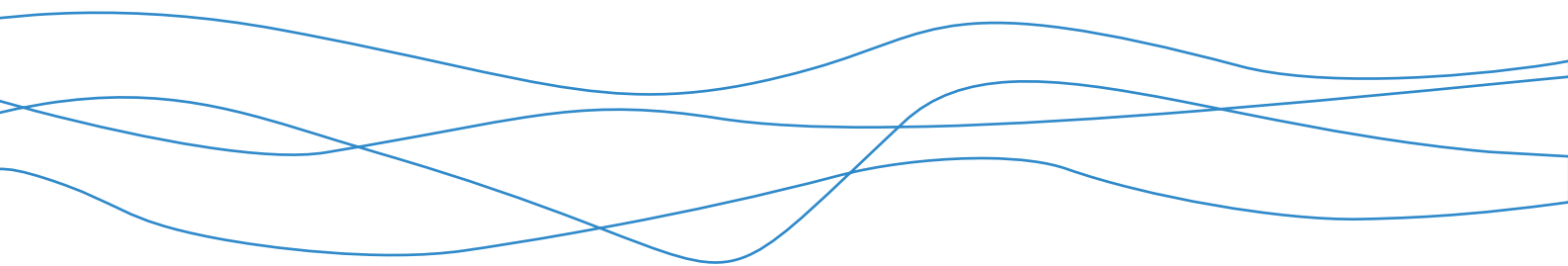




Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, Offshore EIA Report

Volume 1, Chapter 5: Consultation and
Engagement

TWP-BOW-RPS-ENV-RPT-00018 | April 2026



Contents

5	Consultation and Engagement	1
5.1	Introduction	1
5.2	Purpose of the Chapter	1
5.3	Policy and Legislative Context.....	2
5.4	Guiding Principles	10
5.5	Consultation to Date	11
5.6	Scoping Workshop	32
5.7	Offshore Pre-Application Consultation.....	36
5.8	Other Stakeholder Engagement	37
5.9	Feedback and Reporting.....	39
	References.....	41

List of Tables

Table 5.1: Summary of the Aarhus Convention Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation.....	3
Table 5.2: Summary of EIA Directive and Regulations Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation.....	5
Table 5.3: PAC Principles Considered Within this Offshore EIA Report	8
Table 5.4: Guiding Principles for Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation	10
Table 5.5: Record of Consultation Undertaken to Date for the Proposed Development	12
Table 5.6: Summary of the Scoping Workshop	33

Glossary

Defined Term	Definition
Additional Mitigation	Also referred to as secondary mitigation which is defined by The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) (formerly Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) as: Actions that will require further activity in order to achieve the anticipated outcome. These may be imposed as part of the planning consent, or through inclusion in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (sic).
Applicant (the)	Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited (BOWFL).
Appropriate Assessment (AA)	An assessment to determine the implications of a plan or project for a European site in view of that site's conservation objectives. An Appropriate Assessment forms part of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and is required when a plan or project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) is likely to have a significant adverse effect on a European site.
Array Area	The Array Area is the area in which the Offshore Generation Assets will be located.
Benthic	Living on or in the seabed.
Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited (BOWFL)	A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) (legal entity) for the purpose of developing the Project. BOWFL are the Applicant for the Offshore Application.
Collision (Ornithology and Bat)	The effect by which a bird, or bat, may be impacted by direct collision. Birds passing through an OWF are at risk of colliding with the Wind Turbines (moving and stationary parts).
Commercial Fishing	Any form of fishing activity legally undertaken where the catch is sold for taxable profit.
Cumulative Effects	The effects of the Proposed Development assessed together with effects from the Onshore Infrastructure forming the Project as well as one or more different projects on the same receptor/resource.
Diadromous Fish	Fish which move between freshwater and seawater as part of their life cycle.
Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS)	A method for undertaking baseline ornithological and marine mammal data collection surveys. Usually undertaken over a period of 24 months.
Effect	Term used to express the consequence of an impact (i.e. the result of change or changes on specific environmental resources or receptors). The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.

Defined Term	Definition
Embedded Mitigation	Measures that are adopted as part of the Proposed Development and therefore assessed within the EIA. The proposed approach for the EIA for the Proposed Development is that Embedded Mitigation includes both primary mitigation and tertiary mitigation. These are defined by the ISEP as follows: Primary: Modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase that are an inherent part of the project, and do not require additional action to be taken. Tertiary: Actions that would occur with or without input from the EIA feeding into the design process. These include actions that will be undertaken to meet other existing legislative requirements, or actions that are considered to be standard practices used to manage commonly occurring environmental effects.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Process for the assessment of likely significant environmental effects of a project on the physical, biological and human environment during construction, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA Regulations)	Terminology used in this Offshore EIA Report to refer to three sets of regulations: • The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; • The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; and • The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.
Export Cable Corridor	The area seaward of MHWS which connects the Array Area with the Landfall within which the Offshore Export Cables will be installed.
Habitats Regulations	A term that refers to the collective legislation that translates the Habitats Directive into specific legal obligations in Scotland, namely: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994; The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (in each case as amended).
Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)	An assessment carried out under the Habitats Regulations to determine if a plan or project could adversely affect the integrity of a European Site.
Impact	A change caused by an action that occurs during a project's lifetime.
Inter-Array Cables (IAC)	Cables which link the Wind Turbines to each other and with the OSPs.
Landfall	The area in which the Offshore Export Cables make landfall and is also the transitional area between the Offshore Transmission Assets and the Onshore Transmission Assets. Located in the Intertidal Area at Benholm.
Likely Significant Effect (LSE)	A significant effect on a designated site that has the potential to occur as a result of the Proposed Development (as determined by the LSE Screening Report). Where a LSE cannot be ruled out, further assessment is needed as part of the AA.

Defined Term	Definition
Marine Directorate (MD)	The Marine Directorate of the Scottish Government, formerly known as Marine Scotland. The planning and licensing authority for Scotland's seas and custodian of Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP). The Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) are specifically responsible for managing Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence Applications seaward of MHWS.
Marine Directorate – Science, Evidence, Data and Digital (MD-SEDD)	The scientific division of the MD, which provides expert scientific, economic and technical advice and services on issues relating to marine fisheries, aquaculture, marine renewable energy, and the aquatic environment and its flora and fauna.
Marine Licence	A Marine Licence permits the undertaking of different activities in the marine environment, including construction, the deposition or removal of substances or objects, and dredging. The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 requires Marine Licences to be obtained for licensable activities taking place within Scottish Territorial Seas (MHWS to 12 nm). The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 requires a Marine Licence to be obtained for licensable marine activities within the Scottish offshore region (12 nm – 200 nm).
Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)	The average tidal height throughout the year of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its greatest.
Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)	The average tidal height throughout the year of two successive low waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its greatest.
Mitigation	Measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or control effects on the environment. See also definitions for Embedded Mitigation and Additional Mitigation.
Offshore Application	Term used to refer to the applications associated with the Proposed Development. The Applicant will apply for: • A Section 36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989; and • Marine Licence(s) under Marine Scotland Act 2010 and Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (hereafter, 'Offshore EIA Report')	Document prepared to report the findings of the EIA for the Proposed Development and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The Offshore EIA Report is submitted to support the Offshore Application for the Proposed Development, and to comply with EIA Regulations.
Offshore Export Cables	Subsea cables used to transmit electricity generated offshore by the Wind Turbines from the OSPs to shore. The Transition Joint Bay (TJB) is the location where the Offshore Export Cables terminate, and the onshore cabling begins.
Offshore Infrastructure	All of the Offshore Infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development that is located seaward of MHWS, comprising the Offshore Generation Assets and the Offshore Transmission Assets.
Offshore Scoping Report	The report that presents the findings of the EIA scoping process undertaken for the Proposed Development with the purpose of obtaining a Scoping Opinion. The Offshore Scoping Report defines what is intended to be assessed and reported as part of the EIA.

Defined Term	Definition
Offshore Substation Platform(s) (OSPs)	OSPs comprise the support structure, topside and electrical components used for collecting and/or converting electricity generated by the Wind Turbines for transmission by the Offshore Export Cables.
Offshore Transmission Assets	The infrastructure of the Proposed Development required to transmit the generated electricity comprising of the OSPs, Offshore Export Cables and associated infrastructure up to MHWS.
Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	The phase of the Proposed Development following completion of construction. This phase of development includes routine inspections, repairs and replacement of infrastructure and equipment (including Interconnector Cables and IACs), Scour Protection replenishment or replacement, major component replacement, painting and/or other coating works, removal of marine growth, and replacement of access ladders.
Pelagic Fish	Fish which live within the water column, not on or near the seabed or at the coasts.
Plan Option Area (POA)	A location identified in the SMP as a preferred area for commercial scale offshore wind development.
Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)	Pre-Application Consultation with communities and stakeholders with regard to the consent applications for the Project that meets the requirements of Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.
Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Regulations	Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.
Project (the)	An overarching term for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm (Bowdun OWF) comprising the offshore and onshore infrastructure required to generate and transmit electricity from the Array Area to the onshore GCP. The Project includes the Offshore Generation Assets, the Offshore Transmission Assets and the Onshore Transmission Assets.
Proposed Development	Term used to define the Offshore Infrastructure associated with the Project seaward of MHWS for which consent is being sought. Further details of the parameters are included in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description.
Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)	The RIAA provides detailed information to support the process of AA (undertaken by the competent authority) as part of the HRA, which evaluates the potential impacts of a project or plan on European Sites.
Scoping Opinion	A document produced by MD-LOT which is issued in response to submission and review of the Offshore Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion is supported with feedback and advice from consultees, which details what is expected to be included in the Offshore EIA Report and what can be scoped out of the EIA process.
Scoping Workshop	A series of sessions preceding the finalisation of the Offshore Scoping Report to provide an opportunity for the Applicant to consult on the draft scope and for stakeholders to request additional information on key issues.

