

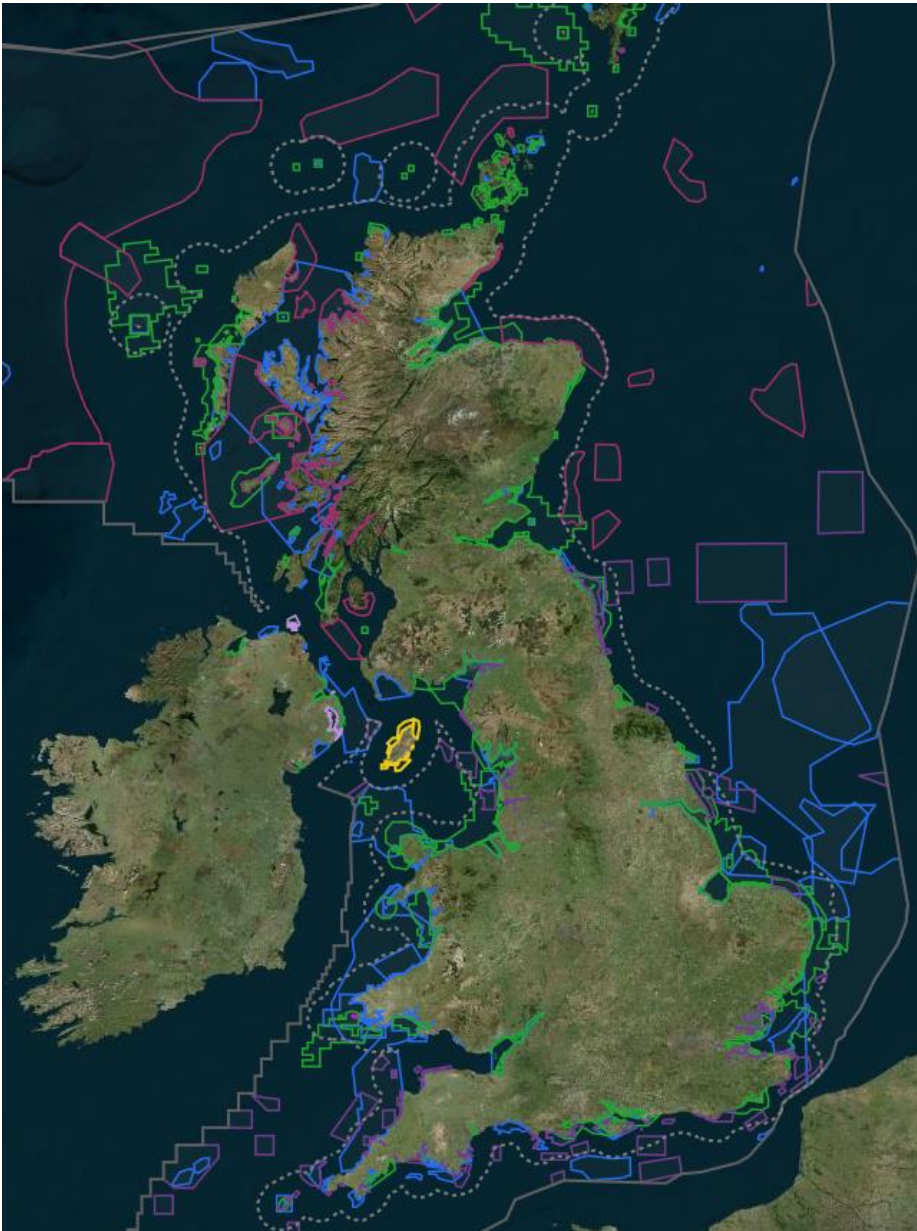
Offshore Wind Consenting journey: An industry view

Version 1.0

12 November 2025



Offshore Wind & protected sites



Who we are



- The UK's leading not for profit renewable energy trade association.
- RUK's members are building the UK's future energy system powered by clean electricity, with the aim of delivering that future faster, a future that is better for industry, billpayers, and the environment.
- RUK supports over 400 member companies to ensure increasing amounts of renewable electricity are deployed across the UK and to access export markets all over the world.
- RUK's members are business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from across the industry



- Offshore Wind Industry Council– senior level government and industry partnership
- Actively drives progress towards offshore wind delivery, supported by an industry-funded work programme and dedicated team within RenewableUK
- An ambitious, long-term strategy, in which offshore wind will become the backbone of the UK's power system
- Co-chaired by a Department for Energy Security and Net Zero minister and industry leader.
- Consenting & Environment workstream

Offshore Wind Planning in the UK

Overarching

- Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessments (OESEA)

National & Regional Marine Plans

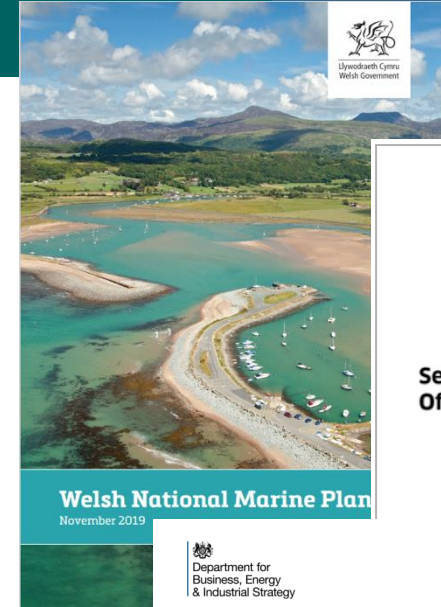
- **England:** Regional Marine Plans
- **Wales:** Welsh National Marine Plan
- **Scotland:** National Marine Plan, with Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind

Seabed Lease

- Granted by The Crown Estate and Crown Estate Scotland through a leasing round process, plan lead approach
- Several rounds in UK from 2000

Project Level Consenting

- Environmental assessments and project level consenting
- Development Consent Orders, Marine Licences, Section 36 generating consents



UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment

Future Leasing/Licensing for Offshore Renewable Energy, Offshore Oil & Gas and Gas Storage and Associated Infrastructure

OESEA4 Environmental Report

Consenting processes & Environmental Assessments

Consent applications

- Development Consent Order under Planning Act 2008 process in England & Wales, Marine Licence & Section 36 consent in Scotland.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

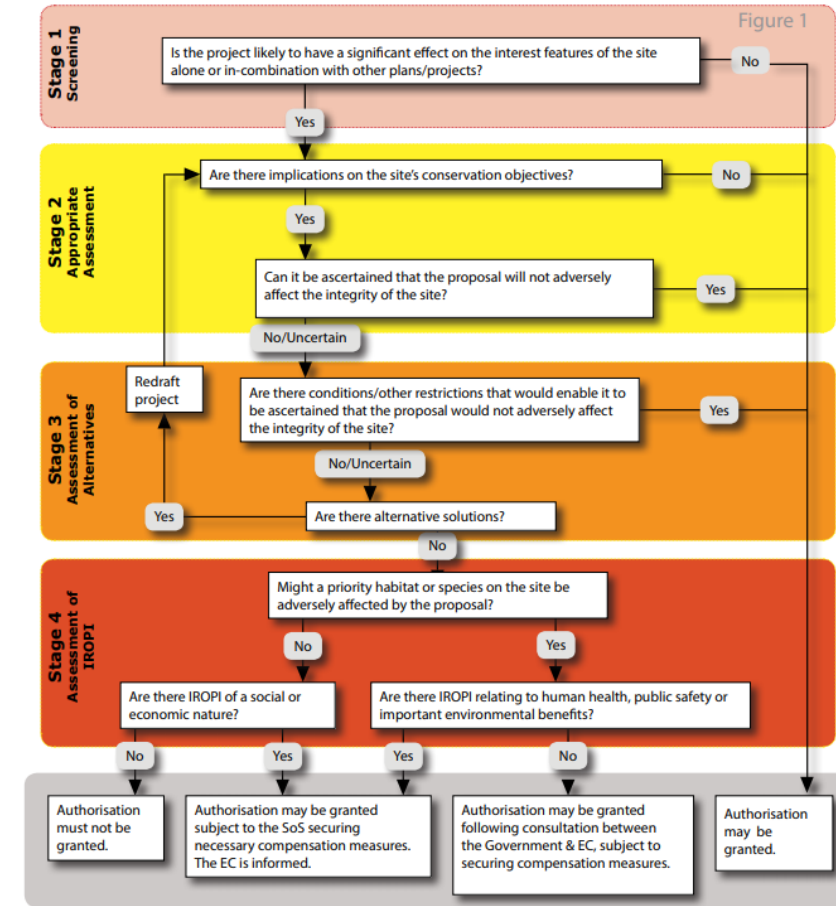
- Understand and consider the potential environmental impacts of a project in the decision-making process, including where mitigation and compensation may be needed,
- Findings presented in an Environmental Statement (ES) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) both submitted with consent applications

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) & Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZ)

- Staged process for assessing potential impacts to UK national sites network
- HRA Screening and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RiAA) submitted with consent applications

Other assessments

- Shipping & Navigational Risk Assessment
- Water Framework Directives Assessment
- Commercial fisheries & Marine archaeology



Adapted from Defra (2012) Report of the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives Implementation Review (Annex E) - It is assumed for the purposes of this advice note that the project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

Consenting Offshore Wind Project – Timeline

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 7	Year 8 -10	Year 10 – 35	Year 35 +
Award of seabed lease from TCE	Commence bird / marine mammal surveys	Complete environmental surveys	Complete environmental surveys	Consent Examination / Determination Phase	Consent Compliance	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
	EIA Scoping	Commence EIA surveys and studies	Complete EIA	Consent Awarded	Pre-Construction surveys and design	Environmental monitoring	Environmental monitoring	Post Decommissioning Monitoring
			Consent Applications Submission		Procurement			
Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement								
Pre – FEED					FEED			

Key consenting challenges & how we are addressing them

OWIC Pathways to Growth Focus Areas

- Strategic Compensation
 - Marine Recovery Fund
 - OWEC Strategic Compensation Studies
- Strategic Planning
 - Marine Delivery Routemap
 - Marine Spatial Prioritisation
- Adaptive Management
 - better use of evidence & data
- Underwater Noise
 - Cross industry coordination
- Cumulative Impact Assessments
 - As-built register
- Biodiversity Targets
- Proportionate Assessments



Thank you

Kat Route-Stephens – Head of Environment & Consents

Kat.route-stephens@renewableuk.com

