



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction

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Annexes

Annex number	Annex title
1.1	Statement of Expertise

Glossary

Term	Meaning
the Applicant	The legal entity making the applications for consent; Morven Offshore Wind Limited (MvOWL).
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	BNG is a process whereby development leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state and is a planning policy requirement in England under the National Planning Policy Framework (2025). BNG is a statutory requirement under the Environment Act (2021) for certain Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) developments setting out a mandatory 10 percent (%) net gain in biodiversity. At time of writing, the 10% statutory requirement is not in force for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) or projects treated as development for which development consent is required, although is expected in November 2026. Guidance has been provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of identifying and assessing the significant effects likely to arise from a project. This requires consideration of the likely changes to the environment, where these arise as a consequence of a project, through comparison with the existing and projected future baseline conditions.
High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)	A HVAC electric power transmission system uses alternating current for electric power transmission that periodically reverses direction at regular intervals.
High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)	A HVDC electric power transmission system uses direct current for electric power transmission, in contrast to the more common alternating current systems. Most HVDC links use voltages between 100 kilovolts (kV) and 800kV.
Impact	A change caused by an action that occurs during a project's lifetime.
Landfall	The area in which the offshore export cables make landfall (come onshore) and the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling. This term applies to the entire landfall area between the trenchless technique exit pits and the transition joint bay inclusive of all construction works.
Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)	The part of the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate responsible for assessing and administering applications for marine licences and Section 36 consent (offshore) in Scotland.
Marine Licence	A marine licence permits the undertaking of different activities in the marine environment, including construction, the deposition or removal of substances or objects from the seabed and dredging. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires a marine licence to be obtained for licensable marine activities within the Scottish offshore region (12nm to 200nm) and in English offshore and inshore regions (noting that deemed marine licences will be included within the Development Consent Order application).
MHPGC Project Environmental Statement (ES)	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Term	Meaning
MHPGC Project Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach to, and information to support, the EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment processes for certain topics.
MHPGC Project Habitats Regulations Appraisal/ Assessment (HRA) Screening Report	A HRA Screening Report is Stage 1 of the HRA process and screens in sites within the National Site Network, and qualifying features, for consideration within Stage 2 of the HRA process. The HRA Screening Report for the MHPGC Project will be submitted to PINS and MD-LOT to obtain an opinion on which sites within the National Site Network, and qualifying features, should be screened in for consideration within the MHPGC Project Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment (RIAA).
MHPGC Project Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and Marine Protected Area (MPA) Assessment	The MPA and MCZ Assessment is a process used to evaluate whether a proposed activity could have a significant impact on designated nature conservation MPAs (in Scotland) or MCZs and HPMAAs (in England). It ensures that the development does not hinder the conservation objectives of the protected features of these sites, as required under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The MPA/MCZ Assessment for the MHPGC Project will consider whether the activities subject to the relevant application (i.e. activities subject to a marine licence application and DCO consent) can hinder the conservation objectives of a protected feature in a nature conservation MPA, MCZ or HPMA.
MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary	The area within which all components of the MHPGC Project will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds).
MHPGC Project Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A report that provides preliminary environmental information in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This is information that enables consultees to understand the likely significant environmental effects of a project and which helps to inform consultation responses.
MHPGC Project Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)	A report prepared by the Applicant containing information that the Competent Authority needs to inform an Appropriate Assessment at Stage 2 of the HRA process. The MHPGC Project will consider whether the MHPGC Project could have adverse effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of the National Site Network for which the likely significant effects has been previously established.
MHPGC Project Scoping Opinions	Separate scoping opinions received from PINS (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and MD-LOT (on behalf of the Scottish Ministers) in response to the MHPGC Project Scoping Report. The MHPGC Project Scoping Opinions contain the range of issues that PINS, and MD-LOT in consultation with statutory stakeholders, have identified should be considered within the EIA process.
MHPGC Project Scoping Report	A Scoping Report for the MHPGC Project, scoping the likely significant effects of the project on the environment, was submitted to Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and submitted to the Scottish Ministers, via the Marine Directorate – Licencing Operations Team (MD-LOT) in February 2025.