Defined Term	Definition
Scottish Marine Area	The area of sea within the seaward limits of the territorial sea of the United Kingdom adjacent to Scotland as defined by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
Scottish Ministers (the)	The decision makers with regard to Marine Licence(s) and Section 36 Consent applications in Scottish Offshore Waters and Scottish Marine Area.
Scottish Offshore Waters	The area of sea beyond 12 nm but within the Scottish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) up to 200 nautical miles from the coast. .
Scottish Territorial Waters	The territorial waters of Scotland that extend out from MHWS to 12 nm.
ScotWind Leasing Round	A seabed leasing round run by CES to grant property rights for the seabed in Scottish waters for new commercial scale offshore wind project development. ScotWind Leasing must be sited within POA of the SMP.
Scour Protection	Protective materials installed to avoid sediment being eroded away from the base of the foundations and/or buried subsea cable due to the flow of water.
Sectoral Marine Plan (SMP)	A plan developed by the Scottish Government which provide the strategically planned spatial footprint for offshore wind development in Scotland.
Significance	Effect factor that is determined by the magnitude of impact along with the sensitivity of the receptor.
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	SACs are areas designated for the conservation of certain plant and animal species listed in the Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	SPAs are sites that are designated to protect rare or vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), as well as regularly occurring migratory species.
Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB)	A statutory adviser to the UK and Scottish Governments on Scottish, UK and international nature conservation.
Study Area	For each environmental topic, the baseline environment will be characterised, and the potential environmental impacts will be described within a topic-specific study area. Specific study areas are defined for each topic and are based on the maximum spatial extent across which potential impacts of the Project may be experienced by the relevant receptors (i.e. Zone of Influence).
Subtidal	Areas of the coastal marine environment that lie below the level of MLWS and are continuously submerged by seawater.
Thistle Wind Partners (TWP)	Company established for the development of the Project.
Transition Joint Bay (TJB)	Used to connect the Offshore Export Cables with the onshore export cables. These are typically concrete lined and are located above MHWS.
Wind Turbines	Structures comprising of a tubular tower, rotor blades, and a nacelle which houses the Wind Turbine generator.

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AtoN	Aid to Navigation
BOWFL	Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CEF	Cumulative Effects Framework
CFWG	Commercial Fisheries Working Group
CRM	Collision Risk Modelling
DAS	Digital Aerial Surveys
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPS	European Protected Species
ERCoP	Emergency Response Cooperation Plan
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
FMMCP	Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan
FMS	Fisheries Management Scotland
HAZID	Hazard Identification
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
JRC	Joint Radio Company
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
MCA	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate-Licensing Operations Team
MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate – Science, Evidence, Data and Digital
MGN	Marine Guidance Notes
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NESO	National Energy System Operator
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NMPi	National Marine Plan interactive
OLA	Option Lease Area
ORJIP	Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PAD	Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RYA	Royal Yachting Association

Acronym	Definition
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts Assessment
SOWEC	Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPFA	Scottish Pelagic Fisherman's Association
SSEN-T	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks - Transmission
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
UK	United Kingdom
UKCoS	United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Table of Units

Units	Definition
%	Percent
km	Kilometre
nm	Nautical mile

5 Consultation and Engagement

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter of the Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report summarises the consultation and engagement with statutory consultees and relevant stakeholders undertaken by Thistle Wind Partners (the ‘Developer’) on behalf of Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited (BOWFL) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’) as part of the preparation of the Offshore EIA Application carried out for the offshore elements of Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) (hereafter known as the ‘Proposed Development’).

5.1.2 This chapter provides an overview of stakeholder engagement and consultation up to submission of this Offshore EIA Report, aligning with Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) (Scottish Government, 2025a) advice that the Applicant should:

- *“identify the relevant stakeholders and make contact with them early in the project design. This early engagement should include taking the advice of the stakeholders on which aspects of the project they want to engage on and when is best to do so;*
- *ensure that stakeholders are afforded an opportunity to clarify the information and data that they require and their preferred means of providing feedback (this may differ for different stakeholders); and*
- *ensure that stakeholders are updated on how advice has helped inform design solutions or mitigation, including any reasons why it did not affect a design or mitigation change.”*

5.1.3 The Applicant has undertaken thorough stakeholder engagement and has considered feedback gathered throughout the consultation process as part of the Offshore Application within this Offshore EIA Report in the following appendices:

- Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log; and
- Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report.

5.1.4 Engagement with stakeholders will continue following submission of the Offshore Application to further inform decision making.

5.2 Purpose of the Chapter

5.2.1 The purpose of this chapter is to outline the comprehensive approach taken to consultation and engagement during the pre-application phase for the Proposed Development. This includes adherence to relevant policy and legislative contexts associated with consultation processes, ensuring compliance and transparency. It also highlights the stakeholder engagement principles that guided interactions and consultations. A list of stakeholders consulted or approached for feedback as part of the Offshore EIA Report and project development is provided. Finally, key feedback received during this

phase is summarised, offering insights into the concerns and suggestions raised by various stakeholders.

- 5.2.2 As the Export Cable Corridor is located in the Scottish Marine Area, the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ('The PAC Regulations') apply.
- 5.2.3 Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report provides further detail on the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process, details of consultation undertaken to comply with the PAC Regulations (Scottish Government, 2013) and provides a summary of views raised by stakeholders and responses provided by the Applicant. Relevant consultation with key topic specific stakeholders is included within the relevant chapters of this Offshore EIA Report (Volume 1, Chapter 4: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology; Volume 2, Chapters 7 to 23). Details of all consultation undertaken during pre-application can be found in Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log.

5.3 Policy and Legislative Context

- 5.3.1 Policy and legislation of relevance to the Proposed Development are presented in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Policy and Legislation.
- 5.3.2 The Aarhus Convention documents (adopted within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)), and the EIA Regulations contain policy and legal requirements specific to stakeholder engagement and consultation and details how to consult with members of the public on major projects (Aarhus Centres, 2024).
- 5.3.3 Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 present a summary of the regulatory and legislative requirements that relate to stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Table 5.1: Summary of the Aarhus Convention Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered Within this Offshore EIA Report
General	
Basic rules to encourage public participation in environmental matters and improve the enforcement of environmental law are laid out in the Aarhus Convention (Aarhus Centres, 2024). Parties to the Convention, which entered into force in October 2001, are required to make provisions to allow public authorities and individuals rights as part of the principles of participative democracy (Aarhus Centres, 2024).	The Aarhus Convention principles and rules have been followed throughout the approach and detail of consultation, including with the public, and is contained within the Offshore EIA Report and supporting documents. This Offshore EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/ Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post submission and advertised via public notices as required.
Access to Information	
Members of the public have the right to receive environmental information which is held by public bodies and these bodies are obliged to maintain and make this information available. The Access to Information pillar has been implemented in European Union (EU) Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information.	This Offshore EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post submission and advertised via public notices as appropriate.
Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making	
The right to participate in environmental decision making involving the activities listed in Annex I to the Convention (and activities that are not listed in the Annex but may have a significant effect on the environment) are established in Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention. Public authorities must make arrangements to enable the public and non-governmental organisations to comment on plans or programmes relating to the environment.	This Offshore EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post submission and advertised via public notices as appropriate. The Applicant has provided, and commits to continue to provide, ongoing opportunities for the public to participate in consultation and decision making for the Proposed Development, ensuring that information provided is accessible, accountable, appropriate, meaningful and proportionate.
The right for comments to be taken into account in decision making, and information on the final decision	Consultation responses received during the pre-application phase have been considered in the production of the Offshore EIA Report and are detailed within this

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered Within this Offshore EIA Report
and reasons for it made available (European Commission, 2024). This part of the Aarhus Convention has been implemented by EU Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation ('the Public Participation Directive'), which is now incorporated inter alia into EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.	chapter, individual topic chapters, and within accompanying documents including the PAC Report (Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report) and Consultation Log (Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log). This Offshore EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post submission and advertised via public notices as appropriate. Should there be any late design changes and/or new information becoming available in regard to the Proposed Development, views of stakeholders and the public will continue to be sought as required as part of the application process.
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	
The right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the 2 aforementioned rights or environmental law in general (European Commission, 2024).	Implemented in Scotland through the availability of relevant statutory challenge and judicial review processes.
Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Aarhus Convention states that “Each Party should, where appropriate, encourage prospective applicants to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before applying for a permit”.	The Applicant has provided, and commits to continue to provide, ongoing opportunities for the public to participate in consultation and decision making for the Proposed Development, ensuring that information provided is accessible, accountable, appropriate, meaningful and proportionate. A Non-Technical Summary is provided as part of this Offshore EIA Report for easier access to information for non-specialists.

Table 5.2: Summary of EIA Directive and Regulations Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered Within this Offshore EIA Report
General	
Part 1 Article 5 (1) (b) of the Directive states that an EIA includes “<i>the carrying out of consultation, publication and notification as required by Parts 5, 6, 7 and, where relevant, Part 9.</i>” Transposed by: • Regulation 4(b) of Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; • Regulation 5(b) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; and • Regulation 4(a) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.	Considered throughout this Offshore EIA Report and as detailed within this chapter, and the PAC Report (Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report).
Part 1 Article 18 (1) requires Scottish Ministers, as soon as reasonably possible, to provide a copy of the EIA application/report, any additional information supplied by the Applicant for consultation. Transposed by: • Regulation 16(1) of Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; • Regulation 17(1) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; and • Regulation 17(1) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.	This Offshore EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post submission and advertised via public notices as appropriate.

