

Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) Policies

WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy18		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' well-being goals.	Y	<p>See chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement (ES). By its very nature Marine Renewable Energy is a sustainable use of our resources and coupled with the development of a national sustainable industry contributes significantly to the well-being goals of the WFGA. The META project will aid in the acceleration of the nascent industry to commercialisation, thereby enabling a shift in our reliance on fossil fuels, whilst creating a resilient industry representing jobs, economic growth and bolstering local community.</p> <p>Marine energy could play a part in an innovative, low carbon society helping to respect the limits of our global environment. Through the development of META and the potential of the Welsh Demonstration Zones, Wales has the potential to be a global centre for marine energy generation development.</p>
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.	Y	<p>See Section 3.3.3 of Chapter 3 of the ES META forms a strategic pillar of a wider project called Pembroke Dock Marine (PDM)– a collaboration between the Port of Milford Haven, Marine Energy Wales, the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and the Pembrokeshire Offshore Wind and Wave Energy Demonstration Zone to realise significant potential of the local, regional and national marine resources of Wales – a summary of the expected economic benefits is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create capital funded assets with the potential to accommodate 1,881 net additional operational jobs. • Underpin the capital assets with revenue based funded support in testing and deployment sites and research, Innovation and development. • Target high-skilled advanced manufacturing sectors, with a wage premium of £6000 per job against Welsh average. • Support at least 4 Pembroke Dock based Marine Energy technology developers that have over £45m of investment plans by 2023 with the facilities and support to be more productive and develop their technology and lower the cost of energy. • Minimise risk for investors and establish a new export industry in a fast-growing sector projected to be worth £76bn by 2050. • Increase regional economic growth by delivering a projected annual GVA of £73.5m • Help ensure UK energy security by creating the right facilities for industry to harness home-sourced, reliable, renewable low carbon energy. • Directly contribute to UK and Welsh decarbonisation targets by enabling industry to upscale devices efficiently to harness 1GW of marine derived energy.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the growth of a new low carbon industry that will increase personal prosperity in an economically deprived community and provide rewarding year round career opportunities for the current and future generations
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.	Y	See Section 3.3.3 of Chapter 3 of the ES. As per the above section, PDM brings together the Port of Milford Haven, Marine Energy Wales, the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and the Pembrokeshire Offshore Wind and Wave Energy Demonstration Zone to realise significant potential of the local, regional and national marine resources of Wales
SOC_01	Access to the marine environment	Proposals that maintain or enhance access to the marine environment are encouraged	N	
SOC_02	Well-being of coastal communities	Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities are encouraged	Y	<p>The marine energy industry, by the very nature of where the key wave and tidal resource are located (often remote, coastal communities) is bringing new opportunities to peripheral economies and communities where jobs are needed most. META is actively supporting the supply chain cluster around Pembroke Dock, allowing for diversification away from traditional marine engineering and the oil & gas sectors, and enhancing economic/supply chain resilience in Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>As part of PDM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will have a positive impact on a deprived coastal community, a community that has two wards considered to be in the top 10% under-performing in Wales – and within commutable reach of three other such communities. • The project will cover services and infrastructure for the marine energy sector. This is a diverse set of industries, each with its own ‘development life’. PDM has been designed as a cradle to grave site (typically considered to be thirty years) maximising the economic doorstep opportunity – for this and future generations. • It is not just about marine energy. Maximum industrial resilience has been a key focus and the projects elements will also offer complementary industrial relevance to other maritime sectors. • The META test bed sites in the waterway and at sea will only be established in areas where impact on waterway ecosystem is minimised.
SOC_03	Marine pollution incidents	Proposals should demonstrate how they minimise their risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents	Y	Please refer to the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan; please note that a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (MPCP) will be developed and implemented to manage the impact of any accidental marine pollution event, by providing a response framework, a first strike plan based on the risk of a marine pollution incident, an alert and activation procedure, and integration with local plans. This plan will be made available to all developers and contractors involved in the META project and they will be expected to comply with the measures set out in the plan at all times.
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	N	

