

## Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Programme Document

### Applicant Cover Sheet

- Project Name : Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm
- Applicant Name: Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Limited
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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of the document

Gwynt Glas Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“the Applicant”) proposes to develop the Gwynt Glas Floating Offshore Wind Farm (“The Development”).

As the Development’s offshore generating and transmission assets are located in Welsh waters and exceed 350MW of generating capacity, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). As such, a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required for its development under the Planning Act 2008. In order to support the DCO application, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required.

A marine licence is required for those components of the development that are located in the marine area and involve licensable marine activities. Marine licencing for the generation assets (including wind turbines, inter-array cables and Offshore Transmission Station(s)) would be sought through a deemed Marine Licence (DML) granted as part of the DCO. In addition, marine licencing for the transmission infrastructure including export cables and

associated works that are located in Welsh inshore waters up to Mean High Water Springs, or which span both offshore and inshore waters, would be consented separately through the marine licensing regime administered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

This document is the first version of the Programme Document and sets out the main steps that the Applicant is intending to take during the preparation of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

The Applicant will keep the Project Programme under review, and a public version of the document will be hosted on the project website ([www.gwyntglas.co.uk](http://www.gwyntglas.co.uk)).

The Programme Document is not a statutory requirement and is not for consultation.

This document has been prepared in accordance with Government guidance on the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus.

As the project timeline progresses and milestones achieved, this document will be updated and revised to reflect accordingly.

## 1.2 Structure of the document

This Programme Document will adhere to the Planning Inspectorate template provided that all projects entering the process post 1 November 2025 have to complete. This document will include:

- Background to the project
  - Overview of the Applicant
  - Overview of the project
  - Policy and legislation
- The Planning Inspectorate pre-application tier service level
- Pre-application programme
- Main Issues for resolution
- Engagement with statutory bodies
- Engagement with local authorities
- Pre-application risks

## 2. Background to the project

### 2.1 The Applicant

The Applicant is a joint venture between EDF power solutions UK and Ireland and ESB (Electricity Supply Board), with DP Energy acting as an exclusive development partner.

### EDF power solutions UK and Ireland

EDF power solutions UK and Ireland is a subsidiary of the EDF Group and one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies. Our investment and innovation is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits for communities. With our operating portfolio of 50 renewable energy sites including battery, onshore and offshore wind (together totalling more than 2 GW) we are providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity across the UK and Ireland. We have an expanding portfolio with almost 14GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar PV. EDF power solutions and ESB have a strong track record collaborating on project delivery with the partnership delivering the 450MW Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind project in Scotland in 2025.

### ESB

ESB has been Ireland's foremost energy company since its establishment in 1927. It is a strong, diversified utility operating across the Irish and British electricity market: from generation, through transmission and distribution, supply, and related sectors including telecommunications and smart energy services. The ESB strategy of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2040, has seen a rapid diversification of the Company's generation portfolio - transitioning from fossil fuel reliant thermal generation to renewable generation and energy storage. The Company's renewable portfolio has a current capacity of more than 1.8 GW, with significant projects - notably in the offshore sector in Ireland and Britain, in development stage.

### DP Energy

DP Energy develops renewable energy projects across the world. Headquartered in Cork, Ireland, DP Energy has to date developed over 1GW of renewable energy projects which are built and operational. With over 30 years' experience in the global renewable energy sector, DP Energy is 100% committed to using the most sustainable and environmentally responsible methods in all of their energy developments. Operating in the UK since the 1990s to deliver onshore wind projects, DP Energy opened an office in Pembroke Dock in 2021 to focus the Celtic Sea floating wind opportunities, whilst progressing a UK and New Markets project pipeline.

For more information, please visit [Gwynt Glas | Our Joint Venture Partnership](#)

## 2.2 Overview of the project

The proposed Gwynt Glas Floating Offshore Wind Farm (the 'Development') would be located approximately 42 kilometres (km) off the southwest coast of Pembrokeshire in the Celtic Sea, with an anticipated capacity of up to 1.5 gigawatt (GW). The array area covers approximately 369 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>). The Development would include offshore generating infrastructure and associated transmission assets. It is expected that the grid connection would be made at the proposed Llandyfaelog Substation in Carmarthenshire (to be built by National Grid), requiring the installation of underground export cables between

the landfall and the grid connection point. Several landfall and onshore cable route options are currently under consideration, and a new onshore substation is considered to be located near the proposed National Grid substation at Llandyfaelog.