Term	Meaning
Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection Project (hereafter 'MBAGC Project')	The Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection Project will be comprised of the offshore export cable in Scottish waters from the Morven North or the Morven South Offshore Substation Platforms, the onshore export cable and the onshore land substation in the vicinity of Branxton in East Lothian, Scotland.
Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project ('MHPGC Project')	The MHPGC Project is comprised of the offshore export cables in Scottish and English waters from the Morven North or the Morven South offshore substation platform(s) (OSP), landfall, onshore export cables, the onshore land substation (LSS) and AC connection cables. Also referred to in this report as the MHPGC Project, for ease of reading.
Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project (hereafter 'Morven North')	The Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project which includes the wind turbines and foundations, Offshore Substation Platforms and foundations, inter-array and interconnector cables and associated infrastructure located within the Morven North Boundary.
Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project (Morven South)	The Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project, which includes the wind turbines and foundations, Offshore Substation Platforms and foundations, inter-array and interconnector cables and associated infrastructure located within the Morven South Boundary.
National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation	The National Grid substation at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham, which the AC connection cables will connect into from the Onshore Land Substation.
Offshore export cables	HVDC cables which bring electricity from either the Morven North or Morven South offshore substation platform to the transition joint bay (TJB) at landfall.
Offshore substation platform (OSP)	OSP(s) comprise the support structure, topside and electrical components used for collecting the electricity generated by the wind turbine generators, in Scottish waters, for the passage or transmission to landfall. These OSP(s) can be divided into two types: • HVAC collector substations; • HVDC converter substations.
Offshore waters	The area seaward of 12nm, extending out to the UK's continental shelf.
Onshore export cables	HVDC cables which bring electricity from the TJB to the Onshore Land Substation.
Onshore Land Substation (LSS)	A purpose-built site comprising a compound containing the electrical components for converting the HVDC to HVAC power. The LSS site associated with the MHPGC Project adjusts the power quality and power factor to meet the requirements of power supply being fed to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The PINS is an executive agency of the UK Government responsible for administering and examining DCO applications for NSIPs in England. PINS manages the application process, oversees consultation and examination, and makes a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State on whether consent should be granted.

Term	Meaning
Scottish Offshore Waters	The sea area beyond Scotland's territorial waters (12 nautical miles from the coast) out to the limits of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to Scotland.
Transition Joint Bay (TJB)	An underground bay housing a joint which connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables. The TJB will be located in the vicinity of the onshore side of the landfall.

Acronyms

Unit	Meaning
AC	Alternating current
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EnBW	Energie Baden-Württemberg
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
EWG	Expert Working Group
FUE	Follow-Up Exercise
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HND	Holistic Design Network
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
ISEP	Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
LSS	Land Substation
JNBP	JERA Nex bp Limited
MBAGC	Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection
MCAA 2009	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
MHPGC	Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MvOWL	Morven Offshore Wind Limited
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SMP	Sectoral Marine Plan
SoS	Secretary of State
TJB	Transition Joint Bay

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) presents the preliminary findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (hereafter 'MHPGC Project'). This chapter introduces the MHPGC Project, the Applicant, the EIA process and the purpose and structure of the PEIR.

