Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, Onshore Infrastructure

Pre-Application Consultation Report

TWP-BOW-JCB-CON-RPT-00001 | November 2025

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Glossary

Defined Term	Definition
Additional Mitigation	Also referred to as secondary mitigation which is defined by 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 Onshore EIA Report (sic).
Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited	A Special-Purpose Vehicle (SPV) (legal entity) for the purpose of developing the Project.
Cumulative Effects	The effects of the Proposed Development assessed together with effects from one or more different projects on the same receptor/resource.
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.
Embedded Mitigation	Measures that are adopted as part of the Proposed Development and therefore assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment (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 Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) 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)	Assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the physical, biological, and human environment during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report	Document prepared to comply with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 in order to provide information on: • the baseline environment; • project description for the Proposed Development; • a systematic assessment of the Proposed Development's likely significant environmental effects;

Defined Term	Definition
	• measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset likely significant adverse environmental effects; • a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the Applicant; and a non-technical summary.
Impact	A change caused by an action that occurs during a project's lifetime.
Intertidal Area	The area between Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).
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 (see definition above) at Benholm Bay.
Matters Specified in Conditions (MSC)	This would be a second stage application, following on from the grant of Planning Permission in Principle (PPP). The PPP would be granted with a number of conditions which would refer to detailed aspects of the proposed development which require approval from Aberdeenshire Council prior to the commencement of development. This stage is where aspects such as the design of the substation, precise cable route and provision/securing of mitigation would be set out.
Mitigation	Measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or control effects on the environment. See also definitions for Embedded Mitigation and Additional Mitigation.
National Grid	The national electricity transmission network.
Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (hereafter, 'Onshore EIA Report')	Document prepared to report the findings of the EIA for the Proposed Development and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations. An Onshore EIA will be submitted to support the Onshore Application for the Proposed Development.
Onshore Export Cable	The cables (220/275 kV) that transfer electricity from Landfall to the Substation.
Onshore Export Cable Corridor	The area landward of MLWS to the Substation within which the Onshore Export Cables will be installed and forms part of the PPP Application Boundary.
Onshore Scoping Report	Document prepared to comply with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 in order to provide information on the potential impacts of the Onshore Transmission Assets.
Planning Permission in Principle (PPP)	An application for Planning Permission in Principle is a type of planning application that allows for a proposal to be assessed without the detailed design information being provided (for example the final layout, design or finish of any buildings). It is granted subject to a condition(s) that certain matters have to be approved by the planning authority development can commence. Planning Permission in Principle does not actually allow for development to commence, but rather that the principle of that development is accepted by the planning authority.

Defined Term	Definition
Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) Application Boundary	The red line boundary representing the extent of the planning permission in principle application.
Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)	Statutory pre application consultation with communities and stakeholders with regard to the consent applications for the Project.
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 Grid Connection Point (GCP). The Project includes the Offshore Generation Assets, the Offshore Transmission Assets and the Onshore Transmission Assets.
Project Design Envelope (PDE)	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the design options for the Proposed Development under consideration when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known.
Proposed Development	Term used to define the Onshore Infrastructure associated with the Project landward of MLWS for which PPP is being sought. Further details of the parameters are included in the Onshore EIA Report, Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development.
Scoping Opinion	A document produced by Aberdeenshire Council, supported with feedback and advice from consultees, which details what is expected to be included in the Onshore EIA Report and what can be scoped out of the EIA process.
Substation Site	The total area proposed (~19 hectares) for construction of the Substation Switchyard.
Substation Switchyard	The area proposed (~10 hectares) where the Substation equipment will be housed that is required to transform voltage from low to high by means of electrical transformers.
Thistle Wind Partners (TWP)	The Joint Venture (JV) of DEME Concessions, Qair Marine, and Aspiravi International that have partnered to develop the Proposed Development.
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.
400 kV Cable Corridor	The 400 kV Cable Corridor will house the cabling required for the onward transmission from the Substation to the proposed SSEN-T Hurlie Substation.

Acronyms

Acronyms	Definitions
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
BOWFL	Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited

Acronyms	Definitions
CLP	Construction Logistic Plan
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EMF	Electro Magnetic Fields
GCP	Grid Connection Point
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HGV	heavy goods vehicles
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team
MLWS	Mean Low Water Spring
NESO	National Energy System Operator
NGESO	National Grid Energy System Operator
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
OLA	Options Lease Agreement
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PAC	Pre-application Consultation
PoAN	Proposal of Application Notice
PPP	Planning Permission in Principle
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
SSEN-T	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TJB	Transition Joint Bay
TWP	Thistle Wind Partners Limited
UK	United Kingdom

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared to support an application for Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) for the onshore transmission infrastructure associated with the proposed Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm including formation of onshore landing point, laying of underground cables, erection of substation, and associated works to connect to the transmission grid (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development') at Haughs Bay, Benholm connecting to Fetteresso Forest, Aberdeenshire.

1.1.2 The onshore and offshore elements of the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm (the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm as whole) is referred to as 'the Project' throughout the remainder of this PAC Report.

1.1.3 The Proposed Development relates to the onshore infrastructure of Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm which is landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS). An application is therefore made to Aberdeenshire Council for the Proposed Development under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

1.1.4 The offshore elements of the Project will be the subject of a separate application to the Scottish Government Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT). MD-LOT acts on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The offshore application will be accompanied by a separate Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

1.1.5 This PAC Report provides information to demonstrate that Thistle Wind Partners (TWP), the developer has met the statutory pre-application consultation requirements and documents TWP's comprehensive approach to pre-application consultation. The PAC Report has followed the principles of Aberdeenshire Council's Planning Advice PA2023-15: SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) (September 2023).

1.1 Background

1.1.1 TWP is a Joint Venture (JV) founded in 2020 between DEME Concessions, Qair Marine and Aspiravi International. Together, the TWP partners have a strong background in offshore renewable energy development and delivery, and associated port developments. TWP established the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Limited (BOWFL) as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the Project. TWP, is the development company for BOWFL and BOWFL is the Applicant for the PPP application to Aberdeenshire Council for the Proposed Development. BOWFL is also the Applicant for the offshore application owing to seabed leasing and contracting requirements.

1.1.2 In 2020, Crown Estate Scotland (CES) launched the ScotWind leasing process to facilitate the increase in offshore wind capacity to support the Scottish Government's 2045 Net Zero target. Following the ScotWind leasing round in 2022, on entering into an Options Lease Agreement (OLA) with CES,

the Applicant secured the rights to develop a commercial scale Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) project in the E3 Plan Option Area as defined in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan (SMP) for Offshore Wind Energy. The Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm array is to be located approximately 38 km from the Aberdeenshire coast at its closest point. The anticipated installed capacity of the Project is up to 1008 megawatts (MW).

1.1.3 TWP has applied to connect the Project to the national electricity network (the National Grid) which is owned and operated by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission in Aberdeenshire Council area.

1.1.4 In July 2022, National Grid Energy System Operator (NGESO) (now National Energy System Operator (NESO)) published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND), which set out the approach to connecting 50 Gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind to the United Kingdom (UK) electricity network and the first stage of the design and offshore wind grid connection locations. In March 2024, NGESO (now NESO) published beyond 2030: A national blueprint for a decarbonised energy system in Great Britain. This indicated that the Bowdun OWF ('SW_E3') Grid Connection Point (GCP) will be located at a proposed new substation, to be developed by SSEN, in the Fetteresso Forest (referred to as 'Hurlie Substation').

1.2 Proposed Development

1.2.1 The report supports an application for PPP for the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development is described in detail in the Onshore EIA Report, Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development. The Proposed Development includes all infrastructure required comprising:

- Landfall and Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) – This is the location in which the Offshore Export Cables come ashore and are jointed to the Onshore Export Cables within the TJBs.
- Onshore Export Cable Corridor – The area within which the Onshore Export Cables will be located, this connects the Landfall and the Substation site.
- The temporary ancillary onshore infrastructure required for the construction phase of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor and Substation site (such as construction compounds and access).
- Substation site – The proposed Substation switchyard area containing the components for transforming the power supplied from the Project, from 220/275 kV up to 400 kV and the surrounding area required for including drainage and mitigation.
- 400 kV onshore Cable Corridor – The area within which the 400 kV cables will be located providing the onward transmission to the grid, which connects the Substation to the Hurlie Substation.

1.2.2 The Proposed Development will not include any overhead cabling, with all transmission cables being buried.

1.2.3 The Applicant through the submission of the application for PPP seeks to establish the principle of developing the onshore infrastructure within the PPP application boundary. The detail of the Proposed Development would be the subject of planning conditions to be addressed at approval of matters specified in conditions stage. On this basis, a Project Design Envelope (PDE) approach is adopted. This approach is common practice to assist with the need for flexibility. Utilising the PDE approach provides flexibility in the design of a project and allows for assessment of a likely maximum design scenario to enable a robust assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Detailed plans will be prepared which will provide specific details on the final design specifications of the various elements of the Proposed Development. These details would be submitted by the Applicant to Aberdeenshire Council as applications for approval of matters specified in conditions.

1.2.4 The PPP application boundary includes the aforementioned infrastructure, extending from MLWS at Benholm with the Landfall and including the Onshore Export Cable Corridor which runs to a proposed Substation, with an associated onward connection to the proposed Hurlie substation.

1.2.5 The Proposed Development is classified as a national development under the provisions of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Annex B of NPF4 – National Developments Statements of Need, 3. 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure' includes the following classification: *'New and/or upgraded Infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables and interconnectors including converter stations, switching stations and substations.'*

1.3 Structure of this Report

1.3.1 Following this introductory section the PAC Report is structured as set out below.

- Section 2 outlines the key requirements of the formal PAC process.
- Section 3 provides information on the stakeholder engagement and consultation strategy for the Proposed Development.
- Section 4 outlines the informal consultation that was undertaken prior to the formal PAC process.
- Section 5 details the community consultation undertaken by TWP from the submission of the Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) and demonstrates how statutory PAC requirements have been met.
- Section 6 provides the overall summary.

1.3.2 Annexes which provide evidence of the consultation documentation and notification are contained in Section 7.

2 Legislation and Regulatory Framework

2.1.1 This section outlines the key requirements of the formal PAC process. Subsequent sections provide details on how TWP have met and exceeded these requirements.

2.1 Statutory Pre-Application Consultation Process

2.1.1 Statutory PAC requires to be carried out in line with the procedures set out in Sections 35A, 35B, 35C, and 39 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Planning Act) and Part 2, Regulations 4 to 7B of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the DMR).

2.1.2 Scottish Government Planning Circular 3/2022 'Development Management Procedure' (hereafter referred to as Circular 3/2022) which describes and provides guidance on the requirements contained in the DMR and the relevant provisions of the Planning Act has been referred to in the preparation of this PAC Report.

2.1.3 Circular 3/2022 states at paragraph 2.7 that the objective of PAC is to *'provide a process which enables communities to:*

- *be better informed about major and national development proposals; and*
- *have an opportunity to contribute their views to prospective applicants before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority.*'

2.1.4 Circular 3/2022 states further at paragraph 2.8 that:

'*In doing so, PAC can help to: improve the quality of planning applications; address misunderstandings; highlight any issues which are particularly important to the local community; and smooth the application process itself and ultimately improve development outcomes.*'

2.1.5 The key stages of the PAC process are:

- determining whether PAC is required;
- issuing a PoAN to the planning authority;
- publishing newspaper notices at least 7 days in advance of public events;
- carrying out statutorily required consultation activity:
    - Holding a minimum of two physical public events regarding the proposals; and
    - Consulting relevant community councils;

- carrying out any additional consultation activity beyond the statutory minimum as required by the planning authority in its response to the PoAN;
- making the application to the planning authority no earlier than 12 weeks from when the PoAN was issued to the planning authority, and no later than 18 months from the issuing of the PoAN;
- submitting a report of PAC alongside any application for planning permission.

2.1.6 The following sections provide further information on the key steps of the statutory PAC process.

2.2 Determining whether PAC is Required

2.2.1 Unless an exemption applies, all applications for planning permission or for planning permission in principle under Regulations 9, 10 or 11 of the DMR for national and for major developments require PAC and will need to demonstrate compliance with the legislative requirements for PAC. NPF4 and the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (hereafter referred to as the Hierarchy Regulations) specify what development is to be treated as national or major development.

2.2.2 NPF4 Annex B 'National Developments Statements of Need' describes National Development 3 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure' at page 104 of NPF4. The location for National Development 3 is stated as 'all Scotland'. The Proposed Development falls within the classification: *'New and/or upgraded infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables and interconnectors including converter stations, switching stations and substations.'* Development that falls within this category is described as national development if it would otherwise have been considered major development under the Hierarchy Regulations. Major developments are described in the Hierarchy Regulations under Regulation 2(1) and the Proposed Development falls under Category 9 'Other Development' in the Schedule of the Hierarchy Regulations and the area of the site is or exceeds 2 hectares. The Proposed Development is therefore classified as a national development under the terms of NPF4 and the Hierarchy Regulations and as such requires PAC to be undertaken.

2.3 Proposal of Application Notice

2.3.1 Section 35B of the Planning Act and Regulation 6 of the DMR confirm an applicant is required to submit to the planning authority a PoAN at least 12 weeks prior to the submission of an application for planning permission. The PoAN should include the following information:

- a description in general terms of the development to be carried out;
- the postal address of the development site, if it has one;

- a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify the site;
- detail as to how the prospective applicant may be contacted and corresponded with; and
- an account of what consultation the prospective applicant proposes to undertake, including information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take. This should include any steps in addition to the statutory minimum for consultation.

2.3.2 A copy of the Proposed Development PoAN is provided in Annex A.

2.4 Newspaper Notices

2.4.1 Regulation 7 of the DMR outlines the requirements for publishing newspaper notices of the two public events. Notices must be published at least seven days prior to the event in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the Proposed Development.

2.4.2 Notices must include:

- a description of, and the location of, the proposed development;
- details as to how (including by what electronic means) further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development;
- the date and place of the public event;
- a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and
- a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority and if the prospective applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority.

2.4.3 Refer to Section 5.2 for more details and Annex B, for a copy of the notices served for the Proposed Development.

2.5 Public Events

2.5.1 Regulation 7 of the DMR requires the prospective applicant to hold at least two events for members of the public where they can make comments to the prospective applicant on the proposals. At the final event the prospective applicant is required to provide feedback to the public on the views obtained through the PAC process. There must be at least 14 days between the first and final event. Refer to Section 5 for further information of the events held for the Proposed Development.

2.6 Community Council Consultation

2.6.1 Regulation 7 of the DMR requires the prospective applicant to consult every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated and in doing so is to give a copy of the PoAN to the community council. Refer to Table 5.2 for a list of the community councils consulted for the Proposed Development.

2.7 PAC Report

2.7.1 Regulation 7B of the DMR outlines the required form and content of a PAC Report:

'(a) the dates on which, and places where, public events were held as required in accordance with regulation 7(2),

(b) a description of –

(i) any additional consultation or notification required by the planning authority in relation to the proposed application under section 35B(7) of the Act,

(ii) any additional steps taken by the prospective applicant to consult with members of the public as regards the proposed development,

(c) a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the prospective applicant,

(d) evidence as to how the prospective applicant carried out the activities described under sub-paragraphs (a), (b), and (c),

(e) copies of—

(i) any materials sent to consultees,

(ii) any materials provided to those attending a public event, and

(iii) any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event,

(f) photographs of any display boards or models at public events,

(g) confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority,

(i) a summary of—

(i) the written responses to consultations, and

(ii) views raised at public events,

including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events,

(j) an explanation of how the prospective applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and

(k) an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the prospective applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.'

2.7.2 This PAC Report has been prepared to satisfy the above requirements.

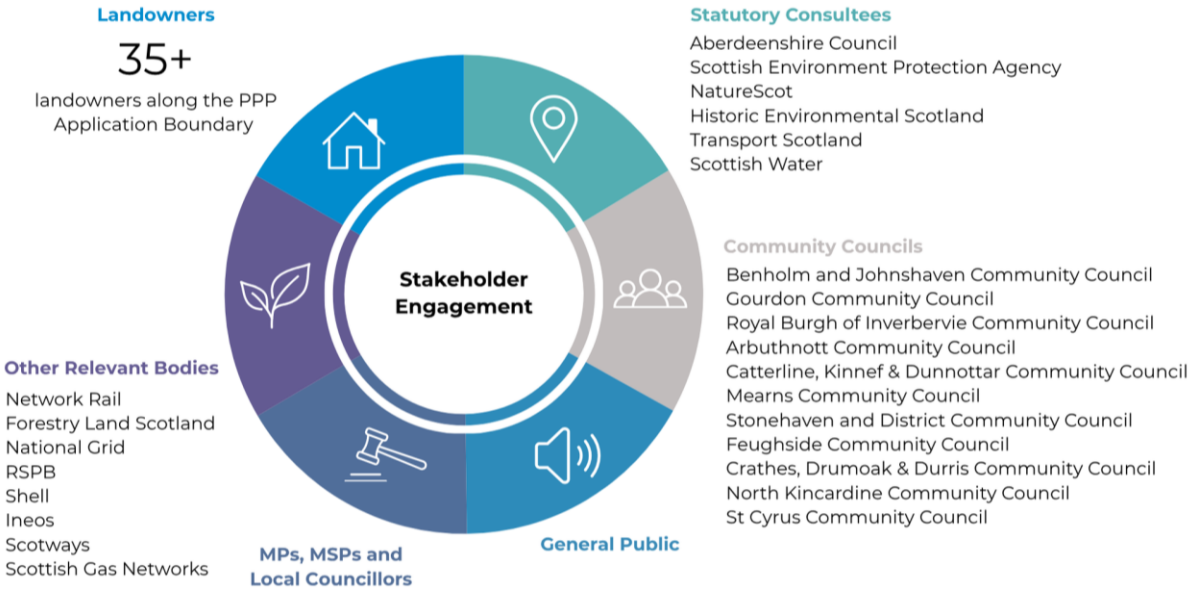
3 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Strategy

3.1 Engagement Approach

3.1.1 Throughout the pre-application stage, a significant volume of stakeholder and public engagement has taken place, including formal, informal, statutory and non-statutory platforms and mechanisms facilitating this engagement. Details of this engagement are set out in the following sections. These demonstrate that TWP has exceeded the minimum statutory consultation requirements for the Proposed Development.

3.1.2 Consultation has taken place through a wide variety of traditional and innovative approaches, including an online virtual exhibition hall, fixed venue events, informational sessions at festivals, and supply chain engagement.

3.1.3 Feedback from stakeholder engagement events was gathered through a combination of physical and digital channels, including questionnaires completed at in-person events and responses submitted via an online feedback form. All responses were collated into a single database to ensure consistency and ease of analysis. The data was then systematically reviewed and categorised into key themes, enabling a clear understanding of the most frequently raised issues and priorities identified by the community. This thematic analysis also allowed for the identification of emerging concerns as the consultation progressed, helping to ensure that evolving stakeholder perspectives were captured and addressed throughout the engagement process. Importantly, this also facilitated ongoing feedback or the ability to revisit issues with stakeholders at future events, demonstrating how areas of interest had been taken into account.



3.1.4 The consultation has followed the principles of Aberdeenshire Council's Planning Advice PA2023-15: SP=EED (September 2023) and met the

prescribed level of public and stakeholder engagement as outlined in the criteria set out in this planning advice document:

- transparency and Integrity;
- co-ordination;
- information;
- appropriateness;
- responsiveness;
- inclusiveness; and
- monitoring and Evaluation.

3.2 Virtual Exhibition Hall

3.2.1 A multi-layer approach was taken whereby information was provided in-person and could be accessed online in a virtual exhibition hall via the TWP's project website. This exhibition hall was set up for the informal events in 2024 as well as for the formal PAC events in 2025. This platform had the same information available as displayed at the physical events, so that people who were unable to or did not want to attend in person could access the same content. This was accessible in its various forms (content was updated for every set of events) at the project website at www.thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/virtual-room/. An image of the virtual exhibition hall is shown in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Virtual Exhibition Hall October 2025

4 Informal Consultation

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Prior to undertaking the formal PAC process which commenced with the submission of the PoAN to Aberdeenshire Council, TWP undertook non-statutory community consultation and engaged with Aberdeenshire Council and other key stakeholders to introduce the Proposed Development, build relationships, inform the site selection and EIA process, and seek recommendations on further engagement activity.

