

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 30 July 2025

There is a statutory duty under ['section 51 \(s51\) of the Planning Act 2008'](#) for The Planning Inspectorate to record the advice that it gives in relation to an application or potential application, and to make this publicly available.

This document comprises a record of the advice that has been provided by The Planning Inspectorate to the applicant Morven Offshore Wind Limited and their consultants during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by The Planning Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant during which s51 has been provided. The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on The Planning Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it is published.

The applicant will use this advice log as the basis for demonstrating regard to s51 advice within the application.

Project name s51 Advice Log - Index	
Date of meeting	Meeting overview
<u>26 June 2025</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introductions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Section 51 advice b) Security and protection of information policy 2. M3 Portfolio, Morven project overview & MHPGC 3. Post EIA Scoping key activities 4. Land Update 5. Programme Document and Issues Tracker 6. Administrative aspects 7. AOB

Project name - s51 Advice Library	
Topic	Meeting date: 26 June 2025
Marine Licence	The applicant told the Inspectorate that it is having conversations with Marine Directorate: Licensing Operations Team and the Marine Management Organisation regarding the consents and approach to EIA in Scottish waters, alongside the works located within English waters to be consented under the Planning Act 2008. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to continue consulting with the bodies to avoid contradicting conditions and to give some certainty about the overall project delivery.
DCO Process	The Inspectorate informed the applicant that whilst there is a statutory timescale for the development consent order (DCO) process, there is ambition from the government to shorten the timescales where possible. The Inspectorate advised that whilst this may not apply to this project it may still be helpful to make stakeholders aware of this to aid with their own resource planning.
Evidence Plans	The applicant told the Inspectorate it will be holding evidence plan meetings (Steering Group and Expert Working Groups) as part of the evidence plans process and it would like the Inspectorate's engagement. The Inspectorate confirmed that under the standard tier it would be able to attend up to five evidence plan meetings in an observational capacity. These would be in addition to the six meetings per annum allowed for in the standard tier service. Any meetings not included in the programme document would need six weeks' notice. More information about this is available in the evidence plan section of the pre-application prospectus.
Breeding Season Bird Surveys	<p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant that Natural England often prefer two consecutive years of breeding season bird surveys.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note: The applicant confirmed that it has completed surveys for breeding birds in the 2023 and 2025 breeding seasons. The applicant will seek to agree with the Expert Working Group as part of the Evidence Plan Process that the use of two non-consecutive years affords a representative baseline. A similar approach will be taken with the applicant's wintering bird surveys.</p>

Crown Land	<p>The Inspectorate asked whether there was any Crown Land at the proposed landfall sites.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note: The applicant has identified a parcel of Crown Land within the Scoping Red Line Boundary. As the project seeks to reduce optionality of sites, the applicant will present a Crown Land plan should this identified parcel remain within the selected landfall and selected draft Order Limits for the application.</p>
Programme Document	<p>The applicant questioned whether the Inspectorate would review a draft version of the programme document or just receive the final copy. The Inspectorate advised the draft programme document can be submitted to the Inspectorate for comments ahead of being published on the applicant's website. The Inspectorate confirmed that the programme document is an iterative document which the applicant should update at key milestones.</p> <p>The applicant informed the Inspectorate that the issues tracker would be provided following planned scoping workshops.</p> <p>Post meeting note: In addition to providing comments on the draft programme document, the Inspectorate also refers the applicant to the 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' published guidance for full information on producing their programme document.</p>
Timescales	<p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant that when it comes to giving key dates or submission dates for the project, to give a specific month as opposed to a quarter.</p>