1.2 Overview

- 1.2.1.1 Morven Offshore Wind Limited (MvOWL), a joint venture between JERA Nex bp Limited (JNBP), and EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg (EnBW) (hereafter The Applicant), has been awarded a seabed option under the 2021/22 ScotWind Leasing Round for the Morven Option Lease Agreement Site (hereafter "Morven Site"), located wholly within Plan Option Area E1, identified in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (the SMP) (Scottish Government, 2020).
- 1.2.1.2 The Applicant has continued to develop and evolve the Morven Site and made the decision to split the site into two distinct projects, the Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project (hereafter, 'Morven North') and the Morven South Offshore Wind Array project (hereafter, "Morven South"), which would be located off the coast of Aberdeenshire in the North Sea. This separation is primarily driven by the requirement for flexibility due to ongoing uncertainty around grid connection dates for the two distinct grid connections Hawthorn Pit in County Durham and Branxton Area in East Lothian.
- 1.2.1.3 The UK and Scottish Government's ambitions for offshore wind deployment are supported by the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR). The Holistic Network Design (HND), under the OTNR's 'Pathway to 2030' workstream, recommends a network design for the connection of offshore generation assets to the network. Building on this, the HDN and the HND Follow-Up Exercise (FUE) refines and expands the original design to incorporate updated project data, stakeholder feedback, and evolving policy objectives, ensuring the network remains fit for purpose as offshore wind deployment accelerates.
- 1.2.1.4 The MHPGC Project is comprised of the offshore export cable in Scottish and English waters from the Morven North or the Morven South offshore substation platforms (OSPs), the onshore export cable in England and the Onshore Land Substation (LSS) in England. The Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection Project (hereafter, MBAGC Project) is comprised of the export cable and onshore LSS. The MBAGC Project is not part of the applications for the MHPGC project.
- 1.2.1.5 As a result of the HND and HND FUE and in order to progress the MHPGC Project, the Applicant will seek to consent the Morven North, Morven South and grid connection aspects separately. This means there will be separate consultation processes for Morven North, Morven South and the MHPGC Project. In part this is due to the array assets existing solely in Scottish waters, whilst one of the two sets of transmission assets is to be located in the English jurisdiction.
- 1.2.1.6 For assets located in England, the Applicant sought a direction from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to confirm that the onshore and offshore assets in England (including English waters) should be treated as development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2.1.7 A direction from the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero was duly made on 05 March 2024 confirming that the MHPGC Project should be treated as a development for which development consent is required. The Applicant is now pursuing a single development consent for the onshore and offshore components of the MHPGC Project in England.
- 1.2.1.8 In respect of the MHPGC Project, assets located within Scottish waters (specifically, Scottish Offshore Waters), marine licence(s) will be applied for from the Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT), in accordance with the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA 2009).

1.2.1.9 The MHPGC Project Scoping Report was issued to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and MD–LOT in February 2025 (RPS, 2025). Following consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies, PINS (on behalf of the SoS) and MD–LOT both provided Scoping Opinions in March 2025 (PINS, 2025; MD–LOT, 2025, respectively).

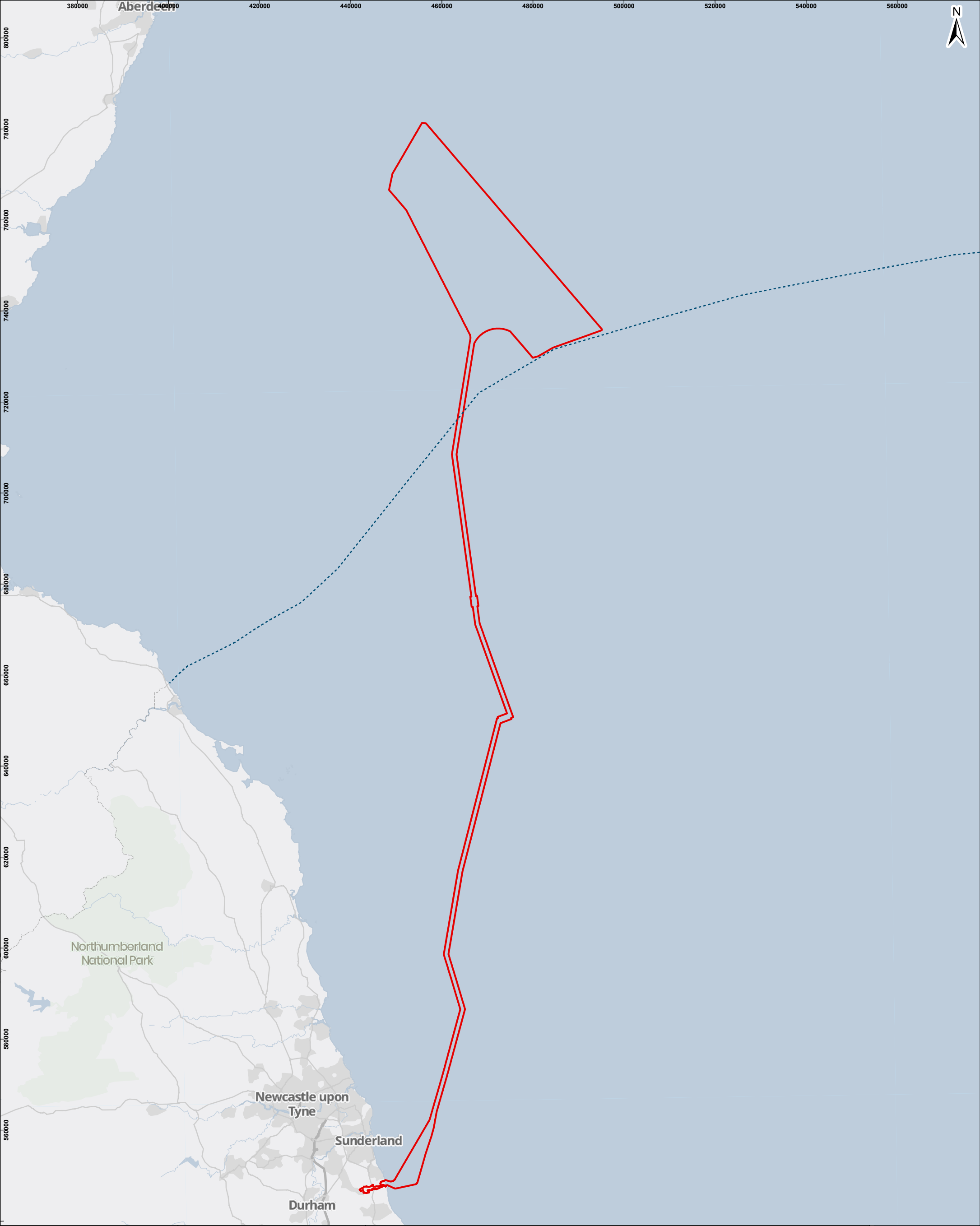
1.2.1.10 Further details of the relevant planning policy context is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 5: Policy and Legislation, of the PEIR**.