4.1.2 Initial consultation involved making contact with local community groups with an interest in the Project. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss methods on effective engagement with the community, potential issues of interest, and to establish a clear line of contact with these groups.

4.1.3 TWP have attended a number of local community events to engage members of the public including Stonehaven's Feein' Market in 2023, 2024 and 2025, the Harbour Festival in 2024 and the Gourdon Party in the Park 2025. Several events also formed part of TWP's Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics (STEM) outreach program. TWP also engaged with local community councils. The purpose of this activities and engagement was to continue to raise awareness of the Proposed Development and provide regular updates to the public regarding progress.

4.1.4 TWP engaged in Aberdeenshire Council's pre-application advice service. A pre-application meeting with Aberdeenshire Council was held in March 2024. This aimed to introduce the Project (and Proposed Development) to the Council and provide key programme dates along with a high-level overview of the Project description and planning approach. Following the pre-application consultation meeting, a round table meeting with selected consultees was held on 6 June 2024 and advice from a number of topic specialists and consultees was provided. Aberdeenshire Council provided written response on 25 July 2024. This outlined feedback and information from the Council Planning service and a number of consultees. The response has been taken into account in the preparation of the PPP application and EIA.

4.2 Public Information Days

4.2.1 A series of in-person public information days were held to inform the local community about the Proposed Development. The consultation events were held across three days in three locations on the dates shown in Table 4.1 below. Members of the Project team were available to answer questions from the public. The information provided at the events was replicated on the online virtual exhibition. The brochure which was made available at the events is provided in Annex E. The exhibition featured a series of boards displaying project information including the following:

- description of the Project and the onshore infrastructure;

- overview of the developer and Scotwind;
- outline of TWP's approach to Supply Chain;
- outline of TWP's approach to community benefits and STEM resources and opportunities;
- map with the EIA scoping boundary which also highlighted the constraints and other factors affecting the onshore cable route; and
- overview of the development process in the key development areas (landfall, cable corridor and substation site).

Table 4.1: 2024 Public Information Days

Date	Time	Venue
28 October 2024	1.30pm to 6.30pm	Drumlithie Village Hall
29 October 2024	1.30pm to 6.30pm	Gourdon Public Hall
30 October 2024	1pm to 6pm	Stonehaven Town Hall

4.2.2 Paper and online copies of feedback questionnaires were provided for attendees to provide feedback.

4.2.3 All attendees were offered the opportunity to leave their email contact details in order to receive updates on the Project's progress and be made aware of future events.

4.3 Wider Engagement

4.3.1 The Applicant is committed to maximising the benefit of the Project through supply chain development, provision of STEM resources and opportunities, and supporting local initiatives.

5 Formal PAC

5.1.1 This section details the community consultation undertaken by TWP from the submission of the PoAN and demonstrates how statutory PAC requirements have been met.

5.1 Proposal of Application Notice

5.1.1 The PoAN and location plan identifying the location of the proposals was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 16 July 2025. This included a general description of the proposed development, the proposed form of consultation, and dates and venues of proposed consultation events. A copy of the PoAN and location plan is provided in Annex A.

5.1.2 Aberdeenshire Council acknowledged receipt of the PoAN in correspondence dated 14 August 2025. Aberdeenshire Council did not request any additional notification or consultation.

5.1.3 The PoAN identified events to take place on the dates and locations shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Pre-application Consultation Events

Date	Venue and Time	Event
21 August 2025	Johnshaven Village Hall (2:00pm to 7:00pm)	PAC 1 public event - Day 1
22 August 2025	Drumlithie Bowling Club (2:00pm to 7:00pm)	PAC 1 public event – Day 2
02 October 2025	Johnshaven Village Hall (2:00pm to 7:00pm)	PAC 2 public event – Day 1
03 October 2025	Drumlithie Bowling Club (2:00pm to 7:00pm)	PAC 2 public event – Day 2

5.1.4 The PoAN was sent to the community councils and elected representatives listed in Table 5.2 below. A copy of a sample letter sent to the community councils and elected representatives is provided in Annex C.

Table 5.2: Community and Elected Representatives

Community Councils	Elected Representatives
Benholm and Johnshaven Community Council Gourdon Community Council Royal Burgh of Inverbervie Community Council Arbuthnott Community Council Catterline, Kinnef and Dunnottar Community Council Mearns Community Council Stonehaven and District Community Council Feughside Community Council Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council North Kincardine Community Council St Cyrus Community Council	Andrew Bowie MP Mairi Gougeon MSP Cllr Wendy Agnew Cllr Dawn Black Cllr Sarah Dickinson Cllr Tracey Smith Cllr Alison Evison Cllr George Carr Cllr Laurie Carnie

5.2 Newspaper Notices and Advertising

5.2.1 Notices of the PAC events were published in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the Proposed Development. Details of the notices are set out in Table 5.3. The notices were published at least seven days in advance of the events and contained the information required by Regulation 7 of the DMR.

Copies of the notices published in the Press and Journal and The Bellman are provided in Annex B.

Table 5.3: PAC Events Newspaper Notices

Newspaper Notice	Newspaper	Notice Date
Proposed Public Event 1 (21 to 22 August 2025)	The Press and Journal	04 August 2025
Proposed Public Event 1 (21 to 22 August 2025)	The Bellman (online)	11 August 2025
Proposed Public Event 2 (02 to 03 October 2025)	The Press and Journal	15 September 2025
Proposed Public Event 2 (02 to 03 October 2025)	The Bellman (online)	24 September 2025

5.2.2 Posters publicising the events were placed in local community halls, shops and notice boards in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

5.2.3 LinkedIn and Facebook were used to provide updates on the Proposed Development at key milestones and share details of the in-person PAC events as well as the online consultation platform.

5.2.4 A leaflet drop was undertaken via Royal Mail on week commencing 11 August 2025 for the following postcodes: DD10 0; AB39 3; AB39 2; AB30 1; AB31 6; totalling 16,288 leaflets. A copy of the leaflet is provided in Annex D.

5.2.5 Posters were put up in village halls and local notice boards in the region. The poster locations are shown in Table 5.4. A copy of the poster used is provided in Annex J.

Table 5.4: Poster Locations

Town / Village	Location
Auchenblae	Auchenblae Village Hall
Drumlithie	Notice board outside Drumlithie 'Steeple Shop'
Inverbervie Burgh Hall	Burgh Hall (posted with request to hang)
Arbuthnott	Grassic Gibbons Cafe (posted with request to hang)
Gourdon	Village Hall
Gourdon	Notice Board at the pier
St Cyrus	Village Hall
Johnshaven	Village Hall
Stonehaven	Town Hall notice board (posted with request to hang)

5.3 PAC Events

5.3.1 As set out in Table 5.1, the two PAC events (PAC 1 and PAC 2) were spread across two locations and four dates. This set up was chosen so that public engagement could take place at appropriate locations relevant to the linear PPP Application Boundary. An accessibility review was also carried out at

both venues to ensure all those who wished to attend the event could readily access and participate. As per Section 3.2 of this report, the consultation events were also available virtually, in order to ensure that the PAC could reach and be available to as many interested parties as possible.

PAC 1

Day 1 Overview

5.3.2 Day 1 of PAC Event 1 was held at Johnshaven Village Hall, from 2pm until 7pm on Thursday 21 August 2025. In attendance were representatives of the Project team covering consents, EIA, land and engineering in order to offer a complete overview and point of contact for any queries.

5.3.3 The hall was set up with seven information boards, information brochures and a video screen which outlines some key processes such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and cable laying.

Day 2 Overview

5.3.4 The second day of PAC Event 1 was held at Drumlithie Bowling Club between 2pm and 7pm on Friday 22 August 2025. As per Day 1, in attendance were representatives of the Project team covering consents, EIA, land and engineering in order to offer a complete overview and relevant point of contact for queries.

5.3.5 Similarly, the hall was set up with seven information boards, information brochures and a video screen.

Figure 5.1: PAC 1, Day 1

Figure 5.2: PAC 1, Day 2

Materials and Resources

5.3.6 Display materials included information such as:

- information on the developer and the offshore infrastructure – in order to give an overarching view of the Project;
- an overview of the need for renewable energy generation;
- an overview of the development process for offshore wind (on and offshore);
- a map illustrating the PPP application boundary;
- explanation of the onshore infrastructure refinement to date;
- a description of the Proposed Development components including the substation; and
- information regarding the EIA process.

5.3.7 Paper and online copies of feedback questionnaires were provided for attendees to contribute their feedback on the Proposed Development.

5.3.8 Copies of the information boards are provided in Annex F. A copy of the brochure that was available at the event is provided in Annex H. These were available in print and virtually.

Attendance and Responses

5.3.9 On Day 1, a total of 83 people attended. Day 2, was attended by 67 people. The feedback period for PAC 1 closed on 12 September 2025. 12 feedback forms were received during PAC 1.

5.3.10 Attendees at the events sought information and clarification on a number of points of interest from the Project team attending the event. Feedback received verbally rather than being submitted in writing were collated via notes taken on the day.

5.3.11 Prior engagement with the local school allowed pupils from Glenbervie Primary School to attend the PAC event in Drumlithie, with three teachers and 22 children to participate in a STEM workshop facilitated by the Project team.

Summary

5.3.12 A summary of the comments received at PAC 1 is provided in

5.3.13 Table 5.5, along with the Applicant's response. The contents of this table is similar to the feedback presented on the information boards and brochure at the PAC 2 events. This includes information regarding how the Applicant took account of views raised during the PAC process.

Table 5.5: Summary of Comments Received at PAC 1 and the Applicant's Response

Issues Raised	TWP Response
Traffic and Transport	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Logistic Plan (CLP) will be developed containing details of measures to control, monitor and enforce heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) movements during construction. This will also include details of travel routes and accesses to minimise the impacts of construction traffic on local residents. To minimise the amount of traffic on the local road network during construction, temporary haul roads would be installed along the onshore cable construction corridor to provide safe access for construction vehicles, thus reducing the requirement for vehicles to travel via public highways as much as possible. Temporary construction storage and laydown areas may also be used. Each public road that would have HGVs travelling on them during construction would either already be suitable for two-way HGV movements or be modified in advance of construction to enable this. Further traffic management plans that need to be approved by Aberdeenshire Council will specify exact requirements, for example there may be a ban on construction traffic through certain areas.

Issues Raised	TWP Response
	A construction specific Travel Plan is also proposed to provide the mechanism to support and promote shared and sustainable travel for staff, contractors and visitors travelling to the work sites. The Travel Plan would seek to encourage workers to access the site via sustainable travel modes, improving travel choices, and managing single occupancy car use. The Travel Plan would also indicate the approved routes to site and the approved parking locations. We will undertake pre-condition surveys of roads prior to construction to assess and record existing condition and to inform reinstatement post construction. We propose collaboration with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN-T); Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) in Fetteresso Forest, Transport Scotland (regarding Trunk Road Use and Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) movements) and Aberdeenshire Council regarding joint working, phasing, AIL movements and road improvements.
Cumulative Impacts from Multiple Developments	A robust cumulative impact assessment has been included within each of the topic specific chapters within the Onshore EIA Report. The projects assessed have been agreed with, Aberdeenshire Council, based on applications in the planning system and other committed development.
Operational Noise (Substation)	We are committed to including Embedded Mitigation within the final Substation design such as barriers and enclosures to meet noise limits required by Aberdeenshire Council (taking cumulative noise into account from other noise sources).
Disruption Resulting from Construction	The application includes an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The final CEMP will include specific measures to limit noise, vibration and dust. For example, through the selection of quieter equipment, limiting working hours, the application of industry best practice techniques and appropriate mitigation to reduce and suppress dust, and the use of temporary mitigation where detailed design defines it as necessary. Strategic construction phasing, including forestry felling activities, will occur at the Substation to provide screening and limit loss of forestry. The cable installation along the cable route is completed sequentially. First, the topsoil and subsoil are stripped and stored, the haul routes constructed, and trenches dug. The cable ducting is then installed, and the trenches backfilled. The cables would then be pulled through the ducts. The sequential nature of the work means that potential disturbance would be localised as the work progresses along the cable route. Although highly dependent on local conditions, a reasonable assumption for the progression rate of the cable installation is approximately 400 m every 4-6 weeks with HDD locations taking approximately 12 weeks.
Local Economic Development	TWP are committed to spending £600 million in Scotland for the Project and an ambition to increase spending to over £1 billion. The Project will create jobs during construction and operation and maintenance as well as in the wider supply chain and generate wider economic benefits, such as increased spending in the local economy and investment in

Issues Raised	TWP Response
	the region. The Project is actively supporting local businesses in overcoming barriers to entering the market, we have been running supply chain events and engaging with local businesses through our award-winning Supply Chain Pathways Programme.
Visual Impacts	Following feedback in PAC 1 visualisations of the Substation, the offshore turbines were presented as part of the PAC 2 events. The height of the substation building has been limited to 15 m to minimise potential visual impacts. Forestry retention and re-planting will be implemented to provide further mitigation of visual impacts, as well as providing biodiversity enhancements. A sequential installation of the cable route would ensure potential visual disturbance is localised and thus minimised as the work progresses along the cable route. The visualisations indicate visibility of the Substation from representative viewpoints and have been prepared under a 'worst-case scenario' with a maximum 15 m height for any buildings within the Substation Search Area. This scenario illustrates the maximum visibility that might occur from the Proposed Development. Specific measures to mitigate visual effects from construction, operation and maintenance phases will be developed at the detailed design stage and agreed with the Council. A mixture of approaches would be utilised with the aim to integrate the final structures into the surrounding landscape. This could include screening for the substation elements, earthworks to help integrate the substation into the landscape and specific building finishes.
Landfall	The landfall site selection process identified prospective landfall sites along the eastern Aberdeenshire coast. The sites were identified from desktop geotechnical, environmental constraints mapping, optioneering and assessment exercises for the Project to determine ground suitability, maximum cliff heights, access for Transition Joint Bays and potential environmental and engineering constraints. The alternatives considered throughout the design process are presented and discussed within Volume 1, Chapter 5: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered of the Onshore EIA Report. The landfall will be constructed using a trenchless technique. We are currently exploring suitable options for this work. The installation in this area will begin in the offshore cable corridor and the onshore construction will be from the agricultural field adjacent to the landfall avoiding the beach, here a Transition Joint Bay will be dug and then reinstated to ground level. Construction will be planned to avoid closures of the beach and coastal path.
Substation Lighting	The Substation lighting is to be sensitively designed to limit amenity impacts. This will involve inward facing lighting, timers and limited use. The Substation will be unmanned, and only emergency lighting will be present.
Ecology/Biodiversity	Baseline ecological surveys, collecting data on protected species (fauna and flora) ornithology habitats and watercourses undertaken; the findings are presented in

Issues Raised	TWP Response
	Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology of this Onshore EIA Report. All habitats subject to temporary disturbance during construction, will be reinstated following the completion of construction and mitigation proposals will include enhancements to existing habitats to increase local biodiversity.
Private Water Supplies (PWS)	PWS within 250 m of excavations required for the final design will be identified in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and a detailed risk assessment undertaken seeking to avoid impacts on supplies in line with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) guidance. Should a significant impact on a PWS be confirmed, an alternative source of water will be provided. The Contractor will be required to prepare a supply-specific monitoring plan and mitigation strategy in communication with affected landowners. At PPP stage properties with 1 km search area have been included in an initial screening.
Flood Risk	The Substation will be designed to avoid increasing flood risk. The EIA fully considers hydrology and flood risk for each phase of the onshore infrastructure i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning. Future changes resulting from climate changes have been factored into the flood risk assessment and an Outline Drainage Management Plan has been produced.
Potential WWII Aircraft Remains and Associated Contamination	The nearest reported crash site is a Royal Navy Air Service (RNAS) Swordfish Torpedo Bomber (Serial No. P4031) reported as flying into Hill of Trusta (outside the Cultural Heritage Study Area) during the night of the 14 September 1942. No WWII aircraft remains have been identified within the Cultural Heritage Study Area for the Proposed Development. If previously unknown WWII aircraft remains are identified these would be protected under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Should any such remains be identified additional consultation with the Ministry of Defence and Aberdeenshire Council would be undertaken, and a licence would be required from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre before any disturbance of the remains could be undertaken. Where possible, any such remains would be avoided through design and/or micrositing of associated elements of the Proposed Development. If required a detailed remediation strategy for any associated contamination would also be submitted to and approved by Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA prior to works commencing.
Support for renewable energy and meeting net zero targets.	The Proposed Development which relates to the onshore infrastructure of the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm is classified as a National Development in NPF4 and will contribute to achieving net zero emission targets. An assessment of the proposed development against national and local policy is contained in the Planning Statement which accompanies the PPP application.
Construction Impacts to Agricultural Landholdings	The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will include measures that will manage access within

Issues Raised	TWP Response
	agricultural land holdings and between fields, including the identification of alternative routes (subject to agreement from landowners), to enable the continued operation of likely affected agricultural land holdings and crofts during the construction of the Proposed Development.
Community Benefits	TWP are committed to working with the local community, community groups and Community Councils in order to establish, support and deliver community benefits to the locality. These commitments are voluntary in nature and are not secured through the PPP application, nevertheless there is a commitment to provide these to level up the local area. During the PAC events, stakeholders were given then opportunity to suggest potential options and solutions which could provide community benefits. There was a range of potential solutions that were suggested and are actively being considered such as: training and educational support for schools within the local area (STEM events), improvement to local community assets/areas, Improvements to walking/cycle routes, and the creation of a community benefit fund. These are just a few of the options that will be considered as the project progresses into the later stages.
Offshore Impacts	Any potential offshore impacts will be addressed appropriately within the offshore EIAR which will accompany the application for the offshore elements of the Project.
Soil and Geology Impacts	Soil management measures will be incorporated into the detailed CEMP within a Soil Management Plan (SMP). which will be prepared in accordance with Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (PB13298), Institute of Quarrying (IQ) Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings and British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) Working with Soil Guidance Note on Benefiting from Soil Management in Development and Construction. The design of the cable route will also seek to reduce permanent loss of Prime Agricultural Land and fragmentation of agricultural land. The finalised cable route will also be routed with consideration of sensitivity soil habitats (such as Peatland/carbon sinks) to minimise potential negative impacts. The cables will also have temperature sensing to provide an indication of any potential overheating risk and thus limit the occurrence of extreme soil warming.
Woodland and Forestry	The location and geographic extent of the PPP application Boundary has been designed to avoid areas of forestry and woodland areas where reasonably practicable. Any areas of permanent loss will require compensatory planting in line with the Scottish Government's Policy on control of Woodland. Appropriate re-planting will be proposed within a Felling and Planting Plan.
Carbon Impact of the Project	It is expected that additional mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce the associated GHG emissions as part of the separate consenting for the Offshore Infrastructure. It should be noted that at this early stage, estimates of GHG emissions have a high level of uncertainty, which will improve as the Project progresses. A Whole Life

Issues Raised	TWP Response
	Carbon Assessment has been included within Volume 1, Chapter 15: Climate Change which presents the estimates of the Greenhouse Gas emissions across the full lifetime of the Proposed Development.
Property and Land	The PPP Application Boundary has been designed with appropriate buffer zones from sensitive receptors including residential receptors properties and settlements along with the avoidance of community land and assets where reasonably practicable.

PAC 2

Day 1 Overview

5.3.14 Day 1 of PAC Event 2 was held at Johnshaven Village Hall, from 2pm until 7pm on Thursday 02 October 2025. In attendance were representatives of the Project team covering consents, EIA, land and engineering in order to offer a complete overview and point of contact for any queries.

Figure 5.3 PAC 2, Day 1

5.3.15 A total of ten information boards were made available. In addition to the information provided at PAC 1, the boards included a summary of the key issues raised at PAC 1 and the Applicant's responses to those issues.

5.3.16 Representatives from the Project team were in attendance and were available to answer queries and to provide feedback from issues raised at PAC 1.

5.3.17 Similar engagement from PAC 1 events was made with Johnshaven Primary School with four teachers and 19 pupils attending the event, and participating in a STEM workshop facilitated by the Project team, Figure 5.4.

Figure 5.4: PAC 2, Day 1 Johnshaven Primary School visit

Day 2 Overview

5.3.18 The format of the day 2 of PAC 2, mirrored that of day 1 of PAC 2. In addition to the information provided at PAC 1, the boards included a summary of the key issues raised at PAC 1 and the Applicant's response to those issues.

