

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Section 51 Advice Log

Version: 03 August 2026

This document comprises a record of the s51 advice that has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to the applicant Morven Offshore Wind Limited during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the Planning Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant within which s51 advice has been given.

The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on the Planning Inspectorate's draft record of the s51 advice given before it is published on the relevant project page on the [Find a National Infrastructure Project website](#).

The role of the advice log at the acceptance stage

Section 55(4) of the PA2008 requires the Planning Inspectorate to consider, amongst other things, the extent to which the applicant has had regard to the s51 advice given by the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the application when deciding if the application can be accepted for examination. Section 51 advice includes:

- advice given about applying for an order granting development consent
- advice given about making representations about an application for an order granting development consent

The applicant will use this advice log as the tool for demonstrating:

- regard to the s51 advice given to the applicant by the Planning Inspectorate
- regard to any s51 advice given to others by the Planning Inspectorate

The applicant will submit a final version of this advice log which demonstrates regard to all s51 given by the Planning Inspectorate at the pre-application stage as part of the application.

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project – Applicant meeting index

Date of meeting	Meeting overview
14 October 2024	Inception Meeting • Programme Document • Issues tracker • EIA scoping and engagement with consultees • EIA scoping • EIA scoping and development optionality • Pre-application service tier • Service tier changes • Draft document review service • Statutory Instrument Checker Tool
26 June 2025	• Welcome and introductions • Section 51 advice • Security and protection of information policy • M3 Portfolio, Morven project overview & MHPGC • Post EIA Scoping key activities • Land Update • Programme Document and Issues Tracker • Administrative aspects • AOB
29 October 2025	Programme document review and update to pre-application prospectus
23 April 2026	• Programme • Consultation • Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker • Protected Provisions • Pre app prospectus • Next steps
03 August 2026	• Email advice - Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project – Log of s51 given to the applicant

Meeting date: 14 October 2024

Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Programme Document	The Inspectorate advised that the applicant's pre-application programme was not sufficiently detailed. The applicant was advised that statutory consultees would require more information about the proposed development and programme timescales. The Inspectorate directed the applicant to the Pre-Application Prospectus for guidance on the expected content of the Programme Document.	
Issues tracker	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to begin maintaining an issues tracker. The Inspectorate explained that this would assist in identifying the main issues arising from consultation and would support effective management of the pre-application process.	
EIA scoping and engagement with consultees	The Inspectorate highlighted the importance of agreeing cost recovery arrangements with relevant consultees. The Inspectorate advised that, without such arrangements, consultees may decline to respond to the scoping consultation or provide only limited responses.	
EIA scoping	The Inspectorate encouraged the applicant to consider whether the proposed timing of its scoping request would	

	achieve the best outcome for the project, given the early stage of project development and ongoing refinement of options.	
EIA scoping and development optionality	The Inspectorate advised that substantial optionality within the scoping boundary could require consultation with large numbers of consultees, particularly parish councils. The Inspectorate noted that this could reduce the effectiveness of scoping as a means of informing and refining the environmental assessment.	
Pre-application service tier	The Inspectorate advised that the standard service tier allows a maximum of six meetings per year following the inception meeting, including any multi-party meetings where agreed. The Inspectorate also advised that confirmation of the service tier and invoicing arrangements would be provided within 28 days.	
Service tier changes	The Inspectorate advised that any request to change service tier would require six months' notice.	
Draft document review service	The Inspectorate informed the applicant of the draft document review service and advised that documents submitted for review should be sufficiently developed. The applicant was advised to allow adequate time in the programme to consider and respond to feedback before submission of the application.	
Statutory Instrument Checker Tool	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to ensure that it had access to the Statutory Instrument Checker Tool. The	

	Inspectorate explained that this would assist in ensuring that the draft Development Consent Order had been validated before submission at acceptance stage.	
Meeting date: 26 June 2025		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
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	The Inspectorate advised the applicant that Natural England often prefer two consecutive years of breeding season bird surveys. 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.	
Crown Land	The Inspectorate asked whether there was any Crown Land at the proposed landfall sites. 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.	

