EIA Quality Mark Case Study

**Normandie 1 Submarine Power Cable EIA, Jersey**

Key Issues
ABPmer prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on behalf of Jersey Electricity (JE) for ‘Normandie 1’ subsea electricity cable, a replacement to ‘EDF1’, an existing but decommissioned High Voltage Alternating Current cable between Jersey and France. This work was part of a jointly funded project with Guernsey Electricity under the oversight of the Channel Island Electricity Grid. ABPmer produced an EIS to support the consent applications for the marine elements of N1 from the Mean High Water Mark (MHWM) in Archirondel to the Jersey territorial sea limit (14 km / 7.6 nm to the Jersey territorial limit).

The following receptors were assessed:
- Physical processes;
- Water and sediment quality;
- Benthic ecology;
- Marine mammals and turtles;
- Fish and shellfish;
- Ornithology;
- Nature conservation;
- Commercial and recreational fisheries;
- Commercial shipping and recreational navigation;
- Marine archaeology; and
- Infrastructure and other marine users.

Purpose of the project
The purpose of the subsea cable is to safeguard JE’s importation capacity to Jersey and the subsequent electricity supply for customers. Local electricity generation is by heavy fuel oil and diesel oil, which results in higher carbon emissions. Therefore, during times of high electricity demand, or a failure in supply, electricity would be generated on-island resulting in a significant increase in carbon emissions. Normandie 1 now provides the third active power link between the Channel Islands and France.

Description of the project
- The new 1000MW cable was installed over 27km between Archirondel, Jersey and Surville, France. The total route length from the MHWM in to the Jersey territorial sea limit was approximately 16 km.
- The cable followed the alignment of the existing decommissioned cable EDF1 and used existing land infrastructure.
- The old EDF 1 was understood to be predominantly surface laid and it was proposed that Normandie 1 would be predominantly surface laid and buried in the same areas as EDF 1.
### Lessons learnt

Environmental and Planning legislation for the States of Jersey is unique to the island. Jersey is not a member of the European Union although it voluntarily complies with a number of European and international designations. Whilst a similar approach to an Environmental Statement was required it was done so under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements of the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, the Planning and Building (Environmental Impact) (Jersey) Order 2006, the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) 1985 (Jersey) Order 1987 and the FEPA (Amendments) order 1997. Close liaison with statutory regulators was therefore required from the start of the process to agree the approach for environmental assessments.

ABPmer now has a good working knowledge of this legislation.

The approach to baseline data availability is also unique to the island and can be obtained from numerous sources including the State of Jersey, Jersey Biodiversity Records Centre, liaison with the Jersey Fishermen’s Association and Société Jersiaise.

### Lessons learnt continued

Whilst it was proposed that Normandie 1 follow a decommissioned cable due to the accuracy of the cable laying vessel a potential variation during the cable installation process was recognised. Consequently a precautionary wider corridor of a maximum distance of 50 m from the cable was assessed. ABPmer responded to the needs of the client for a quick turnaround in order to ensure the continuity of electricity supply to Jersey from France.

Cable installation was shown to overlap with *Zostera spp* (eelgrass). In order to minimise damage the shortest viable route through the eelgrass was proposed. Consequently, only a small proportion of the mapped eelgrass biotope was shown to overlap with the cable route corridor resulting in the disturbed area equating to 0.2% of the mapped biotope which was concluded to be not significant.

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