



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

**Statement of Community Consultation -
October 2026**

Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Checker	Approved by	Date
B01	Published for Community Consultation	JH	WD	MvOWL	October 2026

Prepared by:

WSP

Prepared for:

Morven Offshore Wind Limited

Table of contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of this document	1
1.2	Overview.....	1
2	About the Applicant	4
2.1	MvOWL.....	4
3	Project background	5
3.1	About Morven Offshore Wind Farm	5
3.2	About the Proposed Development.....	5
4	The consenting process.....	7
4.1	The Development Consent Order (DCO) process	7
4.2	Environmental Information.....	7
5	Engagement so far	9
5.1	2024 consultation	9
5.2	2025 consultation	9
6	2026 Consultation	10
6.1	Consultation approach	10
6.2	Where are we consulting?.....	10
6.3	Who are we consulting with?.....	11
6.4	What are we consulting on?	12
6.5	When are we consulting?.....	12
6.6	How will we consult?.....	12
6.7	Information materials	12
6.8	Community events	14
6.9	Online event	14
6.10	Publicity methods.....	14
6.11	Local information points.....	15
6.12	Inclusive engagement.....	15
6.13	Requests for documents	17
7	Responding to the consultation.....	18
7.1	How to respond to the consultation?.....	18
7.2	How will we use personal information?.....	18
7.3	Next steps.....	18
8	Contact us	19

List of Tables

Table 1: Publicity methods by consultation zone 11

Table 2: Consultation materials 12

Table 3: In-person event details 14

Table 4: Communication methods 15

Table 5: Information point locations..... 15

List of Figures

Figure 1: Morven Infrastructure diagram 2

Figure 2: Consultation Zones 10

Glossary

Term	Meaning
The Applicant	The legal entity making the application for consent; Morven Offshore Wind Limited (MvOWL).
Development Consent Order (DCO)	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.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	The Habitats Regulation Assessment (for England) is a process that determines whether development plans could adversely effect sites within the National Site Network and their qualifying features.
Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017	Legislation that sets out the requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment under the Planning Act 2008.
Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended)	Legislation that incorporates the European Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive into UK law (applicable to English waters and Scottish offshore waters)
The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Legislation that incorporates the European Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive into Scottish law (applicable to Scottish inshore waters), to ensure that the authority giving the consent for projects is aware of any likely significant environmental effects before making its decision.
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.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The Planning Inspectorate (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.
Planning Act 2008	The primary legislation that establishes the legal framework for applying for, examining and determining applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
Proposed Development	Specific intended plans for the Project, which the developer intends to submit for DCO approval.

The Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero	The decision maker with regards to the application for development consent for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project.
---	---

Acronyms

Term	Meaning
DCC	Durham County Council
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
LSS	Land Substation
MHPGC	Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
MvOWL	Morven Offshore Wind Limited
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
NESO	National Energy System Operator
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1** This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) sets out our proposed approach in Autumn 2026 to community consultation for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (the Project or MHPGC) which is being promoted by Morven Offshore Wind Limited, (hereafter, MvOWL or the Applicant), a joint venture between Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW) and JERA Nex bp.
- 1.1.2** This SoCC explains the extent and nature of the community consultation approach and covers:
- Overview
 - About the Applicant
 - Project background
 - Proposed Development
 - The consenting process
 - Engagement so far
 - The consultation approach
 - Responses to the consultation.

1.2 Overview

- 1.2.1** 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) covering an area of approximately 860km², located wholly within Plan Option Area E1, identified in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020).
- 1.2.2** Since then, the site has been defined for further development, separating the Morven Site into two array sites; 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 identification of two distinct grid connections, Hawthorn Pit in County Durham and Branxton in East Lothian.
- 1.2.3** The United Kingdom (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 (for a total capacity of 27.6GW) to the network. Building on this, the HND 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.
- 1.2.4** The Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (hereafter, MHPGC Project) comprises the offshore export cables in Scottish and English waters from the Morven North or the Morven South offshore substation platform(s) (OSP(s)), the onshore export cables and HVAC connection cables in England and the onshore land substation (LSS) in England.
- 1.2.5** 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. There are separate consenting and consultation processes for Morven North, Morven South and the MHPGC Project, in part this is due to the array (generation) assets existing solely in Scottish waters. The infrastructure associated with the different projects and their spatial locations, i.e. which jurisdiction, is shown in Figure 1.