Figure 5.5 PAC 2, Day 2

5.3.19 Day 2 of PAC 2 was advertised to be held at Drumlithie Bowling Club from 2pm to 7pm on 3 October 2025. Due to adverse weather conditions, the event was brought to a close at 4.30pm. Communications were issued by TWP via social media on Thursday afternoon on 02 October 2025 to alert people that the upcoming adverse weather conditions and that the event may need to close early. However, as the weather worsened on the afternoon of 3 October 2025 the decision was made by the Project team that from a health and safety perspective it was necessary to close the event at 4.30pm.

5.3.20 Following the event, TWP contacted Aberdeenshire Council to explain the circumstances. Aberdeenshire Council confirmed that given the circumstances were outwith the Project team's control, and seeing that the minimum requirements have been exceeded, and that an event was still able to be held for a short time on 03 October 2025 then Aberdeenshire Council's Planning Service were content that this aspect of PAC has been met; and would not require any further public consultation events.

Materials and Resources

5.3.21 Display materials included information such as:

- information on the developer and the onshore infrastructure – in order to give an overarching view of the Project;
- an overview of the need for renewable energy generation;

- an overview of the development process of offshore wind (on and offshore);
- a Map illustrating the PPP application boundary;
- explanation of the onshore infrastructure refinement to date;
- a description of the Proposed Development components including the substation;
- information regarding the EIA process; and
- explanation on how comments received at PAC 1 had been taken into consideration.

5.3.22 Visualisations which indicate visibility of the substation from representative viewpoints were available at the PAC 2 events. In addition visualisations of the offshore turbines were also available as requested by some PAC 1 attendees. These visualisations are provided in Annex K.

5.3.23 Paper and online copies of feedback questionnaires were provided for attendees to contribute their feedback on the Proposed Development.

5.3.24 Copies of the information boards are provided in Annex G. A copy of the brochure that was available at the event is provided in Annex I. These were available in print and virtually.

Attendance and Responses

5.3.25 On Day 1 of PAC 2, a total of 59 people attended. Day 2 saw four people attend. The feedback period for PAC 2 closed on 17 October 2025. Three feedback forms were received (a combination of paper and online).

5.3.26 Attendees at the events sought information and clarification on a number of points of interest from the Project team attending the event. Feedback received verbally rather than being submitted in writing were collated via notes taken on the day.

Summary

5.3.27 A summary of the comments received at PAC 2 and the Applicant's response is provided in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Summary of Comments Received at PAC 2 and the Applicant's Response

Issues Raised	Applicant's Response
Impacts upon fishing in the marine environment.	This will be addressed within the EIAR which will accompany the application for the offshore elements of the Project, which considers impact on the marine environment including fisheries. The EIA for offshore assesses potential impacts on the marine environs and receptors and where necessary proposes mitigation to avoid, reduce or offset significant effects.
Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF)	The Proposed Development will not include overhead power lines and all onshore cables will be buried underground, as such exposure to EMF from these sources can reasonably be expected to be within standards for health protection. This matter was scoped out of the onshore EIA assessment on the basis that there was no

Issues Raised	Applicant's Response
	likelihood of any significant effects occurring for the Proposed Development.
Landscape and Visual Impact	The route and design of the Proposed Development have been developed through an iterative process involving engineering, environmental and landscape specialists to minimise potential visual impacts and integrate the Proposed Development with the surrounding landscape. As part of the design, embedded landscape mitigation measures have been developed to help to reduce visual impacts. The landscape and visual assessment of the Proposed Development is presented in the EIAR.
Water Environment and Flood Risk	The substation will be designed to avoid increasing flood risk. The Water Quality and Flood Risk Chapter of the EIAR contains an assessment of hydrology and flood risk for each phase of the onshore infrastructure i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning. Future changes resulting from climate change have been factored into the flood risk assessment and an Outline Management Plan has been produced.
Traffic and Transport – access off the A90	The Project is committed to producing a Construction Traffic Management Plan to support the Proposed Development, this document will aim to ensure that negative impacts related to any increase in traffic associated with construction activities are avoided or minimised and appropriately managed. Safety is a key consideration and some accesses may be subject to a left only turn policy for increased safety.
Cumulative	Extensive work has been undertaken in order to demonstrate, as far as possible at PPP stage, that issues arising in terms of cumulative impacts between large scale developments within the locality will be reduced. Specific coverage is included throughout the Onshore EIA Report where individual topic chapters have all considered cumulative impacts in their assessment. The list of cumulative sites assessed was agreed with Aberdeenshire Council in September 2025.
Biodiversity	The Proposed Development at MSC stage will develop measures to achieve biodiversity enhancement within the PPP Application Boundary. Areas subject to disturbance for construction will be "made good", fully restored and appropriately enhanced where appropriate.
Land Use/Land take including Forestry	The location and geographic extent of the PPP Application Boundary has been designed to reduce the permanent loss of Prime Agricultural Land (LCA Grades 1, 2 and 3.1). As the permanent easement for the underground 220/275 kV Onshore Export Cables would not restrict agricultural use this easement is not considered to have any permanent effects on future agricultural land use on the agricultural land holdings affected. Permanent removal of commercial forestry would result as a result of the substation site within Fetteresso Forest; where replanting cannot be proposed compensatory planting will be required to comply with the Scottish Government's Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal. Details of compensatory planting requirements would form part of the MSC stage.
Trenchless techniques	As discussed in Volume 1, Chapter 2: The Proposed Development, trenchless techniques including HDD methods will be utilised to minimise the potential disturbance from the Proposed Development. HDD crossings will be used at the landfall site,

Issues Raised	Applicant's Response
	watercourse crossings, major roads and railway lines, and at towns and villages such as Drumlithie.
Offshore Impacts	See the response to this issue in Table 5.5 above.
Soil and Geology Impacts	See the response to this issue in Table 5.5 above.

6 Summary

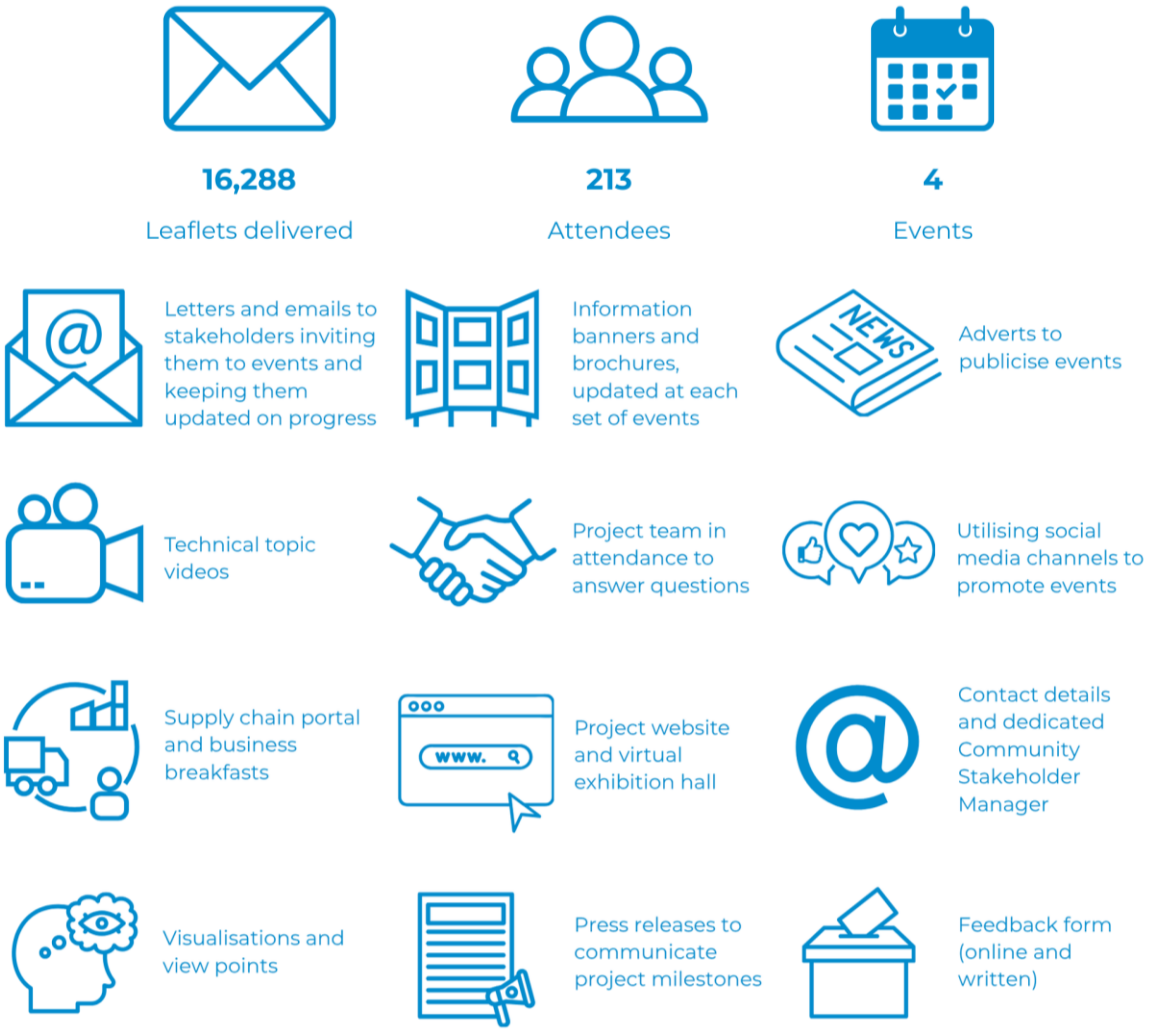
6.1.1 This PAC Report outlines and documents the pre-application consultation process undertaken by the Applicant in respect of the proposals for the onshore infrastructure associated with the proposed Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, Onshore Infrastructure.

6.1.2 The Applicant has delivered an extensive, transparent and accessible stakeholder engagement and consultation process.

6.1.3 The Applicant has exceeded the formal pre-application consultation requirements and has followed the principles of Aberdeenshire Council's Planning Advice PA2023-15: SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) (September 2023).

6.1.4 The steps undertaken have allowed for information to be provided and stakeholders and consultees have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals and understand how views raised have been considered.

6.1.5 The Applicant is committed to maintaining regular communications and engagement with the local community.



7 Annexes

Annex A: Proposal of Application Notice and Location Plan

Annex B: Newspaper Notices

Annex C: Sample Letter for Events

Annex D: Mail Drop

Annex E: 2024 Information Days Brochure

Annex F: Information Boards – PAC 1 events

Annex G: Information Boards – PAC 2 events

Annex H: Formal Pre-Application (PAC) 1 Event Brochure

Annex I: Formal Pre-Application (PAC) 2 Event Brochure

Annex J: Poster Advertising the PAC Events

Annex K: Visualisations

Annex A: Proposal of Application Notice and Location Plan

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Section 35B)
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Regulations 4 -7)

To be completed for all developments within the national or major categories of development

Name of Council	Aberdeenshire Council
Address	Strategic Development Delivery Team, Planning and Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Services, Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ
Proposed development at [Note 1]	Land at Benholm to the south of Gourdon connecting to Fetteresso Forest, Stonehaven
Description of proposal [Note 2]	Onshore infrastructure associated with the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm including: formation of onshore landing point; laying of underground cables; erection of substation; and associated works (National Development)

Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to

[Note 3] Aberdeenshire Council Council by [Note 4] Thistle Wind Partners

Of [Note 5]
Capital Building, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF

In respect of [Note 6] In-person pre-application consultation events

To take place on [Note 7] 21st August 2025 and 2nd October 2025 (2-7pm, Johnshaven Village Hall)
22nd August 2025 and 3rd October 2025 (2-7pm, Drumlithie Bowling Club)

[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

The following Community Councils:
Benholm and Johnshaven; Gourdon; Royal Burgh of Inverbervie; Arbuthnott; Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar; Mearns; Stonehaven and District; Feughside; Crathes, Drumoak & Durris; North Kincardine; and St Cyrus.

[Note 9] For further details contact Maryanne Paterson; email: m.paterson@twp.scot

on telephone number [redacted]

And/or at the following address Thistle Wind Partners, Capital Building, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF

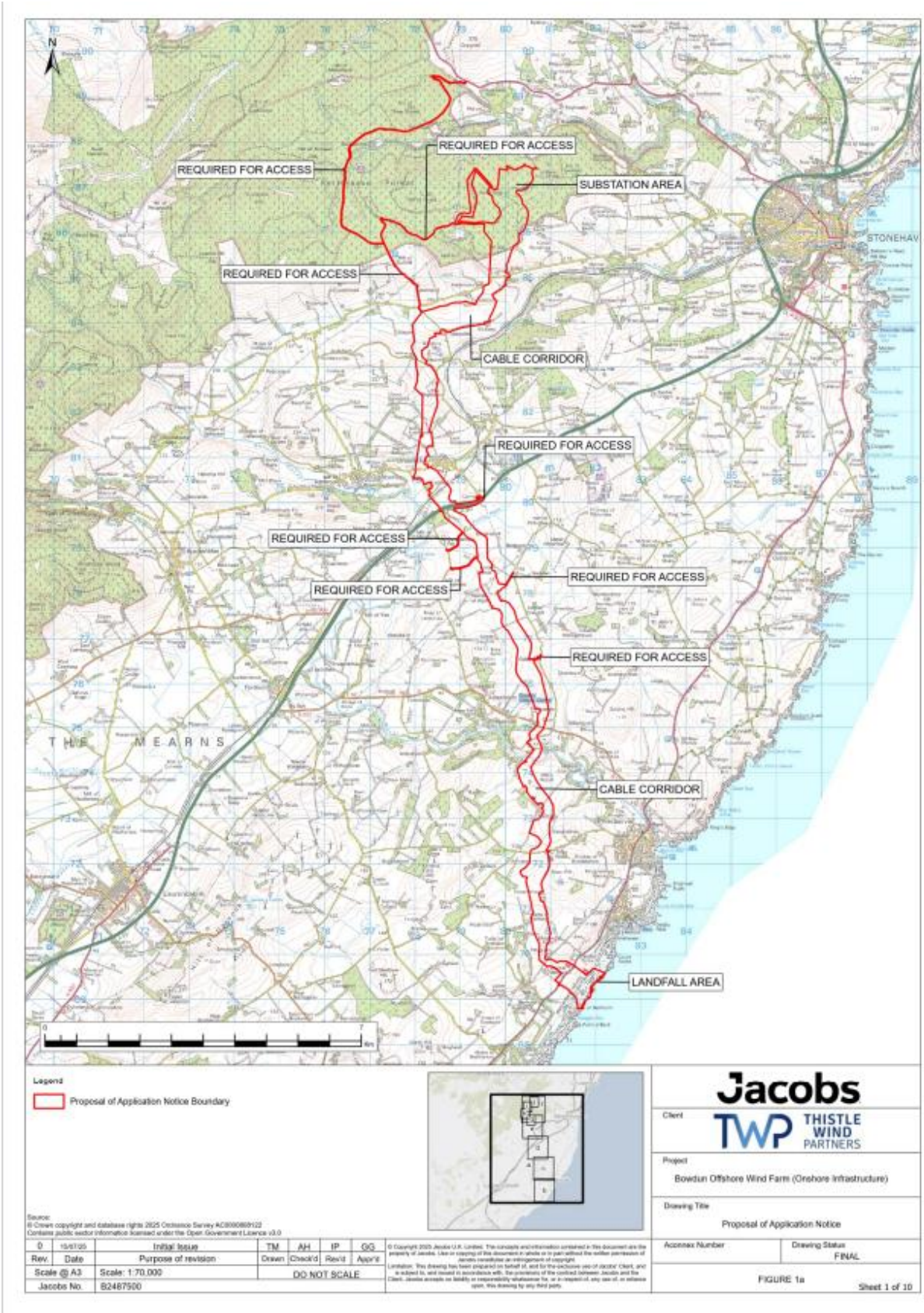
[Note 10] I certify that I have attached a plan outlining the site

Signed [redacted]