Programme Document	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. The applicant informed the Inspectorate that the issues tracker would be provided following planned scoping workshops. 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.	
Timescales	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.	
Review of programme document: 29 October 2025		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given

Programme Document	The Inspectorate notes that the draft programme document is broadly compliant with the Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - GOV.UK. In terms of further information within the document, the Inspectorate would find it helpful for the timeframes for the submission of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone and draft document review to be provided. Also, the Inspectorate notes that only one project update meeting has been scheduled before the proposed application submission date. It would be helpful to have some indication of when other project update meetings will be requested to enable the Inspectorate to deploy resources effectively. Similarly it would also be helpful to list any future meetings with key stakeholders to enable those parties with their own resourcing. The Inspectorate advises the applicant to continue to follow the information provided in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK The Inspectorate welcomes the intention to provide future iterations of programme document with an updated Issues Tracker throughout the pre-application period. In addition, the Inspectorate notes that the applicant will be aware that one of the mandatory components of the pre-application service as set out in the Nationally Significant	
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	Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus, is demonstrating regard to advice. As such this should be clearly reflected in the application documents. The Inspectorate confirms that, once finalised, the applicant must ensure that the Programme Document is hosted and maintained on the applicant's website.	
Update to Pre-application Prospectus	Important information about updates to our pre application services Following a 6-month review of our services, our Pre-application Prospectus has been updated: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. The update log at the bottom of the page summarises the changes and clarifications that have been applied. As an applicant with a live project at the pre-application stage of the process, please familiarise yourself with the update and consider how it might affect your pre-application programme and interaction with our services. Please note in particular: the establishment of land and rights negotiations tracking as a primary service feature – this means it is now expected for all applicants to develop and share a land and right negotiations tracker in 1 of 2 available templates, irrespective of the service tier they have subscribed to	

	clarified expectations of applicants when preparing to interact with the Inspectorate at meetings – including clarified rights for the Inspectorate to delay or refuse service where pre-meeting expectations are not upheld e.g. an updated programme document or issues tracker is not provided, on time, to inform a meeting agenda.	
Meeting date: 23 April 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Programme	The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should clearly distinguish the Scottish elements of the proposed development from the English elements within the application documents. The applicant confirmed that this would be explained in the submission. The Inspectorate noted that several applications have recently progressed through the process and advised the applicant to review more recent Development Consent Orders, including Scottish projects with English grid connections. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to update its programme documentation with the intended submission date once confirmed. The applicant explained that it intends to undertake consultation even if legislative changes occur. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to monitor updates to relevant guidance.	

Consultation	The applicant confirmed that the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the local authority is being prepared. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to remain aware of local community demographics when planning engagement activities.	
Land rights and negotiations tracker	The applicant asked how much detail the Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker needed. The Inspectorate advised the documents should contain as much detail as possible, including the type of land and the status of negotiations. The applicant asked whether the tracker is published. The Inspectorate advised that it is an internal document The Inspectorate asked whether there are any issues with access to land for survey work. The applicant advised that all landowners are currently content and that no section 52 or section 53 matters have arisen. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to notify it promptly if this position changes.	
Protected Provisions	The Inspectorate asked about the need for protective provisions. The applicant advised that several stakeholders may require them, including National Grid, the Environment Agency and the lead local flood authority. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to where	

	possible, agree with the protected parties the Protective Provisions before submitting the application..	
Pre app prospectus	The Inspectorate asked whether the applicant intends to submit draft documents as part of the standard tier. The applicant advised that it may do so and would consider this further. The Inspectorate advised that if the applicant intends to submit draft documents a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) should be submitted for review. The applicant advised that it had shared draft material with Natural England and Nature Scott and had received comments. The Inspectorate noted that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) becomes mandatory for all NSIP applications submitted on or after November 2026, with a 10% net gain requirement. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to follow BNG advice and that documentation at submission, including the Environmental Statement and HRA should clearly differentiate between BNG enhancement measures and any mitigation measures. The Inspectorate advised that the issues tracker should be updated regularly throughout pre-application and should help form the basis for discussion with the Planning Inspectorate and with stakeholders.	

Next steps	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to make full use of the standard tier of pre-application services that is available to them.	
Email advice regarding Planning and Infrastructure Act: 03 August 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Email Advice - Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025	In light of the amended legal framework which will be introduced from 24 July 2026 by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, the Planning Inspectorate issued written advice to the applicant on 03 August 2026 requesting for: - evidence within the submitted application in relation to duties under s46 and s48 of the PA2008 to be provided as an appendix to any engagement summary document that the applicant may choose to submit or, where the applicant chooses not to submit such a document, as a discrete document titled 'Section 46 and section 48 information' - evidence within the submitted application in relation to new s55(4)(e) of the PA2008 to be provided in a submission version of this expanded advice log template	

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project – Log of s51 advice given to others		
Person s51 advice given to	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given