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Welsh Marine Plan Policy Assessment

Beaufort Horizontal Directional Drilling



GoBe Ref: 19421

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APEM Group

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Acronyms

Term	Definition
BHA	Bottom-Hole Assembly
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
MBES	Multibeam Echo Sounder
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WNMP	Welsh National Marine Plan



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1 Introduction

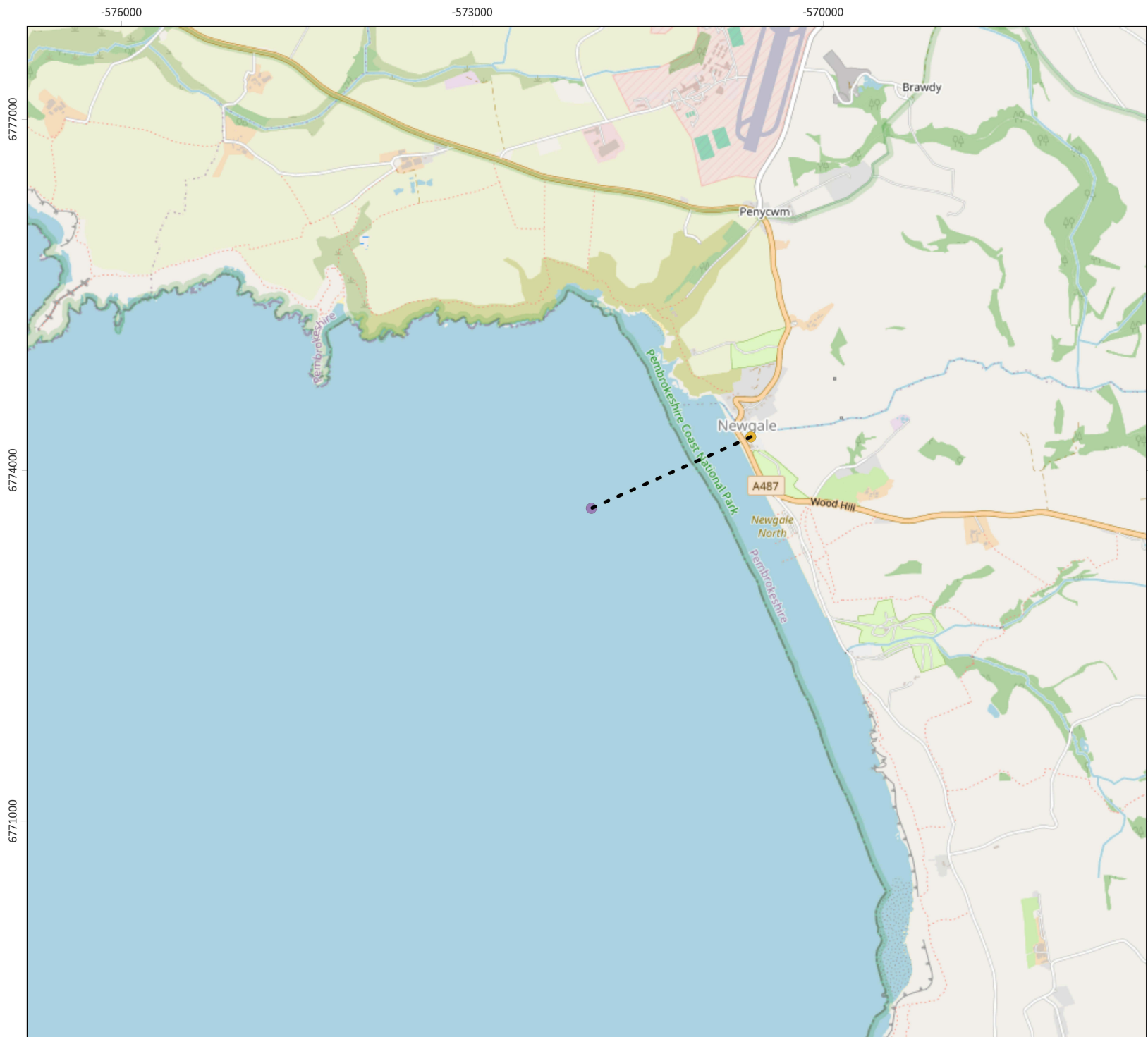
1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 GoBe Consultants Ltd (GoBe), part of the APEM Group, has been contracted by OCU Utility Services (HDD Division) to prepare a Band 3 marine licence application for the proposed Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) works (here after referred to as ‘the Project’) at Newgale, Pembrokeshire. These works are intended to facilitate the subsequent installation of the Beaufort subsea telecommunications cable, which will be operated by Vodafone’s wholly owned subsidiary Apollo Submarine Cable System Limited in the UK (referred to as Vodafone).

