Morven Offshore Wind Limited
Chertsey Road,
Sunbury on Thames,
Middlesex,
TW16 7BP

Durham County Council
c/o Claire Teasdale
Principal Planning Officer
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

2 October 2026

NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project – Planning Inspectorate Case Reference: EN0210005

To: Durham County Council,

1. Applicant
Morven Offshore Wind Limited (the "Applicant"), Registered Office: Chertsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, TW16 7BP, Company Registration Number: 13792251.

2. Proposed Application
The Applicant hereby gives notice under section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 that it intends to apply to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (the "MHPGC Project") (the "Proposed Application").

3. Why Development Consent is required
On 5 March 2024, the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero issued a direction under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 that the MHPGC Project should be treated as a development for which development consent is required. The MHPGC Project assets in English waters and in England constitute an Environmental Impact Assessment development under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

4. Summary of the Proposed Application
The MHPGC Project forms part of the wider Morven Offshore Wind Farm programme and comprises the transmission infrastructure required to export electricity generated by either the Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project ("Morven North") or the Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project ("Morven South") to the National Grid transmission network at the Hawthorn Pit Substation in County Durham.

MHPGC Project offshore assets are routed through Scottish and English waters, with landfall and onshore assets entirely in England.

For the avoidance of doubt, separate consent applications for Morven North and Morven South (including their offshore platforms) will be made, and such infrastructure does not form part of the MHPGC Project.

The Proposed Development Consent Order application applies to the extent of the MHPGC Project within England only, from English offshore waters at the jurisdictional boundary with Scotland, to a landfall near the town of Seaham, in County Durham, where it would connect to the existing Hawthorn Pit Substation.

For the MHPGC Project assets in Scottish waters, the Applicant will submit a Marine Licence application and Environmental Statement to the Marine Directorate, Licensing Operations Team. The marine licence application for assets in Scottish waters sits outside of the Planning Act 2008 process and is subject to a separate regulatory process under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The MHPGC Project is expected to include:

Offshore components:

- Offshore export cables: High voltage direct current ("HVDC") cables which bring electricity from either the Morven North Offshore Substation Platform ("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; and;
- TJB: An underground bay housing a joint which connects the offshore export cables to the onshore export cables. The TJB will be located on the onshore side of the landfall; and

Onshore components:

- Onshore export cables: HVDC cables which bring electricity from the TJB to the onshore land substation ("LSS");
- Onshore 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;
- Alternating current ("AC") connection cables: AC cables that will connect the proposed onshore LSS to the National Grid Hawthorn Pit Substation; and
- Environmental mitigation and biodiversity net gain area: Temporary and/or permanent areas to provide environmental mitigation or biodiversity net gain.

A location plan of the MHPGC Project identifying the proposed MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary is enclosed with this notice. For information, the proposed Red Line Boundary in Scottish waters, includes the footprint of Morven North and Morven South, to provide flexibility as to where the MHPGC Project will connect to the Morven North or Morven South OSP.

5. Environmental Information

The MHPGC Project constitutes Environmental Impact Assessment development under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the Applicant intends to submit an environmental statement with the Application.

Whilst there is no longer a statutory requirement to undertake pre-application consultation or publish a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR"), the Applicant has elected to undertake a further round of pre-application consultation between 6 October and 15 November 2026 and publish a PEIR as part of this consultation.

The consultation documents, plans and maps showing the nature, location, and route of the MHPGC Project, alongside other documents relating to the proposed DCO application, will be available online, free of charge from 6 October 2026 until at least 15 November on the MHPGC resources page at www.morvenoffshorewind.com/morven-hawthorn-pit-grid-connection/.

In addition to these documents, there will also be a series of public events held in the area around the MHPGC Project site and an online webinar, to enable anyone to find out more about the MHPGC Project and share their views. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice. In accordance with Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, please find attached the notice publicising the Proposed Application in accordance with section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

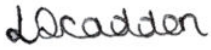
6. Marine Licensing
The Proposed Application is expected to include a deemed marine licence for works in English waters.

Separate marine licence applications will be made in respect of works located in Scottish waters.

We look forward to receiving acknowledgement of this notification made by the Applicant pursuant to section 46 of the Planning Act 2008.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact me at info@morvenoffshorewind.com or on 0800 669 6110.

Yours faithfully,



Laura Scadden
Transmission DCO Consents Manager
Morven Offshore Wind Limited

Encs:

1. Consultation leaflet
2. Red Line Boundary map
3. Section 48 Notice for the MHPGC Project 2026 Consultation