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered Within this Offshore EIA Report
Part 1 Article (20) of the Directives states that an EIA report is submitted in relation to an EIA application, the Applicant must ensure that a reasonable number of copies of the EIA report are available for inspection at any place named in the notice published under EIA Regulation 16(1) as a place at which copies of the EIA report may be inspected. The EIA Regulations require that the Applicant must provide copies of the EIA report in accordance with the terms of the notice published under regulation 16(1). Transposed by: • Regulations 18(1) and (2) of Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; • Regulations 20(1) and (2) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017); and • Regulations 12(3) and 16(2) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.	This Offshore EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post submission and advertised via public notices as appropriate.

- 5.3.4 The Aarhus Convention (Aarhus Centres, 2024), formally known as the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, has been adhered to as the framework for stakeholder engagement for the Proposed Development. This convention, signed in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998, and entering into force in 2001, establishes the public's rights to access environmental information, participate in decision making processes, and seek justice in environmental matters. The principles of the Aarhus Convention ensure that environmental governance is transparent, inclusive, and accountable, thereby fostering a collaborative approach to sustainable development.
- 5.3.5 The Marine Consenting and Licensing Guidance for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects summarises the requirements of the PAC Regulations for activities in the Scottish inshore region. These regulations specify 'prescribed classes' of activities (including submarine cables), that must undergo PAC. The PAC Regulations apply where activity is planned within Scottish Marine Area (0 nm to 12 nm) (Scottish Government, 2013). There is no similar provision for PAC in the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009, so the requirements do not apply in respect of relevant applications in the Scottish Offshore Waters (12 nm to 200 nm). Further detail on how the requirements of the PAC Regulations have been complied with are detailed in the PAC Report (Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report).
- 5.3.6 Throughout the pre-application phase, the Applicant has engaged with stakeholders following advice from the MD-LOT, outlined in Paragraph 5.1.2. The Applicant has documented all consultation that been undertaken as part of the pre-application phase which is provided in Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log and Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report.
- 5.3.7 Any stakeholder consultation that was received by the Applicant during the pre-application phase has been reviewed and is documented within the technical chapters of this Offshore EIA Report (see Section 5.7).
- 5.3.8 The Applicant is committed to stakeholder engagement across all phases of the Proposed Development with statutory stakeholders, non-statutory stakeholders and the public. Stakeholders have been fully informed of progress of the Proposed Development as well as being provided sufficient opportunity to influence the proposals as they have been developed in advance of application submission.
- 5.3.9 The principles of the PAC Regulations have been considered throughout the development of this Offshore EIA Report due to the Export Cable Corridor being within the Scottish Marine Area, connecting to the Landfall area. Particularly, the principles that are outlined within the PAC Regulations (stated within Table 5.3) have been followed by the Applicant for the Proposed Development.

Table 5.3: PAC Principles Considered Within this Offshore EIA Report

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered Within the Offshore EIA Report
Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) Scotland Regulations 2013	
Regulation 5(1): <i>“The prospective applicant for a marine licence who considers that the activity in respect of which a licence may, or is to, be sought which may, or is to, be of a class or description prescribed in regulation 4 may notify the Scottish Ministers requiring a pre-application consultation statement from them”.</i> Regulation 6(2): <i>“The prospective applicant for a marine licence must give notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted to:</i> <i>(a)the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses (Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB));</i> <i>(b)the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA);</i> <i>(c)the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);</i> <i>(d)Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot); and</i> <i>(e)any delegate for a marine region where the application for a marine licence is for an activity which is to be carried out wholly or partly in that region.”</i> (HM Government, 2013)	The MCA, NLB, NatureScot, SEPA and other marine delegates have been consulted throughout the pre-application phase. For further detail, refer to Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log.
Regulation 7(1): <i>“The prospective applicant for a marine licence must:</i> <i>(a)hold at least one pre-application consultation event at which those persons mentioned in regulation 6(2), and members of the public, may provide comments to the prospective applicant as regards the licensable marine activity to which the application for a marine licence is to relate”.</i> (HM Government, 2013)	The Applicant has held multiple pre-application events, including hosting technical pre-Scoping workshops (discussed in Table 5.6) and also 2 formal PAC events (Paragraph 5.7.1 to 5.7.3).
Regulation 7(1): <i>“The prospective applicant for a marine licence must:</i> <i>(b)publish in a local newspaper a notice containing:</i> <i>(i)a description, including the location of the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought;</i>	The Applicant has published advertorials in local newspapers such as the Press and Journal via print and digital channels (including sponsored posts on social media channels [http://www.facebook.com/bowdunwindfarm, https://www.linkedin.com/company/thistle-wind-partners, Thistle Wind Partners (TWP) (@TWPScot) / X]. The advertorials directed readers to a virtual consultation platform where information about the Proposed

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered Within the Offshore EIA Report
<i>(ii) details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed licensable marine activity;</i> <i>(iii) the date and place of the pre-application consultation event;</i> <i>(iv) a statement explaining how persons wishing to provide comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposed licensable marine activity may do so, and the date by which this must be done; and</i> <i>(v) a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that if the prospective applicant makes an application for a marine licence that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.”</i> (HM Government, 2013)	Development could be found and comments made via a web form. Further detail of this can be found here: [https://www.thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/virtual-room/]
Regulation 8: “A pre-application consultation report which must be prepared by virtue of section 24(1) of the Act must be in the form prescribed in the Schedule.” (HM Government, 2013)	The Applicant has produced a PAC Report. For further detail please refer to Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report.
Additional notification may be provided via press releases, mail drops, online newspapers, social media, email distribution lists, and/or via the Proposed Development’s website.	Information has been made available via a bespoke virtual consultation platform, and the use of a specific Bowdun website https://thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/bowdun-document-library/ and LinkedIn page.
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010	
Section 24(1): “A person who, before submitting an application for a marine licence, was required to comply with section 23 and who proceeds to submit that application must prepare a report as to what has been done to effect such compliance.” Section 24(2): “A report under subsection (1) is to be in such form as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations prescribe.” (Scottish Government, 2010)	The Applicant has produced a PAC Report. For further detail please refer to Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report.

5.4 Guiding Principles

- 5.4.1 The Applicant has been involved in consultation with Statutory Consultees and other stakeholders, as well as members of the public, throughout the pre-application phase of the Proposed Development following the principles and best practices which are set out in guidance in the Gunning Principles (Hodgson, 1985).
- 5.4.2 The Gunning Principles of “*fair and worthwhile*” consultation have been followed as part of the approach to consultation for the Proposed Development. These principles were accepted by the Mr. Justice Hodgson in Gunning vs. Brent London Borough Council and outline that consultation should adhere to the following four principles:
- proposals must still be at a formative stage;
 - proposals must include sufficient information to facilitate intelligent consideration and thus an informed response;
 - adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
 - consultation responses must be conscientiously considered as part of the decision making process.
- 5.4.3 The guiding principles in relation to stakeholder engagement and consultation that have been adopted by the Applicant in relation to the Proposed Development are outlined in Table 5.4. The principles are compliant with the Gunning Principles that are set out in Paragraph 5.4.2.

Table 5.4: Guiding Principles for Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Guiding Principles	Communication Principles
Accessible	Information should be easy to access and communicated in a way that is appropriate to the stakeholder group. It should try to avoid industry jargon where possible. The consultation process should be inclusive and easy to participate in, for all stakeholders.
Meaningful	A two-way consultation process will be adopted to allow stakeholders a real opportunity to influence development of the Proposed Development. The Applicant will review and consider all feedback received through the stakeholder engagement and consultation process. Feedback will be considered and used to inform key decisions.
Transparent	The stakeholder engagement and consultation process will be transparent, so that stakeholders can understand how their feedback was considered.
Proportionate	Communication should be proportionate to the development being proposed and the potential for impact on receptors.
Accountable	This ensures that feedback has been considered, responded to and recorded. Careful record keeping of submissions and the review process are features of this principle.

5.5 Consultation to Date

- 5.5.1 This section provides an overview of the consultation undertaken to date by the Applicant for the Proposed Development with Statutory Consultees and other relevant stakeholders. Consultation carried out to date has been to aid in the EIA process with the purpose of:
- gathering background information to assist with the EIA production;
 - determining survey scopes and collate pre-existing data to advise on design;
 - communicating with other organisations involved with relevant developments for the EIA process;
 - assessing consultation options for the Proposed Development; and
 - reach an agreement with stakeholders on potential impacts to be scoped in and out of this Offshore EIA Report.
- 5.5.2 The Applicant has aimed to develop a proportionate Offshore EIA Report, informed by robust and regular engagement with Statutory Consultees and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate advice, address concerns and develop appropriate mitigation. This included in person and virtual meetings, correspondence including telephone calls and written communication, meeting minutes and provision of digital documentation.
- 5.5.3 The Applicant has regularly engaged with MD-LOT through quarterly meetings since January 2022 after the conclusion of the ScotWind Leasing Round. The purpose of these meetings was to provide general project updates and receive notification of any forthcoming regulatory guidance or updates. NatureScot also attend these meetings.
- 5.5.4 Throughout the EIA process, the Applicant has continued to consult relevant stakeholders as and when required, detailed in Table 5.5 and will continue with any required post-application consultation as necessary. This Offshore EIA Report includes details of consultation taken during the scoping process and also accounts for any stakeholder consultation up to the point of submission. Table 5.5 provides a record of consultations and engagement carried out to date for the Proposed Development. Topic chapters provide further details of stakeholder engagement to inform the EIA.