On behalf of Thistle Wind Partners

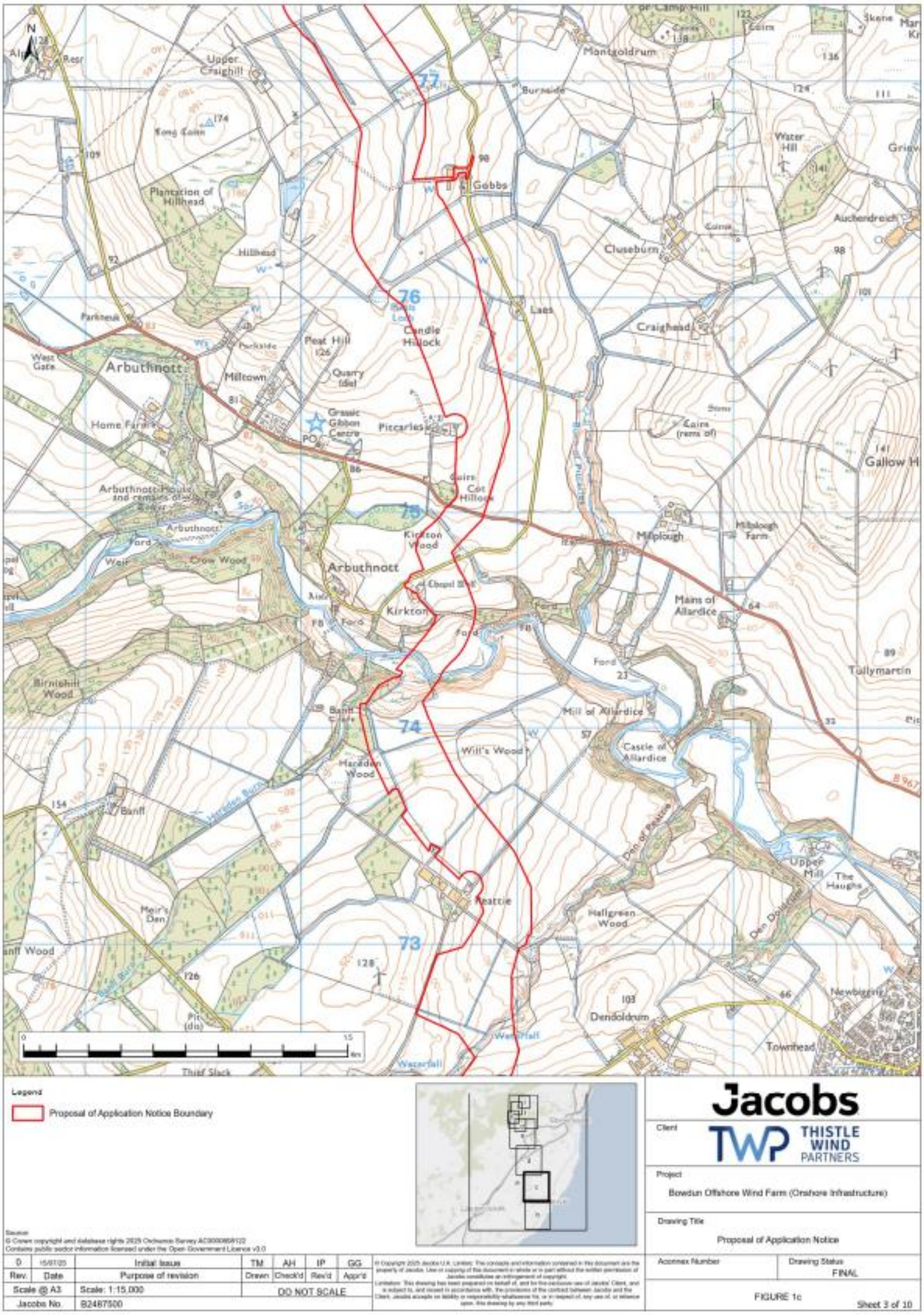
Date 16 July 2025

A.1: PoAN

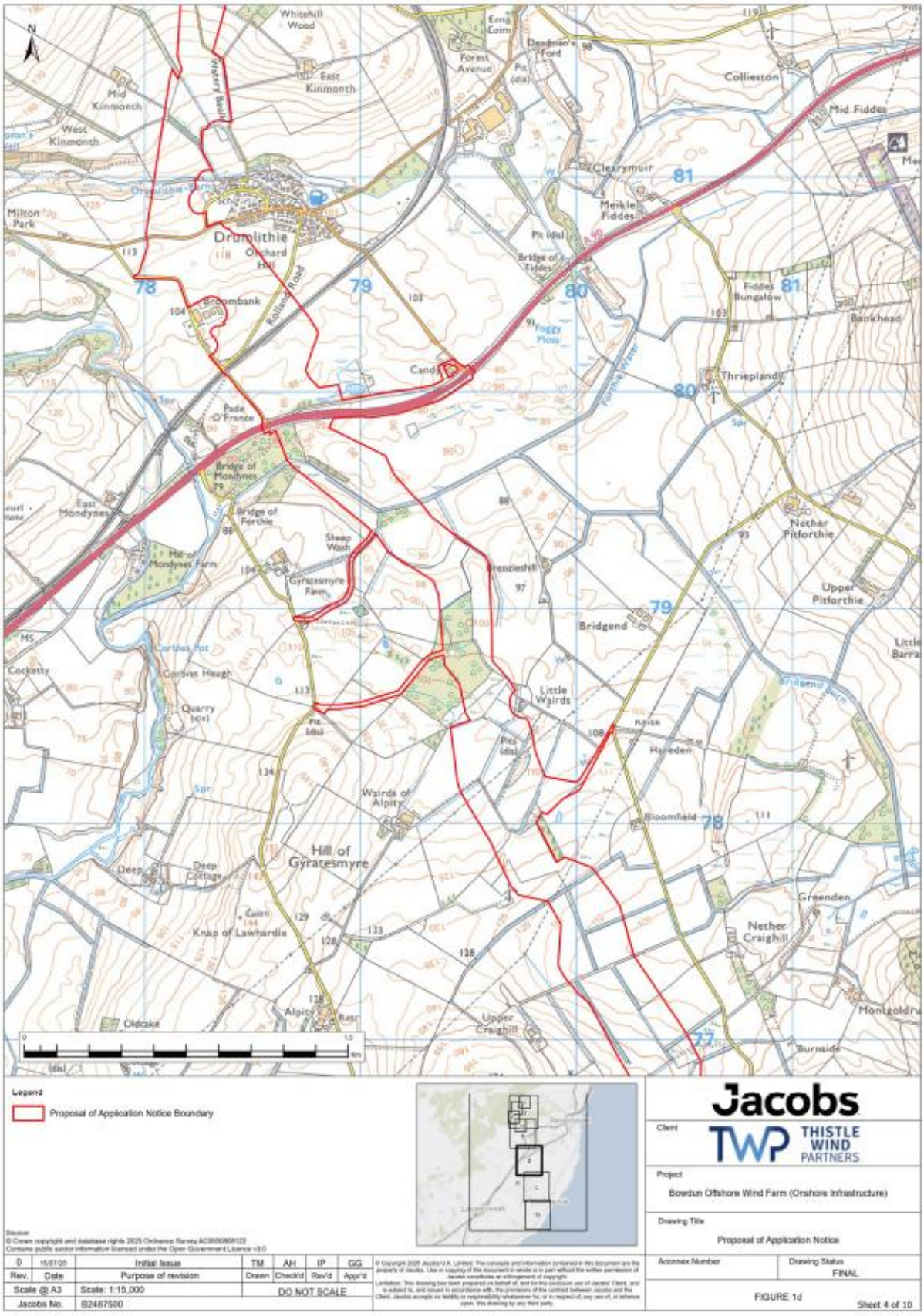


A.2: Location Plan Sheet 1

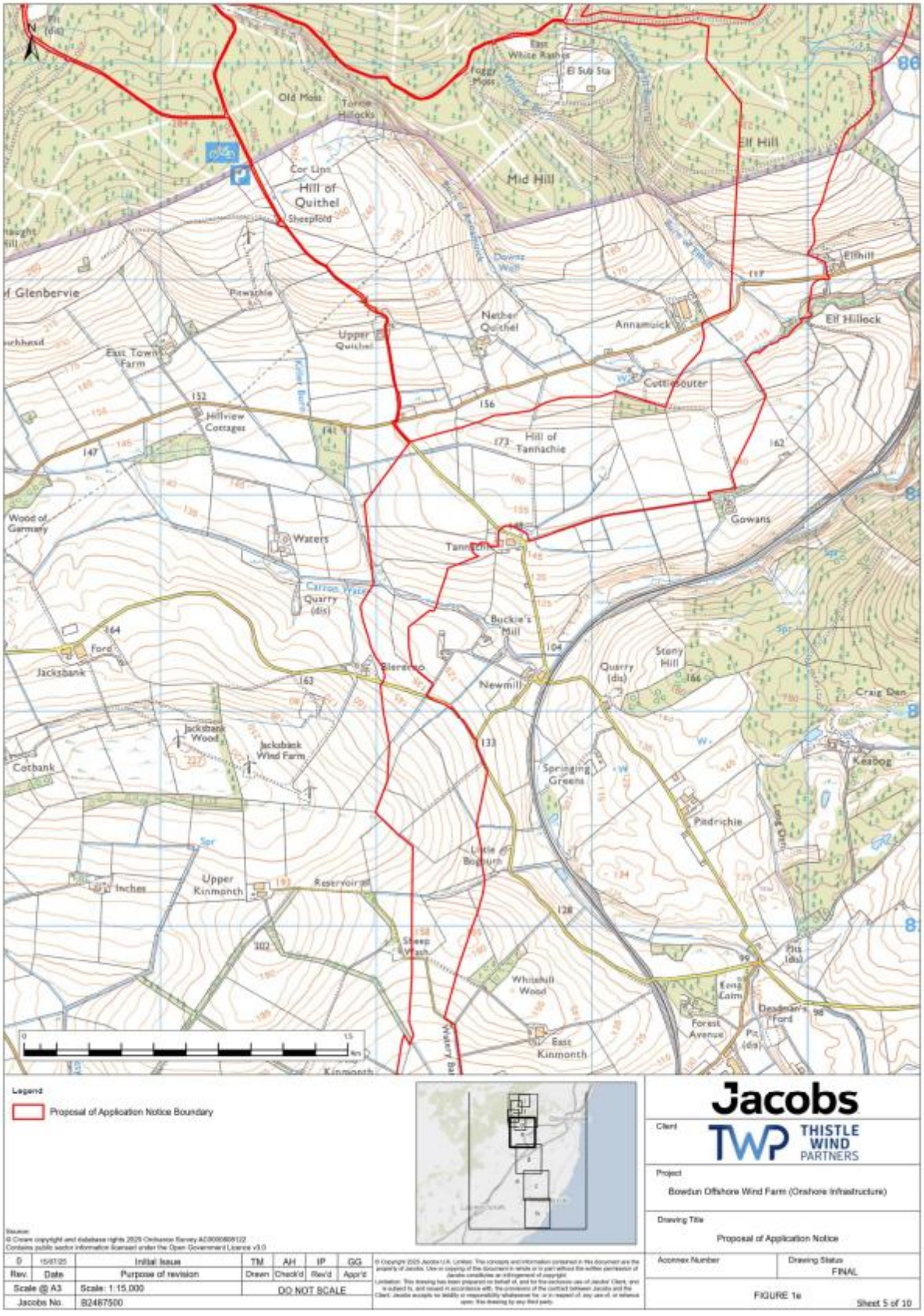
A.3: Location Plan Sheet 2



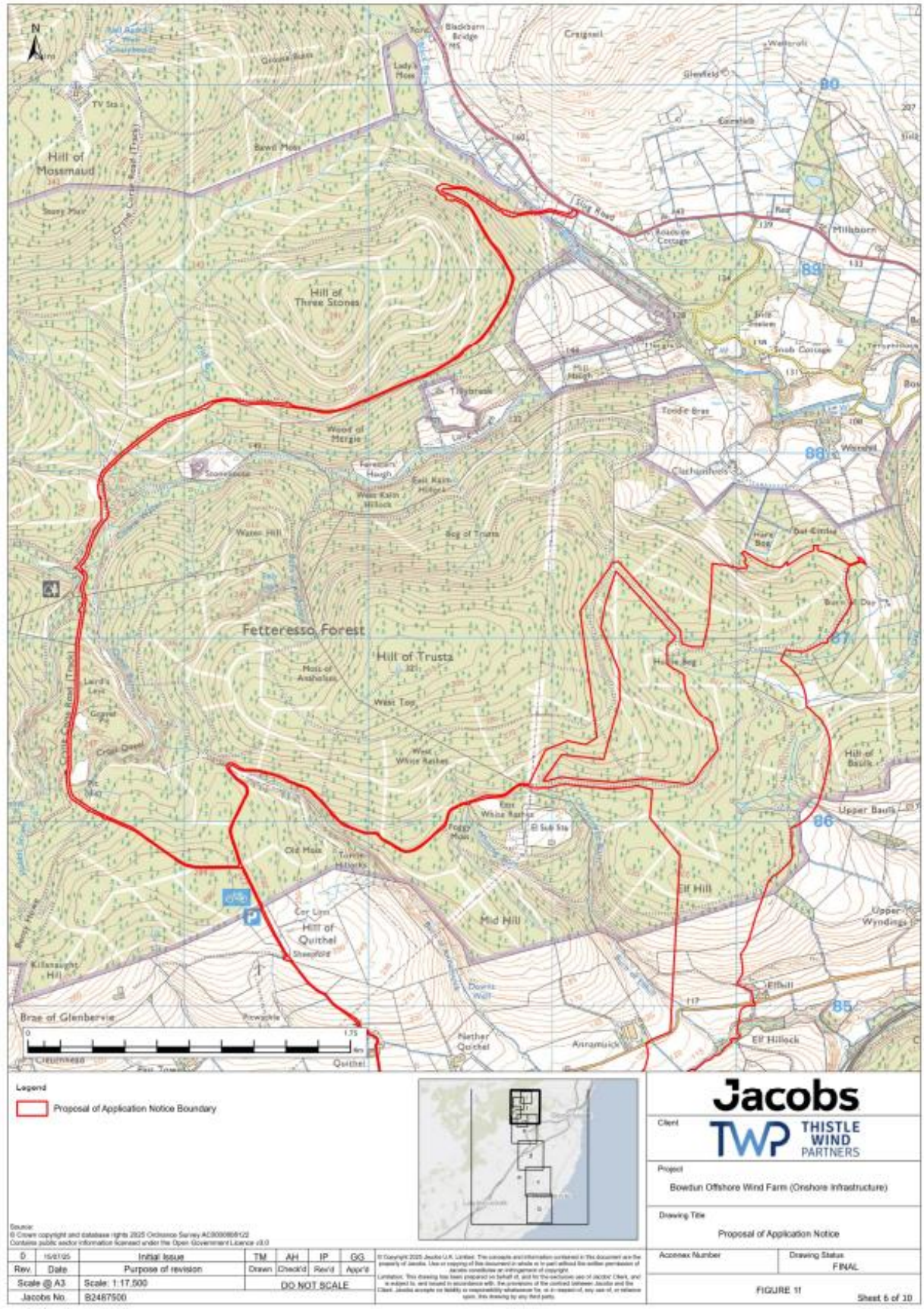
A.4: Location Plan Sheet 3



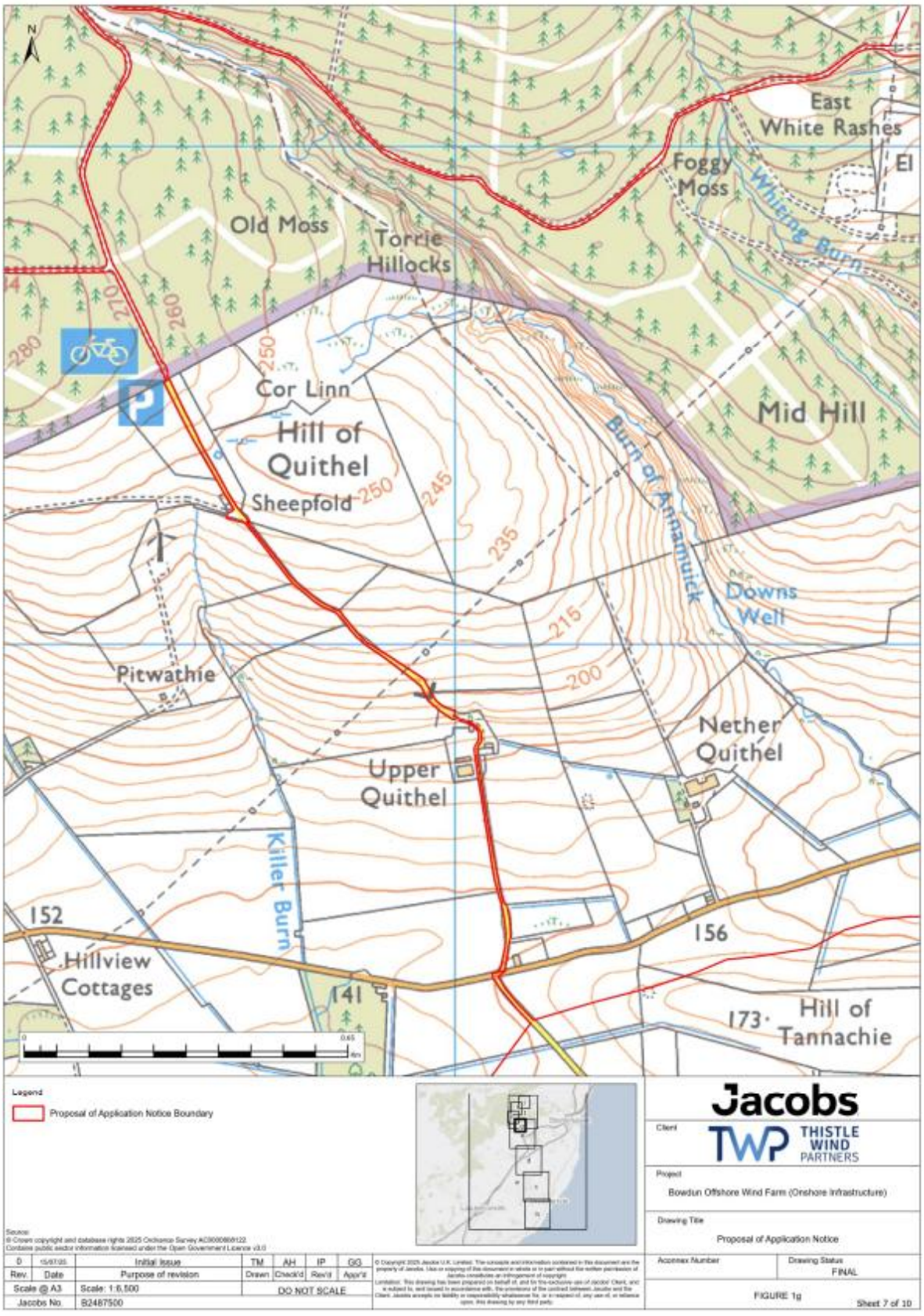
A.5: Location Plan Sheet 4



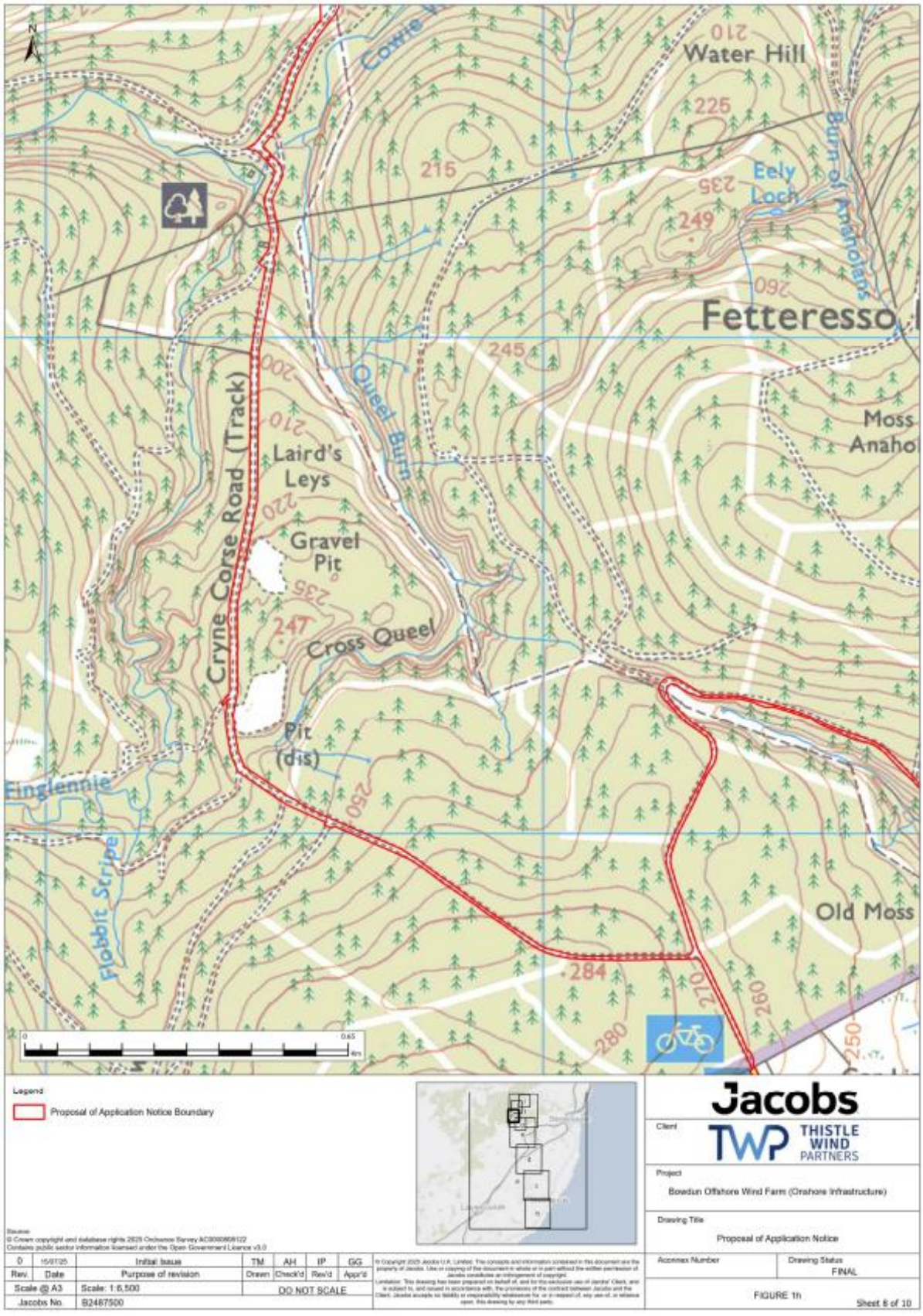
A.6: Location Plan Sheet 5



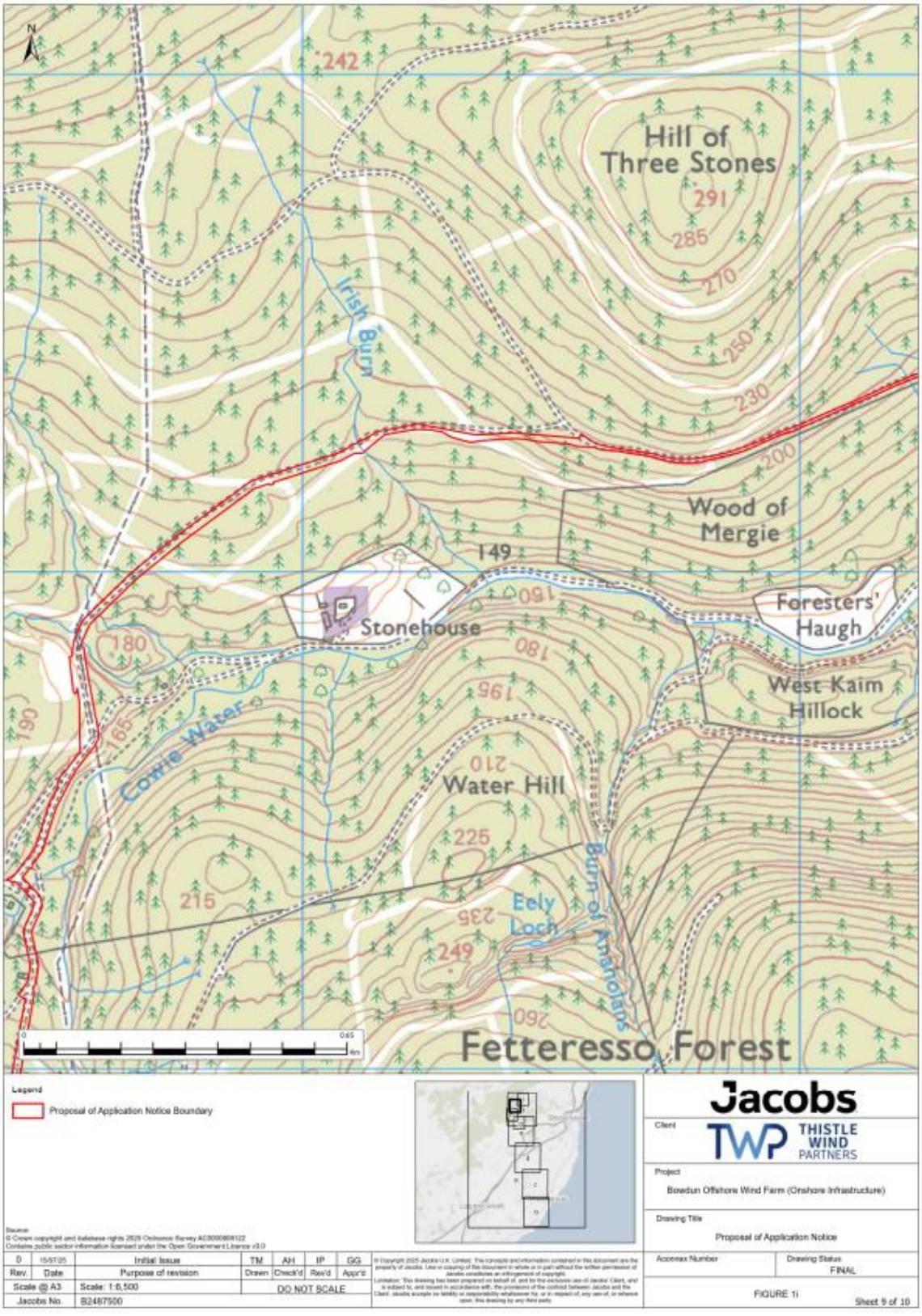
A.7: Location Plan Sheet 6



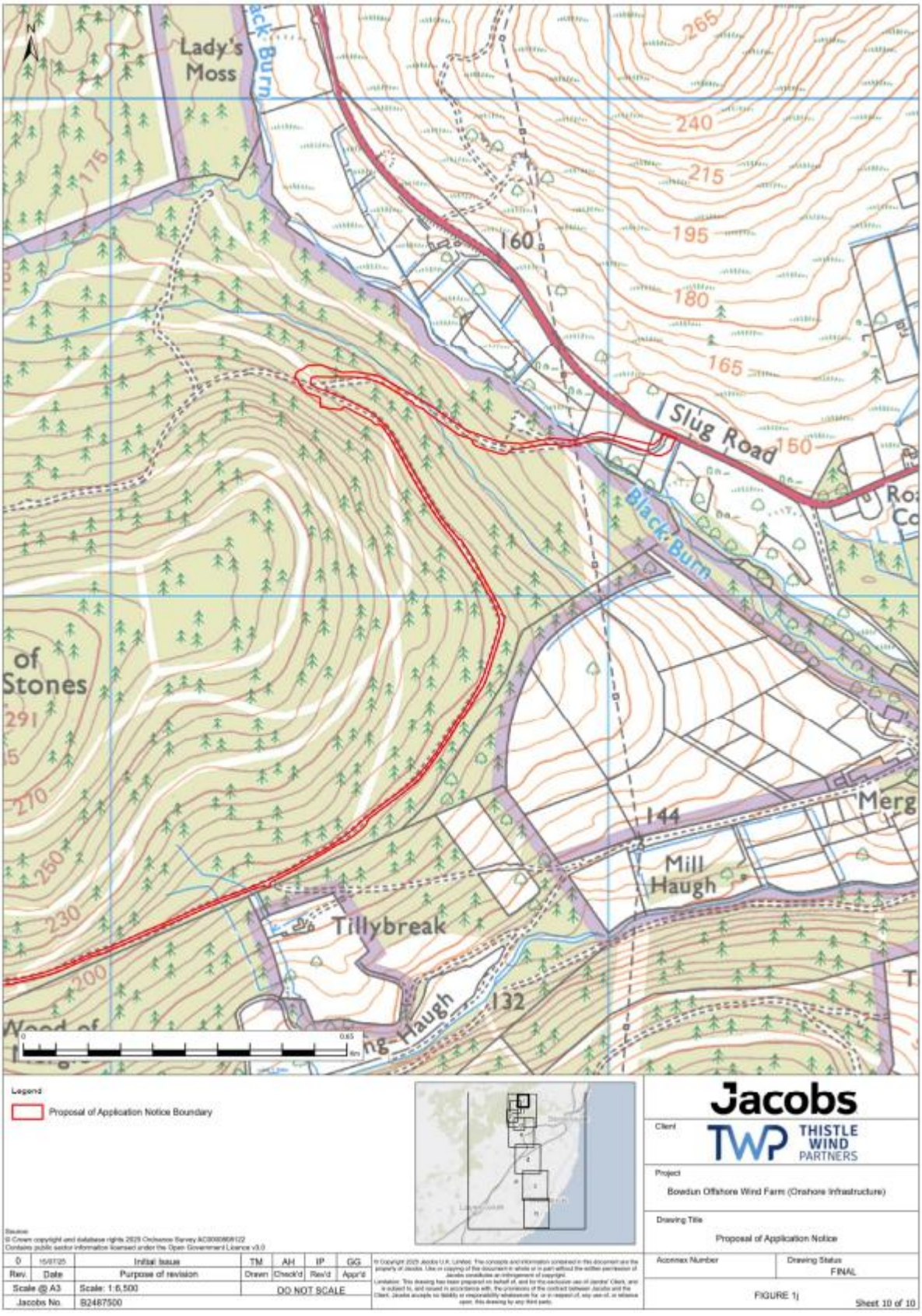
A.8: Location Plan Sheet 7



A.9: Location Plan Sheet 8



A.10: Location Plan Sheet 9



A.11: Location Plan Sheet 10

Annex B: Newspaper Notices

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL
Monday, August 4, 2025

Notice Board

Public Notices

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended) Regulation 7
Notice of Pre-Application Consultation

Thistle Wind Partners (the Prospective Applicant) hereby submits notification of preapplication consultation for a proposed development at Land at Benholm to the south of Gourdon connecting to Fetteresso Forest, Stonehaven.

The proposed development is for: Onshore infrastructure associated with the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm including: formation of onshore landing point; laying of underground cables; erection of substation; and associated works (National Development). Thistle Wind Partners intends to apply to Aberdeenshire Council for Planning Permission in Principle for the above proposal.

A proposal of application notice in respect of the proposed development was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 16 July 2025.

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following consultation events (Public Event 1) relating to the proposal described above to be held on:

Date	Location	Time	Address
Pre-Application Consultation Events (1)			
Thurs, 21 Aug 2025	Johnshaven Village Hall	2pm-7pm	16 Mid St, Johnshaven, DD10 0HB
Fri 22 Aug 2025	Drumlithie Bowling Club	2pm-7pm	Station Rd, Drumlithie, Stonehaven AB39 3YT

Details of further consultations (Public Event 2) will be published in due course.

This event is an opportunity to view the proposal and to meet Thistle Wind Partners project teams who will be able to answer any questions.

Further information including a virtual exhibition which will be accessible from **21 August 2025** can be found at www.twp.scot/bowdun. Further information can also be obtained by emailing k.macaulay@twp.scot.

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal can do so before **12th September 2025** by:

- Emailing k.macaulay@twp.scot or posting feedback to: Thistle Wind Partners, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF, or;
- Filling out the feedback form on the virtual exhibition website: www.twp.scot/bowdun or;
- Completing a feedback form at an exhibition event.

Please note that any comments made to the Prospective Applicant are not representations to Aberdeenshire Council. There will be an opportunity to make representations to Aberdeenshire Council following the submission of the application to Aberdeenshire Council.

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013
Notice under Regulation 7(b) – Pre-application consultation by the prospective applicant
The licensable activity consists of:
Up to 67 wind turbines (fixed foundations); Up to two offshore substations, connected to the turbines via inter-array cables; Up to three interconnector cables; Up to three export cables to the landfall location of Benholm.
The Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm will be located 38km from the Aberdeenshire coast.
Public exhibitions will be held to discuss the project location and associated works at:

Date	Location	Time	Address
Thurs 2 Oct 2025	Johnshaven Village Hall	2pm-7pm	16 Mid St, Johnshaven, DD10 0HB

A virtual exhibition is available at www.twp.scot/bowdun and will be accessible by **21 August 2025**.

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal can do so before **17 October** by:

-Emailing k.macaulay@twp.scot or by post to Thistle Wind Partners, Capital Building, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH2 2AF, or;
-Filling out the feedback form on the virtual exhibition website at www.twp.scot/bowdun or;
-Completing a feedback form at the exhibition event.

Comments should not be submitted to Scottish Ministers at this stage.

Comments submitted at this stage are not formal representations submitted to Scottish Ministers. There will be an opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Ministers when the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Project submits its application.

Public Notices

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
NOTICE OF ORDERS TO EXEMPT LAND FROM ACCESS RIGHTS GRAMPIAN FORREST RALLY

Notice is hereby given under Section 11(9) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the Act") that on 31 July 2025 Aberdeenshire Council made the following order: "The Access Rights Exemption Order 08/25 (Whiteshaugh and Clatterin Kat (Correen Hills), North Drumtochty, Fetteresso, Durris Forests)" ("the Order") under Section 11(1) of the Act.

The effect of the above Order will be to exempt parts of the Forestry and Land Scotland forests of Whiteshaugh and Clatterin Kat (Correen Hills), North Drumtochty, Fetteresso, Durris from the access rights which would otherwise be exercisable in respect of that land by virtue of Part 1 of the Act. The Order shall come into operation at 00.00 hours on Friday 8 August 2025 and will expire at 12.00 hours on Sunday 10 August 2025. Rights of way are not affected by this order.

Copies of the finalised Order and accompanying maps can be viewed during normal office hours at Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB.

The purpose for which the Order is being proposed is for the Grampian Forest Rally 2025.

Head of Legal and People
Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL
NOTICE OF ORDERS TO EXEMPT LAND FROM ACCESS RIGHTS GRAMPIAN FORREST RALLY

Notice is hereby given under Section 11(9) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the Act") that on 31 July 2025 Aberdeenshire Council made the following order: "The Access Rights Exemption Order 08/25 (Fetteresso Forest)" ("the Order") under Section 11(1) of the Act.