1.2 Project Background

- 1.2.1 To facilitate improved internet connectivity, Vodafone is proposing the installation of a fiberoptic telecommunications cable from Kilmore Quay, Wexford, Ireland to Newgale, Pembrokeshire. Prior to the cable’s installation, Horizontal Directional Drilling works are proposed to install cable ducting, through which the cable will later be fed. The cable will come ashore through the car park of the Newsurf Shop, where it will be connected to the onshore infrastructure. This application is for the HDD works only.
- 1.2.2 Within the Newsurf Shop car park, an area approximately 50 m x 50 m for the operation of the drilling rig and support equipment/vehicles will be required. From here, the drilling operation will begin by drilling a pilot hole. Then, the drilling will be carried out continuously in intervals of 9.5 m, equivalent to one length of drill pipe, until the Bottom Hole Assembly (BHA), is at an along hole length of roughly 300 m (i.e., horizontal at the end of the Entry Curve). The drill string will then continue to punch out on the seabed at a drilled length of 920 m.
- 1.2.3 The HDD will exit from a subsea point approximately 920 m from shore, the exact location of which will be confirmed using a Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES). Once confirmed, a dive vessel will be mobilised to this exit point, and divers will attach air bags to the BHA. The BHA can then be floated to the surface and retrieved and a bell mouth will be attached to the drill pipe. At the exit point, a marker buoy will be attached to a clump weight (160 cm x 116 cm surface area) to indicate the location.
- 1.2.4 The HDD works are expected to commence in September 2026 and are anticipated to last approximately 57 days in total, including site mobilisation, construction, MBES surveys and demobilisation from site.
- 1.2.5 Figure 1.1 illustrates the site layout and location of the offshore punch-out point.



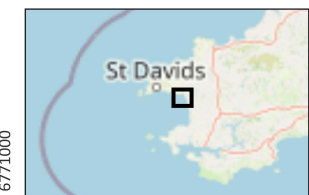


Beaufort HDD MLA Support

Site Layout and Location of Beaufort HDD Works

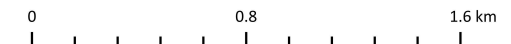
Legend

- - - HDD line
- Beaufort HDD Punch-Out Point
- Beaufort HDD Entry Point



Notes

Base map and data from OpenStreetMap and OpenStreetMap Foundation (CC-BY-SA). © <https://www.openstreetmap.org> and contributors.



Coordinate System: WGS 84 / Pseudo-Mercator

Scale 1:45573 @ A4 Date 17/02/2026 Drawn by JW Checked by JB

Riverview
A17 The Embankment Business Park
Heaton Mersey
Stockport
SK4 3GN



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Figure 1.1

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2 Marine Plan Policy Assessment

2.1 Welsh National Marine Plan

- 2.1.1 Given that the Project is located in Newgale, it sits within the Welsh National Marine Area and as such must be compliant with the Welsh National Marine Plan. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the extent to which this project is compliant with each of the Welsh National Marine Plan's policies and objectives.

2.2 Assessment

- 2.2.1 The MPPA is presented in tabular format below in Table providing an assessment of the Project's concurrence with each policy the Welsh National Marine Plan.