Table 5.5: Record of Consultation Undertaken to Date for the Proposed Development

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Developer forum 1	National Energy System Operator (NESO)	14/02/2022 - conference call	Developer forum regarding holistic network design outcomes
Initial meeting with NESO	NESO	25/02/2022 - Conference call	Initial discussion with NESO regarding connection and process
Collaborative Ornithology Meeting	North-East and Eastern Group (NEEOG) - ScotWind Developer Groups	March 2022 Conference call	Collaboration via the NEEOG, developing targeted surveys and desk-based research to address the evidence gaps in the Ornithology Roadmap. Active collaboration between North-East Ornithology Group and the Eastern Ornithology. Group to financially contribute to and support scope of works for regional Special Protection Area (SPA). Colony counts being undertaken by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
ScotWind Introductory Meeting	MD-LOT and NatureScot	11/03/2022 Conference Call	Introductions to the Applicant, MD-LOT and NatureScot along with discussing project designs and assessment methodologies.
Technical Surveys – Interface Discussion	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF) Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) Orkney Fisheries Association (OFA) North Channel and Approaches (NCA) Northern Lighthouse Vessels (NLV)	21/03/2022 Conference Call	Discussion to clarify the need for technical surveys (geophysical, geotechnical, and metocean) for the EIA.
Developer forum 2	NESO	13/04/2022 - In person	Round table on upcoming process for holistic network design follow up exercise.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) - Working together	SSEN-T	05/05/2022 - Conference call	Initial discussion with SSEN-T on the routing of Eastern Green Link 2 (EGL2).
HVDC	NESO/SSEN-T	25/05/2022 In person	Initial discussion of potential connection arrangements.
HVDC routing	SSEN-T/National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	06/07/2022 Conference call	Discussion of routing of SSEN's EGL2 HVDC cable through the Bowdun Array Area.
Bowdun Quarterly Catch Up	MD-LOT and NatureScot	18/07/2022 – ongoing Conference Call	An ongoing quarterly catchup to enable updates on project, teams, timelines and requirements.
HVDC routing	SSEN-T/NGET	16/08/2022 Conference Call	Discussion of interaction and ways forward.
SSEN-T - Working together	SSEN-T	27/10/2022 Conference Call	Discussion of grid connection process and connection points.
HVDC routing	SSEN-T/CES	10/11/2022 - In person	Discussion for HVDC route through site with Crown Estate and SSEN-T
Ornithology Research Meeting	Marine Directorate – Science, Evidence, Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) (formerly Marine Scotland Science (MSS))	09/01/2023 Conference Call	Discussion about the modelling and assessment required for the Proposed Development
Ornithology Research Meeting	MD-SEDD	20/01/2023 Conference Call	Follow up discussion about the modelling and assessment required for the Proposed Development.
Applicant Project Introductions	RSPB	14/02/2023 Conference Call	Introduction of the Project to RSPB.
Applicant Project Introductions	SFF and Scottish Pelagic Fisherman's Association (SPFA)	22/02/2023 In person	Introducing the Project.
Monthly Stakeholder Engagement	Peterhead Developers Forum	24/02/2023 - ongoing Conference Call	General co-ordination of engagement regarding consultations, surveys and fisheries agreements/clearances.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
European Protected Species (EPS) and basking shark licensing	MD-LOT	06/03/2023 Email	Discussing the conditions of the EPS licence.
TWP/SEN-T Quarterly Meetings	SEN-T	19/04/2023 to 17/09/2024 - Conference Call or in person	Update call in progress in network assessment
Ad-hoc meetings with Regulators, Licensing Authorities and Associations regarding fisheries interactions	SFF Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) East Coast Regional Inshore Fishing Group (RIFG) MCA NLB MD-LOT MD – Marine & Fisheries	05/05/2023 – SFF/SWFPA/East Coast RIFG 18/05/2023 – MCA/NLB 22/05/2023 – MD-LOT – Marine & Fisheries 01/09/2023 - MCA/NLB	Various ad-hoc meetings to discuss fisheries interactions impacting TWPs Geophysical survey campaigns.
Shipping and Navigation Consultation	MCA, NLB	23/05/2023 Conference Call	Shipping and navigation details and approach was described: • Datasets that will be used were discussed and agreed; • Vessel traffic survey of Array Area; and • No surface piercing structures in Export Cable Corridor.
EGL2 Collaboration	SEN-T	20/06/2023 to 07/10/2025 - In person (bi-monthly meetings)	Cable routing and Wind Turbine proximity
Monthly Developer Collaboration meetings – Barriers to Deployment – Enabling (B2D-E)	Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) and Stakeholders	10/08/2023 - ongoing Conference call	Discussions involving Offshore Wind Developers and a variety of stakeholders regarding the barriers currently being experienced by OWF projects regarding deployment primarily in relation to consent and policy and priority risk areas for developers, with a view to mitigate those risks through coordinated discussion and action.
Monthly Developer Collaboration meetings –	SOWEC and Stakeholders	16/08/2023 - ongoing Conference call	Discussions involving Offshore Wind Developers and a variety of stakeholders regarding the

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Barriers to Deployment - Coexistence (B2D-C)			barriers currently being experienced by OWF projects regarding deployment and coexistence with other marine and onshore stakeholders, and the possible measures that could be implemented to mitigate those impacts through coordinated discussion and action.
Benthic Subtidal surveys - Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)	MD-LOT	15/12/2023 Email	Confirmation that the SAP is a suitable approach for characterising the baseline environment. Comments on SAP received on 19/01/2024.
Marine Licence exemption for the metocean surveys	MD-LOT and NatureScot	10/01/2024 Email	Email submitted by TWP.
EPS licensing variation for benthic surveys	MD-LOT	28/03/2024 Email	Confirmation that an EPS licence variation to include benthic survey is not required.
Ornithology Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) Discrepancy	NatureScot	03/04/2024 Email	Update note regarding discrepancy between DAS raw seabird counts in APEM report and RPS 12-month interim survey report.
Scoping Workshop: Environmental topics	MD-LOT MD-SEDD NatureScot RSPB	25/04/2024 All day remote workshop	Discussion on benthic ecology, physical processes, fish and shellfish, subsea noise, marine mammals and ornithology technical topics, and approach to Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). More information in Section 5.6.1.
Scoping Workshop: Socio-Economic topics	Aberdeen City Council Historic Environmental Scotland (HES) MCA MD-LOT MD-SEDD NatureScot NLB	25/04/2024 All day remote workshop	Discussion on socio-economics, shipping and navigation, commercial fisheries and seascape, landscape and visual impacts technical topics. More information in Scoping Workshop.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
	Scottish Government: Marine Analytical Unit, SFF Scottish Pelagic Fisherman's Association (SPFA) United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping (UKCoS) Royal Yachting Association (RYA)		
12 Month Interim Ornithology Report	NatureScot	26/04/2024 Email sent	Email response providing clarifications to the points raised by NatureScot on the DAS methodology and survey results from the first 12 months.
Marine Guidance Notes (MGN) - Discussion	MCA, NLB	14/05/2024 Conference Call	Discussions on MGN guidance and lines of orientation for the Array Area for the Wind Turbine layout.
Physical Processes Method Statement	MD-LOT and NatureScot	06/06/2024 Email	Physical Processes Method Statement for both Ayre and Bowdun.
Physical Processes Method Statement	MD-SEDD	03/07/2024 Email	Submission the proposed methodology to be undertaken as part of the Physical Processes assessment during the Offshore EIA Report.
Physical Processes Method Statement	NatureScot	11/07/2024 Email	NatureScot agrees that the proposed modelling approach provides an acceptably reliable basis for the quantification of the identified impact types. They also note that the assessment of the tidal regime should take account of that regarding scour, to provide a more holistic analysis across these spatial scales.
MGN Guidance Discussion	MCA and NLB	15/08/2024 Conference Call	Final Array Area layout will be confirmed through consultation with MCA and NLB post consent via the Layout Plan, as per the Embedded Mitigation.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Offshore Scoping Report Receipt	MD-LOT	22/08/2024 Email	MD-LOT confirming receipt of the Bowdun Offshore Scoping Report submitted on 22/08/2024.
Offshore Scoping Report consultation commences	MD-LOT	11/09/2024 Email	MD-LOT confirming that the consultation for the Offshore EIA Scoping Report and associated appendices has begun with an end date set for 11/10/2024.
Coordinate request	MD-LOT, Ministry of Defence (MoD)	12/09/2024 Email	MD-LOT requesting specific coordinated details on behalf of the MoD. The Applicant provided coordinates for Array Area and Export Cable Corridor to MD-LOT.
Shipping and Navigation	MCA	16/09/2024 Email	Highlighting importance of consideration of commercial and recreational craft, Search and Rescue and Emergency Response Cooperation Plan (ERCoP) resources and burial of Offshore Export Cable where feasible.
Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact	Angus Council	17/09/2024 Email	Requesting of a viewpoint from the Angus shoreline (near Ethie Haven or Dunninald Castle).
Shipping and Navigation	NLB	20/09/2024 Letter	NLB requesting consideration is given to potential impact that a wreck (either vessel or Wind Turbine) could have on navigation in Array Area and immediate vicinity.
Aviation and Radar	Aberdeen Airport	23/09/2024 Email	Aberdeen Airport confirming that their position with regard to this Proposed Development will only be confirmed once the Wind Turbine details are finalised and we have been consulted on a full planning application.
Ornithology	RSPB	24/09/2024 Conference Call	Project update call. Points raised were the same as in the Scoping Opinion.
Infrastructure and Other Users	MD-LOT, Joint Radio Company (JRC)	25/09/2024 Email	MD-LOT requesting coordinates of the Wind Turbines on behalf of the JRC.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Commercial Fisheries	Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	30/09/2024 Email	Offering of advice on salmon status and populations as well as preferred approach regarding migratory fish in both EIA and HRA.
Infrastructure and Other Users	MD-LOT, JRC	01/10/2024 Email	MD-LOT requesting a valid/corrected National Grid Reference for the centre point of the site, Proposed Development radius, and a Geographic Information System file of the design envelope on behalf of the JRC.
Aviation and Radar	National Air Traffic Services (NATS)	01/10/2024 Email	Email notifying the Applicant that the Proposed Development was examined by technical safeguarding team, however due to timeframe a more thorough investigation was still to be completed.
Shipping and Navigation	RYA	02/10/2024 Email	Failure of Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) is considered as a potential contributor to an allision event in Section 8.4 of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 14.1: Shipping and Navigation Navigational Risk Assessment.
Infrastructure and Other Users	MD-LOT and JRC	07/10/2024 Email	MD-LOT requesting Array Area and the Option Lease Area (OLA) coordinates on behalf of the JRC.
Infrastructure and Other Users	MoD	07/10/2024 Email	MD-LOT requesting Array Area and the OLA coordinates on behalf of the MoD.
Infrastructure and Other Users	JRC	10/10/2024 Email	JRC confirming it does not foresee any problems regarding potential interference with microwave links.
Shipping and Navigation	UKCoS	15/10/2024 Email	A detailed analysis of shipping traffic is provided in Section 6.3 of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 14.1: Shipping and Navigation Navigational Risk Assessment. Potential impacts are considered for both the construction and Operation and Maintenance