The effect of the above Order will be to exempt parts of the Forestry and Land Scotland forest of Fetteresso from the access rights which would otherwise be exercisable in respect of that land by virtue of Part 1 of the Act. The Order shall come into operation at 00.00 hours on Thursday 7 August 2025 and will expire at 18.00 hours. Rights of way are not affected by this order.

Copies of the finalised Order and accompanying map can be viewed during normal office hours at Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB.

The purpose for which the Order is being proposed is for the Grampian Forest Rally 2025.

Head of Legal and People
Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB

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B.1: Newspaper Notice for PAC 1

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Monday, September 15, 2025

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STYLISH ATTRACTIVE LADY
Youthful 71, young at heart, with good sense of humour, WLTM a good looking smart gent, 60's, non-smoker. I enjoy gardening, art, reading and various other interests, would like meet someone to share in mutual interests.
Tel: 07900013419.

Public Notices

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (As Amended) Regulation 7
Notice of Pre-Application Consultation

Thistle Wind Partners (the Prospective Applicant) hereby submits notification of Pre-Application Consultation for a proposed development at Land at Benholm to the south of Gourdon connecting to Fetteresso Forest, Stonehaven to the north.

The proposed development is for onshore infrastructure associated with the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm including: formation of onshore landing point; laying of underground cables; erection of substation; and associated works (National Development). Thistle Wind Partners intends to apply to Aberdeenshire Council for Planning Permission in Principle for the above.

A Proposal of Application Notice in respect of the proposed development was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on 16 July 2025. Consultation events on the proposals (Public Event 1) were held on 21 August 2025 at Johnshaven Village Hall, 15 Mid St, Johnshaven, DD10 0HB and on 22 August 2025 at Drumlithie Bowling Club, Station Rd, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT.

Members of the local community and interested members of the public are invited to attend the following consultation events (Public Event 2) relating to the proposals described above to be held on:

Date	Location	Time	Address
Pre-Application Consultation Events (2)			
Thurs, 2 Oct, 2025	Johnshaven Village Hall	2pm-7pm	15 Mid St, Johnshaven DD10 0HB
Fri, 3 Oct, 2025	Drumlithie Bowling Club	2pm-7pm	Station Rd, Drumlithie, Stonehaven AB39 3YT

This event is an opportunity to view the proposals and to meet Thistle Wind Partners project teams who will be able to answer questions on the proposals. Comments received at the first consultation events (Public Event 1) have been summarised. Feedback on these comments will be presented at Public Event 2.

Further information including a virtual exhibition is accessible and can be found at www.twp.scot/bowdun/virtual-room Further information can also be obtained by emailing k.macaulay@twp.scot

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposals can do so before **17th October 2025** by:

- Emailing k.macaulay@twp.scot or posting feedback to: Thistle Wind Partners, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF, or;
- Filling out the feedback form on the virtual exhibition website; www.twp.scot/bowdun or;
- Completing a feedback form at an exhibition event

Please note that any comments made to the Prospective Applicant are not representations to Aberdeenshire Council. There will be an opportunity to make representations to Aberdeenshire Council following the submission of the application to Aberdeenshire Council.

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While every effort will be made to insert an advertisement at the time specified, no guarantee can or will be given for such insertion. The Publishers shall not be liable for any error, omission or inaccuracy in a published advertisement, nor do they accept any liability for any loss which the Advertiser may allege to have been caused by any such error, omission or inaccuracy. No responsibility is taken for any mishap in handling box number replies.
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The Advertiser must obtain and maintain all necessary licences, permissions and consents which may be required before the date on which an advertisement is set to be inserted. The Advertiser confirms that any information supplied with the advertisement is accurate, complete, true and not misleading. Furthermore, the Advertiser guarantees that the Advertisement is legal, decent, honest and truthful, and complies with all relevant law and regulation including codes and industry guidance in regards to an advertisement and its products or services.
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(rings, bracelets, brooches, earrings, watches)
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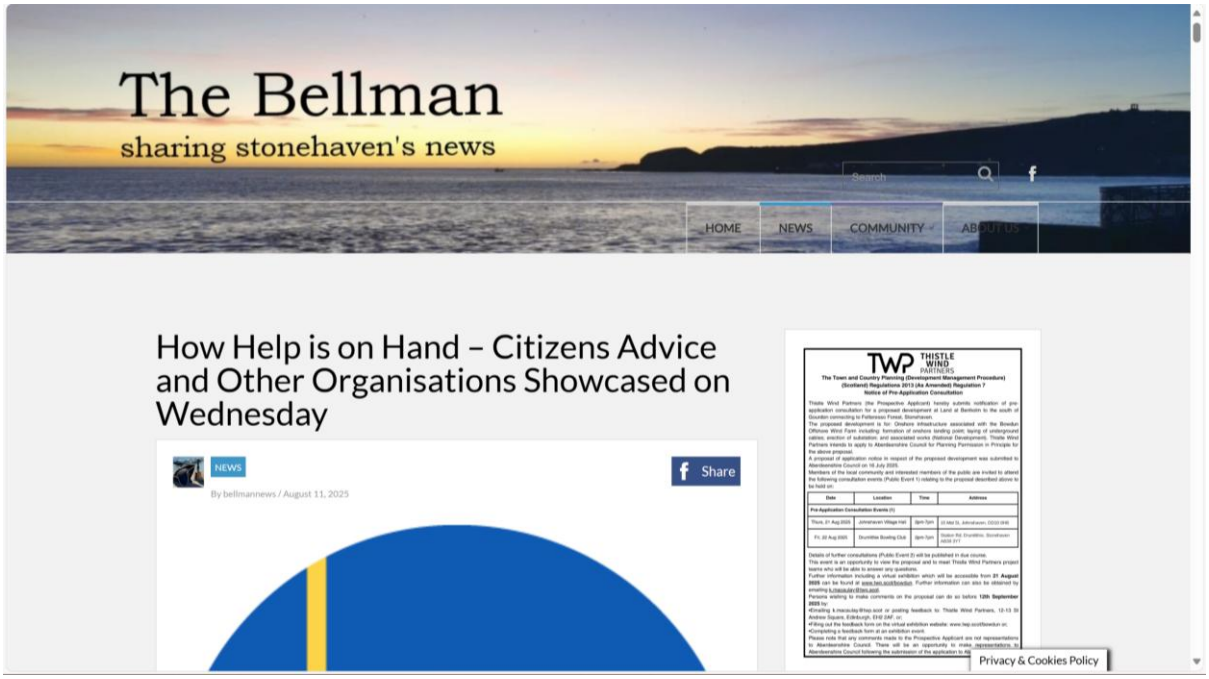
B.2: Newspaper Notice for PAC 2



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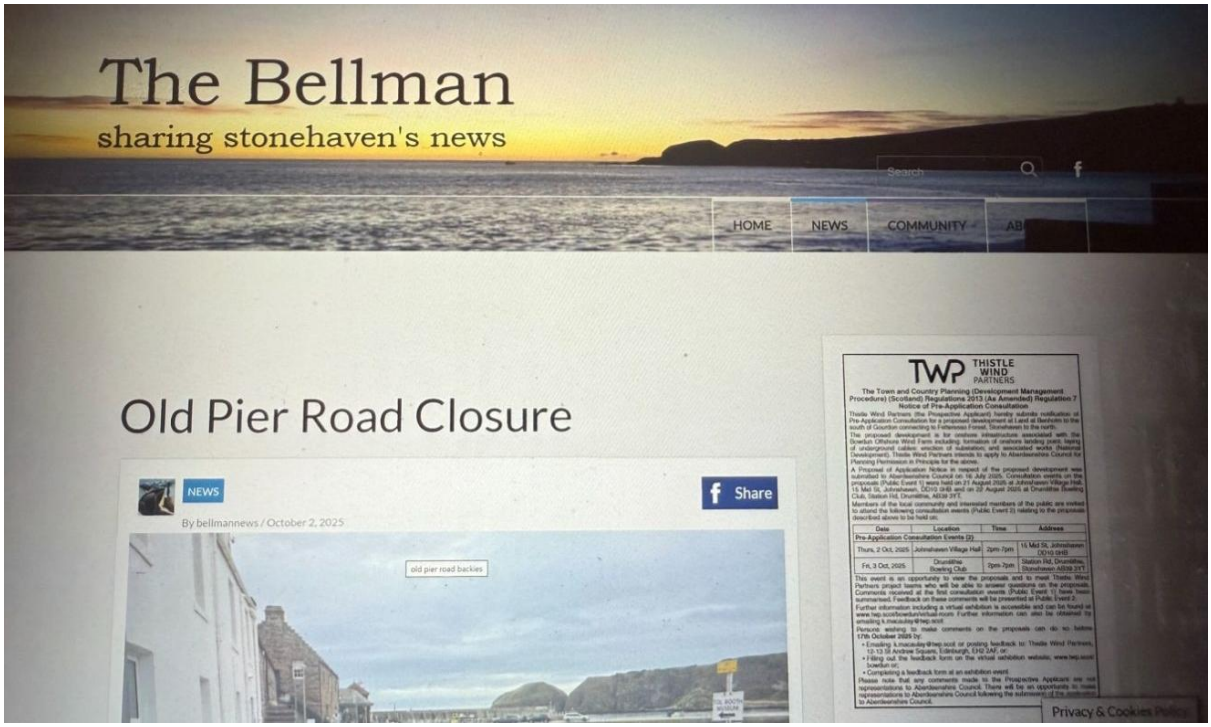

Bellman Advert PAC 2

Annex C: Sample Letter for Events

Kirsty MacAulay

From: Kirsty MacAulay
Sent: 16 July 2025 19:11
To: cllr.l.carnie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Cc: Maryanne Paterson
Subject: Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm PoAN
Attachments: Aberdeenshire_Proposal_of_application_notice_Bowdun_16.07.25 (002).pdf; Bowdun PAC leaflet 0825.pdf

Dear Laurie Carnie,

We are notifying you as the local councillor that on 16th July, Thistle Wind Partners (TWP) submitted our Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) to Aberdeenshire Council for the onshore works associated with the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm; a copy of the POAN is attached.

As you will be aware, the PoAN notifies our intention to submit a planning application in due course and outlines our intended pre-application consultation activities.