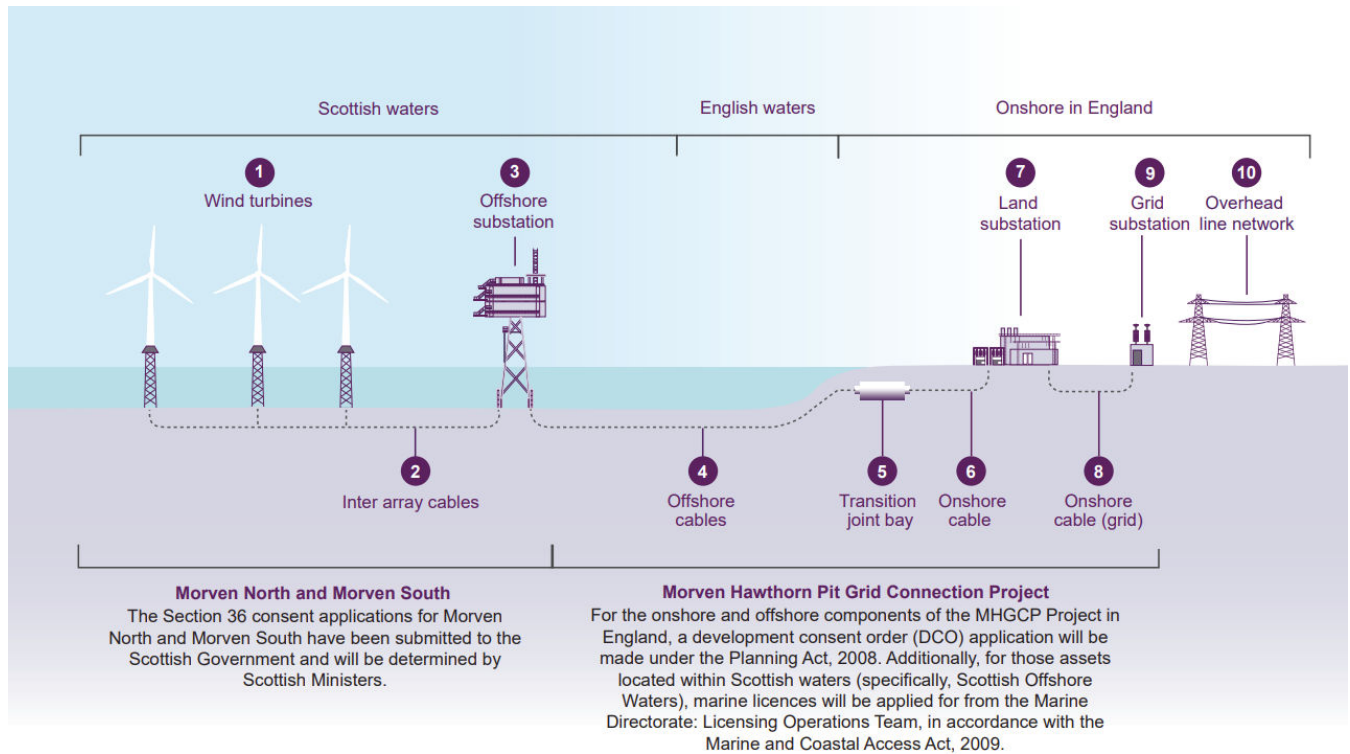


Figure 1: Morven Infrastructure diagram

The MHPGC Project:

- 1.2.6** For assets located in England, the Applicant sought a direction from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy and Net Zero under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) 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.
- 1.2.7** 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.
- 1.2.8** A Scoping Report for the MHPGC Project 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).
- 1.2.9** The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 has removed the statutory duty to undertake pre-application consultation with local communities, including the requirement to produce a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult people living in the vicinity of

the land.