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Table 2.1 Welsh Marine Plan Policy Assessment

WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
GEN_01	Planning policy	There is a presumption in favour of the sustainable development of the plan area in order to contribute to Wales's well-being goals.	No	The project consists of the horizontal directional drilling for a new fibre optic cable from the Pembrokeshire coast. The project will facilitate the installation of a fibre optic cable which will improve network connections in the region. The project is in compliance with other policies of the WNMP and thus is in accordance with GEN_01.
GEN_02	Planning policy	Relevant public authorities should take a proportionate, risk-based approach to application of relevant marine planning policies in decision making.	No	The application to NRW for a marine licence along with supporting documentation facilitates a proportionate risk-based approach to decision making, and as such is compliant with GEN_02.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
ECON_01	Sustainable economic growth	Proposals for economically sustainable activities are encouraged, particularly where they contribute to: • the sustainable management of natural resources thereby supporting ecosystem resilience; • a more resilient economy; • employment opportunities particularly for coastal communities; • protecting and creating employment at all skill levels; • maintaining communities with a high-density of Welsh speakers; and/or • tackling poverty by supporting deprived coastal communities.	No	The project will not impact the Sustainable economic growth WNMP Policy. In fact, the construction of a telecommunications cable will improve internet access, thus aiding local business, and provides job opportunities to local contractors. The project is therefore compliant with ECON_01.
ECON_02	Coexistence	Proposals should demonstrate how they have considered opportunities for coexistence with other compatible sectors in order to optimise the value and use of the marine area and marine natural resources.	No	The footprint of the works is minimal and short term in nature, and will not impact on other users in the plan / policy area. As such, the project is compliant with ECON_02.
SOC_01	Access to the marine environment	Proposals that maintain or enhance access to the marine environment are encouraged.	No	The project will not prevent access to the marine environment and thus does not impact SOC_01.
SOC_02	Well-being of coastal communities	Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities are encouraged.	No	The HDD works at Newgale will contribute to the well-being of coastal communities by improving digital connectivity and supporting



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
				long-term social and economic resilience. Enhanced connectivity benefits local businesses, education, and emergency services, while reducing digital exclusion in coastal areas. Thus, the project is compliant with SOC_02.
SOC_03	Marine pollution incidents	Proposals should demonstrate how they minimise their risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents.	No	The risk of such incidents and how these risks are mitigated has been assessed in the Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment, they are also discussed in the methods statement and environmental incident/ spill response procedure documents that accompany the marine licence application. As such, the project is compliant with SOC_03.
SOC_04	Welsh language and culture	Proposals that contribute to the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language and culture are encouraged.	No	While the proposed works may not contribute to the promotion and facilitation of the Welsh language and culture, they are not



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
				anticipated to impact SOC_04.
SOC_05	Historic assets	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on historic assets and their settings have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.	No	The nearest historic asset to the works is the 'Limekiln at S end of Newgale Sands', a early to mid-19th century limekiln, in rubble stone, built into the bank. The asset is approximately 270 m from the works. The works will not impact on this historic asset or their settings and as such they are compliant with SOC_05.
SOC_06	Designated landscapes	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on the purposes and special qualities for which National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been designated have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on designated landscapes; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance designated landscapes are encouraged.	No	The onshore works will be confined to an existing car park area to avoid adverse impacts on the surrounding landscape, and all activities will be temporary and short-term. No significant adverse effects are anticipated and thus the project is in accordance with SOC_06.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
SOC_07	Seascapes	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on seascapes have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on seascapes; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged.	No	The works will be short term and the plant will be temporary, with no long lasting effects on seascape. All infrastructure to be installed will be beneath the seabed, and as such will not be visible and thus will not impact the seascape or conflict with SOC_07.
SOC_08	Resilience to coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they are resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime.	No	The proposed works are predominantly underground (up to 16 m) and therefore will not likely be affected by coastal change or flooding. Furthermore, by opting for long HDD over other potential installation methods such as open trenching or the construction of cofferdams, the works are preserving the current integrity of the beach and shoreline, thereby preserving resilience to coastal change/flooding. The HDD is specifically designed to avoid interfering with the proposed Coastal Adaptation