In October 2024 members of the Thistle Wind Partners project team held public information days in Gourdon, Drumlithie and Stonehaven. The Scoping Opinion from Aberdeenshire Council in relation to the onshore infrastructure was also received. This followed the submission of a Scoping Report which provided information of the proposed development and the environmental assessments and surveys that we are undertaking to support our planning application. The materials were also available via an online virtual consultation room for those who could not attend in person.

Following these public information days we also presented and answered questions at Community Council meetings for Benholm and Johnshaven CC, and Arbuthnott CC, with members of our consents, stakeholder and engineering teams in attendance.

Since these events we have been progressing and refining our proposals based on engineering and environmental assessment, as well as engagement with landowners. We will be sharing our progress and seeking feedback via formal Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events prior to us finalising our and seeking Planning Permission in Principle for the onshore works.

Below are the details of times and locations of the PAC events, which we hope you will be able to attend. A virtual consultation room will also be available for those unable to attend in person at: www.twp.scot/bowdun. We have also attached a leaflet for the PAC events, should you wish to share it with your communities and constituents.

PAC 1 Events

Johnshaven

- 21st August 2025
- 2pm – 7pm
- Johnshaven Village Hall, 15 Mid Street, Johnshaven, Montrose, DD10 0HB

Drumlithie

- 22nd August 2025
- 2pm – 7pm
- Drumlithie Bowling Club, Station Road, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

PAC 2 Events

Johnshaven

- 2nd October 2025

1

- 2pm – 7pm
- Johnshaven Village Hall, 15 Mid Street, Johnshaven, Montrose, DD10 0HB

Drumlithie

- 3rd October 2025
- 2pm – 7pm
- Drumlithie Bowling Club, Station Road, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

We know that local councillors are a conduit for local views and are often approached by members of the public seeking information about proposed projects. While we appreciate that you will not wish to express any views about our proposals, we would nevertheless welcome the opportunity to brief you about our plans either at Johnshaven or Drumlithie, or at another convenient time.

If you would like additional information, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

Kirsty

Kirsty MacAulay
Stakeholder Engagement Manager
THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

Capital Building
12-13 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh, EH2 2AF

07523687058
k.macaulay@twp.scot
www.twp.scot

Please be aware my normal working hours are Monday – Wednesday

Annex D: Mail Drop

Upcoming Pre-Application Consultation Events

Thistle Wind Partners would like to invite you to consultation events before submission of the application for planning permission in principle for the **Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm (Onshore Infrastructure).** This includes the landfall, underground export cables and substation.

We will be in the community for formal Pre-Application Consultation, as per the details below, to share information on the onshore elements of the project and to receive feedback from the community and interested parties ahead of our planning submission to Aberdeenshire Council. Comments on the development at this stage are representations to the Developer, not the Planning Authority. There will be the opportunity to make representations to the Planning Authority once the application is submitted.

For more information, or to email feedback, please get in touch with our Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Kirsty MacAulay: k.macaulay@twp.scot or mail your feedback to:
Thistle Wind Partners, The Capital Building, 3rd Floor, 12-13 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

PAC 1 Events
Johnshaven Village Hall, DD10 0HB, Thursday 21st August 2025 - 2pm-7pm
Drumlithie Bowling Club, AB39 3YT, Friday 22nd August 2025 - 2pm-7pm

PAC 2 Events
Johnshaven Village Hall, DD10 0HB, Thursday 2nd October 2025 - 2pm-7pm
Drumlithie Bowling Club, AB39 3YT, Friday 3rd October 2025 - 2pm-7pm

D.1: Mail Drop Leaflet

Annex E: 2024 Information Events Brochure

E.1: Front Page of 2024 Information Events Brochure

Contents

Using this Document

In October 2024, Thistle Wind Partners (TWP) is holding a series of information days in Aberdeenshire about its proposal for onshore works associated with the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, including underground cables and a new substation ('Bowdun Onshore Substation') to be located within 2km of SSEN Transmission's planned Hurlie Substation, the grid connection point for the project allocated by National Grid. We will need this infrastructure to feed the energy from our Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm (44km to the east of Stonehaven) into the National Grid.

In this brochure, you will find information about our company, the emerging plans for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm, including the search areas for our onshore substation location and the underground cable route (running from a landfall point at the coast near Benholm to a new substation for the project and then connection underground cables into SSEN Transmission's Hurlie Substation).

How to Provide Feedback

The purpose of these public information events, is to seek feedback from the local community on the emerging proposals, and relevant local knowledge that should be taken into consideration as the project design is developed ahead of submission to Aberdeenshire Council as a planning application. This information will be fed through to the next stage of our design process. Further information and opportunities to comment on proposals will follow in 2025 when the onshore proposals are more developed and formal Pre-Application Consultation will take place.

There are four ways that you can provide suggestions and comments to us already:

1) On our website at www.twp.scot/bowdun
2) In person, during our consultation events
3) Or by filling in the tear-off form at the end of this brochure and posting it to the address provided there.
4) By email - contact@twp.scot

1

E.2: Page 1 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

THISTLE WIND
PARTNERS

Who We Are

TWP is a new offshore wind developer. We were founded in 2020 by a consortium of three companies - DEME, Qair and Aspiravi. Together the TWP partners have a strong background in offshore renewable energy development and delivery, and associated port developments.

In January 2022, Crown Estate Scotland awarded TWP two of the ScotWind leasing sites for offshore wind development. TWP has been specifically formed to deliver these projects.

- **Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm,** a 1GW fixed-foundation project, located off the coast of Aberdeenshire (44km from Stonehaven) in the E3 leasing zone (187km² in area).
- **Ayre Offshore Wind Farm,** a 1GW floating-foundation project, to the east of Orkney and north of Caithness (57km from Wick), at a deepwater site in the NE2 leasing zone (200km² in area).

By considering floating and jacket foundations, our projects represent a broad and exciting opportunity for technology developers and the Scottish supply chain. Our target is to spend more than **£2.4 billion in the Scottish supply chain** over both projects.

The wind farms will also play an important role in accelerating Scotland's, the wider UK's and Europe's transition away from fossil fuels, producing energy equivalent to that used by more than two million households in one year.

Project Timelines

There are two major milestones ahead in the development of the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm over the next decade:

- **Offshore infrastructure** – we plan to use next-generation turbines within the range of 15MW to 25MW (15MW is the highest capacity turbine currently available, but constantly evolving innovation makes higher capacity turbines likely by the time we will be constructing the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm). Our engineers are reviewing the latest market designs destined for the market of the early 2030s (when we anticipate beginning building the wind farm). We have conducted a range of surveys offshore to understand the characteristics of the locations that would have turbines (array area) and cables exporting the energy generated (export cable corridor). TWP will apply to Marine Directorate for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and Marine Licences for the offshore infrastructure of the project.
- **Onshore infrastructure** – this is needed so that the offshore wind farm can feed energy into the National Grid delivering clean, renewable energy to consumers. Underground cables will run from the shoreline to a new on-shore substation, which will convert the electricity generated at Bowdun to the specification required by National Grid. Cables from this new substation will then connect into SSEN Transmission's proposed Hurlie Substation for onwards transmission into the National Grid. TWP expect to be ready to submit a planning application to Aberdeenshire Council for the onshore infrastructure in 2025. The start of construction for onshore infrastructure for Bowdun is expected no sooner than 2030, subject to the ongoing work associated with the Holistic Network Design Follow-Up Exercise (HND FUE) by National Energy System Operator (NESO).

In the upcoming pages, we will explain our proposal for the onshore infrastructure and how grid connection points are allocated by NESO.

Eoostend Offshore Wind Turbine
© Jesse de Meulenaere (Unsplash)

2

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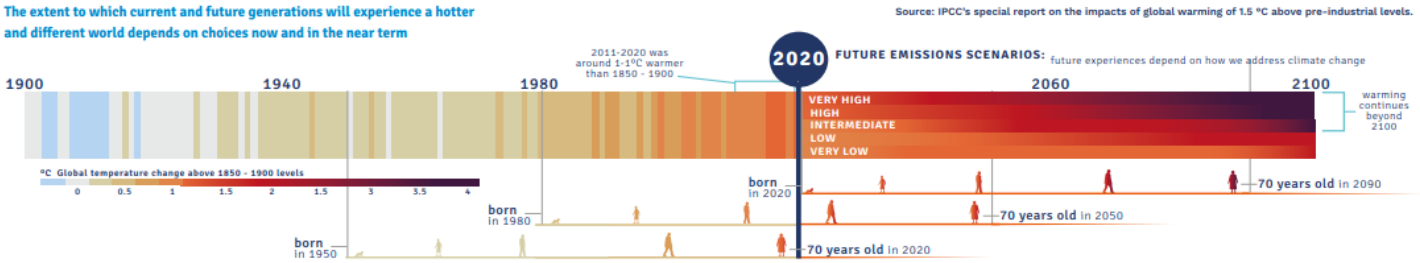
E.3: Page 2 and 3 of 2024 Information Events Brochure



Why ScotWind? Scotland's Offshore Wind Ambition

In March 2023, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change published its latest report on climate change, warning that nations will need to fulfil their climate commitments – including the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy – if we are to prevent biodiversity loss, severe impacts on human health, and reduced crop and fishery production.

The UK's climate change legislation sets a target date for net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2050. A rapid increase in offshore wind capacity plays a central role in these ambitions.

To support this drive, in January 2022, Crown Estate Scotland awarded areas of seabed around Scotland for leasing to offshore wind developers. The ambitious leasing round is called ScotWind. TWP's Ayre and Bowdun offshore wind farms are just two of these projects. If all the ScotWind projects are successful, they will bring more than 27GW of renewable energy online in the 2030s.

Why Scotland?

The Scottish Government's targets for offshore wind development are among the most ambitious in the world today. Scotland has an enormous wind resource, as well as many deepwater sites characterised by stronger and more regular winds.

While ScotWind is designed to meet Scotland's own energy needs in a way that is clean, affordable, and supports economic growth, it is also aimed at supporting a far more extensive energy transition across Europe.

Energy produced from ScotWind projects will not only be used by Scotland and the wider UK, but will also be exported to countries across Europe which may not enjoy the same abundance of renewable resource.

By harnessing our rich resource of renewable energy, we can provide better energy security for people in Scotland and beyond, reducing dependence on fluctuating international markets and related price increases.

Accelerating the energy transition beyond our shores will make a profound change for the better to the lives of future generations, here and overseas.

Seizing the Economic Opportunity

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimate that we will need at least 2,000GW of offshore wind deployed across the globe in order to sustain a 1.5-degree pathway and deliver Net Zero by 2050.

The countries that can deliver the goods and services needed for this market will enjoy a growing export market.

The opportunity is not just for component manufacture: the offshore wind industry will need a variety of construction, operations and maintenance services and products, as well as innovative technologies for future growth areas like floating wind, hydrogen, circular economy for offshore wind, and robotic systems.

4

5

E.4: Page 4 and 5 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

ScotWind brings an opportunity for businesses and research institutes here to take the lead in these emerging technologies. With projects located around the entire coastline, the opportunity for skills development and jobs for people in these areas is huge.

We have modelled how we can maximise Scottish supply chain in our projects (you can find our Supply Chain Development Statements at www.twp.scot/suppliers). We also provide funding to the University of Highlands and Islands and Aberdeen Science Centre for early-years STEM outreach.

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

TWP's Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm will contribute over 1GW of renewable energy to the National Grid. With water depths between 55 and 75 metres, Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm is planned to be made up of turbines with fixed bottom foundations.

The final turbine design, layout of the wind farm, and number of turbines will be decided over the coming years as we conduct our engineering and environmental work.

Since early 2023, we have been conducting geophysical surveys of the seabed at the wind farm site and along possible offshore cable routes. We concluded our digital aerial surveys in March this year, which ran over two years gathering data on marine life including identifying feeding grounds and tracking locations of marine mammals. We have also used Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to measure seabird flight heights within our offshore development areas.

We have conducted benthic surveys of the sea floor and water column. The results of all of these surveys are being used in the development of the project design and to establish the environmental baseline to support our offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which is a key process required to support our offshore consent application to Scotland's Marine Directorate in 2026.

We have recently deployed floating LiDAR equipment which will measure wind and wave conditions. We plan to conduct geotechnical surveys over the next two to three years. The outputs of these campaigns will aid our engineers in the design of the wind farm.

Community Engagement and Benefits

TWP have been involved in several events within the local community. TWP have been involved in several events within the local community. As well as attending gala days and community events, we have set up partnerships with Aberdeen Science Centre, DYW NE and TechFest. We have an initial budget for community sponsorship and aim to use this to support a range of local organisations and activities; more information on how to apply will be posted on our website and social media in due course. As our project develops, we expect guidance to be published from the Scottish Government that will help shape our community benefit policy once we begin generating electricity.

STEM Programme

TWP are working alongside several local organisations in Aberdeenshire to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) resources and opportunities to the community. We have attended TechFest's science festivals in Aberdeen in June and September and partnered with the Aberdeen Science Centre, who will invite local schools to participate in a workshop at the science centre, and deliver the workshop in the community to those who may not have access to the centre. We have also partnered with Developing the Young Workforce North East to offer our industry knowledge to young people.

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E.5: Page 6 and 7 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

Onshore in Aberdeenshire: Substation

TWP has applied to connect to the UK National Grid Electricity Network and has been offered a connection at the planned Hurlie Substation. Confirmation of our connection date is subject to the National Energy System Operator NESO concluding the HNDFUE process (expected in Q4 2024). NESO provides a guarantee to each project that it will receive a grid connection point, so that it can feed energy into the UK National Grid. The grid connection point for Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm is SSEN Transmission's planned Hurlie substation in Fetteresso Forest.

Why do we also need a substation?

Before energy from the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm reaches the transmission operator's substation, we need to convert from a lower offshore voltage (220kV – 275kV) to the 400kV required by the Grid. We use transformers to change the voltage and these transformers will be located within a substation compound.

On page 12 and 13 you can see the location of our substation, which will be called the Bowdun Onshore Substation.

Onshore in Aberdeenshire: Landfall and Cables

The Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm will 'make landfall' at Benholm. This landfall site was selected for the project due to having a low level of environmental and technical constraints whilst remaining a close access point to the grid connection point, allowing for a shorter cable route. From the landfall point, the underground cables will run to the Bowdun onshore substation in Fetteresso Forest. The Bowdun onshore substation will then have underground cables that connect into the transmission operator's substation (SSEN Transmission's Hurlie substation).

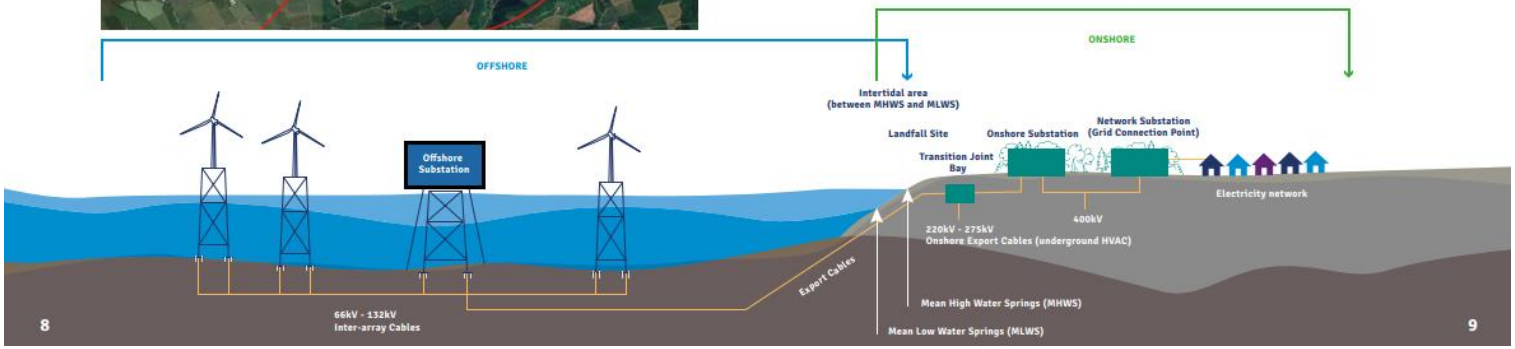
Our landfall and cable routes will be refined based upon technical studies which consider the environment, engineering constraints and engagement with local landowners. When selecting a landfall site, there are a number of things we have to consider, such as the nearshore geology and seabed environment, the nature of the inter-tidal zone, and potential engineering challenges. We are also engaging with local landowners as part of our investigations for our cable route. The overall approach is to choose routes that have the least impact, for example by working with local landowners affected, avoiding sensitive natural environments, populated areas, transport routes and waterways. Where avoidance is not possible we investigate options to limit disturbance, for example by using 'trenchless' construction methods such as Horizontal Direction Drilling.

Why underground cables?

TWP is using underground cables as the distances involved are relatively short and underground cables are appropriate for exporting the energy produced from the offshore wind farm to our grid connection point.

How will construction occur?

Assessments for the EIA will take the impacts from construction into account, including those from transport, noise and air quality. For example by assessing and identifying the most suitable roads for use by HGVs to access construction areas and identifying laydown areas to store construction materials that avoid sensitive areas. An outline Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced as part of the EIA which will outline practices required of contractors to appropriately manage noise, dust and pollution emissions during construction.



E.6: Page 8 and 9 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

Deciding Locations and Routes

To inform our onshore development, TWP will be undertaking a number of studies to determine potential routes and locations for our infrastructure.

The data collected from these studies will then used to inform the design and also assess potential impacts of the project on the environment, including communities, and allow mitigation measures to be put in place to avoid and/or limit impacts identified.

Studies will include looking at gradients, soil types, location of peat or protected areas, as well as presence of watercourses, private water supplies, ecology, historic monuments, flood risk, noise, transport routes, and landscape and visual impacts.

The onshore cable is estimated to run approximately 25km in length. We are aiming to keep the cable length as short as possible as longer cables mean more disruption, more environmental impact, more social impact, and greater costs of operation and maintenance (increasing the cost of producing energy).

Survey Examples

Protected Species Surveys

A number of animal species are protected in Scotland, including bats, otters, badgers, pine marten, water voles and red squirrels. TWP's consultants are undertaking protected species surveys. Ecologists undertake visual inspections along the cable route and substation search areas to see if there is suitable habitats for these species and indications of usage. The data will then be used to inform our ecological environmental baseline for our EIA. These surveys are currently ongoing and will run into Spring 2025.

Noise

Noise monitoring will be carried out to measure the current noise levels in the area and assess the impact the introduction of a new substation may have. We anticipate progressing with noise surveys following discussions with the Council's Environmental Health Officer and when preliminary design details for the substation are available.

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments will be undertaken to measure and visualise the impacts of all onshore and offshore aspects of the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Development will have on the local landscape. This will include photography from a selection of viewpoints agreed with Aberdeenshire Council. The planned infrastructure will be superimposed onto these photographs to illustrate a visual representation of how it will look within the landscape.

Cultural Heritage Assessments

As part of our scoping exercise a desk based assessment was undertaken to identify recorded heritage assets within our scoping boundary. Non-intrusive walkover surveys will be undertaken by archaeologists to identify locations of recorded assets and to assess potential for unrecorded assets within the scoping boundary. The data will then be used to inform the cable routing.

Who will own the onshore infrastructure?