- 1.2.10** Nevertheless, MvOWL has elected to undertake a further round of consultation and produce this document, irrespective of statutory requirements.
- 1.2.11** The Applicant has consulted with Durham County Council (DCC) on this Statement of Community Consultation as host local authority to ensure the approach, consultation and publicity methods are locally relevant, with appropriate feedback mechanisms for affected communities and stakeholders. DCC is a unitary authority and the only host authority for the Project.

2 About the Applicant

2.1 MvOWL

- 2.1.1** The Applicant is a 50:50 joint venture between JERA Nex bp Limited (JNBP) and EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG (EnBW).
- 2.1.2** 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.
- 2.1.3** 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.
- 2.1.4** 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 portfolio.
- 2.1.5** JERA Nex bp 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 is an end-to-end developer, owner and operator with more than fifteen years of experience in operating offshore wind projects.
- 2.1.6** 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.

3 Project background

3.1 About Morven Offshore Wind Farm

3.1.1 The Morven Offshore Wind Farm will require several different types of planning permissions - known as consents under various legislation in Scotland and England. These consist of four key consenting elements:

- Morven North and Morven South: Morven Offshore Wind Farm was initially awarded as one site from the ScotWind Leasing Round in 2021/2022 but subsequently split into two separate projects during the early development phase. These sites are primarily comprised of the generation assets (which include the wind turbines together with supporting foundations and inter array cables) and the offshore substation platforms.

The consent applications for Morven North and Morven South were submitted to the Scottish Government on 20 May 2026 and will be determined by Scottish Ministers.

- Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project will comprise the transmission assets that will transport the electricity generated by either Morven North or Morven South to the national grid, with the point of interconnection at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham.

For the onshore and offshore components of the MHPGC Project in England, a Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be made under the Planning Act 2008. Additionally, for those assets located within Scottish waters (specifically, offshore export cables in Scottish Offshore Waters), marine licence(s) will be applied for from the Marine Directorate: Licensing Operations Team, in accordance with the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

- Morven Branxton Grid Connection Project will comprise the transmission assets that will transport the electricity generated by either Morven North or Morven South to the national grid, with the point of interconnection to be a location near Branxton, in the East Lothian area of Scotland. The consenting approach will be confirmed in due course.

3.1.2 The scope of this document is limited solely to the proposed development for which development consent is sought, being the MHPGC Project. Consenting activity by MvOWL in respect of Scotland will, therefore, not be provided within this document. However, it should be noted that the Applicant's Evidence Plan Process and wider technical engagement, including the Autumn 2026 consultation applies to the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary inclusive of offshore infrastructure in English and Scottish waters and all intertidal and onshore infrastructure in England.

3.2 About the Proposed Development

3.2.1 The DCO Application for the MHPGC comprises all offshore infrastructure in English waters and all intertidal and onshore infrastructure in England.

3.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises the following elements:

Offshore elements:

- Offshore export cables: High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cables which bring electricity from either the Morven North or 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. This term applies to the entire landfall area between the trenchless technique exit pits and the transition joint bay inclusive of all construction works;

- 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;

Onshore elements:

- 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;
- High Voltage Alternating current (AC) connection cables: HVAC 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 identified to provide environmental mitigation or biodiversity net gain.

4 The consenting process

4.1 The Development Consent Order (DCO) process

- 4.1.1** On 15 February 2024, MvOWL requested a direction from the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to confirm that the MHPGC onshore and offshore assets in England (including English waters) should be treated as a development for which development consent is required.
- 4.1.2** A direction from the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero, on 5 March 2024, confirmed that the MHPGC Project is to be treated as a development for which development consent is required.
- 4.1.3** Our final application for development consent will include:
- An Environmental Statement setting out an assessment of the impacts likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and the proposed mitigation.
 - A Consultation Report which will set out consultation undertaken for the MHPGC Project.
 - A draft Development Consent Order.
- 4.1.4** The application for development consent will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Planning Inspectorate will then review the application, seeking further comment from interested bodies and individuals. If the application is accepted, a pre-examination stage will begin, with the opportunity for local community members to register as an Interested Party on the Planning Inspectorate's website and request to take part in the examination process. Further information regarding the process can be found at the following weblink: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/decision-making-process-guide>
- 4.1.5** The Planning Inspectorate will then examine the DCO application, with input from Interested Parties and statutory consultees. Following the examination, the Planning Inspectorate will present its recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who will then make the final decision on whether the DCO should be granted.
- 4.1.6** MHPGC Project assets located within Scottish waters require a marine licence from the Marine Directorate: Licensing Operations Team, in accordance with the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009 and therefore is not included within this Statement of Community Consultation.

