

**Marine Licence Transboundary Screening Assessment
Regulation 18 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment)
Regulations 2007 as amended.**

Title of Project:	Morlais Project
Marine Licence Reference Number:	ORML1938
Documents Utilised to Undertake Assessment	Morlais ES Volume I (July 2019) Morlais ES Volume II (July 2019) Morlais ES Volume III (July 2019) Morlais Project Document MOR/RHDHV/DOC/0067: Information to Support Habitats Regulations Assessment (July 2019)
Provision of information to other EEA (European Economic Area) states if requested.	The marine licence application has been advertised within Holyhead, Anglesey and Bangor Mail, the Lloyds List and London Gazette on the 27 th of November 2019 and again on the 4 th of December 2019. A Transboundary notice will be placed by the applicant in the London Gazette date of which is to be confirmed. To date no request for information under Article 18 of the Marine Works Regulations has been received from any other EEA State
Screening For Potential Impacts on Other EEA States	
Characteristics of the Project	<u>Description of development:</u> A summary of the location is provided below. Figure 1-1 (Volume II) and Figure 1-2 (Volume II) in the submitted Environmental Statement (ES) show the offshore development area and the onshore development area respectively. The Project will comprise an offshore development area including the Morlais Demonstration Zone (MDZ) covering an area of 35 km ² in the eastern Irish Sea, combined with an export cable corridor with an area of 4.75 km ² with landfall near Penrhos Feilw, plus associated onshore infrastructure contained within an onshore development area of 1 km ² . Within the MDZ, works will include construction, operation, maintenance, repowering and decommissioning of up to a maximum of 620 Tidal Devices within the MDZ comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A foundation or anchor on or within the seabed; • A supporting substructure or mooring; • Tidal Energy Converter(s) (TEC) up to a maximum of 1,648 across the MDZ; and • Cable connections.

	<p>Up to 740 inter-array cables within the MDZ; Up to nine export cables; Up to nine export cable tails (shared with onshore components); Navigation and environmental monitoring equipment; Mooring and foundation structures; and Offshore electrical infrastructure, including submerged, floating or surface emergent hubs</p> <p><u>Cumulation with other projects:</u></p> <p>The following projects within other EEA states have been assessed for cumulative assessments within the ES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codling Wind Park (Ireland) • Codling Wind Park Extension (Ireland) • Alexandra Basin Redevelopment (Ireland) • Proposed New Cruise Berth Dun Laoghaire Harbour (Ireland) • Kinsale Head / Ballycotton gas fields and Seven Heads gas field (Ireland) • Construction of intake/outlet pipe Gaelectric Energy Storage (GEAS) (Ireland) • Greater Dublin Drainage (Ireland) • Isle of Man Ferry Terminal <p><u>Use of natural resources:</u></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><u>The production of waste:</u></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><u>Pollution and nuisances:</u></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><u>Risk of accidents:</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Location of Project</p>	<p><u>Location of project and Existing Land use:</u> Figure 1-1 (Volume II) and Figure 1-2 (Volume II) in the submitted Environmental Statement (ES) show the offshore development area and the onshore development area respectively.</p> <p>The Project will comprise an offshore development area including the Morlais Demonstration Zone (MDZ) covering an area of 35 km² in the eastern Irish Sea, combined with an export cable corridor with an area of 4.75 km² with landfall near Penrhos Feilw, plus associated onshore infrastructure contained within an onshore development area of 1 km².</p> <p><u>Sensitivity of the Environment including: surrounding, wetlands, coastal zones, mountain and forest areas, nature reserves and parks, SPA's ,</u></p>

SACS and Ramsar, Densely Populated areas, landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological importance:

List any areas that are EU designated or areas of environmental importance in another EEA state , in conclusion paragraph delete as appropriate, should any development potentially affect a European Site it is likely to require Transboundary Consultation with that state:

The following sites were screened into the appropriate assessment in the 'Information to Support HRA' within the ES. The conclusion against each site for each receptor is summarised below, for full justification see the 'Information to Support HRA' within the ES (Document MOR/RHDHV/DOC/0067). Overall, no adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites in other EEA states is predicted.

Harbour Porpoise

Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (Ireland). The assessment concludes that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC in relation to the Conservation Objectives for harbour porpoise

Grey Seal

Lambay Island SAC (Ireland). The assessment concludes that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Lambay Island SAC in relation to the Conservation Objectives for Grey Seal

Saltee Islands SAC (Ireland). The assessment concludes that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Saltee Island SAC in relation to the Conservation Objectives for Grey Seal

Harbour Seal

Lambay Island SAC (Ireland). The assessment concludes that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Lambay Island SAC in relation to the Conservation Objectives for Harbour Seal

In addition to the sites identified above, where which were screened into the appropriate assessment in the 'Information to Support HRA', the following sites have been assessed and screened out of further assessment in the Information to Support HRA within the ES. For full justification for screening out the following sites see the 'Information to Support HRA' within the ES (Document MOR/RHDHV/DOC/0067).

- Blasket Islands SAC, Ireland (Marine Mammals)
- Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC, Ireland (Marine Mammals)
- Slaney River Valley SAC, Ireland (Marine Mammals)
- Ireland's Eye SPA (Birds)
- Lambay Island SPA (Birds)
- Howth Head SPA (Birds)
- Saltee Islands SPA (Birds)

The developer has recognised the potential of the works to have an effect on European Protected Sites in another EEA state and screened the sites into appropriate assessment within their assessment 'Information to Support HRA' as detailed above.

