

Holyhead Port Expansion Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) Assessment

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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The contribution of the Holyhead Port Expansion (HPE) project to the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is discussed in Section 4.3.12 of the Environmental Statement (ES).
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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The HPE project is predicted to create 889 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over the 2-year construction period within this coastal community. Where there are limits to the capacity of local firms to provide the skills needed through local employment, some investment may leak outside of Anglesey, to North Wales, Wales more generally or wider. Any such leakage would result in workers needing to migrate to Holyhead and Anglesey. The construction phase could therefore deliver £54 million GVA over two years. During the operation the port expansion is expected to generate over 13,000 jobs in the Anglesey local community. Over the lifetime of the project (design life of 50 years) the port expansion is estimated to contribute £974 million to the local economy. This is considered to contribute significantly to tackling poverty, creating a resilient economy which protects and creates employment at all skill levels and maintaining and supporting the community in Holyhead and the wider Holy Island and Anglesey areas. See Chapter 23 of the ES for further details.

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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The HPE would will enable Holyhead Port, and the wider community, to promote investment and development of the renewable energy sector in the Irish Sea and to support investors and their supply chains to secure long-term economic growth for the area.
SOC_01	Access to the marine environment	Proposals that maintain or enhance access to the marine environment are encouraged	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The HPE would ensure the continuation of Holyhead Port, improving access to the marine environment to the businesses it supports.
SOC_02	Well-being of coastal communities	Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities are encouraged	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	See GEN_01.
SOC_03	Marine pollution incidents	Proposals should demonstrate how they minimise their risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents	No negative impact	During the construction of the proposed HPE, the risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents will be managed through the implementation of best-practice measures which will be set out in a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). During operation, Holyhead Port has existing pollution prevention plans and an Oil Spill Contingency Plan which sets out the response for any pollution event.
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	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The HPE would promote the Welsh culture by supporting the developing cruise industry, thereby helping to increase Welsh tourism and others awareness of the Welsh culture and language.
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	No negative impact	An assessment of the potential impacts of the expansion of Holyhead Port during construction and operation is presented in Chapter 19 of the ES and aligns with this policy. Further information on the proposed mitigation and potential enhancements for the affected

		adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.		historical assets is presented within Section 3.10 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy.
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.	No negative impact	An assessment of potential impacts to the visual setting that would be affected by the HPE is presented in Chapter 20 of the ES and aligns with this 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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged.	No negative impact	See SOC_06.
SOC_08	Resilience to coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they are resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime	No negative impact	Potential impacts arising from HPE on coastal defence and flood risk have been assessed in Chapter 21 of the ES and aligns with this policy.
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	No negative impact	The results of the modelling were used to inform the Coastal Processes chapter (Chapter 8 of the ES) and Chapter 21 – Coastal Defence and Flood Risk and aligns with this policy.

		relevant Shoreline Management Plan and its policies are encouraged.		
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.	No negative impact	The HPE would increase trade by sea, contributing to a reduction in land-based carbon emissions. The expansion of the port to allow for support of the renewables industry also demonstrates the project's contribution to The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2050.
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 negative impact	This policy is supported by the objectives of the port's strategy. These have been influenced by the core sustainability values enshrined in Stena Line's Sustainability Plan (Stena Line, 2017). Stena Line has created a new Sustainable Development Department to drive forward the agenda on climate change and energy efficiency, with a target of reducing carbon emissions from port-based activity by 30% by 2020. Holyhead Port is taking a lead on this with its investment in solar energy which is just one of the measures being put in place. The ambitious target for carbon reduction is only one of the targets set out in the port's environmental management system which has been developed and monitored in strict compliance with ISO14001.
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.	No negative impact	The impact of the HPE on marine ecosystems have been assessed in Chapter 10 of the ES and Chapter 3 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy.

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.		Potential effects to MPAs are assessed in Chapter 26 of the ES and Section 3.15 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy.
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.	No negative impact	A construction Biosecurity Risk Assessment would be produced by the chosen contractor. Stena Line's Biosecurity Plan would be updated to include the operation of the proposed scheme. The plan would demonstrate how the risk of introducing and spreading invasive non-native species would be avoided or minimised.
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 negative impact	The HPE would not introduce litter into the marine environment.
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 adequately addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No negative impact	Underwater noise from the HPE has been assessed in Chapter 11 of the ES and aligns with this policy.
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	No negative impact	Air quality potential impacts from the HPE have been assessed in Chapter 18 of the ES and aligns with this policy. Marine water quality impacts from the HPE have been assessed in Chapter 9 of the ES and Chapter 3 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy.

		addressed, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.		
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.	No negative impact	Potential impacts to fish species and habitats have been assessed in Chapters 10, 11 and 13 of the ES, and Chapter 3 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy.
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.	No negative impact	Potential cumulative effects as a result of the HPE and other projects have been assessed in within Chapter 24 of the ES and in Section 3.13 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy.
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 well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).	N/A	N/A
SCI_01	Risk-based decision making	Relevant public authorities should make decisions using sound evidence and a risk-based, proportionate approach. Where appropriate they	N/A	N/A

		should apply the precautionary principles and consider opportunities to apply adaptive management.		
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/A	N/A
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. 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. 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>	No negative impact	See ECON_02.
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	N/A	N/A

		resource use (of resources identified by an SRA) must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must 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/A	N/A
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/A	N/A
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/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A

		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.		
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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The capital dredging requirements to support this policy have been considered in Chapter 3 of the ES and Section 3.2 of the ES Addendum and aligns with this policy. This will ensure that navigable channels are maintained throughout construction and operation of the HPE. All dredged material would be deposited at the Holyhead North (ISO43) disposal site, thereby keeping it within the marine environment.
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.	N/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A

		<p>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.</p>		
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.	N/A	N/A
ELC_02b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	<p>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.</p>	N/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A

		safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.		
ELC_03 b	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.	N/A	N/A
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; 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	N/A	N/A

		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/A	N/A
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/A	N/A
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/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A

		and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations		
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.	N/A	N/A
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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The proposed HPE would contribute to the objectives of the Ports and Shipping plan. The investment in Holyhead Port would boost the local and national economy (as also stated in ECON_01). The HPE would support sustainable growth in numerous sectors. This includes the cruise industry, freight traffic and the offshore renewables industry. Furthermore, the HPE aligns with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 through contributing to improvements in social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
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.	N/A	N/A
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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	The proposed expansion of Holyhead port will enable development and diversification of port and harbour facilities, as explained in P&S_01a.
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	N/A	N/A

		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.		
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.	Project would have a positive impact on this policy	Potential impacts to Tourism have been assessed in in Chapter 22 of the ES and aligns with this policy. Operation of the HPE is considered to have a significant positive impact on tourism and recreation.
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.	N/A	N/A