1.3 The MHPGC Project

1.3.1.1 The key components of the MHPGC Project are described below with further detail within **Volume 1, Chapter 2: Project Description, of the PEIR**.

- Offshore elements:
 - Offshore export cables: High voltage direct current (HVDC) cables which bring electricity from either the Morven North OSP or the Morven South OSP to the transition joint bay (TJB) at Landfall;
- Landfall:
 - The area in which the offshore export cables make landfall (come onshore) and the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling.;
 - TJB: An underground bay housing a joint which connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables. The TJB will be located in the vicinity of the onshore side of the landfall;
- Onshore elements:
 - Onshore export cables: HVDC cables which bring electricity from the TJB to the onshore LSS;
 - Onshore LSS: A purpose-built site comprising a compound containing the electrical components for converting the HVDC to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) power. The LSS site associated with the MHPGC Project adjusts the power quality and power factor to meet the requirements of power supply being fed to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation;
 - Alternating current (AC) connection cables: AC cables that will connect the proposed onshore LSS to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation;
 - Environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain area: Temporary and/or permanent areas, including accesses identified to provide environmental mitigation or biodiversity net gain.

1.3.1.2 The above key components will be located within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary as shown in **Figure 1.1**. The refinement of the Red Line Boundary, as well as the selection of landfall site, is detailed within **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Site Selection & Consideration of Alternatives, of the PEIR**.





Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 1.1: MHPGC PROJECT PEIR RED LINE BOUNDARY

0102030

km

Scale@A3:1:750,000

Drawing Number:
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-GEN-001

Data Sources:
Ordnance Survey, UKHO

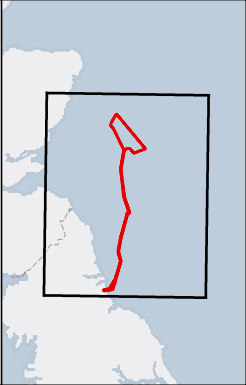
Geodetic Information:
OS Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack