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			(O&M) phase of the Project in Section 4.3 and 4.4, respectively, of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 14.1: Shipping and Navigation Navigational Risk Assessment. The cumulative effect assessment has been undertaken for a 50 nm (92.6 km) buffer of the Proposed Development (Section 10 of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 14.1: Shipping and Navigation Navigational Risk Assessment). Embedded Mitigations, including an ERCoP, to be developed post consent, are listed in Table 9.6 of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 14.1: Shipping and Navigation Navigational Risk Assessment.
Shipping and Navigation	SFF	25/10/2024 Email	SFF stating objections to floating Wind Turbines, and proposing options for wet storage and opposition of concrete mattresses for cable protection.
Aviation and Radar	MoD	25/10/2024 Email	MoD highlighting that Proposed Development would: - likely be detected by an Air Defence radar deployed at Remote Radar Head Buchan; - introduce/form a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft; and - fall within the lateral boundaries of Danger Area D613A.
Climate Change	MD-LOT	01/11/2024 Email	MD-LOT highlighting they are content with approach to assessment for climate change but highlighting that: Greenhouse Gas assessment must use Life Cycle Assessment approach, including pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning phases.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			Greenhouse Gas (GHG) assessment to consider Blue Carbon.
Infrastructure and Other Users and Major Accidents	MD-LOT	18/11/2024 Email	MD-LOT response stating Offshore EIA Report should evaluate cumulative impacts on shipping and navigation, ensuring that vessel routes remain unobstructed and navigational risks are minimised and that appropriate guidance should be followed.
DAS Report Advice	NatureScot	20/11/2024 Email	Advice issued on the 24 month DAS report.
Scoping Opinion	MD-LOT, Aberdeen Airport, Aberdeenshire Council, Angus Council, British Telecom, FMS, HES, JRC, MCA, MoD, NATS, NatureScot, Natural England, NLB, RSPB, RYA, SFF, Scottish Water, UKCoS	25/11/2024 Email	A comprehensive set of comments in relation to providing advice for the EIA Report was received.
Eastern Region Commercial Fisheries Working Group (CFWG)	Ossian, Morven, Muir Mhor, Bellrock, SFF, SWFPA, SPFA and North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group	04/12/2024 In person meeting	The principal objective of the Eastern Region CFWG is to provide a platform for the exchange of information and a forum for collaborative discussion and action in relation to the ScotWind Eastern Region projects and the interactions with commercial fishing activities
Ornithology	NatureScot	27/01/2025 Email	Consultation seeking advice on EIA Methodology and ornithology.
Ornithology	NatureScot	24/02/2025 Email	NatureScot responds to the Applicant's request for further advice and clarifications from NatureScot following responses to the Ayre Scoping Report, HRA Screening Report and the APEM Limited DAS annual survey reports: NatureScot will accept Natural England macro-avoidance rates for gannet in the

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			non-breeding season only, as there is insufficient evidence regarding gannet behaviour around wind farms near Scottish SPAs in the breeding season. • Displacement and barrier effects should be considered together in the displacement assessments as there is not enough evidence to separate and apportion them separately. • A quantitative displacement assessment should be undertaken for fulmar given the high abundance of this species in the first year DAS data, both for project alone and in combination with West of Orkney using a 20% displacement rate and 1% & 3% mortality rates for fulmar as advised by RSPB. • Principles for reducing direct impacts from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance on marine mammals can also be effective for diving birds, such as visually observing the area prior to a detonation occurring and delaying operations could be applied to rafts of diving birds as well. • NatureScot guidance on foraging ranges should be used in assessments, but additional data can be included to refine foraging ranges for species.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			Narrative is needed to discuss the 59% decline in total birds recorded in DAS Year 2 and Year 1, as this straddles the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak.
Ornithology	NatureScot	07/04/2025 Email	Consultation regarding the use of SeabORD for displacement assessment and the Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF). NatureScot confirmed (30/04/2025) the use of the matrix approach for the displacement assessment, if the new SeabORD R model is not published in time, and that the interim CEF, development on behalf of NEEOG could be used.
SeabORD Query	NatureScot	30/04/2025 Email	Confirmation from NatureScot to use NEEOG CEF tool if SeabORD R model was not ready in time for submission.
Eastern Region CFWG	Ossian, Morven, Muir Mhor, Bellrock, SFF, SWFPA, SPFA and North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group	07/05/2025 In person meeting	The principal objective of the Eastern Region CFWG is to provide a platform for the exchange of information and a forum for collaborative discussion and action in relation to the ScotWind Eastern Region projects and the interactions with commercial fishing activities.
Consultation on Compensation Measures	NatureScot, MD-LOT, RSPB	08/05/2025 Email	Report on short list of compensatory measures shared with NatureScot, RSPB and MD-LOT.
Aviation and Radar	NATS	08/06/2025 Email	NATS objection to Bowdun wind farm. OPRA taken place - MOD & Civil mitigations required.
Consultation on Compensation Measures	NatureScot, MD-LOT, RSPB	18/06/2025 Email	Shared slide pack and questions prior to Compensation workshop 1 on 02/07/2025.
HRA Workshop 1	MD-LOT and NatureScot	02/07/2025 Conference Call	First workshop to present and seek feedback on proposed compensation measures.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Ornithology	NatureScot	02/07/2025 Email	Approach to Collision Risk Modelling (CRM) and use of curtailment and Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA).
Ornithology	NatureScot	02/07/2025 Email	Advice given on Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) specific flight height CRM.
Water Quality	SEPA	10/07/2025 Email	SEPA signpost to previous advice on Water Quality. Chapter to remain scoped out.
Aviation and Radar	Aberdeen Airport, NATS and MoD	29/07/2025 Email	Reaching out to listed stakeholders requesting meeting to discuss radar interference and mitigations.
Ornithology	NatureScot	29/07/2025 Email	NatureScot provided additional advice on curtailment and use of as-built details in CEA.
Shipping and Navigation	RYA	01/08/2025 Email	Concern regarding buoys breaking loose or losing AtoNs, as experience has shown that this is not an unlikely scenario and that there can be a significant time lapse between this being noticed and repairs being made.
Water Quality	Marine Directorate	01/08/2025 Email	Marine Directorate signpost to previous advice on Water Quality. Chapter to remain scoped out but Water Framework Directive assessment included within Offshore EIA Report (Volume 3, Technical Appendix 7.5: Offshore Water Framework Directive).
Shipping and Navigation	Kincardine OWF	05/08/2025 Email	Recommendation to contact their Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) given existing relationship. Note that communication and advanced notice of construction activity would be essential, and our concession area would need to be avoided. Note that liaison on emergency response will be necessary.
Aviation and Radar	NATS	06/08/2025 Email	Operational Assessment has been completed and resulted in an objection. Mitigation is

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			available for civil aviation, however suitable mitigation for the military aspect will have to be discussed with the MOD.
Marine Licence Exemption	NLB, MCA and NatureScot	06/08/2025 Email	Consult prior to submission of a Marine Licence Exemption for the geotechnical and nearshore geophysical survey campaign planned for 2026.
Shipping and Navigation	NLB & UK CoS	07/08/2025 Conference Call	Discussion on layout, allision, cumulative modelling, AtoN and emergency response.
Marine Licence Exemption	MD-LOT	18/08/2025 Email	Marine Licence Exemption notification
Hazard Identification (HAZID) workshop	NLB, MCA, SFF, SWFPA, Ossian, Morven	19/08/2025 Conference Call	Bowdun OWF Shipping and Navigation HAZID Workshop.
Meeting with Kincardine Wind Farm	Kincardine Wind Farm	27/08/2025 Conference Call	Meeting to ensure all potential impacts had been identified and discuss any potential hazards of Bowdun with the nearby windfarm of Kincardine.
Ornithology	NatureScot	01/09/2025 Email	The Applicant contacted NatureScot with suggestions of how LiDAR specific flight height CRM data would be presented in the assessment and maximum design scenario in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Offshore Ornithology
EPS Licensing for Geotechnical Survey	MD-LOT	08/09/2025 Email	Application for an EPS licence for the geotechnical survey campaign planned for 2026.
HRA Compensation Stakeholder Workshop 2 - Slides and Agenda	MD-LOT, NatureScot, RSPB	24/09/2025 Email	Sharing of draft workshop 1 minutes and slide pack and questions prior to Compensation workshop 2 on 08/10/2025.
Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts	Angus Council	29/09/2025 Email	Request that the additional viewpoints from Ethis Mains and Dunninald Castle to be reconsidered and removed from the list of

