

## Co-location: How to make it work in practice

Paul Reynolds  
Offshore Wind Development Manager  
North Sea Marine Cluster Conference

7<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## RenewableUK – members



Over 650 Company members representing vast majority of  
wind, wave and tidal industries

## Co-location

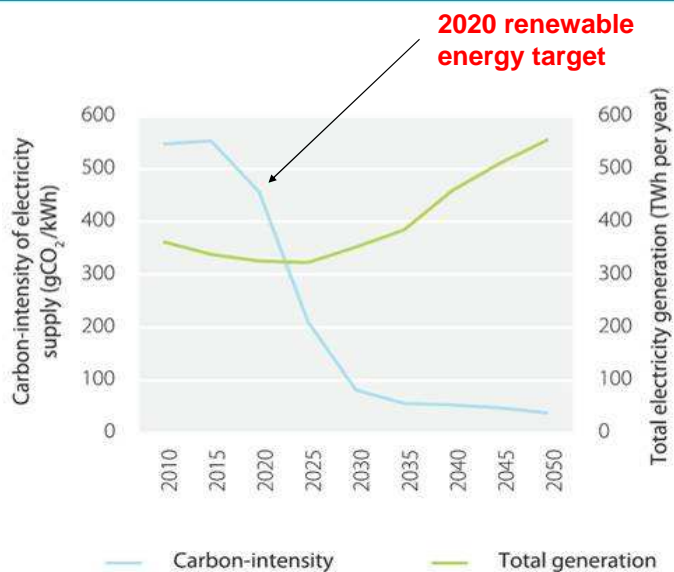
- Co-location is where two or more interest overlap spatially
- One of the biggest issues for MCZ process, still not fully resolved
- Co-location offers some benefits but can have large potential downsides for developers and if it is to work then we need:
  - The right site in the right environment
  - Collaborative, pragmatic approach between SNCBs and developers
  - Case by case basis
  - Clear understanding of the implications
  - Underpinned by good science and evidence



RenewableUK previously: BWEA

## Why offshore wind?

- **Can provide a scale of deployment greater than any other renewable energy technology, vital for:**
  - **Meeting our legally binding 2020 renewable energy targets**
  - **Combating climate change**
- **Jobs and investment**
- **Securing UK energy supplies**



Source: The Committee on Climate Change [www.the-ccc.org.uk](http://www.the-ccc.org.uk)



RenewableUK previously: BWEA

## Co-location

- When considering co-location of any development and MPA:
- Does it make sense from an environmental perspective?
  - Is it the right site?
  - What habitats/species are there?
  - How sensitive are the features?
  - What is the aim of the designation – maintain/recover?
  - What activities need to happen?



RenewableUK previously: **BWEA**

## Activities required to develop a wind farm

- Pre-Construction
  - Geotechnical Investigations
  - Grab sampling etc
- Construction
  - Piling
  - Cable laying
  - Scour protection
  - Jack up barges
- Operations
  - Day to day (ships, noise)
  - EMF
  - Occasional (jack up barges, cable repair etc)
- Repowering and Decommissioning
  - Uncertain but likely to be similar to construction



RenewableUK previously: **BWEA**

## Costs and benefits

- **Positives**
  - Win wins – sustainable development
  - Reduce pressure on other users of the sea e.g. reduced displacement of fishing effort?
  - Proof of manageable environmental impact
- **Negatives**
  - Damage natural environment?
  - Increased cost?
  - Increased difficulty and delay for consent/finance/construction?
  - Timing or location restrictions?
- **Not to say shouldn't be considered, but should not be considered lightly**



RenewableUK previously: **BWEA**

## Mitigations can be significant

- London Array SPA – project split into two phases, significantly increased cost and complexity of project
- Potential for consents to be reviewed upon designation – unknown risk
- Increased uncertainty of a potential designation makes financing difficult
- Seasonal restrictions on seismic surveys, cabling and piling
  - 2 month extension at R1 wind farm estimated £10million benefit
- Cable re-routing
  - Cables cost between £600,000 to 1.3million/km depending on type etc
- Critical time for industry – in competition with Germany for the industrial base and ultimately jobs – co-location can increase uncertainty




RenewableUK previously: **BWEA**

## How do we make it work?

- Do we a):
  - Put developers in a room with lots of other stakeholders and instruct them to draw lines on maps
  - Provide little guidance on the management measures or Conservation Objectives for developers to understand the implications
  - Underpin the whole process with data that has low or very low confidence levels
  - Do so at a time when developers are still trying to determine where their projects will go
- Developers cannot assess what the MPA will mean to their project



RenewableUK previously:  BWEA

## How do we make it work?

- Or do we b):
  - Work with the individual developer to understand the particular issues with that site and developer
  - Provide some clarity on the implications of co-location (management measures/CO/maintain or recover)
  - Work to improve, or at least understand, data deficiencies
  - Build trust over time
  - Develop practical, pragmatic solutions
- Work together to understand and minimise the impacts/maximise the benefits for both the environment and the project itself




RenewableUK previously:  BWEA

## Examples of this collaborative approach

- Natural England/RWE – Atlantic Array site
  - Both sides recognised the potential for co-location
  - Series of meetings -> in depth study (forthcoming) with various iterations
  - Final decision has not yet been made but much more positive process with both sides learning
- Natural England/Centrica – Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC
  - pSAC designated over Lynn and Inner Dowsing wind
  - Issues arose in the O+AM phase with the requirement for benthic surveys to be complete before a jack up barge could be used
    - Potential for months of delay and lost revenue
  - Lots of engagement and hard work
  - Need for practical solutions



RenewableUK previously: 

## Summary

- Both sides acknowledge potential for co-location
- But, it is not a panacea
  - Has to be on a case by case basis
    - Right environment
    - Right project
  - The implications need to be clearly understood as early as possible
  - Needs to be supported by strong evidence
  - Pragmatic approach is required to make it work in practice
- Will continue to engage with the developing MPA designation process



RenewableUK previously: 

# Thank you

**RenewableUK Co-location position paper available on request.**

**Paul Reynolds**

**0207 901 3018**

[p.reynolds@renewable-uk.com](mailto:p.reynolds@renewable-uk.com)

[www.renewable-uk.com](http://www.renewable-uk.com)



RenewableUK previously:  BWEA