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LEGEND

MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary

National Limit



1.4 EIA and Scope of the PEIR

- 1.4.1.1 The purpose of the EIA process is to identify and assess the likely significant effects to arise from a project and take into consideration any adverse effects which are to be mitigated or avoided to ensure minimal impact to the environment. This requires consideration of the likely changes to the environment, where these arise because of the project, through comparison of the existing and future environmental baseline.
- 1.4.1.2 The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 apply to projects under the Planning Act 2008, and The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (collectively referred to as the 'EIA Regulations'), outline the requirements for EIA. For further details around legislative requirements for the MHPGC Project see **Volume 1, Chapter 5: Policy and Legislation, of the PEIR**.
- 1.4.1.3 The PEIR presents the preliminary findings of the EIA process in accordance with the EIA Regulations and enables consultees to understand the likely significant effects of the MHPGC Project to help inform consultation responses.
- 1.4.1.4 The PEIR provides details of the MHPGC Project, along with a description of the alternatives considered to date. For each environmental topic scoped into the EIA process, details of the approach to the assessment, a description of the existing and future baseline environment and preliminary findings of the EIA process are described. The PEIR is based on information available at the time of publication for consultation and initial mitigation measures proposed to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects are also provided.
- 1.4.1.5 The EIA process is ongoing and further work as detailed in the PEIR will be undertaken to enhance the understanding of the baseline environmental conditions and to provide further detail of the likely significant effects of the MHPGC Project. Feedback provided in response to consultation processes, such as the Evidence Plan Process, non-statutory consultation and additional targeted engagement, will be taken into account during the refinement of the parameters of the MHPGC Project, during the ongoing assessment work and during the development of additional mitigation measures where necessary.
- 1.4.1.6 The results of this ongoing and further work will be set out in the Environmental Statement, Consultation Report and Technical Engagement Plan that will accompany the application for development consent under Section 37(3) of the Planning Act 2008 for submission to PINS and the application for a Marine Licence under the MCAA 2009 to MD-LOT.

1.5 The Applicant and the EIA Team

1.5.1 The Applicant

- 1.5.1.1 As described in **Paragraph 1.2.1.1** the Applicant is a 50:50 joint venture between EnBW and JERA Nex bp Limited.
- 1.5.1.2 With over 28,000 employees, EnBW is one of the largest energy companies in Germany and Europe. It supplies around 5.5 million customers with electricity and gas. As part of its transformation from a traditional energy company to a sustainable infrastructure group, the expansion of renewable energy sources and of the distribution and transmission grids for electricity, gas and hydrogen are cornerstones of EnBW's growth strategy and the focus of its investments.
- 1.5.1.3 Until 2030, EnBW plans gross investments of €40 billion. By then, around 80 percent of EnBW's generation portfolio is to consist of renewable energies, and the company aims to phase out coal by the end of 2028. These are key milestones on the road to the company's climate neutrality in 2035. EnBW has been planning, building and operating offshore wind farms in Germany and Europe for over 15 years.
- 1.5.1.4 EnBW invested early, built up expertise and secured a competitive position in the European offshore market as an integrated energy company. EnBW currently operates four offshore wind farms with

around one gigawatt installed capacity and is constructing He Dreiht, Germany's largest and subsidy-free offshore wind farm, which will double EnBW's offshore wind portfolio.

- 1.5.1.5 JERA Nex bp Limited is a purpose-built offshore wind company committed to unlocking the power of offshore wind by developing high-quality, competitive projects. A 50:50 joint venture between JERA Co. and bp, JERA Nex bp Limited is an end-to-end developer, owner and operator with more than fifteen years of experience in operating offshore wind projects.
- 1.5.1.6 Headquartered in London, with offices across Europe, Asia, and Australia, JERA Nex bp has a portfolio of operational and development projects across nine countries and draws on a rich heritage of pioneering offshore wind in Asia Pacific and the North Sea.

1.5.2 The EIA Team

- 1.5.2.1 The preparation of this PEIR has been led by the Applicant, with WSP UK Limited (WSP), part of WSP Global Limited, serving as the principal EIA consultant. WSP UK Limited is a leading multidisciplinary consultancy providing environmental, engineering and advisory services across major infrastructure sectors in the UK and has been awarded the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) (formerly Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) EIA Quality Mark, demonstrating its commitment to excellence in the coordination and delivery of Environmental Impact Assessments. WSP maintains this accreditation through ongoing independent review of its EIA practice, staff capability and innovation. WSP's Business Management System is certified to EN ISO 9001:2015 for quality management, ensuring that all deliverables are produced to a high standard, and it operates an Environmental Management System compliant with EN ISO 14001:2015, reflecting its commitment to environmental performance and continual improvement.
- 1.5.2.2 GoBe Consultants Ltd (GoBe), part of the APEM Group, is supporting the Applicant as a sub-consultant on the MHPGC Project, acting as the specialist offshore environmental consultant and managing the offshore components of the EIA, including the delivery of technical assessments.
- 1.5.2.3 A summary of the relevant expertise for each topic author is presented in **Volume 1, Annex 1.1: Statement of Expertise, of the PEIR**.

1.6 Structure of PEIR

- 1.6.1.1 The PEIR is divided into four volumes as set out in **Table 1.1**:
- Volume 1: Introduction;
 - Volume 2: Effects on offshore environment;
 - Volume 3: Effects on onshore environment;
 - Volume 4: Effects on onshore and offshore environment.