	The development is predicted to have an effect on any European Protected Site in any other EEA state.
Identification and Characteristics of the Potential Impacts to other EEA States	<p>To further assess the potential for a likely significant effect on another EEA state the development has been assessed by the topic headings included within the ES.</p> <p><u>ES Chapters:</u></p> <p>Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Policy and Legislation Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives Chapter 4: Project Description Chapter 5: EIA Methodology Chapter 6: Consultation Chapter 7: Metocean Conditions and Coastal Processes Chapter 8: Marine Water and Sediment Quality Chapter 9: Benthic and Intertidal Ecology Chapter 10: Fish and Shellfish Ecology Chapter 11: Marine Ornithology Chapter 12: Marine Mammals Chapter 13: Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation Chapter 16: Marine Infrastructures and Other Users Chapter 17: Water Resources and Flood Risk Chapter 18: Ground Conditions and Contamination Chapter 19: Onshore Ecology Chapter 20: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Chapter 21: Noise and Vibration Chapter 22: Air Quality Chapter 23: Traffic and Transport Chapter 24: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Chapter 25: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation Chapter 26: Cumulative, Transboundary and In-Combination Impact Assessment Chapter 27: Summary</p> <p><u>ES Chapters with potential pathway to another EEA State:</u> Of the chapters the following are considered to have the potential to affect another EEA due to the presence of a pathway, for example mobile species or air and water:</p> <p>Chapter 10: Fish and Shellfish Ecology Chapter 11: Marine Ornithology Chapter 12: Marine Mammals Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries</p> <p><u>Further Assessment of Impact</u> Further assessment of the potential impact to each ES chapter topic is listed below. In making this assessment due regard has been given to the extent of the impact, the magnitude and complexity of the impact, the probability of the impact, and the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact</p>

Marine Ornithology

Chapter 11 considers the potential impacts on marine ornithology receptors from the project. During the construction and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the proposed Project, no impacts have been assessed to be greater than of minor adverse significance for any marine ornithology receptors. During the operational phase of the proposed project, there is potential for greater than minor adverse impacts from underwater collision effects based on use of a precautionary avoidance rate of 95%, although these impacts are on colonies within Wales and will not therefore have any transboundary impact.

The assessment of potential transboundary effects is considered through the potential impacts on designated sites in other EEA states, discussed above and summarised below.

The impact on designated sites in other EEA states is assessed in the 'Information to support HRA' chapter of the ES. The conclusion of this assessment is that no colonies within designated sites would be significantly impacted by development in the MDZ.

Marine Mammals

Chapter 12 considers the potential impacts on marine mammal receptors from the project. Throughout the construction, operation and maintenance, repowering, and decommissioning phases, taking into account the proposed mitigation, the impact on marine mammals is considered to be of negligible or minor adverse significance. There is the potential for a minor to moderate adverse impact on bottlenose dolphins arising from collisions with operational turbines, there are no designated sites in the Irish sea MU for Bottlenose Dolphins in Ireland. The assessment has been undertaken at the scale of Marine Mammal Management unit (Irish sea) which covers both UK and Irish waters.

The assessment of potential transboundary effects is considered through the potential impacts on designated sites in other EEA states, discussed above and summarised below.

The impact on designated sites in other EEA states is assessed in the 'Information to support HRA' chapter of the ES. The conclusion of this assessment is that no designated sites in other EEA states would be significantly impacted by development in the MDZ.

Fish and Shellfish Ecology

Fish and Shellfish Ecology is considered within chapter 10 of the ES. The ES acknowledges that the distribution of fish and shellfish species is independent of national geographical boundaries. The impact assessment has therefore been undertaken taking account of the distribution of fish stocks and populations irrespective international boundaries. The assessment carried out recognises the potential to impact upon fish and shellfish and this is summarised in table 10-29 of the chapter concluded that the Project could result in a range of small scale effects on fish and shellfish ecology (such as temporary habitat loss and disturbance). The effects on fish and shellfish ecology associated with construction, operation and decommissioning are anticipated to have impacts of minor adverse significance to all receptors. Therefore no significant transboundary impact would be anticipated.

	<p><u>Commercial Fishing</u></p> <p>Impact on Commercial Fishing is considered within chapter 14 the assessment details even though commercial fishing activity has been assumed to be completely excluded from the main MDZ array site for the lifetime of the Project, only a low level of activity currently occurs in this area, therefore, exclusion is not predicted to create significant impacts on vessels who will be able to target alternative grounds</p>
<p>Conclusion of Transboundary Screening</p>	<p>Upon the basis of the information provided, NRW as Appropriate Authority does consider another EEA state to be affected by the application under Regulation 18(1).</p> <p>Transboundary Consultation is necessary with the following EEA states: Republic of Ireland</p>
<p>Signed (Permitting Officer)</p>	
<p>Dated:</p>	<p>04/12/2019</p>
<p>Signed (Permitting Service Manager)</p>	<p>John Wheadon</p> 
<p>Dated:</p>	<p>4/12/19</p>