4.2 Environmental Information

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 4.2.1** The Project is an 'EIA Development'. MHPGC Project is required to produce an EIA assessing the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project. To do this, a series of reports will be prepared and consulted upon and are detailed below in sections 4.2.2-4.2.4.

Scoping

- 4.2.2** On 12 February 2025, the Project submitted an EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. It was

also submitted to MD-LOT in respect of Scottish waters. The Scoping Report provides a summary of the Project, sets out the early work we've undertaken to understand the environmental characteristics of the site so far, potential interactions the Project might have with the environment, as well as further studies and detailed assessments we believe we need to carry out.

- 4.2.3** Following receipt of the Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate accepted it and consulted with statutory bodies such as Durham County Council to seek their views. On 25 March 2025, the Planning Inspectorate provided us with their Scoping Opinion, detailing their response to our Scoping Report. Both documents can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website at the following weblink: [Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project - Project information](#). A Scoping Opinion was also received from MD-LOT in respect of Scottish waters. Additional feedback on the proposed EIA methodology and scope, as set out in the EIA Scoping Report, was sought from the Marine Management Organisation.
- 4.2.4** The EIA process ensures that the potential likely significant effects to and from the Project are assessed, including the identification of mitigation, where necessary. The application for development consent will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing the results of the EIA. A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment in relation to nature conservation areas and a Marine Protected Area / Marine Conservation Zone Screening and Assessment will also be produced.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

- 4.2.5** We will produce a PEIR, which covers a wide range of topics and detailed project-relevant information. The PEIR builds upon the findings of the Scoping Opinion and will contain the early (preliminary) findings of the EIA process to help statutory bodies and the local community understand the likely significant environmental effects of the Project.
- 4.2.6** It will incorporate the findings of surveys that have been undertaken, initial assessments, feedback we have received and suggested measures that could prevent, reduce or offset any environmental effects identified. It will include the following range of topics, but not limited to:
- Environmental (e.g. landscape and visual amenity, marine ecology, wildlife)
 - Social (e.g. noise and vibration during construction)
 - Economic (e.g. employment opportunities).
- 4.2.7** A Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR will be provided alongside the PEIR. They will be published as part of our consultation, enabling statutory bodies and the local community to develop an informed view of the potential environmental effects and respond to the consultation. Please see section 6 for more information on the consultation.

Environmental Statement (ES)

- 4.2.8** Following our consultation on the PEIR, we will prepare an Environmental Statement (ES) in accordance with 2017 EIA Regulations (in England) and the 2007 Marine Works Regulations (in Scotland). This is the final report of our EIA work. It will incorporate responses we received from our consultation and results of any final assessments undertaken. The ES will also describe any changes we have made to our proposals since the PEIR was consulted on. It will form part of the DCO application that we will submit to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS.

5 Engagement so far

- 5.1.1** The views of stakeholders and the community are important to us, we are committed to early engagement and began our engagement with key stakeholders in 2023.
- 5.1.2** Since then, we have delivered two rounds of consultation. The feedback from the two previous consultations, alongside technical and environmental considerations, has informed the design being presented in this consultation ahead of our DCO application submission.
- 5.1.3** For both rounds of consultation a brochure was produced which was available online and in hard copy and provided detailed information about the Project. Information boards were also displayed at public consultation events and in a virtual exhibition room. All consultation materials are available to view on the [Resources page on the Morven Offshore Wind Farm website](#).
- 5.1.4** We have delivered Parish Council briefings on a regular basis since we started our engagement in the area.