Table 1.1: PEIR Chapter/Annex and Authors

Chapter/Annex number	Chapter/Annex	Lead author
Volume 1: Introduction		
1	Introduction	WSP UK
1.1	Statement of Expertise	WSP UK
2	Project Description	MvOWL
2.1	Onshore EMF Compliance Statement	WSP
3	Site Selection & Consideration of Alternatives	MvOWL
3.1	Selection and Refinement of Cable Landfall	MvOWL
3.2	Selection and Refinement of Offshore Infrastructure	MvOWL

Chapter/Annex number	Chapter/Annex	Lead author
3.3	Selection and Refinement of the Onshore Infrastructure	MvOWL
4	Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment	WSP/GoBe
4.1	Draft Commitments Register	WSP/GoBe
4.2	Transboundary Screening	WSP/GoBe
4.3	Cumulative Screening and Location Plan	WSP/GoBe
5	Policy and Legislation	WSP
Volume 2: Effects on the offshore environment		
1	Physical Processes	ABPMer
1.1	Physical Processes Technical Report	ABPMer
1.2	Model Design, Validation and Results	ABPMer
2	Offshore Water and Sediment Quality	GoBe
2.1	Offshore Water Framework Directive Assessment	GoBe
3	Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology	GoBe
3.1	Benthic Ecology Technical Report	GoBe
4	Fish and Shellfish Ecology	GoBe
4.1	Herring and Sandeel Assessment Technical Report	GoBe
4.2	Morven HVDC EMF Study	OWC
5	Marine Mammals	GoBe
5.1	Underwater Sound Technical Report	Subacoustech
6	Marine Ornithology	APEM
7	Commercial Fisheries	NiMa
7.1	Commercial Fisheries Technical Report	NiMa
7.2	Summary of Seabed Conditions and Cable Installation and or Protection Considerations	MvOWL
8	Shipping and Navigation	Anatec
8.1	Navigation Risk Assessment	Anatec
8.2	Cable Burial Risk Assessment	Global Maritime
8.3	Morven Compass Deviation Assessment	OWC
9	Marine and Intertidal Archaeology	MSDS
9.1	Marine Archaeology Technical Report	MSDS
10	Infrastructure and Other Sea Users	GoBe
Volume 3: Effects on the onshore environment		
1	Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions	WSP UK
1.1	Phase 1 Geo-Environmental Preliminary Risk Assessment	WSP UK
2	Water Resources and Flood Risk	WSP UK
2.1	Water Abstraction Licences, Discharge Consents and Pollution Incidents	WSP UK
2.2	Flood Risk Assessment	WSP UK
2.3	Onshore Water Framework Directive Assessment	WSP UK
3	Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology	WSP UK

Chapter/Annex number	Chapter/Annex	Lead author
3.1	Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology Survey Methodologies Technical Report	WSP UK
3.2	UK Habitat Classification, National Vegetation Classification, River Condition Assessment and Hedgerow Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.3	Interim Badger Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.4	CONFIDENTIAL Interim Badger Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.5	Interim Bat Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.6	Initial Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment	WSP UK
3.7	Interim Reptile Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.8	Interim Great-Crested Newt Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.9	Interim Otter Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.10	CONFIDENTIAL Interim Otter Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.11	Interim Water Vole Survey Technical Report	WSP UK
3.12	Interim Breeding Birds Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
3.13	Interim Wintering, Passage and Intertidal Birds Surveys Technical Report	WSP UK
4	Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	WSP UK
4.1	Onshore Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Report	WSP UK
4.2	Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Gazetteer	WSP UK
5	Traffic and Transport	WSP UK
5.1	Description of Network Links and Sensitivity	WSP UK
6	Onshore Noise and Vibration	WSP UK
6.1	Onshore Noise and Vibration Baseline Technical Report	WSP UK
6.2	Onshore Noise and Vibration Construction Technical Report	WSP UK
7	Onshore Air Quality	WSP UK
7.1	Dust Risk Assessment Methodology	WSP UK
8	Land Use, Tourism and Recreation	WSP UK
8.1	Land Use, Tourism and Recreation Receptors	WSP UK
9	Agriculture and Soils	WSP UK
Volume 4: Effects on the onshore and offshore environment		
1	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Ramboll
1.1	Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report	Ramboll
1.2	Visual Baseline Technical Report	Ramboll
1.3	Landscape and Visual Resources Impact Assessment Methodology	Ramboll
1.4	Photomontages	Ramboll
2	Human Health	WSP UK
3	Socio-Economics	BIGGAR
3.1	Economic Impact Technical Report	BIGGAR
4	Climate Change	WSP UK
4.1	Greenhouse Gas Assessment	WSP UK