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			recommended viewpoints to be used for SLVIA assessment purposes.
Pre-Application Consultation	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and members of the public	02/10/2025 Public consultation	Public consultation hosted in Johnshaven, allowing members of the public and the local councils to have an in person discussion on the progress, impacts and necessity of the Proposed Development.
Shipping and Navigation	Kincardine OWF	02/10/2025 Email	Meeting minutes from the Kincardine OWF consultation issued to all meeting attendees and relevant stakeholders.
Shipping and Navigation	NLB, UKCoS	02/10/2025 Email	Meeting minutes from the navigational risk assessment consultation issued to all meeting attendees and relevant stakeholders.
Infrastructure and Other Users	JRC	02/10/2025 Email sent (Document(s) issued)	Consultation with regards to scoping out potential interference with existing microwave communication links.
Shipping and Navigation	RYA Scotland, NLB, MCA, SFF, SWFPA, Ossian Wind Farm, Morven Offshore Wind Farm Project	08/10/2025 Email	Discussion with stakeholders regarding HAZID as well as the contents of Volume 3, Technical Appendix 14.1: Shipping and Navigation Navigational Risk Assessment.
Infrastructure and Other Users	JRC	08/10/2025 Email	Confirming the proposal is cleared based on the parameters provided.
Consultation Note to request advice for Offshore Ornithology, Marine Mammals and Fish and Shellfish	NatureScot	08/10/2025 Email	Seeking advice on proposed next steps for offshore ornithology, marine mammals and fish and shellfish matters.
Bowdun HRA Compensation Stakeholder Workshop 2	MD-LOT and NatureScot	08/10/2025 Conference call	- Recap on Bowdun's proposed compensation plan; - Results of surveys in summer 2025; - Discussion around additionality; and

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			Questions to NatureScot, RSPB, and MD-LOT, including use of non like-for-like compensation.
Commercial Fisheries	SFF, SPFA, SWFPA	09/10/2025 Online workshop	Consultation with stakeholders discussing project updates, baseline characterisation, scope of assessment, Embedded Mitigation and next steps.
EPS Licensing for Nearshore Geophysical Survey	MD-LOT	15/10/2025 Email	Application for an EPS licence for the nearshore geophysical campaign planned for 2026.
Eastern Region CFWG	Ossian, Morven, Muir Mhor, Bellrock, SFF, SWFPA, SPFA and North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group	05/11/2025 In person meeting	The principal objective of the Eastern Region CFWG is to provide a platform for the exchange of information and a forum for collaborative discussion and action in relation to the ScotWind Eastern Region projects and the interactions with commercial fishing activities
Ornithology	NatureScot	02/12/2025 Email	Response to the Applicants Response to the Scoping Opinion. NatureScot stated that it is appropriate for the interim CEF to be used given the CEF is not available, unless the CEF is made available in the short term. When responding to queries regarding apportioning method, it is NatureScot's opinion that as Bowdun is located in Scottish waters, NatureScot guidance/assessment methods are recommended.
Consultation Note to request advice	MD-LOT, NatureScot	04/12/2025 Email	NatureScot and MD-LOT offered advice on Ornithology CEF, approach on guillemot and razorbill apportioning, shadow flicker, UXO impact assessment, use of Unmanned Surface

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			Vehicles/ Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and Marine Protected Area Assessment.
Consultation on Compensation Measures	MD-LOT, NatureScot, RSPB	04/12/2025 Email	Shared draft minutes from Compensation Workshop 2.
Consultation on Compensation Measures	MD-LOT	05/12/2025 Email	Confirmation there are no comments on the minutes from Workshop 2.
EPS Licensing for Geotechnical and Nearshore Geophysical Survey	MD-LOT	09/12/2025 Email	MD-LOT confirming that the Applicant had received the 2 EPS licences that had been applied for.
Consultation on Compensation Measures	MD-LOT	10/12/2025 Email	Request for advice from MD-LOT regarding potential compensation measure conflicts.
Aviation and Radar	NATS	17/12/2025 Email	Initiation of phase 1 contract with NATS and provide information for the progression of statement on common understanding.
Shipping and Navigation	RYA Scotland, NLB, MCA, SFF, and SWFPA	19/12/2025 Email	Provided an update on the Export Cable Corridor red line boundary following the HAZID.
Cumulative Effects Assessment	MD-LOT, NatureScot	08/01/2026 Email	Submission of CEA Long List for MD-LOT and NatureScot review and approval 3 months before submission.
Ornithology	MD-LOT, NatureScot	15/01/2026 Email	Shared the following ornithology reports for review and comments: • Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.1: Offshore Ornithology Baseline Characterisation Report and supporting Annex A; and • Volume 3, Technical Appendix 11.2: Nearshore, Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Along the Export Cable Corridor Baseline Report.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Commercial Fisheries	SFF, SPFA, SWFPA	15/01/2026 Email	Shared the Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP) that has been prepared as part of the Offshore EIA Report for stakeholder review.
Pre-Application Consultation	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and members of the public	21/01/2026 Public consultation	Public consultation hosted in Stonehaven, allowing members of the public and the local councils to have an in person discussion on the progress, impacts and necessity of the Proposed Development.
SLVIA - Angus Council Area Viewpoints	Angus Council	23/01/2026 Email	Consultation with Angus Council, requesting removal of viewpoints from Ethie Mains and Dunninald Castle from the Offshore EIA Report due to lack of visibility. Wirelines were provided to show theoretical visibility.
Consultation Note to request advice	MD-LOT, NatureScot	26/01/2026 Email	Follow up email regarding NatureScot advice about the use of CEF in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Marine Mammals and Chapter 11: Offshore Ornithology of the Offshore EIA Report.
Ornithology	Natural England	26/01/2026 Email	Email to Natural England to discuss scoping response with regards to on guillemot and razorbill apportioning and separate assessments for English SPAs.
Marine Mammals	MD-LOT, NatureScot	28/01/2026 Email	Shared the following marine mammal reports for review and comments: • Volume 3, Technical Appendix 10.1: Marine Mammals Technical Report; • Volume 3, Technical Appendix 10.2: Marine Mammal Digital Aerial Survey Report; and • Volume 4, Appendix 27: Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Commercial Fisheries	SFF	30/01/2026 Email	Provided response on the draft FMMCP and provided comments on Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group Guidance, fishing activity, significant effects, disruption agreements, compensation, monitoring, cumulative effects, cable burial, navigation and hazards, offshore FLO deployment, Horizon Watch and gear-loss reporting.
Consultation Note to request advice	Natural England	03/02/2026 Email	Natural England confirming updates to their guidance and that separate assessment for English SPAs will not be required in the Offshore EIA Report. Assessment in line with NE guidance will; however, be required if Adverse Effect on Integrity cannot be ruled out for English SPAs.
Cumulative Effects Assessment	NatureScot	04/02/2026 Email	NatureScot providing minor comments on the methodology and assessment detailed within the CEA long list.
Ornithology	NatureScot	13/02/2026 Email	NatureScot provided feedback on the reports submitted on 15/01/2026 noting things such as study area, seasonal definitions and population scales, site-specific DAS, NEEOG and previous surveys, LiDAR surveys, vulnerability to impacts from OWFs, connectivity to SPA colonies, species accounts and identification of valued ornithological receptors.
Cumulative Effects Assessment	MD-LOT	13/02/2026 Email	MD-LOT provided advice on the CEA Long List including: • Advice on parameters to be used for operational projects; • Scoped out projects; • Population viability analysis; and

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
			Information on specific project consenting updates.
SLVIA – Angus Council Area Viewpoints	Angus Council	19/02/2026 Email	Email sent to Angus Council with compressed copies and a meeting request to discuss the included viewpoints and how the visibility of the Proposed Development would not be significant due to the distance.
SLVIA – Angus Council Area Viewpoints	Angus Council	19/02/2026 Email	Angus Council confirming receipt of compressed copies of the viewpoints as well as confirming that the viewpoints provided could be removed from the Offshore EIA Report.
Marine Archaeology – Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD)	HES	19/02/2026 Email	Submission of WSI and PAD for review.
Ornithology	MD-LOT	19/02/2026 Email	MD-LOT provided response to the question on inclusion of Berwick Bank, West of Orkney and Salamander in the CEA and in the assessment of adverse effect on site integrity.
Commercial Fisheries	SFF, SPFA, SWFPA	23/02/2026 Email	Provided a written response to the issues raised by SFF on 30/01/2026.
Ornithology	NatureScot	24/02/2026 Email	NatureScot confirmed use of CEF in Ornithology and advised confirming with NEEOG to confirming the most up to date version is being used.
Marine Archaeology – WSI and PAD	HES	25/02/2026 Email	Confirmation from HES that due to no designated assets appearing within the Site Boundary they have no comments regarding the submitted documents and welcome the commitments that were included.

