



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES  
2010

Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm: Transmission Assets

**Appendix G5.2 to Natural England's Deadline 5 Submission  
Natural England's advice on Onshore Ecology**

For:

The construction and operation of the Morgan and Morecambe Transmission Assets located approximately 0 - 37 km from the Northwest English Coast in the Irish Sea.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN020028

22 September 2025

## **Appendix G5.2 Natural England's advice on Onshore Ecology**

In formulating these comments, the following documents have been considered:

- [REP4-027] Outline Code of Construction Practice
- [REP4-118] The Applicants' submission at Deadline 4 on 8 August 2025: Hearing Action Point 14 – (Peat Technical Note)
- [REP4-117] Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan

Natural England's detailed advice on the documents listed above is included in the tables below. For advice on soils please see Appendix G5.1 and for advice on the Outline Landfall Construction Method Statement please see Appendix G5.3.

### **1. Summary of advice on Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan [REP4-117]**

Natural England advises that from the details provided within the Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan (REP4-117) that a Sand Lizard Mitigation European Protected Species Licence maybe required to carry out the activities detailed within the plan. This is because, the Plan states that any sand lizard observed will be caught and relocated by the Ecological Clerk of Works. We highlight that any capture of sand lizards requires licensing and any movement of sand lizards outside the compound could be classed as the translocation of EPS to an adjacent habitat, which Natural England advises are licensable activities. For further information please see our Standing Advice for Reptiles which includes Sand lizards which can be found [here](#)

Sand lizards are free ranging animals and as a European Protected Species (EPS) any construction associated works to habitat where the presence of the species is identified or assumed to be present could result in direct impacts on the EPS through damage and/or destruction of habitat and disturbance, especially around the compound area.

We further advise the capture and handling of any EPS reptiles is not covered under any survey licence, only a [mitigation licence](#). Therefore, if the correct licence has not been applied for and is not in place when undertaking any works associated with the project and a sand lizard or other EPS is encountered, the works may need to halt, and the correct mitigation licence would need to be submitted for assessment. Please note Natural England have a statutory deadline of 30 working days to decide whether to issue a licence upon receiving the application.

Natural England notes at the Applicant has stated they intend to submit a draft EPS Licence at Deadline 5. Natural England cannot provided detailed comments on the appropriateness or if we agree with the contents of the Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan until all the details for the draft EPS Licence have been submitted.

## Detailed comments

**Table 1: Natural England's Advice On: Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-027]**

NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	1.8.8	<p>We welcome the additions to the document which includes wording for air quality and dust management.</p> <p>However, as highlighted in our Relevant Representation response [RR-1601] further assessment is required regarding air quality impacts on designated sites, including dust.</p> <p>This assessment should then be used to inform the design of any air quality and dust management measures.</p>	<p>Natural England advises that as part of the consenting process that the Applicant undertakes further air quality assessments. This is necessary to inform the design of the measures required to manage air quality impacts including dust, to inform SSSI mitigation.</p>

**Table 2: Natural England's Advice On: The Applicants submission at Deadline 4 on 8 August 2025: Hearing Action Point 14 [REP4-118]**

Document reviewed: [REP4-118] The Applicants' submission at Deadline 4 on 8 August 2025: Hearing Action Point 14 – (Peat Technical Note)			
NE Ref	Section	Key Concern and/or Update	Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue
1	Entire document	<p>Peat surveys are still required to determine if the deep peaty soils present within the draft order limits is restorable, and to inform the Peat Management Plan.</p>	<p>Natural England advises that further peat surveys are required to inform consent. Please refer to our Relevant Representation response and ExAQ2:6.1.7 – 6.1.8.</p>

**Table 3: Natural England's Advice On: Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan [REP4-117]**

<b>Document reviewed: [REP4-117] Outline Sand Lizard Mitigation Plan</b>			
<b>NE Ref</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Key Concern and/or Update</b>	<b>Natural England's Advice to Resolve Issue</b>
1	2.2.1.5	It has been stated that assumed presence across the proposed impacted site will be applied.	This is acceptable considering the limited and constrained environmental data used. However, please see advice included in the summary to this submission document on the capturing and relocating of lizards found to be present.
2	Table 1 – row 2	Applicant states there is the chance of disturbance to sand lizards during the construction period, this is a licensable activity.	A Sand Lizard EPS Licence will need to be applied for to undertake activity. Please see summary advice included in Section 1.
3	Table 1 – row 4	Applicant states that any lizards (presumably meaning sand lizard) will be captured and relocated to an alternative area outside the compound, this is a licensable activity.	A Sand Lizard EPS Licence will need to be applied for to undertake activity. Please see summary advice included in Section 1.
4	Table 1 – row 2	Name of SSSI is incorrect, row refers to it at Lytham St Annes SSSI when it is Lytham St Annes Dunes SSSI.	Update to reference correct SSSI to avoid confusion.