

Solway Firth Partnership Conference February 2010

Pick 'n' Mix session 5 The Crown Estate and offshore renewables *Alex Adrian: The Crown Estate*

This is an overview of the presentation and questions and answers in this session, and represent the views of the presenter and audience; the views expressed here are not necessarily those of Solway Firth Partnership. Whilst every effort has been made to produce an accurate transcript of events, the Partnership cannot be held responsible for any errors made in the production of this account.

Wind

English sites round

Round 1	13 sites	1GW	9 operational	2 under construction
Round 2	15 sites	7.2GW	9 consented 5 planning	3 under construction
Round 3	9 zones	25GW?	SEA* in progress	

*SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment

Specific sites will be determined in each zone following further research 2020-2025 for full deployment and require significant investment.

Scottish territorial round

10 sites 6.5GW SEA being carried out
2 sites in the Solway Firth – E-ON at Robin Rigg and Dong at Wigtown Bay. These companies have formed a collaborative group to share stakeholder engagement, surveys and other work.

Wave and tidal

Tidal test and demonstration sites in Scotland are at Orkney and off the west coast. Orkney waters and the Pentland Firth licenses granted for pre-commercial testing and 700MW of commercial deployment by 2020, with earliest site anticipated to be on line 2011/12. Other sites are being considered for testing and commercial deployment as appropriate.

Challenges for offshore renewables

- Grid connection – subsea connections needed
- Supply chain – manufacturing bases, ports, and harbour potential
- Technology – wave and tidal are emergent technologies
- Construction issues – environmental issues need addressing through SEA and site specific Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Q: Wind and the Irish Sea: What about the effects on navigation and recreation and exclusion of activities around turbines and the fishing industry?

A: Issues are addressed through sieve mapping of a range of activities and issues, negotiations with interest groups at SEA level and site specific levels. This can help with mitigation of effects. In addition, the consents process requires consultation. If fishing rights are removed from an area this area could become a nursery area which helps fishing stocks elsewhere.

Q: What's the carbon footprint?

A: Onshore turbines usually offset embodied energy within a year

Q: Can tidal turbines work together with wind turbines to take advantage of the infrastructure?

A: Not sure where there examples of this but there are opportunities to explore this.

Q: What's the inner / offshore limit

A: 12 nautical miles

Q: Can you mitigate visual impact in such a flat area?

A: Difficult to do this; not too much of a problem where it is far offshore. More of an issue where the turbines are closer in.

Q: Are The Crown Estate pro-active in planning?

A: The Crown Estate invites applications of interest and then identifies areas it thinks are acceptable and issues licences. They use the SEA to help determine the sites they licence.

Q: Who is responsible for decommissioning?

A: The Crown Estate looks for a bond to be put down by the developer to ensure the finance is in place to decommission, even if they become insolvent. This is currently a condition of the lease and it is hoped to become a part of statute in due course.

Q: What stage is the SEA at for Scotland and round 3?

A: Round 3 has not been completed for Scottish waters yet.

Q: Not aware of Scottish consultations, so will migratory routes of birds be taken into account?

A: Information on SEA processes should be on The Crown Estate website, if not get in touch with The Crown Estate and they will make the connection. SEA is likely to be reporting between May and October so everyone needs to get involved in this, not only for effects on birds in the Solway but on routes in the Moray Firth.

Q: Could work on the Marine Plans cut across the approach of The Crown Estate?

A: Unlikely as there is a lot of contact with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Scottish Government. In the future The Crown Estate will have to align with the Marine Plans when giving leases and licenses in the future.

Q: Has there been an in-depth study on the channels in the Solway and the effects any development will have on this?

A: Not sure of any in-depth studies of the channels.