Topic	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) and method of consultation	Purpose of engagement
Marine Mammal	NatureScot	27/02/2026 Email	NatureScot provided feedback on the reports shared 28/01/2026. Advice consisted of quantitative use of DAS wherever possible - with qualitative where it is not, using highest density model, bottlenose dolphin density, management units grey seals and the presentation on densities within the final application.
Commercial Fisheries	SFF	05/03/2026 Email	SFF provided feedback stating they were happy with majority of the written responses provided on 23/02/2026. They provided further comments on reliance on Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) guidance, disruption agreements, compensation, monitoring and cumulative effects.

5.6 Scoping Workshop

- 5.6.1 On 25 April 2024, a Scoping Workshop was held to discuss a range of technical topics, described in Table 5.6. The purpose of this Scoping Workshop was to allow the Applicant to consult with Statutory Consultees and key technical stakeholders on the approach to EIA Scoping and any early assessment work completed to date, such as gathering baseline data, prior to the submission of the Scoping Report.
- 5.6.2 Before the Scoping Workshop, the Applicant provided relevant data and scoping details to Statutory Consultees and relevant stakeholders. This included the presentation slides used during the Scoping Workshop and any relevant technical reports. This enabled Statutory Consultees and relevant stakeholders to provide informed feedback and encouraged questions to be raised. Minutes and updated slides were provided post-Scoping Workshop to all stakeholders for the relevant topics covered.
- 5.6.3 The discussions and feedback informed the Offshore EIA Scoping Report (BOWFL, 2024) and the EIA process. Table 5.6 details the topics discussed, Statutory Consultees and stakeholders present, and provides a summary of key discussions on each topic and what additional action was taken.
- 5.6.4 Additional written advice was provided by NatureScot post-Scoping Workshop on the 30 April 2024. This advice was incorporated into the Offshore EIA Scoping Report (BOWFL, 2024) and summary of the advice received is logged in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Summary of the Scoping Workshop

Receptor Topic	Consultees Present	Summary of Key Points
Physical Processes	MD-LOT and NatureScot	Confirmation of study area, project design, survey methodology, data sources, guidance documents and topics scoped in or out. Confirmation that the risk of cable exposure at Landfall will be considered the assessment. Confirmation that an assessment of impact significance will be undertaken for Physical Processes receptors and that where potential changes to pathways are described, the reader will be signposted to other topic chapters which make use of the findings in their assessments of impact significance. NatureScot stated that further feedback on Physical Processes would be provided, as not all invitees could be present at the workshop. Agreed that a technical note would be provided regarding numerical modelling to be reviewed by Statutory Consultees and stakeholders.
Subsea Noise	NatureScot	Confirmation of data sources and assessment methodology. The assessment will include reference to the Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme (ORJIP) report on range dependence for impulsive noise if the report is available. NatureScot marine ecologist was present at the Scoping Workshop but no acoustician attended. NatureScot stated that further guidance will be provided on underwater noise. Post-workshop advice included reference to ORJIP and range dependent nature of impulsive noise reports for inclusion within the chapter.
Benthic Ecology	MD-LOT and NatureScot	Confirmation of regional study area, proposed benthic ecology assessment methodology, impacts to be scoped in/out, and use of Marine Evidence Based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) and Feature Activity Sensitivity Tool tools. NatureScot recommended to use Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science benthic data. NatureScot advised that some impacts should be assessed cumulatively. This includes a qualitative assessment for Electromagnetic Field effects which should be considered for mobile invertebrates that won't be covered in the fish and shellfish assessment.
Fish and Shellfish Ecology	MD-LOT and NatureScot	Confirmation of study area, data sources, survey methodology, baseline characterisation, impact assessment methodology and impacts to be scoped in/out.

Receptor Topic	Consultees Present	Summary of Key Points
		NatureScot queried if basking sharks would be included in the fish and shellfish assessment. Presenter confirmed that basking sharks would be included. NatureScot commented that the impacts proposed to be scoped in were sufficient as long as the Proposed Development uses only fixed foundation Wind Turbines. Added that since floating Wind Turbines are also being considered, impacts such as aggregation and secondary entanglement should be included. NatureScot recommended more data sets to be used in impact assessment. Post-workshop advice included clarification on: inclusion or exclusion of the River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from the EIA and HRA; Data available on Marine Scotland National Marine Plan Interactive (NMPI); additional impacts for inclusion in the CEA; and Likely Significant Effect (LSE) screening criteria for diadromous fish.
Marine Mammals	NatureScot and MD-LOT	Confirmation of study areas, modelling, data sources, scoped in species, EIA approach, cumulative effects, Embedded Mitigation and topics scoped in/out. NatureScot recommended considering common and Risso's dolphins. NatureScot recommended using peak sound levels as cumulative sound levels are known to be an overestimate. Post-workshop advice included clarification on: inclusion or exclusion of the River Spey SAC from the EIA and HRA; Data available on Marine Scotland NMPI; additional impacts for inclusion in the CEA; and LSE screening criteria for diadromous fish.
Ornithology	NatureScot, RSPB and MD-LOT	Clarification by NatureScot and RSPB on the impact assessment and provided recommendations on the ornithological approach. Multiple studies and updated guidance were provided for clarification. Clarified discrepancy between ornithological data sets. Confirmation of approach to CEA and study area. NatureScot noted that post-construction monitoring has been adopted for recent projects. Post-workshop advice included clarification on connectivity in the breeding season, using straight-line distance for foraging ranges; guidance on population viability analysis; how avoidance rates and flight heights are interlinked; and available tools for CRM.
Commercial Fisheries	SFF, SPFA, MCA and MD-LOT	Confirmation of study area and baseline data used. Recommendation to expand the area for the cumulative assessment to include Morven and Ossian wind farms. SFF added the data before the withdrawal of the UK from the EU on 31/01/2020 should be considered.
Shipping and Navigation	MCA, UKCoS, MD-LOT, NLB, SFF and SPFA	Confirmed survey procedures and results, assessment methodology, baseline environment, study area, and anticipated Embedded Mitigation measures. SFF commented that not all vessels would be included in Automatic Identification System data and provided more data to better represent marine traffic.

Receptor Topic	Consultees Present	Summary of Key Points
		MCA and NLB noted that once it is decided whether the Wind Turbines will be fixed or floating, it should be communicated to determine consultation going forward. MCA suggested several offshore projects be considered in the CEA, particularly Morven and Ossian. Also, that the Port of Aberdeen is to be consulted. MD-LOT confirmed that guidance will be provided on wet storage with the Applicant, MCA and NLB requesting more information.
Socio-Economics	MD-LOT and Scottish Government	Confirmation of data sources, study areas, methodologies, Embedded Mitigation and consultation. Scottish Government encouraged the use of primary social research, adding that the SOWEC study can be complimentary to primary research, and suggested that the Applicant conduct their own research. Applicant confirmed that SOWEC study would be sufficient as it was made to decrease the burden on stakeholders. Scottish Government suggested communicating with social researchers moving forward.
Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA)	NatureScot, HES, MD-LOT and Aberdeen City Council	Confirmed study area, baseline environment, data sources, Landscape Character Types, designated areas, Embedded Mitigation, receptors, potential impacts, and assessment methodology. NatureScot confirmed that a landscape architect would provide feedback on viewpoints. NatureScot suggested that viewpoints for the Proposed Development be compared to the viewpoints for other OWF projects (e.g. Kincardine, Aberdeen Bay and Hywind). Aberdeen City Council provided more viewpoints that should be considered within the assessment.
Cultural Heritage	HES, Aberdeen City Council, MD-LOT	Confirmed assessment approach, study areas, data sources, methodologies, Embedded Mitigation and consultation. HES and Aberdeen City Council provided feedback on the suggested receptors.

5.6.5 The Offshore EIA Scoping Report (BOWFL, 2024; Volume 3, Technical Appendix 4.1: Scoping Report) took account of feedback received at the Scoping Workshop and set out the scope of impacts to be assessed as part of the Offshore EIA Report alongside the methods of assessment to be used. The Offshore EIA Scoping Report was submitted to MD-LOT on 09 September 2024. Upon receipt of the request for a Scoping Opinion, MD-LOT consulted with the Statutory Consultees as defined in the EIA Regulations (Scottish Government, 2022). MD-LOT provided a Scoping Opinion which was received on 25 November 2024 (MD-LOT, 2024) that confirmed the approach to the EIA including topics and impacts that could be scoped in or out. The Scoping Opinion also enabled future consultation where there was uncertainty in the approach to the assessment, documented in Table 5.5.

5.6.6 The Applicant kept a record of all consultation carried out pre- and post-Scoping in a stakeholder engagement log (Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log), which is summarised in Table 5.5 and provides a summary of both the consultation discussions and feedback received in the pre-application phase.

Post-Scoping

5.6.7 Since submission of the Offshore EIA Scoping Report on 09 September 2024 and receipt of the Scoping Opinion on 25 November 2024, the Applicant has undertaken further consultation to ensure any queries from stakeholders were appropriately actioned. Points raised by the stakeholders as part of the Scoping Opinion can be found in Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log.

5.6.8 The Applicant has continued consultation with any stakeholders where further evidence was required in order to agree/discuss with the approach taken in the Offshore EIA Scoping Report. These consultations entailed the issuing of technical notes, email exchanges and/or holding either in person or virtual workshops. All consultation that has taken place can be found in Table 5.5 and Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log.

