



THE CONSERVATION (NATURAL HABITAT, &c.) REGULATIONS 1994 (AS AMENDED)

LICENCE TO DISTURB MARINE SPECIES

Public Case Handling Report for Licence Number: EPS-00011973

Site	Green Volt Offshore Windfarm Offshore Export Cable, Geophysical Survey Area
Company	Green Volt Offshore Windfarm Ltd C/O Cms Cameron Mckenna Nabarro Olswang LLP, 4th Floor, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace Edinburgh United KingdomEH1 2EN
Brief Description of Project	Geophysical surveys including the use of sub-bottom profilers, multibeam echo sounders, side scan sonars, ultra -short baselines, geotechnical works, and bore holes.
Associated Licences	

Inshore/Offshore	Inshore
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TEST 1	Purpose of licence
Comments	
By promoting green energy, Green Volt helps meet national and international greenhouse gas reduction goals, benefiting the environment and supporting the UK economy with a reliable energy source. The proposed geophysical surveys are required for the development and safe construction of Green Volt Offshore Windfarm which once complete will produce clean renewable energy. The Green Volt Offshore Windfarm's marine geophysical surveys are essential for improving Scotland's role in the UK's renewable energy sector. The completion of the wind farm would not be possible without the proposed survey. The development of the OWF from the proposed geophysical surveys will help the public by creating local jobs and investing in local and national supply chains. It will contribute to national climate change policies and support the development of UK offshore renewables industry. This project will also aid the UK Government in reducing greenhouse gases and align with national and international energy strategies, including Scotland's National Marine Plan and the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. The surveys support long-term Scottish Government's target of 75% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero by 2045 under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, as well as the UK's net zero targets under the Climate Change Act (2008) via the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. Additionally, Green Volt will assist the Scottish Government in meeting its target of generating 50% of Scotland's energy by renewable sources by 2030.	
Test 1 satisfied?	YES

TEST 2	Satisfactory alternatives
Comments	
The developer has considered undertaking the survey at different locations, timings, over a reduced period, and with alternative equipment. The developer has stated it has identified and selected the only survey equipment that will produce the data required for the specific purpose of the geophysical survey. A different location is not feasible, as the survey must be conducted at the real landfall site. Alternative timings are ruled out by weather impacts. Reduced survey periods, the developer states, would increase disturbance due to then requiring multiple survey periods. The do nothing approach has been considered, and would result in Green Volt Offshore Wind Farm not having the required data to design their approach to landfall, preventing development of the entire wind farm. Therefore, due to IROPI, the "do nothing" approach is unacceptable.	
Test 2 satisfied?	YES

TEST 3	Favourable conservation status
Comments	
NatureScot have advised that there will be no detrimental effect on favourable conservation status of any EPS species from disturbance as a result of the proposed activities. MD-LOT's Appropriate Assessment has concluded that there will be no adverse effect on site integrity as a result of the proposed activity.	
Test 3 satisfied?	YES

Date application received: 03 April 2026

Consultation start date: 21 May 2026

Notes

Date	title	Text
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National Marine Plan considerations:

The decision is: In accordance and no further action required.
Comments: The impact of the proposed surveys on Scotland's National Marine Plan has been considered. Specific general policies taken into consideration include GEN 1, GEN 2, GEN 3, GEN 4, GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13, GEN 17, GEN 18 and GEN 19.

Date document generated: 15/07/2026