Chapter/Annex number	Chapter/Annex	Lead author
4.2	Climate Change and Risk Assessment	WSP UK
5	Inter-related Effects	WSP UK

- 1.6.1.2 A Non-Technical Summary, which summarises the main baseline information and key findings of the PEIR, will be published alongside the PEIR.

1.7 Additional assessments

- 1.7.1.1 Specific additional assessments have been produced to comply with other environmental legislation beyond the requirements of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.7.1.2 A MHPGC Project Habitats Regulations Screening Report and MHPGC Project Habitats Regulations Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) has been conducted in line with Planning Inspectorate guidance; '*Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments*' (PINS, 2024), addressing the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (provided in **Habitats Regulations Assessment/Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report, prepared to accompany the PEIR** and **Habitats Regulations Appraisal/Habitats Regulations Assessment RIAA, prepared to accompany the PEIR**)
- 1.7.1.3 A MHPGC Project Marine Conservation Zone and Marine Protected Area Assessment and MHPGC Project Water Framework Directive Assessment has also been produced considering the requirements of the MCAA 2009 and The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, respectively (provided in **Approach to Marine Protected Area/Marine Conservation Zone and Highly Protected Marine Area Assessments, prepared to accompany the PEIR**).

1.8 Next Steps

- 1.8.1.1 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 has removed the statutory duty to undertake pre-application consultation with local communities. Nevertheless, the Applicant has elected to produce a PEIR and undertake a round of consultation focussed on it, irrespective of statutory requirements. This approach builds on the previous rounds of consultations undertaken to date by the MHPGC Project, including consultation in relation to the scope of the EIA process.
- 1.8.1.2 This consultation is also supported by the development of an Evidence Plan Process (EPP) and engagement with the EPP Steering Group and associated Expert Working Groups (EWGs). This will be continued throughout the EIA process as described in **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment, of the PEIR**.
- 1.8.1.3 Consultees are invited to consider all available information provided in this PEIR and to advise as to whether they agree with the conclusions presented. There are multiple ways in which consultees can provide feedback including the provision of feedback through public exhibitions and feedback forms, letter or email.
- 1.8.1.4 The PEIR can be viewed on the MHPGC website: www.morvenoffshorewind.com. Additional copies can be requested from: info@morvenoffshorewind.com. A charge will be made for any paper copies requested.
- 1.8.1.5 The Applicant will hold public exhibitions and an online webinar. At these events, the Applicant will specifically consult on the contents of the PEIR. Anyone who is potentially affected by or may have an interest in the MHPGC Project is encouraged to attend. The consultation period will run from 6 October 2026 to 15 November 2026 and event timings and locations are provided on the MHPGC website:
www.morvenoffshorewind.comC:\Users\INGC06251\Downloads\www.morvenoffshorewind.com

1.8.1.6 Comments on the PEIR should be made in writing and submitted:

- By post: Send a letter or hard copy feedback form, which will be available at events or by request to us in the post. You don't need a stamp. Our freepost address is: Freepost MORVEN;
- By email: info@morvenoffshorewind.com;
- Online: visit our project website: www.morvenoffshorewind.com and completing our online feedback form.

1.8.1.7 The deadline for providing any feedback on the PEIR is 23:59 on 15 November 2026.

1.8.1.8 Following consultation, the comments received will be collated and considered prior to finalising the relevant consent applications. A separate Consultation Report will set out the key themes from feedback received and describe how these have been taken into account and responded to by the application. The Consultation Report will also demonstrate how the Applicant has complied with Sections 46 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and the relevant best practice documents and guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State. The Consultation Report will accompany the application.

1.8.1.9 Requests for hard copies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may have costs associated example for larger requests to cover printing and postage.

1.9 References

DESNZ (2025). Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity – main report. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan/clean-power-2030-action-plan-a-new-era-of-clean-electricity-main-report> (Accessed: June 2026).

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