summer 2025.
- 11.1.2 The MMO notes that NE has advised that the proposed level of restriction to the landfall works is insufficient to avoid an adverse effect on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar Site. However, the MMO has noted that the Applicants are committed to a restriction on the construction activity from November to March at landfall. While this appears to address NE concerns, concerns regarding the passage features of the SPA and Ramsar site remain outstanding. The MMO would also ask how this is to be secured on the DML?
- 11.1.3 The MMO notes that NE still has concerns regarding the effectiveness of the proposed initiative at Fairhaven saltmarsh, noting that the concerns constitute compensation.
- 11.1.4 The MMO notes that NE has highlighted that information still lacks sufficient detail regarding mitigating impacts to SPA/RAMSAR site waterbirds. NE has noted that they require further information to support the HRA conclusions, consideration of spatial scheduling to reduce the level of impact, and greater detail on the proposed mitigation habitats.
- 11.1.5 The MMO notes that NE advises that monitoring of the water table pre- and post-construction and modelling to understand changes to the water table over the duration of the development is required. This is revolving the comment from NE which states they are unable to rule out significant impacts on sand dune SSSI features associated with Lytham St. Annes Dunes due to uncertainties around changes to the water table. The MMO notes and welcomes the Applicants comment that surveys will be carried out at Lytham St. Annes Dunes SSSI.
- 11.1.6 The MMO notes that NE advises that for the passage intertidal features NE do not agree with the conclusion that impacts can be ruled out. NE has noted that reliance on alternative feeding would require knowledge of why this area is so important and consideration in the first instance of seasonal restrictions to works for important passage periods for the species of concern.
- 11.1.7 The MMO notes that NE has identified that no MEEB provisions deal with the end of life or end of Works within REP3-066. NE advises the inclusion of provisions to deal with the end of life of the project/MEEB requirements.
- 11.1.8 The MMO had a meeting with the Applicants on 11 September 2025. The Applicant's updated the MMO that they are providing updates at Deadline 5 to close out the following concerns with NE:
- Benthic subtidal and intertidal ecology



- Physical Processes, Marine Mammals
- Offshore Ornithology
- ISAA (Part 3)
- MCZ (Stage 1 and Stage 2)
- Project Description.

11.1.9 The MMO will review all the updates and comments from NE and provide a response where required.

Yours Sincerely,



Marine Licensing Case Manager

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