5.7 Offshore Pre-Application Consultation

5.7.1 The Applicant has organised two PAC events where interested parties, including regulators, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and local communities, could comment upon the prospective Offshore Application for a 'prescribed class' of activity as defined in the PAC Regulations and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. The Applicant notified any relevant delegate appointed under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 that an application for a Marine Licence is to be submitted to MD-LOT. Notifications included information relating to the application and the time and location of the PAC event. The Applicant published a notice in at least one local newspaper(s) six weeks prior to any public consultation event, which included the following information:

- a description, including location, of the marine licensable activity;
- details as to where further details concerning the activity may be obtained;
- the date and place of the PAC events;

- a statement explaining how persons wishing to provide comments may do so and the date by which this must be done; and
- a statement clarifying that comments are made to the Applicant and not to MD-LOT and that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to MD-LOT on the application.

5.7.2 The Applicant followed the principles of the PAC Regulations for all offshore components of the Project (including beyond 12 nm), and the PAC events covered both Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure of the Project at Johnshaven on 02 October 2025, with further events covering the Offshore Infrastructure held in Stonehaven on 21 January 2026.

5.7.3 The PAC Report is included as part of this Offshore EIA Report which details how the consultation responses provided as part of the PAC have been considered by the Applicant. This report can be viewed at Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.2: Pre-Application Consultation Report.

5.8 Other Stakeholder Engagement

North-Eastern and Eastern Ornithological Group

5.8.1 The Applicant has engaged with other developers in the ScotWind East and North-East leasing regions to collaborate on issues of shared concern and to identify opportunities for addressing evidence gaps and identifying mitigation and management solutions at a regional and strategic level to address potential cumulative impacts. Collaboration has taken place across a number of topics including Offshore Ornithology.

5.8.2 The Applicant has taken a lead role in managing the programme of seabird surveys for the East and North Caithness Cliffs between 2023 and 2025, on behalf of the NEEOG developer group. Results from these surveys have been used by developers in their EIAs and HRAs and have been uploaded to the Seabird Monitoring Programme database. Results from these surveys have been used in the offshore ornithology impact assessment of this Offshore EIA Report (Volume 2: Chapter 11: Offshore Ornithology) and the Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment (RIAA).

5.8.3 The Applicant will continue to engage and contribute to collaborative initiatives throughout all stages of project development and delivery, where appropriate to do so.

Eastern Developers Group

5.8.4 The Applicant is part of a group with other Scotwind Eastern Region projects, the principal objective of this group is to provide a platform for the exchange of information and a forum for collaborative discussion and action in relation to the ScotWind Eastern Region projects, particular topics include shipping and navigation, aviation and cumulative baseline work. From this group there has been the proactive establishment of the Eastern Region CFWG. The early establishment of the CFWG links with regional and national discussions on commercial fisheries and complements project level engagement. The Eastern Region CFWG won Best Engagement Award at the Scottish Renewables 2025 Scottish Green Energy Awards.

Other Community Engagement

- 5.8.5 The Applicant is committed to maximising the benefit of the Project through supply chain development, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and supporting local initiatives.
- 5.8.6 To date, support has included collaboration with Aberdeen Science Centre to produce a tailored ‘Gust to Grid’ workshop which was delivered to 300 children from schools in the Aberdeenshire region and to local community groups. The purpose of the workshop was to teach children about how Wind Turbines generate electricity whilst also allowing them practically to explore what makes a suitable Landfall site and onshore substation location. TWP has also participated in Stemovators and Developing The Young workforce events in Aberdeenshire.
- 5.8.7 The Applicant has also backed community initiatives in Aberdeenshire and groups local to the Project have had the opportunity to apply for small donations to benefit the community, recipients have included the Platinum Jubilee Coastal Pathways, RNLI Stonehaven, Benholm and Johnshaven Heritage Society and Homestart Kincardine.
- 5.8.8 Provision of a community benefit fund and/or shared ownership linked to operational performance of the Project are actively being considered by the Applicant. However, policy and requirements for community benefit have been updated as part of guidance published in November 2025 by Scottish Government (Scottish Government, 2025b). Community benefit is also under review at the UK Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, who are considering introduction of mandatory community benefit and how best to facilitate shared ownership. Given this policy uncertainty, as well as provision of community benefit not being a material planning consideration, further details on community benefit and shared ownership would be agreed post consent. The Project will meet the legislative requirements and consider updates to any guidance that emerges post consent. The Applicant looks to support community empowerment and have a beneficial impact on the local communities our projects are within.

Stakeholder Engagement Manager

- 5.8.9 A Stakeholder Engagement Manager has been in place since 2023 to facilitate and support engagement with the community. As part of their role they have carried out engagement with public, businesses and organisations in the form of virtual and in person meetings. The Stakeholder Engagement Manager is available 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday however, appointments can be made outside of these hours. Contact details for the Stakeholder Engagement Manager can be found on the Project website as well as public exhibitions and online events.
- 5.8.10 The Stakeholder Engagement Manager also manages a mailing list which has been created for the Project and will be expanded to allow members of the public to opt-in for updates on the Project, such as notifications of upcoming public consultation sessions.

Information Provision and Awareness Raising

Fisheries Liaison Officer

- 5.8.11 The Applicant appointed Blackhall & Powis to act as the FLO for the Project application, who have been involved since January 2023 to act as an intermediary between the fishing industry and the Applicant.
- 5.8.12 The FLO represents the Applicant on many fisheries related issues and has been involved in communications with fishers at various points throughout the pre-application phase and was available at the PAC events discussed in Section 5.7. The FLO has also worked closely with the team responsible for Volume 2, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries (NiMa), with any consultation carried out collaboratively discussed in Volume 2, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries as well as being covered briefly in both Table 5.6 and Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log.
- 5.8.13 As well as involvement with commercial fisheries, the FLO has also offered support during any offshore survey works including:
- geophysical surveys (see Volume 2, Chapter 19: Marine Archaeology);
 - benthic surveys (see Volume 2, Chapter 8: Benthic Ecology);
 - metocean surveys; and
 - vessel traffic surveys (Volume 2, Chapter 14: Shipping and Navigation).

Information Provision, Project Website and Digital Information

- 5.8.14 The opportunity for stakeholders to contact the Applicant through email and the Project website has been available for the duration of the pre-application phase. The Stakeholder Engagement Manager has made themselves available for virtual, phone or in person meetings whenever requested by stakeholders.
- 5.8.15 A dedicated email address has been administered throughout the pre-application phase at: contact@twp.scot.
- 5.8.16 A dedicated website was hosted by the Applicant and can be found here: <https://www.thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun>.
- 5.8.17 The Bowdun Project website has been kept up to date with relevant information including information on aspects of the wider project, ways to contact the project team and a document repository for stakeholders to access as required.
- 5.8.18 A digital version of the Offshore EIA Scoping Report (BOWFL, 2024) has been made available by the Applicant on the TWP website to allow for easy access. The Applicant will also make digital versions of both the Offshore EIA Report and the Offshore RIAA available following submission of the application.

5.9 Feedback and Reporting

- 5.9.1 All feedback received throughout the pre-application phase was recorded and collated by the Applicant, including any feedback that was received by non-written means. These responses are shown in Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log.

- 5.9.2 All feedback that has been received during the pre-application phase has been reviewed and considered by the Applicant and where relevant has been used to inform key decisions on the development of the Proposed Development and the assessment of the Proposed Development through both the Offshore EIA Report and the Offshore RIAA.
- 5.9.3 Any feedback received relating to the Offshore technical chapters has been addressed within these topic chapters (Volume 2, Chapter 7 to 23) and their respective appendices found in Volume 3.
- 5.9.4 The consultation in Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.1: Consultation Log, shows responses by the Applicant to feedback received in the Scoping Opinion, response to the HRA Stage 1 LSE Screening Report, and response to the APEM DAS 24 month reports.

References

- Aarhus Centres (2024). *The Aarhus Convention*. Available at: <https://aarhus.osce.org/about/aarhus-convention>. Accessed on: 19 March 2025.
- BOWFL (2024). *Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report*. Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited. Available at: https://marine.gov.scot/sites/default/files/240822_-_bowdun_offshore_wind_farm_-_scop-0056_-_scoping_report_submission_240822_-_developer_to_md-lot.pdf. Accessed on: 04 November 2025.
- European Commission (2024). *The Aarhus Convention and the EU*. Available at: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/aarhus_en. Accessed on: 19 March 2025.
- HM Government (2013). *The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/286/contents/made>. Accessed on: 19 March 2025.
- Marine Directorate – Licencing Operation Team (2024). *Scoping Opinion – Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm*. Application reference number: SCOP-0049. Available at: <https://marine.gov.scot/?q=node/25796>. Accessed on: 06 March 2025.
- Hodgson, J. (1985). *R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning (1985) 84 LGR 168*. Available at: <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2021/03/working-documents/annex-1f-r-v-brent-london-borough-council-ex-p>. Accessed on: 04 November 2025.
- Scottish Government (2010). *Marine (Scotland) Act*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/5/section/24>. Accessed: 14 October 2025.
- Scottish Government (2013). Planning Advice Note 1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-advice-note-1-2013-environmental-impact-assessment/pages/6/>. Accessed on: 06 March 2025.
- Scottish Government (2022). *Guidance for applicants on using the design envelope for applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-applicants-using-design-envelope-applications-under-section-36-electricity-act-1989/pages/1/>. Accessed on: 06 March 2025.
- Scottish Government (2025a). *Marine Scotland Consenting and Licensing Guidance. For Offshore Renewable Energy Projects*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-and-consenting-offshore-renewable-energy-projects/pages/licensing-and-consenting-requirements/>. Accessed on: 24 April 2025.
- Scottish Government (2025b). *Public Procurement and Property – Updated guidance on Community Benefits in procurement*. Available at: <https://blogs.gov.scot/public-procurement/2025/11/13/updated-guidance-on-community-benefits-in-procurement/>. Accessed on: 23 March 2026.