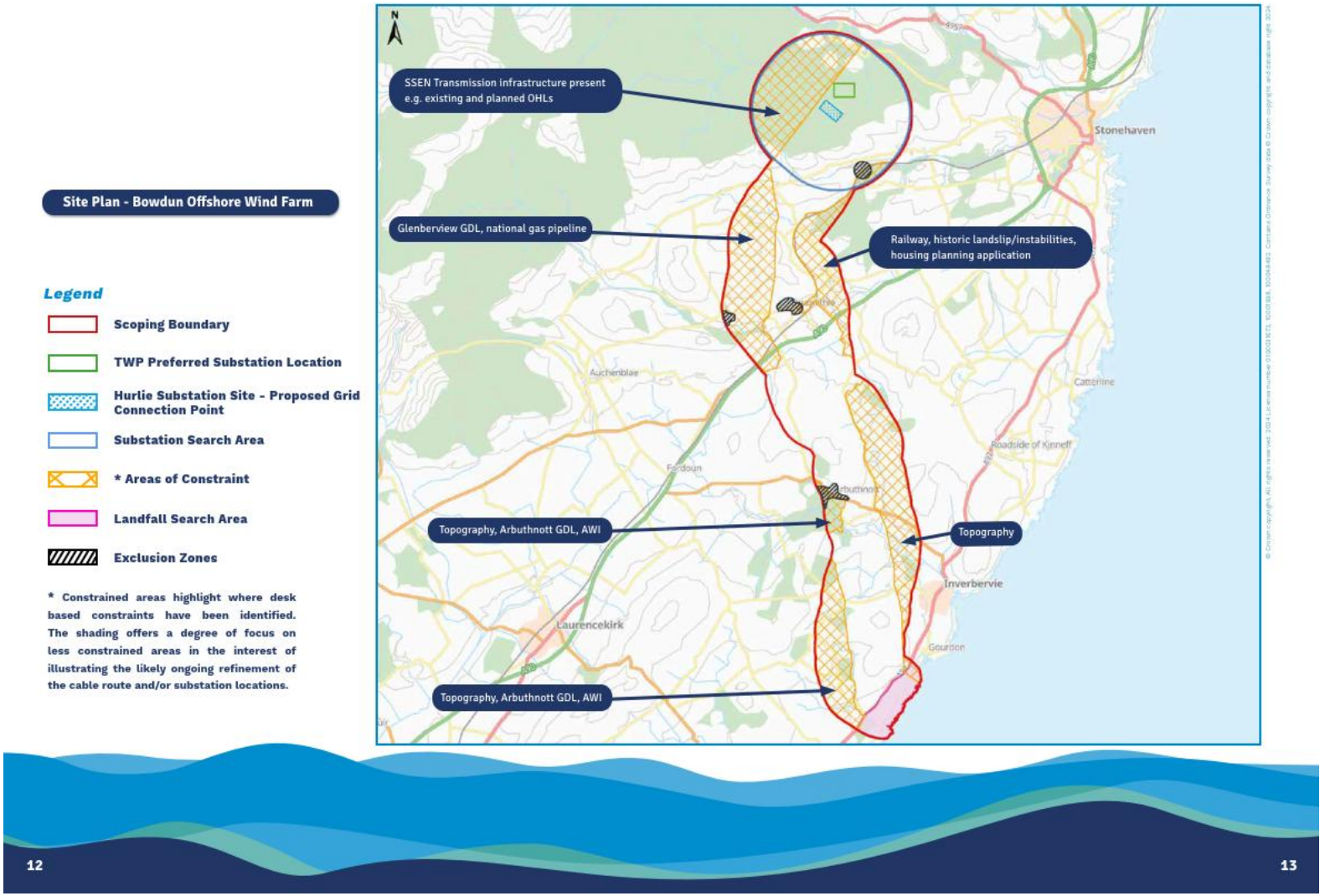
Once TWP has built its transmission infrastructure, these assets will pass through the Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) process, which is managed by Ofgem. As a generator TWP is not licenced to own and operate the infrastructure that connects our wind farms to the onshore network.

The OFTO process is a competitive tender process to partner generators with transmission operators. Through this process, our costs are reviewed by Ofgem to check that we are delivering value for money.

Ground Investigation Surveys

The suitability of the ground for construction is assessed via a Ground Investigation survey. Bore holes and trial pits are dug along the survey area in order to assess various factors that determine suitability for construction. These include presence of minerals including peat, biosecurity risks, and water content of the soil. The ground is reinstated following assessment and data from the survey will be used to inform the final cable route.

E.7: Page 10 and 11 of 2024 Information Events Brochure



E.8: Page 12 and 13 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

Tear here

FEEDBACK FORM

We would welcome your comments on our plans at this stage.
There are two ways to send us your comments:

1) Fill in the form below and hand to TWP staff (if you are at an event), or send to: Thistle Wind Partners (TWP), Capital Building, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF.
2) You can also visit our website and submit comments online: www.twp.scot/bowdun

Q1. How would you describe your knowledge of TWP and our project?

Please tick applicable box	1	2	3	4	5
I am very well informed					
I know a lot					
I know a little					
I know very little					
I know nothing at all					

Q2. Have you been to previous events or exhibitions run by TWP?

YES	
NO	

Q3. How did you hear about this consultation event?

Word of mouth	
Social Media	
Newspapers	
Invitation	

Continued overleaf

If other please state

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E.9: Page 14 and 15 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

FEEDBACK FORM - continued

Q4. What types of mitigation would you like us to consider to reduce the impact of the onshore components of the project?

For example, this could include things like: landscaping, planting of orchards, woodland or parkland, design suggestions for the substation buildings, wildlife and habitat conservation or enhancement, access routes, and road improvements, etc.

Q5. Please provide any other views or comments on the overall approach that we are taking in developing our onshore proposals, including feedback on how we are carrying out this consultation and future approaches to consultation.

Q6. Please provide any information you believe should be considered in the development of the project in relation to the local environment/community.

Q7. If you would like to updates on the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm please provide an email address.

Tear here

TWP Contacts

Stakeholder Engagement Managers

Kirsty MacAulay,
k.macaulay@twp.scot

Allan Tait,
a.tait@twp.scot

You can also visit our website at
www.twp.scot to view our information portal.

www.twp.scot

You can also follow us on:

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

Thistle Wind Partners

@TWPScot

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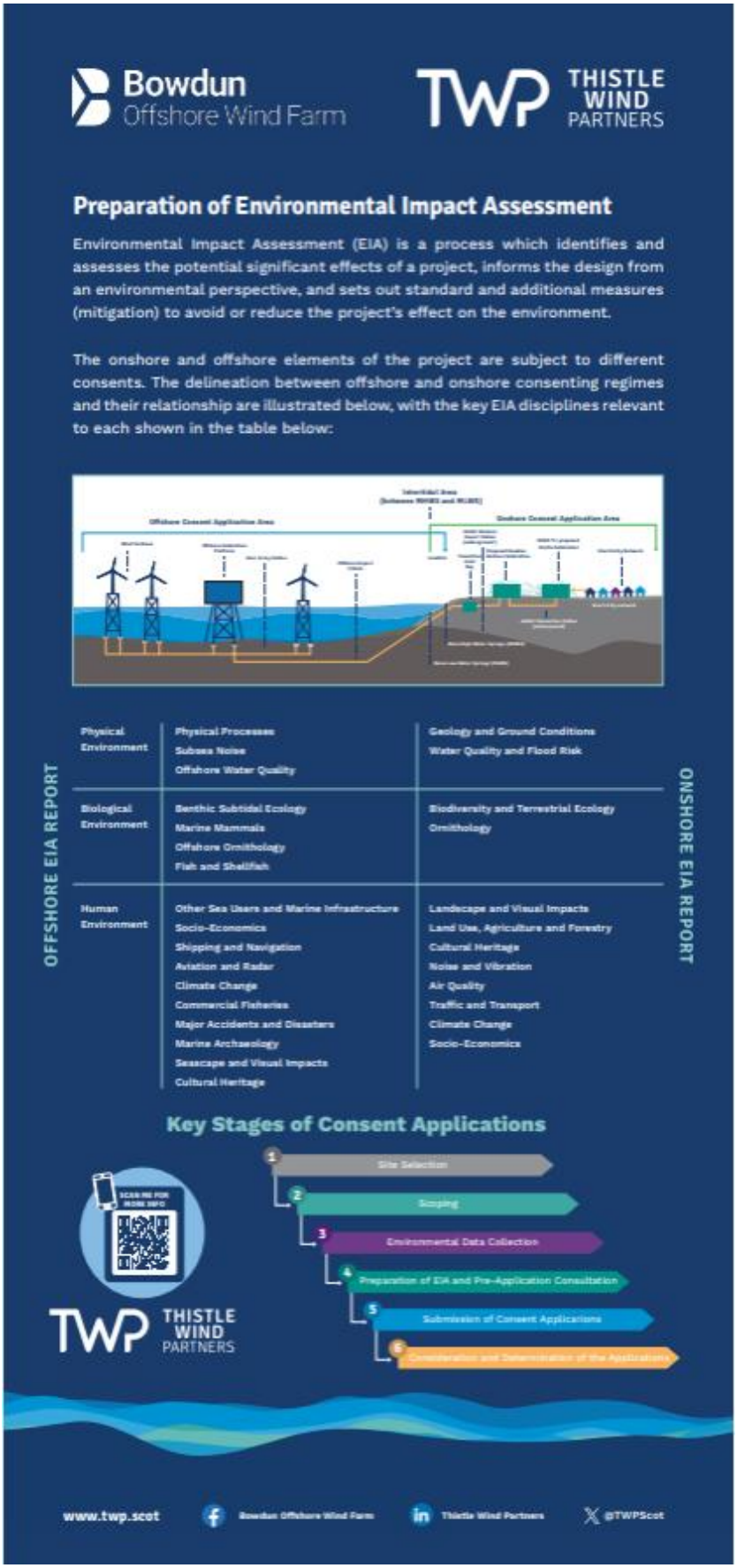
E.10: Page 16 and 17 of 2024 Information Events Brochure

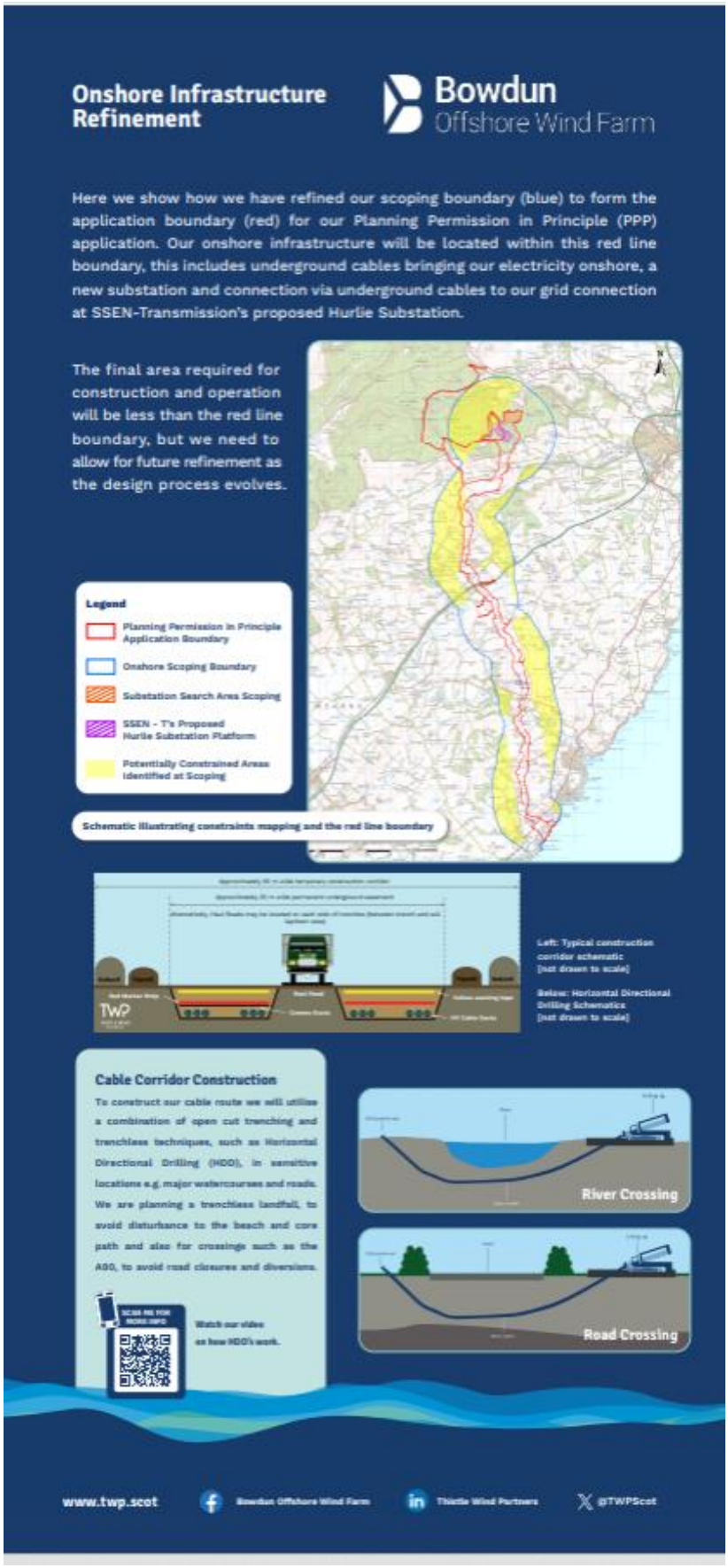
E.11: Final Page of 2024 Information Events Brochure

Annex F: Information Boards – PAC 1

F.1: Board 1 of PAC 1

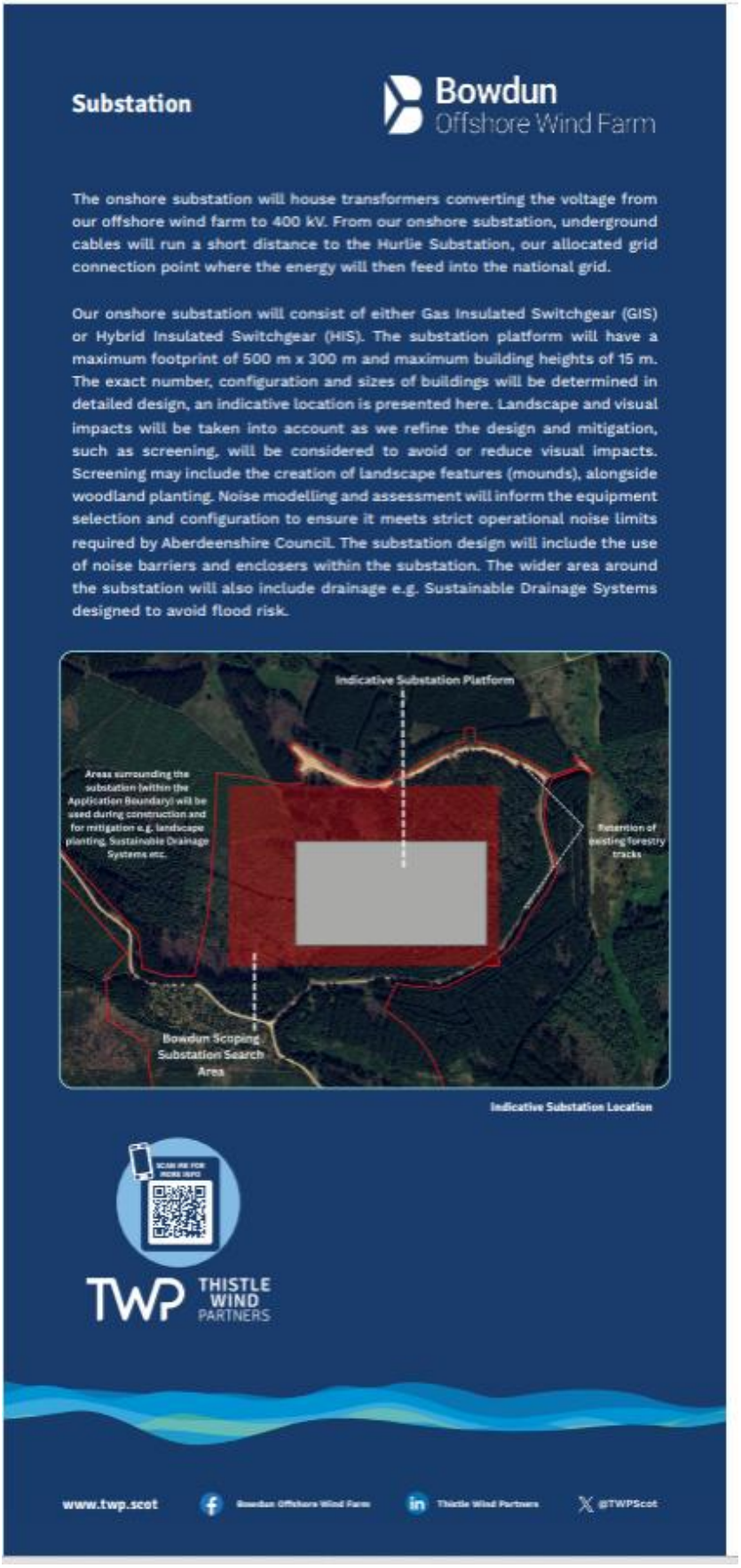


F.2: Board 2 of PAC 1

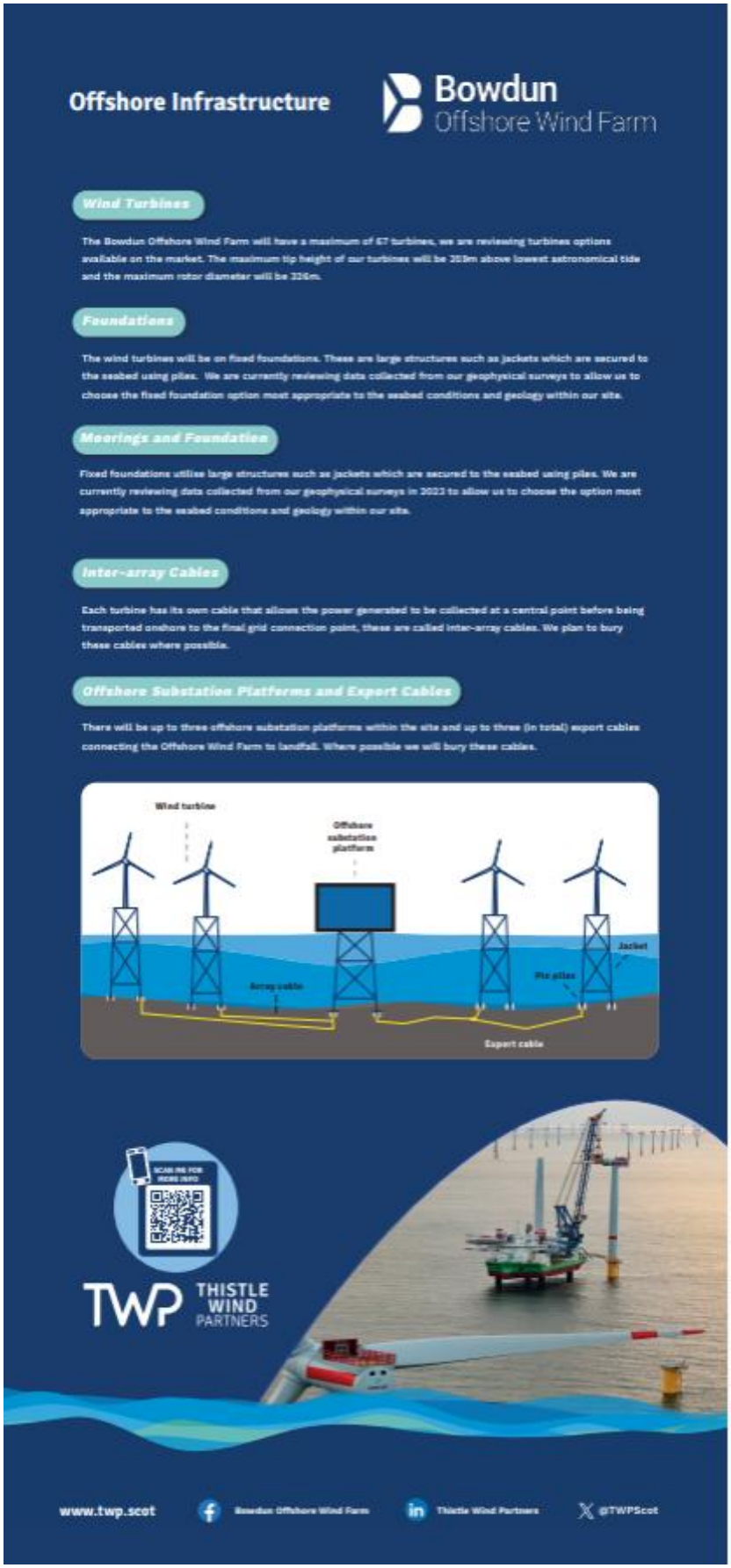


F.3: Board 3 of PAC 1

F.4: Board 4 of PAC 1



F.5: Board 5 of PAC 1



F.6: Board 6 of PAC 1

F.7: Board 7 of PAC 1

Annex G: Information Boards – PAC 2

G.1: Board 1 of PAC 2

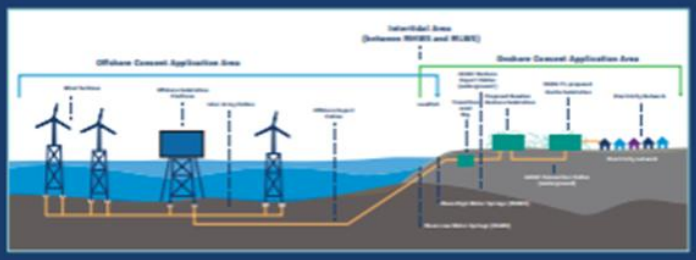
Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process which identifies and assesses the potential significant effects of a project, informs the design from an environmental perspective, and sets out standard and additional measures (mitigation) to avoid or reduce the project's effect on the environment.