### 2.3 Policy and legislation

As the Development's offshore generating and transmission assets are located in Welsh waters and exceed 350MW of generating capacity it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). As such, a Development Consent Order (DCO) is required for its development under the Planning Act 2008.

A marine licence is required for those components of the development that are located in the marine area and involve licensable marine activities. Marine licencing for the generation assets, including wind turbines, inter-array cables and Offshore Transmission Station(s)) would be sought through a DML granted as part of the DCO. In addition, marine licencing for the transmission infrastructure including export cables and associated works that are located in Welsh inshore waters up to Mean High Water Springs, or which span both offshore and inshore waters, would be consented separately through the marine licensing regime administered by NRW. Agreement on the terms of the DML will be sought from NRW ensuring alignment with the terms of the separate Marine Licence. The onshore cable and substation are classed as Associated Development under the Planning Act 2008 and will also be included in the DCO.

The DCO and associated marine licence applications would be supported by an Environmental Statement (ES) prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations and the Marine EIA Regulations, as the development falls under Schedule 2 and Schedule A1 of these regulations, respectively.

The applications would also be supported by a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Water Environment Regulations (WER) Assessment, and other assessments, as may be required.

The Development is located in Welsh territorial waters and Welsh land and therefore has the potential to interact with species afforded protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. European Protected Species (EPS) known to occur within or adjacent to the marine environment in Welsh waters include harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*, and other cetaceans, all of which are strictly protected from deliberate capture, injury or disturbance. Certain seabird species may also be afforded protection under domestic wildlife legislation where relevant. EPS known to occur on land in South Wales includes bats, dormice, great crested newts, birds, reptiles and water voles. Badgers may also be present onshore protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Should project activities, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, give rise to a risk of offence under the relevant legislation, the need for an EPS or Wildlife Licence would be considered. At this stage, the need for such licences cannot be ruled out

and would be informed by the findings of baseline surveys, impact assessment, and the application of mitigation measures embedded in the project design. Where a licence is required, it would be sought from NRW as the relevant licensing authority in Wales and would be informed by project-level assessment demonstrating that the statutory tests for licensing can be met.

This section outlines the primary UK-wide planning policy and legislative frameworks that guide the development, assessment, and consenting of offshore renewable energy projects.

Overarching planning policy and legislation of relevance to the Development are:

- The Planning Act (2008) (as amended)
- Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007
- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
- National Policy Statements
  - Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), 2025)
  - NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (DESNZ, 2025), which covers nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure (including offshore generating stations in excess of 100MW)
  - NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (DESNZ, 2025)
- Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (for which secondary legislation and guidance is awaited but expected to be in force prior to application) (TBC)

### **3. The Planning Inspectorate's pre-application service**

The Applicant wishes to discuss and agree the appropriate level of service with The Planning Inspectorate during the Inception Meeting. Due to the uncertainty in the pre application process with the anticipated amendments to PA2008 The Applicant wishes to further understand the different levels of service offered.

During the inception phase, The Applicant would like to discuss the relevant supplementary components that could be developed alongside this service in order to optimise their application and minimise risk.

At the time of this submission, the Applicant does not intend to seek a fast-track procedure.

### **4. The pre-application programme**

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA 2025) received Royal Assent in December 2025. A key part of this Act is the reforms to infrastructure planning in Part 1, introducing

major changes to the Development Consent Order planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

The UK Government published its PIA implementation plan on 23 March 2026. The Applicant is carefully considering their approach to consultation and engagement during the pre-application phase in anticipation of the amendments to the PA2008 being commenced. Therefore, the Applicant wishes to discuss these amendments with The Planning Inspectorate during the Inception meeting to help further develop the pre-application programme.

The Applicant includes a visual representation of the pre application timeline alongside this document.

It should be noted that The Applicant anticipates to submit the DCO application in **September 2028**.

## **5. Main issues for resolution**

The Applicant notes that we are at an early stage in the process and will identify key issues following further stakeholder engagement. The Applicant intends to provide further information on key potential issues arising during the pre-application stage in the next iteration of this document.

The Applicant is developing an issues tracker which will be maintained for the project.

The Applicant intends to produce a "Potential main issues for examination" document for submission with the application.

## **6. Engaging with statutory bodies**

Statutory consultees are those defined under Regulation 3(1) of the EIA regulations and prescribed under s42 of the Planning Act 2008 (duty to consult) and listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (APFP Regulations).

