

Round 5 Pre-Consent Survey Programme

Scope of Works and Technical Specifications Cover Note

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Scope of Works and Technical Specifications Cover Note

1. Abbreviations and Definitions

1.1 Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Definition |
|--------------|---|
| CREEM | Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling |
| DAS | Digital Aerial Survey |
| MDE | Marine Data Exchange |
| MEDIN | Marine Environmental Data and Information Network |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| PAM | Passive Acoustic Monitoring |
| PCS | Pre-Consent Survey |
| ProcBe | Procellariiform Behaviour and Demographics Project |
| Q | Quarter |
| SMRU | Sea Mammal Research Unit |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| SNCB | Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies |

1.2 Definitions

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------------|---|
| COMPANY | The Crown Estate |
| CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE | Individual appointed to represent the COMPANY during the WORK. |
| CONTRACTOR | Company selected to perform the WORK. |
| SCOPE | The Scope of Work |
| SITE | Location of survey |
| SPECIFICATION | The Technical Specification |
| TECHNICAL ADVISORS | ABPmer and DORIS |
| WORK | All activities associated with planning, preparation, mobilisation, servicing, demobilisation, and reporting of all digital aerial survey operations and provision of all digital aerial survey related data. |

2. Objective

The scopes of work and technical specification documents provided are for the contracted surveys which The Crown Estate is carrying out as part of its Pre-Consent Survey (PCS) Programme in the Celtic Sea, for the Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5.

The data collected through this programme will be made available to winning bidders through The Crown Estate’s Marine Data Exchange (MDE) and is intended to directly inform early-stage project engineering design, financing, and environmental impact assessment. In doing this, The Crown Estate aims to accelerate developers’ consenting timescales and ensure offshore wind farms in the Celtic Sea are generating electricity at the earliest possible time to support the UK’s net zero target.

The scope of work and technical specification documents are available for each of the following surveys:

- Geophysics
- Geotechnics
- Metocean, and Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) (at the metocean sites)
- Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS)

These documents were developed to define The Crown Estate’s requirements during the procurement

of survey contractors and as such were at a relatively high level. Where necessary, published scope and specification documents were updated in November 2023 and again in May 2025 following further refinement arising from the survey planning phase with survey contractors.

3. Initial development of the specifications

The PCS scope of works and specifications are founded on initial stakeholder engagements carried out by The Crown Estate with developers, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) and Non -Governmental Organisations (NGOs), to determine the critical requirements in early data gathering. Working with technical advisors, ABPmer and subcontractors DORIS, The Crown Estate has progressed these scopes and specifications through review of existing data, planned works and key consenting risks in the region; as well as consideration of statutory guidance, industry standard practice, impact pathways, engineering and design.

The DAS scope and specification has been further peer reviewed by the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling (CREEM) and SMRU Consulting (both at the University of St Andrews) to consider survey design and statistical power to ensure that the survey is suitably robust in both scope and specification. Both organisations have also peer reviewed the Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) specification.

4. Ongoing stakeholder engagement

Throughout the process of developing the PCS scope of works and specifications The Crown Estate and technical advisors have conducted a series of meetings, webinars, and correspondence with stakeholders to provide updates and invite feedback. A summary of engagement is provided below.

| Date | Stakeholders | Engagement Type |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| May 2022 | Developers | Questionnaire |
| Summer 2022 | SNCBs & NGOs | Meeting with organisations individually |
| 14 November 2022 | SNCBs & NGOs | Webinar |
| 1 February 2023 | Developers | Webinar |
| 11 July 2023 | SNCBs & NGOs | Webinar and provision of full scope / specification |
| Throughout | Various | Email correspondence for particular detail / issues |
| 31 October 2023 | Developers | Informing on the availability of scope / specifications on the Marine Data Exchange |
| 22 November 2023 | Developers / MDE | Digital Aerial Survey scope / specification clarifications |
| 28 November 2023 | SNCBs and NGOs | Provision of material to inform webinar |

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|----------------------|------------------|---|
| 12 December 2023 | SNCBs and NGOs | Webinar and feedback sought on scope / specifications |
| 12 January 2024 | SNCBs and NGOs | Feedback requested by email following December Webinar |
| 29 January 2024 | Developers / MDE | Geophysical Survey scope / specification clarifications |
| 29 January 2024 | Developers / MDE | Metocean Survey scope /specification clarifications |
| April 2024 | SNCBs | Meeting to discuss ProcBe programme developments (Procellariiform Behaviour and Demographics) |
| 30 September 2024 | Developers / MDE | Geotechnical Scope of Work / Technical Specification |
| 29 April 2025 | SNCBs | Provision of material to inform webinar |
| 9 May 2025 | SNCBs | Webinar |
| May 2025 | Developers / MDE | Metocean and Digital Aerial Survey scope / specification updates |
| 23 May 2025 | SNCBs | Feedback requested following Webinar |

Further stakeholder engagement will be carried out where of benefit.

5. Quality Assurance

The Crown Estate, technical advisors and survey contractors are undertaking a clear Quality Assurance process of deliverables at every stage. Quality Assurance is ongoing throughout the collection of data by contractors, supported by client representation on vessels and onshore management to address any operational constraints. Throughout the programme, Quality Assurance is being undertaken in review of operational reporting, provisional data delivery and all final data and associated reporting. Finally, it will be ensured that all resulting datasets and reports are aligned with the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) data and metadata standards before being made available on The Crown Estate's MDE.

The review of scopes and specifications will continue throughout the remaining operational survey programme.

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