5.2 2024 consultation

- 5.2.1** Our first non-statutory consultation was held from 9 July to 3 September 2024.
- 5.2.2** The project held four in person exhibitions in Murton, Seaham, Hawthorn and South Hetton.
- 5.2.3** This consultation gave the local community and stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the Project and share their views on the early design. We shared information and asked for feedback on:
- Offshore export cable corridor search areas.
 - Onshore cable corridor search areas.
 - Land substation search areas.
 - Local considerations to inform the development of the Project.

5.3 2025 consultation

- 5.3.1** Our second non-statutory consultation was held from 22 October to 30 November 2025.
- 5.3.2** The project held four in-person exhibitions in Murton, Seaham, Hawthorn and South Hetton.
- 5.3.3** This consultation gave the local community and stakeholders the opportunity to share their views on the Project and we specifically asked for feedback on the following areas:
- Offshore export cable corridor
 - Two cable landfall points and two refined onshore cable corridor search areas
 - Three search areas for the location of our land substation.
- 5.3.4** We also asked for feedback on potential community benefits and local knowledge to help develop our plans.

6 2026 Consultation

6.1 Consultation approach

- 6.1.1** The purpose of this consultation is to carry out robust and meaningful pre-application consultation to gather further stakeholder views on our refined Project proposals.
- 6.1.2** We want to hear your views to develop our final proposals for the Project within our consent application. A summary of the consultation and feedback received will be included in our Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of our DCO application.

6.2 Where are we consulting?

- 6.2.1** Our consultation approach has been designed to ensure those communities in the vicinity of the Project can take part, as well as anyone with an interest in the Project.
- 6.2.2** We have identified consultation zones based on our preliminary EIA work and areas we think may be potentially impacted by the Project. These can be seen in Figure 2.

