

Dear Mr Miles,

Support for White Cross Floating Offshore Windfarm development.

I am writing to express my strong support for the White Cross Floating Offshore Windfarm project and its associated consent application. This project is crucial for the strategic and sustainable advancement of the Celtic Sea floating offshore wind (FLOW) opportunity.

FLOW presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity that could generate 100,000 jobs and contribute £47 billion to the UK economy by 2050ⁱ. In England and Wales, this journey begins in the Celtic Sea, with White Cross as well as the other four test and demonstration (T&D) projects that are currently in early development. The successful progression of White Cross is critically important to facilitate essential port investments and operational learning ahead of larger Leasing Round 5 projects.

Port of Milford Haven owns and operates Pembroke Port facility. It is a multi-use port facility seeking to provide facilities for the deployment of FLOW in the Celtic Sea. It is ideally situated for FLOW operations and has been identified by Welsh Government and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult as a key strategic port to enable FLOW operations. We have worked closely with the White Cross team to define a port solution for this pathfinder project. We see this as an essential front-runner to wider port expansion in due course. The learning gained from this project will help grow local supply chain, foster skills, and bring revenue to the region. Without White Cross the Celtic Sea region is in danger of falling behind against national and international competitors.

Ports are integral to maximising UK content and delivering long-term social, sustainable, and economic benefits to local communities from FLOW. South West ports require substantial investment to support full scale FLOW development. £4 billion in public and private investment is necessary by 2040 to build the required port infrastructureⁱⁱ and the White Cross project, is pivotal in catalysing this investment by demonstrating successful FLOW deployment prior to Leasing Round 5 projects. By leveraging expertise and demonstrating capability from the White Cross and other T&D projects, ports will be best placed to maximise UK content from subsequent Celtic Sea leasing rounds.

Construction in the Celtic Sea is projected to create 5,300 jobs and contribute £1.4 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA)ⁱⁱⁱ, with an additional 450 jobs per year during the operational phase. Notably, 24% of the expected £1 billion in expenditure is anticipated to be retained in the South West and South Wales^{iv}, with White Cross alone is estimated to deliver £153 million in GVA for these regions. Many of these economic benefits can be realised in South West, but for North Devon hinge on the successful implementation of the White Cross project, the only T&D site making landfall in North Devon.



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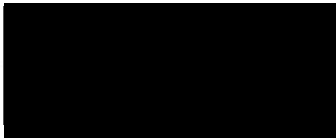
Gorsewood Drive, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire SA73 3EP

The White Cross project is integral to the successful delivery of FLOW in the UK, allowing the country to realise the full economic benefits of developing a home-grown industry centred around world-class port facilities. FLOW will enhance local content, create highly skilled jobs, and establish export capabilities as the global FLOW market evolves. It is imperative that we leverage T&D projects to benefit port facilities so we can provide innovative and cost-effective solutions to future developments.

We strongly support the White Cross project and urge you to facilitate a timely consent decision, enabling progress so we can fully capitalise on the benefits this project brings to the region.

Thank you for considering our support for this vital project.

Kind regards,



Tam Bardell

Head of Energy and Decarbonisation

ⁱ [Floating Wind: Anchoring the next generation offshore \(renewableuk.com\)](https://renewableuk.com)

ⁱⁱ [FLOW Taskforce: Industry Roadmap 2040 \(renewableuk.com\)](https://renewableuk.com)

ⁱⁱⁱ [The Celtic Sea Blueprint \(TCE\)](https://www.tce.gov.uk)

^{iv} [North Devon and Torridge Clean Maritime Growth Vision](https://www.northdevon.gov.uk)