

VERSION HISTORY			
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Planning Act 2008 (the Act) created a new consenting regime for determining applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- 1.2. Prior to applications being submitted, applicants are required to engage in pre-application consultation with statutory consultees, local authorities, parties with an interest in the land and local communities (Part 5, Section 42 and 47 of the Act). Applicants are also required to publicise the application and notify the Planning Inspectorate (Part 5, Section 48 and 46 respectively of the Act). Any consultation is required to be undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which is agreed with the relevant local planning authorities.
- 1.3. Navitus Bay Development Limited (NBDL) embraces the principle of consultation and values the openness and transparency of this process. Therefore, this Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) 3 document details the environmental assessment work undertaken to date. All stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on the information provided in this document. Stakeholders who wish to comment should refer to the Community Consultation Document (CCD) for details.
- 1.4. NBDL will consider all comments received from stakeholders, building on the feedback received during earlier rounds of consultation (including PEI 1 and 2 in October 2011 and July 2012 respectively), as part of the on-going iterative design of the Project and the identification and assessment of the potential environmental effects.
- 1.5. Once ready, NBDL will submit an application for development consent for the Navitus Bay Project (the Project) to the Planning Inspectorate for determination by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy and Climate Change following examination. The application is anticipated to be submitted in early 2014. The application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) which will provide detailed information on the likely environmental effects of the Project and a Consultation Report, which will detail the feedback received from all consultees and identify how regard has been given to those comments. Once the application is accepted

by the Planning Inspectorate the merits of the Project will be examined. The Examining Authority appointed by the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then determine whether a Development Consent Order (DCO) should be granted for the Project.

- 1.6. The purpose of this chapter is to provide details of:

- the Project Developer (Section 1.2);
- an overview of the Project (Section 1.3);
- the purpose, scope and structure of this document (Section 1.4).

- 1.7. This chapter should be read in conjunction with: Chapter 2 which details the proposed development; Chapter 3 which details the methodology applied when undertaking these environmental assessments (unless specified in the topic specific chapters); and Chapter 5 onwards which detail the environmental information available to date on a topic by topic basis.

1.2. The Developer

- 1.8. At the end of 2009 Eneco Round 3 Development Ltd (Eneco) was awarded exclusive development rights to Zone 7 (West of Isle of Wight) by The Crown Estate in the Round 3 large-scale offshore wind programme. Eneco started designing the Project in 2010. In April 2012, Eneco formed a 50-50 joint venture with EDF Energy, known as Navitus Bay Development Limited (NBDL). NBDL is a British company, registered in the UK. The Project will be privately funded by NBDL and its investment partners.
- 1.9. Eneco is an international sustainable energy company that specialises in developing offshore and onshore wind, solar, biomass and heat power projects. Eneco Wind UK is based in Warwick and its wind portfolio includes several Scottish onshore projects, including:
 - Tullo near Laurencekirk which has an operational capability of 17 megawatt (MW) with a further 25MW under construction;
 - Lochluichart in the Highlands which has an operational capacity of 69MW;
 - Benhar in North Lanarkshire which will have capacity of 21MW once operational; and

- Macritch Hill in Angus which will have capacity of 54MW once operational, in partnership with Scottish Water.
- 1.10. EDF Energy is one of the UK's largest energy companies and the largest producer of low-carbon electricity from its nuclear power stations, wind farms, coal and gas power stations and combined heat and power plants. EDF Energy is currently constructing a 62MW offshore wind farm in Teesside off the North East coast. It also has over 500MW of onshore and offshore wind farms in operation or in construction in the UK.
- 1.3. Overview of the Project**
- 1.11. The development site for the Navitus Bay Wind Park Project was identified through an iterative process consisting of an initial Zone Appraisal and Planning (ZAP) procedure, which was refined through environmental and engineering studies and consultation. Similarly, the routing for the onshore cable corridor and onshore substation has been developed having regard to environmental and engineering studies, and consultation.
- 1.12. A description of the proposed Project is detailed in Chapter 2 of this document.
- 1.4. Purpose, Scope and Structure of this document**
- 1.13. The purpose of this phase of consultation is to share with consultees, and seek views on, the environmental assessments undertaken to date. Stakeholders who wish to comment should refer to the CCD for details.
- 1.14. It is important to note that work on gathering the environmental information is on-going at this time. Therefore, the level of detail in terms of the surveys undertaken, identification of potential impacts and the mitigation measures which could be secured varies between each environmental topic. Feedback to this consultation will be considered and used to inform the drafting of documents, such as the Environmental Statement, that will be submitted in support of the application for development consent.
- 1.15. An assessment has been undertaken on a topic by topic basis of the offshore and onshore components of the Project. Please refer to Table 1.1 for the list of topics in this document.
- 1.16. Each assessment considers the following for each topic:
 - an introduction which details the scope of the assessment for that topic;
 - details of the legislative, policy and guidance context within which the assessment is undertaken (as relevant);
 - an overview of the methodology applied to the assessment, which includes details of: the study area; consultation undertaken to date; the scope of the assessment; methods used in connection with gathering of baseline information, modelling (as relevant), and the issued scoped out of the assessment and undertaking the impact assessment; any limitations and embedded mitigation assumed;
 - an overview of the baseline environment within which the assessment is undertaken;
 - an assessment of the potential impacts that would arise as a result of the Project and any suggested mitigation.
- 1.17. The potential mitigation measures set out in this PEI 3 document will be discussed with relevant stakeholders. NBDL seeks to include full details of any proposed mitigation in the Environmental Statement that forms part of the application for development.
- 1.18. NBDL is also considering any potential cumulative and transboundary impacts, as well as whether there are any interrelationships that would be experienced between the topics. Work is ongoing and this will be presented in the Environmental Statement that will support the application for development consent. Prior to submission of the application NBDL will discuss these assessments with relevant consultees (including statutory consultees and the local authorities) to ensure that the assessments are comprehensive and robust.
- 1.19. This document comprises 33 chapters (refer to Table 1.1), as well as a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which is included in the CCD.

Table 1.1 PEI3 Chapters

INTRODUCTION	
1	Introduction
2	Navitus Bay Wind Park Project Overview
3	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology
4	Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Process
OFFSHORE	
5	Physical Processes
6	Offshore Water Quality
7	Offshore Air Quality
8	In-air Noise
9	Benthic Ecology
10	Fish and Shellfish Ecology
11	Marine Mammals and Megafauna
12	Offshore Ornithology
13	Seascape, Landscape and Visual
14	Offshore Archaeology
15	The Setting of Offshore Heritage Assets
16	Shipping and Navigation
17	Commercial Fisheries
18	Aviation and Military Activity
19	Other Offshore Infrastructure
20	Telecommunications and Broadcasting
21	Offshore Socio-economics and Tourism
22	Offshore Recreation
ONSHORE	
23	Ground Conditions and Soils
24	Onshore Water Environment
25	Onshore Air Quality

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26	Onshore Noise and Vibration
27	Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecology
28	Onshore Ornithology
29	Onshore Landscape and Visual
30	Onshore Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
31	Traffic and Transportation
32	Onshore Socio-economics and Tourism
33	Onshore Recreation

Abbreviations

TERM	DEFINITION
CCD	Community Consultation Document
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
IPC	Infrastructure Planning Commission
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non Technical Summary
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SoS	Secretary of State
ZAP	Zone Appraisal and Planning