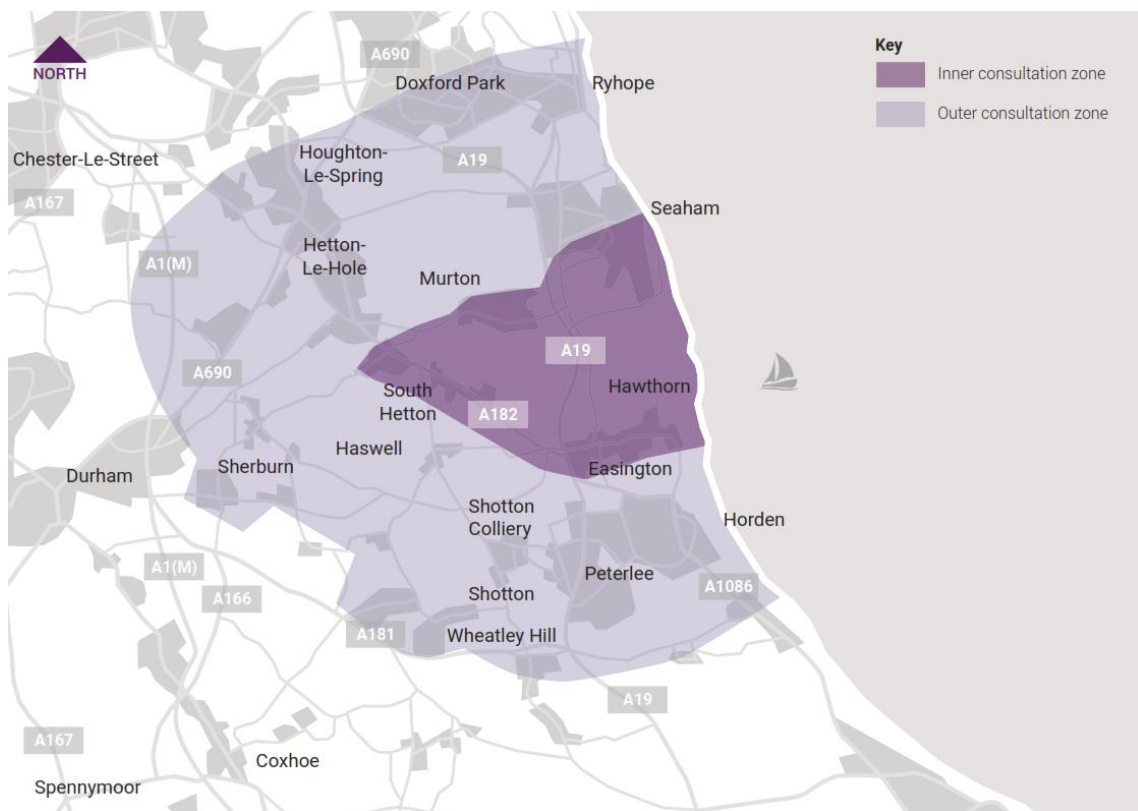


Figure 2: Consultation Zones

- 6.2.3** The Inner Consultation Zone is based on communities in the vicinity of the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary (the maximum boundary required to build and operate the Project). Where appropriate, this zone has been extended to avoid the boundary dissecting communities.
- 6.2.4** The Outer Consultation Zone extends to communities beyond the immediate vicinity of the

MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary, that may have an interest in the Project.

6.2.5 The publicity methods that will be used in each of the consultation zones is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Publicity methods by consultation zone

Publicity method	Inner Consultation zone	Outer Consultation Zone
Leaflet drop - this will be posted to addresses within the inner consultation zone.	x	
Public notices – public notices to be placed in the Northern Echo.	x	x
Local community networks - dissemination of email / poster through established and trusted channels.	x	x
Local social media channels - information will be shared with admins of well-established community social medial channels.	x	x
Information points – Consultation materials to be available to view at public locations such as libraries.	x	
In-person community events – Four in-person consultation events within the inner consultation zone.	x	
Online consultation event - this online event will be open to all.	x	x

6.3 Who are we consulting with?

6.3.1 The consultation is open to anyone with an interest in the Project. All views are welcome and all feedback will be considered in the development of the Project ahead of submission of our DCO application.

6.3.2 We will target communications and design engagement to reach diverse communities and stakeholders. This includes but is not limited to:

- **Local communities** – residents in the vicinity of the Project and those who live, work, own businesses and participate in leisure activities in the area.
- **Seldom heard groups** – we have reviewed the equality impact of the communications and engagement process to ensure that our approaches enable involvement among groups that typically face greater barriers to participation.
- **Elected representatives** – Parish and town councillors, unitary authority councillors and Members of Parliament.
- **Targeted special interest groups** – We asked for feedback during the 2025 consultation processes to understand additional groups we should engage with and have incorporated these into our stakeholder list. Alongside groups we have already engaged with, this includes local conservation, fishing, heritage and leisure groups.

6.3.3 In addition, we will also be discussing the Project with a range of groups including:

- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land within the MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary
- Commercial stakeholders such as fisheries and asset owners
- Environmental and regulatory bodies

- 6.3.4** We will carefully consider all feedback received across all stakeholder groups, which will help to develop and finalise our proposals.

6.4 What are we consulting on?

- 6.4.1** Our consultation will begin following the publication of the consultation documents, including this Statement of Community Consultation – Autumn 2026.
- 6.4.2** The aim for the consultation is to seek general feedback on the proposal, as well as specific feedback on the following areas:
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (as described in section 4.2.3).
 - The area situated within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary which will comprise both permanent and temporary infrastructure.
 - Location of the MHPGC Project.
 - Any significant environmental effects and the proposed mitigation, along with proposals to deliver biodiversity gain.

6.5 When are we consulting?

- 6.5.1** It is currently anticipated that our consultation will run from 09:00 6 October to 23:59 on 15 November 2026; a period of 40 days. Notice of the consultation will be provided via the methods described in Section 6.10.

6.6 How will we consult?

- 6.6.1** We will use a range of communication methods to raise awareness of the consultation, explain our proposals and encourage participation.
- 6.6.2** This includes producing information materials, holding in-person and online community events and providing information at local venues.

