



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

LICENCE TO DISTURB MARINE SPECIES

Public Case Handling Report for Licence Number: EPS-00012337

|                                     |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site</b>                         | Eastern Green Link 1, Torness to Hawthorn Pit                                       |
| <b>Company</b>                      | Prysmian Powerlink<br>Via Chiese 6<br>Milan<br>20126<br>Italy                       |
| <b>Brief Description of Project</b> | Prysmian Power Link Group - Cables - Eastern Green Link 1 - Torness to Hawthorn Pit |
| <b>Associated Licences</b>          | MD-00009880<br>EPS-00011057<br>EPS-00012337                                         |

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| <b>Species</b>          | harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> );bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> );minke whale ( <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> );Risso's dolphin ( <i>Grampus griseus</i> );white sided dolphin ( <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> );short beaked common dolphin ( <i>Delphinus delphis</i> );killer whale ( <i>Orcinus orca</i> );white-beaked dolphin ( <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> );humpback whale ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> );fin whale ( <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> );long-finned pilot whale ( <i>Globicephala melas</i> ) |
| <b>Inshore/Offshore</b> | Inshore                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <b>TEST 1</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Purpose of licence</b>                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment) |
| <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>With regard to Test 1 there are several different purposes for which an EPS licence can be granted including, under Regulation 44(2)(e) of the Habitat Regulations, for preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.</p> <p>These surveys are required for the safe and effective installation of a cable to ensure the UK can meet its target of enabling 40GW of renewable energy by 2030 and achieving a Net Zero economy by 2050.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Test 1 satisfied?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | YES                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <b>TEST 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Satisfactory alternatives</b> |
| <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                  |
| <p>The surveys proposed are required for the safe and efficient installation of the Eastern Green Link 1 cable from Torness, Scotland to Hawthorn Pit, England. This cable has been identified to meet the energy requirement for the transmission of offshore power.</p> <p>Do Nothing option:<br/>The do-nothing option is not viable as the surveys are required for the installation of the cable. Alternative location option:<br/>Conducting the surveys in an alternative location is not viable as the surveys are for the cable. Reduce sound option:<br/>The survey equipment is industry standard and there are no non-sound emitting alternatives for the positioning of the survey equipment.<br/>Out-of-season option:<br/>The survey works will continue throughout the year. Most of the species with potential for disturbance are present year round and therefore undertaking the surveys when species are not present is not an option.</p> |                                  |
| <b>Test 2 satisfied?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | YES                              |

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| <b>TEST 3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Favourable conservation status</b> |
| <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                       |
| <p>In its response dated 03 August 2026, NatureScot agree that the correct species have been identified in the application, and that the activities are incapable of having an adverse impact on the favourable conservation status of these species.</p> |                                       |
| <b>Test 3 satisfied?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | YES                                   |

**Date application received:** 08/05/2026

**Consultation start date:** 01/07/2026

**Consultation end date:** 03/08/2026

## Notes

| Date | title | Text |
|------|-------|------|
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National Marine Plan considerations:

The decision is: In accordance and no further action required

Comments: Gen 15 - Planning Alignment A (alignment alongside landfall operations)

Section 14 - Submarine Cables

1. protecting submarine cables
2. achieving highest quality and safety standards
5. Supporting the distribution to Scotland, the UK and beyond

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