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				Scheme and to mitigate the risk of any shoreward movement of the shingle bank and beach level changes. As such, the project is compliant with SOC_08.
SOC_09	Effects on coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid significant adverse impacts upon coastal processes; and minimise the risk of coastal change and flooding; Proposals that align with the relevant Shoreline Management Plan(s) and its policies are encouraged.	No	No impact on coastal processes of hydromorphology of the water body are anticipated as detailed in the supporting WFD assessment. The HDD is specifically designed to avoid interfering with the proposed Coastal Adaptation Scheme and to mitigate the risk of any shoreward movement of the shingle bank and beach level changes. There are no anticipated effects on flooding due to the nature of the works and thus the project is compliant with SOC_09.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
SOC_10	Minimising climate change	Proposals should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid the emission of greenhouse gases; and/or b) minimise them where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate them where they cannot be minimised. Where significant emission of greenhouse gases cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals for regulated activities must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No	The proposed works and associated plant are not expected to significantly affect local air quality or result in significant greenhouse gas emissions. All plant will be well maintained in accordance with manufacturer's guidance and maintenance schedules, thereby complying with SOC_10.
SOC_11	Resilience to climate change	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change and have incorporated appropriate adaptation measures, taking into account Climate Change Risk Assessments for Wales. Proposals that contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation are encouraged.	No	The project is not considered to be at risk from climate change related effects. Most of the infrastructure to be installed will be beneath the seabed and so will be resilient to flooding or sea level rise for example. As such, the project is compliant with SOC_11.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
ENV_01	Resilient marine ecosystems	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on marine ecosystems have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of marine ecosystems are encouraged.	No	The potential impact of the project on marine ecosystems has been assessed in the WFD Assessment and Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) that accompany the marine licence application. The project is deemed to be compliant with ENV_01.
ENV_02	Marine Protected Areas	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid adverse impacts on individual Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the coherence of the network as a whole; have regard to the measures to manage MPAs; and avoid adverse impacts on designated sites that are not part of the MPA network.	No	The potential impact of the project on Special Area of Conservations (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsars has been assessed in the HRA & WFD that accompany the marine licence application. The project is deemed to be compliant with ENV_02.
ENV_03	Invasive non-native species	Proposals should demonstrate how they avoid or minimise the risk of introducing and spreading invasive non-native species. Where appropriate, proposals should include biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading of invasive non-native species.	No	The risk of introducing or spreading invasive non-native species has been assessed in the WFD assessment with specific measures to reduce the risk of introducing or spreading INNS detailed in the Method Statements. A biosecurity



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				plan is also included in the marine licence application. The project is deemed to be compliant with ENV_03.
ENV_04	Marine litter	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid the deliberate introduction of litter into the marine plan area; and minimise the risk of accidental release of litter.	No	The HDD works will avoid the introduction of litter into the marine environment by implementing strict waste management protocols, including segregation, secure storage, and disposal through licensed facilities. All materials and equipment will be managed to prevent accidental release, with regular inspections of vessels and work areas, and the use of containment measures for small items. Thus, the project is compliant with ENV_04.
ENV_05	Underwater noise	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered man-made noise impacts on the marine environment and, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised	No	The risk of impacts from man-made noise have been assessed in the WFD and HRA assessments that accompany the marine licence application. The use of industry standard general



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		or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.		precautionary working measures, within the appointed contractors Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will mean that no adverse impacts will occur on the marine environment. Thus, the project is compliant with ENV_05.
ENV_06	Air and water quality	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered their potential air and water quality impacts and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No	The risk of impacts on water quality have been assessed in the WFD and HRA assessments that accompany the marine licence application. The works are temporary and small scale, potential impacts to air quality are minimal. The project is deemed to be compliant with ENV_06.
ENV_07	Fish species and habitats	Proposals potentially affecting important feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key fish and shellfish species of commercial or ecological importance should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on those areas; and/or b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised; If significant adverse	No	The impact of the project on fish has been assessed in the WFD and HRA assessments that accompany the marine licence application. The use of industry standard general precautionary working measures, within the