6.7 Information materials

- 6.7.1** The following materials in Table 2 will be produced to share information about the consultation and give the opportunity to provide feedback.

Table 2: Consultation materials

Item	Description
Statement of Community Consultation - Autumn 2026	This document sets out how we intend to consult with the local community ahead of our application for consent.
Consultation brochure	This will give an overview of what we are consulting on and how to share your views.
Website	The website will be the main source of information for the consultation and will be updated to include key information about the proposals and the consultation. Copies of consultation documents will be made available on the website.

Feedback form	This will provide an easy way for people to submit their feedback. This will be available online. Hard copies will also be available at the information points and in-person events.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR will be published on the website (see Section 4 for more information on the PEIR).
Non-technical summary of the PEIR	A non-technical summary of the PEIR will also be produced and published on the website.
Previous consultation material	Relevant documents from our previous consultations in 2024 and 2025 will be available on our website.

6.8 Community events

- 6.8.1** The events will be an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to find out more about the proposals, speak to the team and ask questions. These events are shown in Table 3: **In-person event details**
- 6.8.2** Local venues within the Inner Consultation Zone have been selected for the in-person events. Our aim will be to use the same venues that were used during the previous rounds of consultation. The MHPGC Project requested feedback from the Parish Council on the proposed locations, who confirmed that they were generally supportive of the locations proposed.
- 6.8.3** We will also provide an online engagement opportunity for those unable to attend the in-person events.
- 6.8.4** Hard copies of the consultation brochure, feedback forms and the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will be available at the events.

Table 3: In-person event details

Location	Date	Time
Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, SR7 9BX	Tuesday 10 November	3pm – 7pm • Preceded by a briefing for key stakeholders
Hawthorn Community Centre, Seaham, SR7 8SG	Friday 16 October	3pm – 7pm
Seaham Scout Centre, Dow House, South Crescent	Saturday 17 October	10am – 3pm
Robin Todd Community Centre, Front Street, South Hetton, DH6 2TH	Tuesday 03 November	3pm – 7pm

6.9 Online event

- 6.9.1** In addition to the in-person events, an online webinar event will be held on Wednesday 22 October at 6pm - 7pm.
- 6.9.2** This event is an opportunity to learn more and ask questions for those unable to attend the in-person events. It will consist of a presentation about the proposals and a short question and answer session with the Project team.

6.10 Publicity methods

- 6.10.1** The following methods in Table 4 will be used to promote the consultation.

Table 4: Communication methods

Item	Description
Public notices	We will publish public notices in local newspapers.
Leaflet	The leaflet will be posted to addresses within the inner consultation zone sharing key details about the Project and consultation (including event details and how to provide feedback).
Posters	Posters will be shared for use on public notice boards and consultation event venues. Digital copies will be shared online with certain community social media networks and community mailing lists.
Emails	Specific Stakeholders will be emailed announcing the commencement of the consultation, event details and the opportunity to provide feedback.
Press release	A press release will be issued ahead of consultation to announce its commencement.
Stakeholder briefings	Stakeholder briefings will be offered to specific stakeholders including parish councils and elected members.

6.11 Proposed local information points

- 6.11.1** The following local and accessible venues are proposed as information points where hard copies of the consultation brochure, feedback forms and copies of the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will be held during the consultation.

Table 5 – Information point locations

Location	Address
Seaham Library	St Johns Square, Caroline Street, Seaham, SR7 7JE
Easington Colliery Library	Seaside Lane, Peterlee SR8 3PN
Murton Library	Barnes Road, Seaham SR7 9QR

6.12 Inclusive engagement

- 6.12.1** We will produce publicity and consultation materials in a range of formats, and varied opportunities to engage with the Project team, so that people can understand and participate in the consultation in a way that is accessible and convenient.
- 6.12.2** We have reviewed the accessibility impact of the consultation process and have planned the following measures to ensure the process is accessible and inclusive.

Physical accessibility:

- Event locations are selected in consideration of accessibility, public transport links and parking options.

- Consultation materials will be available online to enable interaction with the consultation without travelling to events.
- An online consultation webinar will enable those who are unable to travel to events to hear from and interact with the Project team.
- A phone number and email address will be published in order to contact the Project team directly to understand more about the Project and seek support to provide feedback.