These prescribed bodies are those whose advice and comment must be sought in relation to a development. The list includes, but is not limited to, nature conservation bodies, utility operators, highways authorities and local planning authorities.

Early and ongoing engagement with these bodies is essential to inform design, methodology and mitigation strategies for all aspects of the project.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed and agreed with these stakeholders. These plans will outline the frequency and topics of engagement as well as any agreed timescales for submission of information and reports. An engagement log will be used to keep a log of the discussions had as well as any actions and decisions. The Applicant uses a

Stakeholder Management Software, Tractivity, to track and manage engagement with all stakeholders.

During the pre-application stage, frequency of discussions can vary depending on the topic and associated stakeholder however, regular meetings will occur during the EIA Scoping stage as well as during the preparation of the Environmental Statement. These meetings will be timed for when results of surveys or analysis are available and will therefore provide for efficient and productive discussions. Feedback from these stakeholders is fed back into the design process to ensure the design (and construction methodology) is compliant with requirements and is environmentally considerate.

The Applicant intends to follow the Evidence Plan Process to ensure all stakeholders are consulted and the data used to support our EIA and assessments are agreed in advance, Expert Topic Groups will be established allowing discussion on specialist topics with relevant stakeholders through the pre-application phase

**Statutory stakeholders that will be consulted during the development and consent phase**

Welsh Ministers	Public Health Wales	Office of Gas and Electricity Network (OFGEM)
The Health and Safety Executive	Port and Harbour Authorities	Trinity House (TH)
South Wales fire and Rescue (Welsh Grid Connection only)	Natural England	The Crown Estate (TCE)
Equality and Human Rights Commission	National Grid (including NGESO and NGET)	Local Planning Authorities
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments Wales	The Environment Agency (EA)	Local Parish, Community and District Councils
	Department for Transport	The Coal Authority
	National Landscapes	Office of Rail and Road
	The Civil Aviation Authority	Network Rail
	The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
		Canal and River Trust
		General Public (Section 47)

## 7. Engaging with local authorities

The Development is still in early stages of development activities. As we are currently still awaiting confirmation of our grid connection we are still to determine our offshore and onshore export cable routes and associated infrastructure.

Therefore the Applicant has engaged with the following local authorities across South Wales:

- Pembrokeshire County Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Swansea Council
- Neath Port Talbot Council

The table below provides an overview of stakeholder consultation undertaken up to Inception meeting.

Meeting and Date Held	Attendees	Subject
<b>Introduction to Gwynt Glas (24<sup>th</sup> November 2025)</b>	The Applicant Swansea Council Chief Exec	An introduction to the project to Swansea Council
<b>Introduction to Gwynt Glas (24<sup>th</sup> November 2025)</b>	The Applicant Neath Port Talbot Council Director of Environment and Regeneration	An introduction to the project to Neath Port Talbot Council
<b>Introduction to Gwynt Glas (18<sup>th</sup> December 2025)</b>	The Applicant Pembrokeshire County Council, Head of Planning and Development Manager Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	An introduction to the project and project team to Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
<b>Introduction to Gwynt Glas ( 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025)</b>	The Applicant Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Team	An introduction to the project and project team to Carmarthenshire County Council

Meeting and Date Held	Attendees	Subject
<b>Introduction to Gwynt Glas (14<sup>th</sup> January 2026)</b>	The Applicant Carmarthenshire County Council Chief Executive Team	An introduction to the project and project team to Carmarthenshire County Council
<b>Introduction to Gwynt Glas ( 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026)</b>	Pembrokeshire County Council Executive Team	An introduction to the project to Pembrokeshire County Council
<b>Update Email April 2026</b>	Pembrokeshire County Council Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	Email updating stakeholders on progress to date, current development activities, intention to submit Scoping in June and request for follow up meeting
<b>Update Email April 2026</b>	Carmarthenshire County Council	Email updating stakeholders on progress to date, current development activities, intention to submit Scoping in June and request for follow up meeting

## 8. Pre-application risks

The Applicant maintains a risk register for the project and the project programme. This register is managed by a qualified risk manager under monthly reviews with the relevant project teams. Each risk is assigned a risk owner and risk approver to manager and review the risk, keeping track of the risk score, proposed mitigations and residual risk.

The Applicant will keep the project programme under review based on these risks and will update this document.