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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 13 of the ES.
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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance designated landscapes are encouraged.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 14 of the ES
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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 14 of the ES
SOC_08	Resilience to coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they are resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime	N/A	Proposed sites are located at sea
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 and its policies are encouraged.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 5 of the ES

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 adequately addressed, proposals for regulated activities must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Y	The proposed development specifically seeks to encourage renewable energy industries across a range of low carbon technologies, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, it is recognised that marine energy technologies have the potential to displace coal and natural gas generation on the grid and to reduce CO2 emissions permanently.
SOC_11	Resilience to climate change	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change and have incorporated appropriate adaption measures, taking into account Climate Change Risk Assessments for Wales. Proposals that contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation are encouraged.	Y	META will support the move to a low carbon economy, and in conjunction with the wider PDM project will deliver the infrastructure and services to support a new industry focused on generating decarbonised energy.
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 adequately addressed, 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.	Y	Please refer to supporting Environmental Statement.
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 non-marine designated sites.	Y	Please refer to supporting Environmental Statement.
ENV_03	Invasive non-native species	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.	Y	Please refer to the Invasive Non Native Species Management Plan provided as an appendix to the Environmental Statement
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.	N/A	
ENV_05	Underwater noise	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered man-made	Y	Please refer to Chapter 6 of the ES

		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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.		
ENV_06	Air and water quality	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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Y	Please refer to the META Water Framework Directive Assessment
ENV_07	Fish species and habitats	Proposals potentially affecting important feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key 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 impacts cannot be adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	Y	Please refer to Chapters 8,11 and 7.
GOV_01	Cumulative effects	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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to positive cumulative effects are encouraged.	Y	Please refer to each individual chapter of the ES's section entitled Cumulative Impact Assessment
GOV_02	Cross-border and plan compatibility	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 plans or related documents; the Natural Resources Policy; any relevant local	Y	Please refer to Chapter 3 of the ES and each individual chapter of the ES's section entitled Transboundary Effects

		well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).		
SCI_01	Risk-based decision making	Relevant public authorities should make decisions using sound evidence and a risk-based, proportionate approach. Where appropriate they should apply the precautionary principles and consider opportunities to apply adaptive management.	Y	Please refer to supporting Environmental Statement.
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.	N	
SAF_01	Safeguarding existing activity	<p>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.</p> <p>Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.</p> <p>Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference:</p> <p>a. Avoiding significant adverse impacts on those activities, and/or</p> <p>b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or</p> <p>c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised</p>	Y	Please refer to supporting Environmental Statement.
SAF_02	Safeguarding strategic resources	Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts upon 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. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must	Y	Please refer to supporting Environmental Statement.

		present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: Avoiding significant adverse impacts on this potential strategic resource use, and/or ; Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.		
AGG_01a	Aggregates (supporting)	Proposals for new aggregate extraction will be supported within any permitted 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.	N	
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.	N	
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	N	
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 and in order to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector through marine planning.	N	
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	N	

		and any other relevant considerations.		
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 >350 MW 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.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 2 of the ES. The ability to test Offshore Wind components is being sought. Furthermore the PDM collaboration partner Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone as reference above seeks to demonstrate floating offshore wind.
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.	Y	As above
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.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 2 of the ES.
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	Y	Please refer to Chapter 2 of the ES.

		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
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.	Y	Please refer to Chapter 2 of the ES.
ELC_03 b	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Y	Please refer to Chapter 2 of the ES.
ELC_04	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal range	<p>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; 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.</p>	N	

		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.	N	
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.	N	
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.	N	
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	N	
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	N	

		fisheries sector through marine planning.		
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.	Y	The PDM collaboration partner Port of Milford Haven proposes to upgrade Pembroke Port Infrastructure to accommodate Marine Renewable Energy devices and developments. This project is seeking consent under separate applications.
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.	Y	As per ECON 01 response
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.	N	
CAB_01	Subsea cabling (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.	N	
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.	N	
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	N	

		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.		
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