Sensory impairments

- Consultation materials can be requested in other formats which will be arranged in a bespoke and case-by-case basis. This may include but is not limited to braille, audio and large print.
- The Project team are available through the freephone number and email address directly. This enables verbal or written communication about the Project as required.

Linguistic, literacy and neurological differences

- Consultation materials will be written in clear, accessible language.
- The Project team can provide further support through the freephone number and email address.

Caring responsibilities

- Events will take place in four different venues to enable convenient access at locations close to different residential areas.
- Events will span the workday and evening, weekdays and a Saturday to account for differing time availability.
- An online event will enable participation from any location.
- Consultation materials will be available online to enable interaction with the consultation without travelling to events.

Socio-economic differences

- Financial means should not be a barrier to participation. Varied event locations in residential areas and online consultation event will mean that travel to consultation events should not be a barrier.
- There is no cost to participation.

Digital literacy

- Consultation materials will be available in hard copy at defined community locations (outlined in Section 6.11) and online for ease of access.
- Feedback can be provided on hard copy forms and handed in at events or sent into the Freepost address.
- The Project team can be contacted by phone and email to talk through the process to support individuals to participate in the consultation process.
- Consultation events will allow in-person discussion and opportunity to submit feedback.

Inclusive promotion of consultation

The consultation will be promoted through a range of online and offline communication methods to ensure breadth of awareness, as outlined in Section 6.10.

Through our equality impact review, stakeholder mapping process and early engagement through 2024 and 2025, we have identified organisations and community networks with which to share information. This has included requests to DCC and Parish Councils to assist in providing information on local groups that the project can engage in the consultation. This will support us to extend and diversify our reach within communities and to connect with audiences we may otherwise overlook

through our own direct communications. These organisations and networks may include (but are not limited to):

- Durham County Council Champions network
- Seaham Family Hub
- Local Area Networks
- Durham Community Action
- Heritage Coast Partnership
- East Durham Partnership
- Faith organisations
- Community centres
- Schools

Inclusive feedback processes

Individuals can submit feedback during the consultation through an online form, through email or hard copy form at events or sent to the Freepost address. If someone has difficulty in navigating feedback options, they will be able to call or email the dedicated freephone number or email address. Further details on the feedback methods available can be found in Section 7.1.

6.13 Requests for documents

6.13.1 We will respond to reasonable requests for further copies of documents. Requests for hard copies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may have costs associated, for example for larger requests to cover printing and postage.

6.13.2 Upon request, we will also provide the consultation brochure and feedback form in other formats.

7 Responding to the 2026 consultation

7.1 How to respond to the consultation?

- 7.1.1 We want to hear your views. There will be several ways to respond to the consultation and provide feedback.
- 7.1.2 You can take part by:
- Completing the online feedback form available on our website at the following weblink: [Morven Offshore Wind Project | Morven Offshore Wind Farm](#)
 - Emailing your feedback to: info@morvenoffshorewind.com
 - Writing to **Freepost MORVEN**
- 7.1.3 During the consultation stakeholders and the general public will be able to get in touch with us by using the email above or calling us on 0800 669 6110.
- 7.1.4 The feedback form will be in questionnaire format to provide an easy way for people to record and submit their feedback. It will be designed to encourage feedback specific to our proposals and also to provide wider feedback in relation to the Proposed Development.

7.2 How will we use personal information?

- 7.2.1 All feedback will be handled in accordance with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

7.3 Next steps

- 7.3.1 We will carefully consider all feedback received during the consultation and use it to inform the final proposals for the Project.
- 7.3.2 A Consultation Report will be produced and will provide a summary of consultation responses, including how this feedback has been considered. We will then submit it as part of the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate.

8 Contact us

8.1.1 To find out more about the Project or the proposed consultation approach please visit our website at www.morvenoffshorewind.com or contact us by:

- Email: info@morvenoffshorewind.com
- Post: Freepost MORVEN
- Phone: 0800 669 6110