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		impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.		appointed contractors Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will mean that no adverse impacts will occur on fish. The project is deemed to be compliant with ENV_07.
GOV_01	Cumulative effects	Proposals should demonstrate that they have assessed potential cumulative effects and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse effects; and/or b) minimise effects where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate effects where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to positive cumulative effects are encouraged.	No	In-combination effects have been assessed in the WFD and HRA assessments that accompany the marine licence application. Due to the nature and size of the works, no in-combination effects are expected. As such, the project is compliant with GOV_01.
GOV_02	Cross-border and plan compatibility	Relevant public authorities, in making their decisions, should have regard to: any applicable policy in a relevant marine plan; any applicable policy in relevant terrestrial development plans or related documents; the Natural Resources Policy; any relevant local well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).	No	The HDD works have been developed with full regard to applicable policies within the Welsh National Marine Plan, relevant terrestrial development plans, and the Natural Resources Policy. The project is in accordance with GOV_02.



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SCI_01	Using sound science responsibly	Relevant public authorities should make decisions using sound evidence and a risk-based, proportionate approach. Where appropriate they should apply the precautionary principle and consider opportunities to apply adaptive management.	No	The precautionary principle has been adopted throughout the assessments, and as such the project and associated assessments are compliant with SCI_01.
AGG_01a	Aggregates (supporting)	Proposals for new aggregate extraction will be supported, within any tonnage limits, where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to aggregates and the project is thus in accordance with AGG_01a.
AGG_01b	Aggregates (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities: for the sustainable use of wider marine aggregate natural resources; to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aggregates in order to support the sustainable development of the aggregate sector through marine planning.	No	The project is not linked to aggregates and the project is thus in accordance with AGG_01b.
AQU_01a	Aquaculture (supporting)	Proposals for new aquaculture developments will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to aquaculture and is thus in accordance with AQU_01a.



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AQU_01b	Aquaculture (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of aquaculture resources including the identification of: natural resources that provide aquaculture potential opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aquaculture in order to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector through marine planning.	No	The project is not linked to aquaculture and is thus in accordance with AQU_01b.
D&D_01	Dredging and disposal (supporting)	Proposals that maintain navigable channels and long term access to open at-sea disposal sites for appropriate material will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to dredging and disposal and is thus in accordance with D&D_01.
ELC_01a	Low carbon energy (supporting) wind	Proposals for offshore wind energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations. Proposals for wind >350MW will be considered by UK Government in accordance with relevant national policy. In determining an NSIP for a wind proposal, the decision maker will have regard to this plan. Any determination in relation to energy developments of any scale will be taken in accordance with this plan alongside any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to wind energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_01a.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
ELC_01b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wind	In order to understand future opportunities for offshore wind development, including floating technologies, this plan supports strategic planning for the sector. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wind energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for offshore wind energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	The project is not linked to wind energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_01b.
ELC_02a	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	Proposals for wave energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to wind energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_02a.



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ELC_02b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	In order to understand future opportunities for wave energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wave energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for wave energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	The project is not linked to wave energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_02b.
ELC_03a	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	Proposals for tidal stream energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to tidal stream energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_03a.



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ELC_03b	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	In order to understand future opportunities for tidal stream energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of tidal stream energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal stream energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	No	The project is not linked to tidal stream energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_03b.
ELC_04	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal range	In order to understand future opportunities for tidal range development, strategic planning for the sector is encouraged. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to: • collect evidence to support understanding of environmental constraints and opportunities for the sustainable use of the tidal range resource;	No	The project is not linked to tidal range energy generation and is thus in accordance with ELC_04.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
		- support understanding of the optimal siting of tidal lagoon developments across Wales as part of a wider, UK perspective; and - identify opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal lagoon safeguarding purposes. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.		
O&G_01a	Oil and gas (supporting)	Proposals that maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas sustainably will be supported where they comply with the objectives of this plan, and fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the statutory processes of awarding production licences and subsequent activity-specific approvals. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to oil and gas and is thus in accordance with O&G_01a.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
O&G_01b	Oil and gas (supporting)	Welsh Government policy is to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels in intertidal areas and estuaries and coastal inlet waters that fall within the Welsh onshore licence area. Applications for new petroleum licenses in these areas should not be supported, unless required for mine safety or scientific purposes. Proposals for the development and extraction of oil and gas in these areas with land based elements must provide robust and credible evidence to demonstrate how they conform to the Planning Policy Wales Energy Hierarchy for Planning, including how they make a necessary contribution towards decarbonising the energy system.	No	The project is not linked to oil and gas and is thus in accordance with O&G_01b.
O&G_02	Oil and gas (supporting)	Proposals that support the long-term development of carbon capture and storage technology will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to oil and gas and is thus in accordance with O&G_02.
FIS_01a	Fisheries (supporting)	Proposals that support and enhance sustainable fishing activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to fisheries and is thus in accordance with FIS_01a.



