

ABLE MARINE ENERGY PARK (MATERIAL CHANGE 2 – TR030006)

UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

CHAPTER 7: GEOLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND GROUND CONDITIONS

Able Marine Energy Park, Killingholme, North Lincolnshire



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7.1.0 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This Chapter of the Updated Environmental Statement (UES) provides details regarding the consideration of Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions for the proposed material amendment (Material Change 2) application. The initial considerations regarding the original development and Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions are set out in Chapter 7 of the original ES¹

Scoping Opinion

- 7.1.2 In accordance with Regulation 10(2) and 10(4) of the EIA Regulations, a person who proposes to make a subsequent application may ask the relevant authority (the Secretary of State) to provide an opinion *“as to the scope, and level of detail of the further information to be provided in the updated environmental statement.”*
- 7.1.3 A formal Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on behalf of the Secretary of State in March 2021 (PINS Case Reference TR030006), a copy of which is provided in Appendix UES5-2.
- 7.1.4 Table 7-1 outlines issues relating to Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions which were included within the Scoping Opinion adopted by PINS.

Table 7-1: Scoping Opinion

Page & Paragraph No.	Scoping Opinion	Comments	Outcome	Reference within UES
ID 4.1.1	Further assessment beyond that presented in the original ES is not required	Noted	Topic scoped out	n/a
ID 4.1.2	Matters addressed in the updated ES should be informed by the most recent legislation, policy and guidance	Changes to legislation were reviewed and report in the PEIR Report and found not to pose any significant change to the outcome of the ES	No further action	n/a
ID 4.1.3	Sediment sampling should be further reported to confirm suitability of dredge material for disposal at sea	MMO pre-application consultation response has confirmed that the dredge material is suitable for disposal at the HU080, HU081 and HU082 sites.	Dredge and disposal Strategy updated (Appendix UES4-2). WFD updated and reviewed with EA.	Appendices UES4-2 UES9-4 UES10-9. Also refer to WFD assessment

¹<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR030001/TR030001-000316-07%20-%20Geology%20Hydrogeology%20and%20Ground%20Conditions.pdf>

Page & Paragraph No.	Scoping Opinion	Comments	Outcome	Reference within UES
ID 4.1.4	ES should confirm that land raising to date has been undertaken with uncontaminated material	Land raising has been undertaken using quarried chalk from the Melton Ross quarry in North Lincolnshire or using colliery spoil in accordance with a Waste License granted by the Environment Agency (EPR/FB3104MM)	Use of non-contaminated material confirmed by this response. Information was reported in the PEIR and no comments were received.	n/a
ID 4.1.5	Applicant should consider the effect of the change in location, type and number of piles required and assess if new requirements or conditions are required	Existing protection from piling impacts are set out in Schedule 8 paragraphs 37-43, and Schedule 11 paragraphs 26, 37, 42(3)-(4)	No additional requirements are needed	Chapter 10, 11, 12 and 16
ID 4.1.6	Updated ES should consider what options are available for the beneficial use of dredge arisings	Beneficial use of significant volumes of clay is dependent upon opportunities arising at the relevant time.	Alternative uses for 1.1 million tonnes of clay arisings will be explored at the relevant time during the construction	Chapter 4

7.1.5 As can be noted from the above, the comments raised within the Scoping Opinion adopted by PINS and requiring a response are dealt with elsewhere within the UES and, as such, further assessment of Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions is 'scoped out' of the UES.

Summary of PEIR

7.1.6 Notwithstanding the above, this section provides an overview of the findings contained within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) previously prepared to undertake consultation on the proposed material amendment in advance of any formal application submission.

7.1.7 The proposed material amendment (Material Change 2) does not propose any changes to the approved terrestrial works which would affect the geology, hydrogeology (groundwater), ground conditions or gas assessments presented within the original ES.

7.1.8 Further to the original ES, additional sediment sampling and testing has been undertaken which identifies elevated trace metal and hydrocarbon concentrations beyond those identified within the original ES. Notwithstanding, these levels remain within the acceptable limits to allow the disposal of dredging material at identified locations within the Humber as proposed within the original ES. A copy of the sediment sampling and testing results is provided within Appendix UES9-4. It was confirmed by the MMO in their consultation response to the PEIR that the material is suitable for disposal at HU080, HU081 and HU082.

7.1.9 The Humber is known to be an environment where high hydrocarbon background levels are known

to exist; therefore, there are no barriers considered towards the disposal of dredging material within the Humber. The existing Marine License for the projects permits disposal at sea on the basis of the 2011 sampling results and, whilst a variation to the Marine License will be required subsequent to the Material Change 2 application, this would be based on the more recent sediment sampling results (Appendix UES9-4) which are still within acceptable limits for disposal at HU080, HU081 and HU082.

- 7.1.10 The effects of additional dredging arisings being deposited in the Humber have also been considered, however, this is only needed as a contingency, if there are no alternative beneficial uses for the clay arisings from the berthing pocket. Further information regarding the potential for additional dredging arisings is provided within Chapter 4: Description of Changes to Development and Chapter 8: Hydrodynamics and Sedimentary Regime.

Conclusion

- 7.1.11 On this basis, there are no significant changes since the original ES and this topic has been scoped out of the UES.

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