

Robert Sparey
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PROJECT EREBUS UPDATE

Dear Robert,

Please see the below update on Project Erebus. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything further.

Summary of overall consents process

As discussed previously, the project will require the following primary consents:

- A Section 36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989; and
- A Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA)

In addition:

- Deemed planning permissions for the associated onshore infrastructure will be sought with the Section 36 Consent.
- Regulation 39 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) has been invoked. As such, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will undertake formal assessment of any significant effect on the environment.
- NRW are the competent authority for Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA), as advised by PINS on 10 December 2020.

Project summary and timescales

The Project Design Envelope (PDE) for the offshore and onshore aspects of the Proposed Development is currently being finalised for use in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The PDE is conservative, aiming to capture the maximum or worst-case realistic scenarios for a parameters-based assessment, which will be refined as the project develops.

The EIA is underway with survey work and stakeholder consultation ongoing. The project is working towards a CfD deadline of 2023, which is key to the wider strategy for development of floating wind in the Celtic Sea. We are on track to submit the Section 36 application, Marine Licence application and accompanying information in December 2021, and are aiming to gain consent by the end of 2022. We acknowledge that approval within the aimed 12 month period cannot be guaranteed. We are, therefore, taking a proactive approach with the relevant stakeholders (including PINS, NRW, statutory consultees and local communities) prior to submission to ensure that the documentation is robust and will facilitate an efficient determination process. We are agreeing assessment methodologies and sharing information in advance with the relevant consultees, where appropriate to facilitate this.

Please see the below summary on the key aspects of the Proposed development.

Offshore Aspects

- Based on results from the 2020 geophysical survey, detailed cable route refinement and landfall risk assessment exercises have been undertaken. This has identified West Angle Bay as the preferred landfall location.

- Consultation is ongoing with various stakeholders, including NRW's Marine Licence Team (MLT) in relation to cable routing, design and installation methodology, and potential interaction with the Pembrokeshire marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- Geophysical and Environmental surveys of the array area and offshore export cable corridor were completed in 2020 with further surveys planned for 2021.
- Following early stakeholder consultation with the MCA it is anticipated an application for a 500m safety zone will be sought for construction, decommissioning and major maintenance. Further consultation with relevant stakeholders is to be held to discuss operational safety zones.

Onshore aspects

- The preferred substation site has been identified as Greenlink's construction compound, following construction of that project.
- The indicative cable route corridor from preferred landfall at West Angle to the preferred substation location is currently being refined; subject to preliminary design, site specific surveys and stakeholder consultation.
- Consultation with various stakeholders (including NRW, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, landowners and the local community) is currently ongoing, including determination of the proposed cable route corridor width for use in the EIA and proposed EIA parameters-based approach.
- Preliminary ecology surveys were completed in 2021, with seasonal and specialist surveys (such as onshore and inter-tidal winter bird surveys and protected species surveys) ongoing.

Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA)

- An HRA Strategy Note was produced and shared with NRW to agree the project approach to HRA. This will be updated as necessary as the project design progresses to reflect legislative and process changes.
- A long list of designated sites for inclusion has been agreed with NRW and JNCC, and the HRA screening report is currently being drafted.
- We are actively engaging with NRW to ensure that they, as the competent authority, have adequate information with which to undertake an HRA Appropriate Assessment, if required.

Look ahead

- PDE to be completed by April 2021.
- Continued consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
- Site surveys and assessments ongoing until September.
- Public consultation session is planned for summer 2021.
- Finalisation of documentation in Q3/Q4 2021 for submission in December 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Gemma Tait
Project Erebus Consenting Lead
Principal Environmental Consultant, ITP Energised