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
FIS_01b	Fisheries (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to develop a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of opportunities for the sustainable development of fisheries in order to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector through marine planning.	No	The project is not linked to fisheries and is thus in accordance with FIS_01b.
P&S_01a	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Proposals for ports, harbours and shipping activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to ports and shipping and is thus in accordance with P&S_01a.
P&S_01b	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to support the sustainable development of the ports and shipping sector through marine planning.	No	The project is not linked to ports and shipping and is thus in accordance with P&S_01b.
P&S_02	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Proposals that provide for the maintenance, repair, development and diversification of port and harbour facilities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The project is not linked to ports and shipping and is thus in accordance with P&S_02.
CAB_01	Subsea cabling (supporting)	Proposals that facilitate the growth of digital communications networks and/or the optimal distribution of electricity will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with	No	The proposal will facilitate the installation of a fibre optic cable which aims to enhance the digital communication network in



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
		the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.		Wales. As such, the works will comply with CAB_01.
T&R_01a	Tourism and recreation (supporting)	Proposals that demonstrate a positive contribution to tourism and recreation opportunities and policy objectives (for the sector) around the Welsh coast will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The HDD works will contribute positively to tourism and recreation opportunities by enabling the installation of a subsea telecommunications cable that improves digital connectivity along the Welsh coast. Enhanced connectivity supports local tourism businesses, visitor services, and emergency communications, helping to strengthen the visitor experience and promote the region as a well-connected destination. Thus, the project is compliant with T&R_01a.



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T&R_01b	Tourism and recreation (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation around the Welsh coast, including: a) developing a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of current and potential tourism and recreation activities, including eco-tourism and other low impact activities; and b) opportunities to define areas of future opportunity for tourism and recreation; in order to support the sustainable development of the tourism and recreation sector through marine planning.	No	The project will be undertaken in collaboration with relevant public authorities and stakeholders to ensure that opportunities for eco-tourism and low-impact recreational activities are maintained during construction. This approach aligns with marine planning objectives to promote sustainable development of tourism and recreation sectors. Thus, the project is compliant with T&R_01b.
SAF_01	Safeguarding existing activity	a: Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity covered by a formal application or authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances. b: Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity not subject to a formal authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: a. Avoiding	No	The proposed works are located within an existing car park and will utilize a trenchless drilling method to prevent interference with coastal access, recreational use, and marine navigation. Offshore activities, including the drill exit and cable installation, will be scheduled and coordinated to minimize potential conflicts with fishing, tourism, and other marine



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WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the Project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How does the proposed Project comply with the Policy?
		significant adverse impacts on those activities, and/or b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.		users. The project is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on any established activities covered by formal applications or authorisations and therefore will not impact SAF_01.
SAF_02	Safeguarding strategic resources Strategic Resource Area for Tidal Stream Energy in force January 2025	Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts upon the prospects of any sector covered by this plan to engage in sustainable future strategic resource use (of resources identified by an SRA) must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that potential resource use. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: a. Avoiding significant adverse impacts on this potential strategic resource use, and/or b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.	No	The project is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on any sectors ability to engage in future sustainable strategic resource use and therefore will not impact policy SAF_02.
DEF_01	Defence (safeguarding)	Proposals that: - potentially affect Ministry of Defence (MOD) Danger Areas, Exercise Areas or strategic defence interests; and/or - potentially interfere with communication, surveillance and navigation facilities necessary for defence and national security; should only be authorised with the agreement of MOD.	No	The project is not within an MOD area and does not have the potential to interfere with MOD activities. Thus, the project is in accordance with DEF_01.





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