The onshore and offshore elements of the project are subject to different consents. The delineation between offshore and onshore consenting regimes and their relationship are illustrated below, with the key EIA disciplines relevant to each shown in the table below:



	OFFSHORE EIA REPORT	ONSHORE EIA REPORT
Physical Environment	Physical Processes Subsea Noise Offshore Water Quality	Geology and Ground Conditions Water Quality and Flood Risk
Biological Environment	Benthic Subtidal Ecology Marine Mammals Offshore Ornithology Fish and Shellfish	Biodiversity and Terrestrial Ecology Ornithology
Human Environment	Other Sea Users and Marine Infrastructure Socio-Economics Shipping and Navigation Aviation and Radar Climate Change Commercial Fisheries Major Accidents and Disasters Marine Archaeology Seascape and Visual Impacts Cultural Heritage	Landscape and Visual Impacts Land Use, Agriculture and Forestry Cultural Heritage Noise and Vibration Air Quality Traffic and Transport Climate Change Socio-Economics

Key Stages of Consent Applications

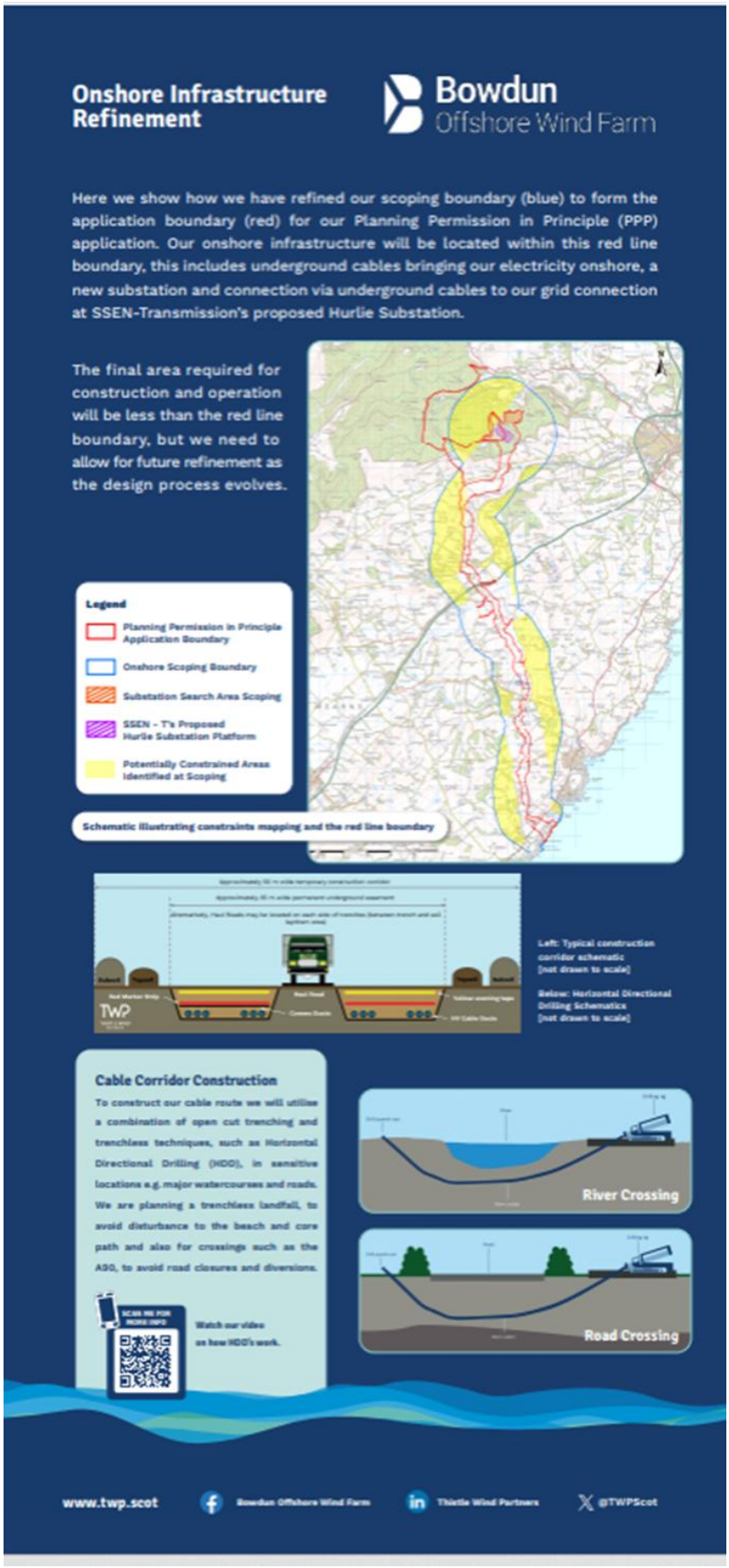
1. Site Selection
2. Scoping
3. Environmental Data Collection
4. Preparation of EIA and Pre-Application Consultation
5. Submission of Consent Applications
6. Consideration and Determination of the Applications

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

THISTLE WIND PARTNERS

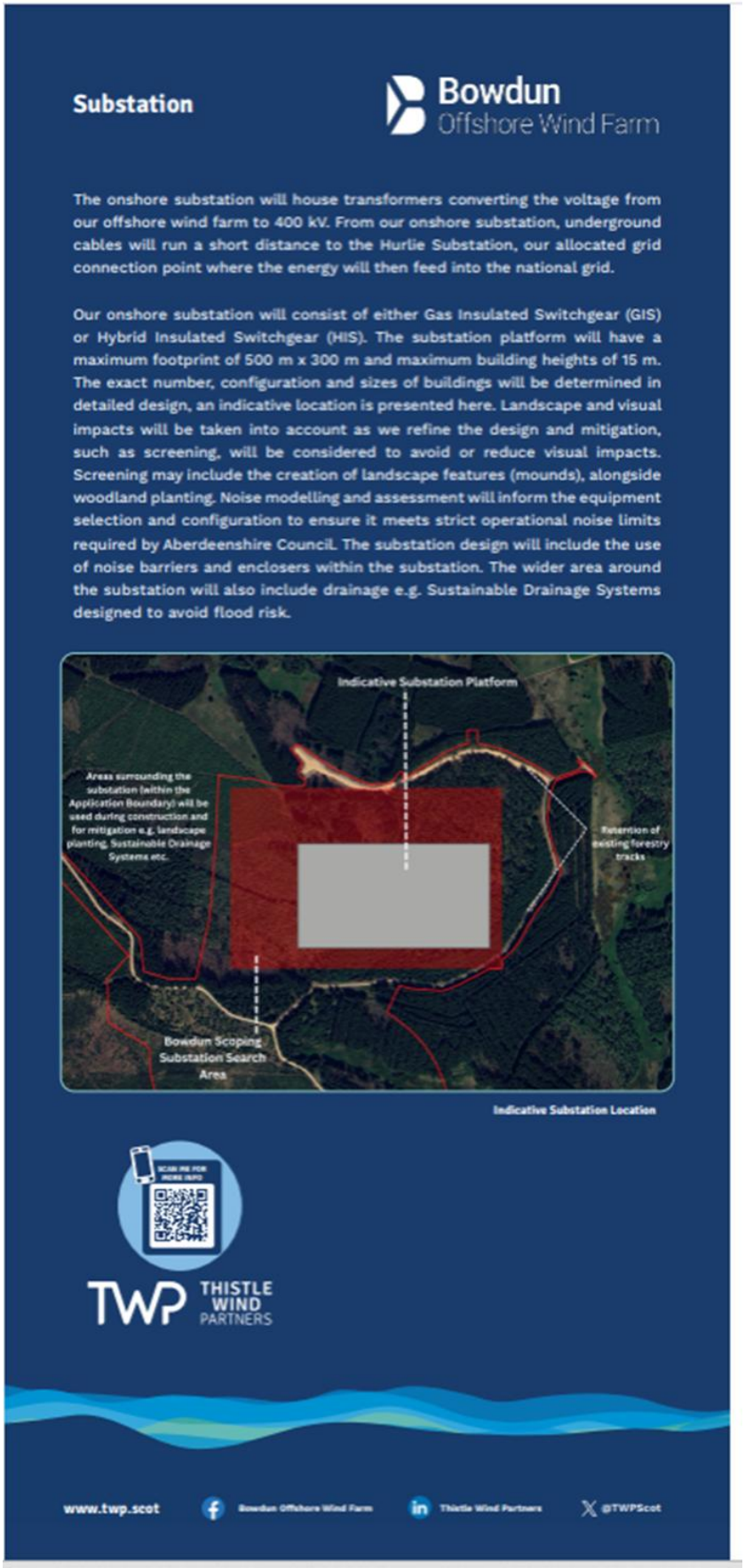
www.twp.scot Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm Thistle Wind Partners @TWPScot

G.2: Board 2 of PAC 2



G.3: Board 3 of PAC 2

G.4: Board 4 PAC 2



G.5: Board 5 of PAC 2

Your Comments, Our Response

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

Here are the key issues raised at the previous Pre-Application Consultation events that we have been investigating with our technical teams and the outcomes of those discussions. Please see our brochure for additional information on how your feedback has fed into the design and assessment work.

Issues Raised	Our Response
Traffic and Transport	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Logistic Plan (CLP) will be developed containing details of measures to control, monitor and enforce heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) movements during construction. This will also include details of travel routes and accesses to minimise the impacts of construction traffic on local residents. To minimise the amount of traffic on the local road network during construction, temporary haul roads would be installed along the onshore cable construction corridor to provide safe access for construction vehicles, thus reducing the requirement for vehicles to travel via public highways as much as possible. Temporary construction storage and laydown areas may also be used. Each public road that would have HGVs travelling on them during construction would either already be suitable for two-way HGV movements or be modified in advance of construction to enable this. Further traffic management plans that need to be approved by Aberdeenshire Council will specify exact requirements, for example there may be a ban on construction traffic through certain areas. A construction specific Travel Plan is also proposed to provide the mechanism to support and promote shared and sustainable travel for staff, contractors and visitors travelling to the work sites. The Travel Plan would seek to encourage workers to access the site via sustainable travel modes, improving travel choices, and managing single occupancy car use. The Travel Plan would also indicate the approved routes to site and the approved parking locations. We will undertake pre-condition surveys of roads prior to construction to assess and record existing condition and to inform reinstatement post construction. We propose collaboration with SSEN; FLS in the Forest, Transport Scotland (regarding Trunk Road Use and Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) movements) and Aberdeenshire Council regarding joint working, phasing, AIL movements and road improvements.
Cumulative	A robust cumulative impact assessment will be included with the EIA. The projects assessed will be agreed with the determining authority, Aberdeenshire Council, and based on applications in the planning system and other committed development.
Operational Noise (Substation)	We are commited to including embedded measures within the final substation design such as barriers and enclosures to meet noise limits required by Aberdeenshire Council (taking cumulative noise into account from other noise sources).

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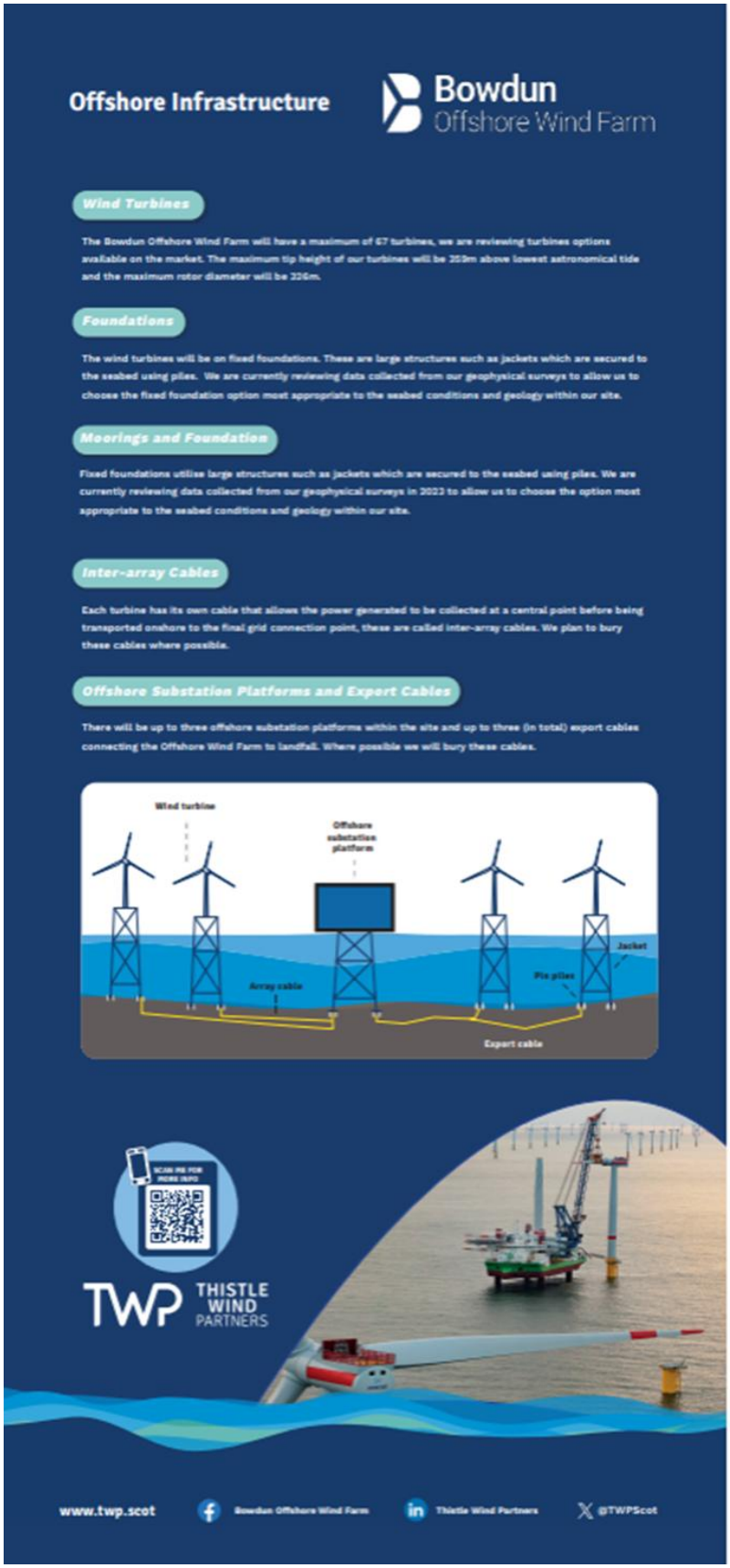
G.6: Board 6 of PAC 2

G.7: Board 7 of PAC 2

G.8: Board 8 of PAC 2



G.9: Board 9 of PAC 2

G.10: Board 10 of PAC 2

Annex H: Formal Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 1 Event Brochure

H.1: Front Page of PAC 1 Brochure

Contents

Using this Document

TWP are holding a series of formal Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events to share our proposals regarding the Onshore Infrastructure for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm. This includes underground cables and a new Bowdun Onshore Substation near SSEN-Transmission's proposed Hurlie Substation, our grid connection point.

In this brochure, you will find information about our company, the proposed plans for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm as well as the initial outputs from our Environmental Impact Assessment.

How to Provide Feedback

There are four ways that you can provide feedback and comments to us:

1) Online via the feedback form in the virtual exhibition room which is located at: https://www.thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/virtual-room/;

2) Pick up a paper form to fill out and hand it to a member of the project team (if attending one of our local events);

3) By filling in form at the end of our brochure and posting it to Thistle Wind Partners, Capital Building, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF; and

4) By emailing your feedback to our Stakeholder Engagement Manager Kirsty MacAulay, k.macaulay@twp.scot

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposals can do so before the **17th October 2025.**

At this stage any comments are representations to the Developer, not Aberdeenshire Council. There will be the opportunity to make representations to Aberdeenshire Council once an application is submitted.

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H.2: Page 1 of PAC 1 Brochure

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

Project Background

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm will be located 38 km (c.24 miles) off the coast of Aberdeenshire, and comprises infrastructure both onshore and offshore. The wind farm array area is located within our ScotWind lease option area. This area is where the offshore infrastructure required to generate electricity will be constructed (including wind turbines, offshore substation platform(s) and inter-array cables). Export cables will connect the offshore infrastructure to our proposed onshore substation (the Bowdun Substation) in Fetteresso forest. The export cables will come ashore or 'landfall' near Benholm, Aberdeenshire and run underground for approximately 22 km to the Bowdun Substation. At the substation the electricity voltage will be converted from 220/275 kV to 400 kV as required by the National Grid. Underground cables will connect the Bowdun Substation to the planned Hurlie Substation for onwards transmission of the electricity into the National Grid.

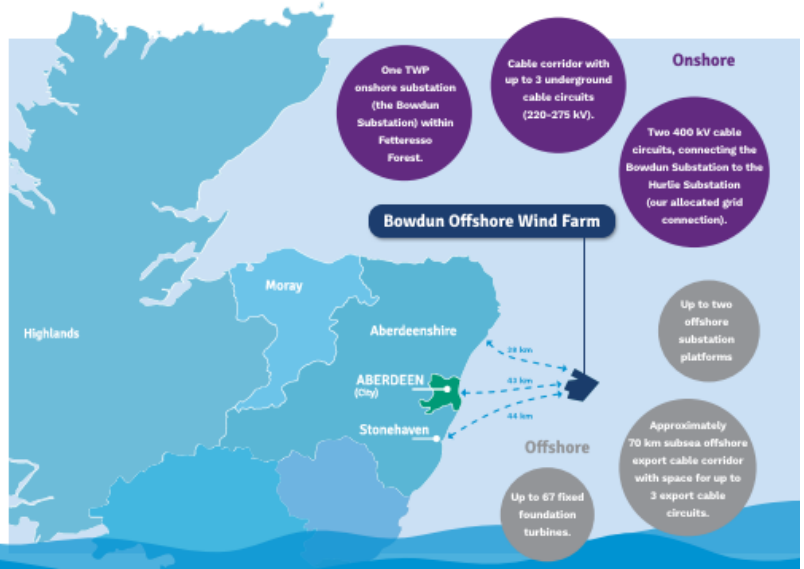
Who We Are

TWP is an offshore wind developer founded in 2020 to deliver our two ScotWind Projects – Ayre and Bowdun, for which we were awarded leases in Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind process. We were founded by a consortium of three companies – DEME Concessions, Qair and Aspiravi. Our founder companies work on a wide variety of renewable energy, environmental remediation and marine infrastructure projects around the world, and bring a strong track record in offshore wind development. The TWP team brings a wealth of Scottish experience and capability in the fields of engineering and consenting focused on delivering our projects.

DEME CONCESSIONS Qair Aspiravi

Need for the Project

Offshore wind plays a central role in Scotland's net-zero journey and is key to realising the economic opportunity of the global energy transition in Scotland. The Scottish Government has set out ambitious targets in relation to offshore wind, because offshore wind is established and a proven part of the mix of technologies that power our energy systems. Offshore wind is key to decarbonise the National Grid by 2035 and support the UK goal to achieve net-zero by 2050. Bowdun will play a significant role in meeting these energy targets through the supply of 1 GW of renewable power, sufficient to power 1.2 million homes. Scotland already excels in innovation in offshore renewable energy, being home to the world's first floating offshore wind farm, Hywind Scotland, off the coast of Peterhead, and the EMEC Wave and Tidal Energy test sites in Orkney. There is a real opportunity for Scotland to grasp a first-mover advantage in developing the goods, services and innovative Intellectual Property for a fast-growing global offshore renewable energy market, placing Scotland on the global stage. By harnessing our rich resource of renewable energy, we can ensure better energy security for people in Scotland and beyond, reducing dependence on fluctuating international markets and related price increases.



H.3: Page 2 and 3 of PAC 1 Brochure

The Development Process

The onshore and offshore elements of the project are subject to different consents but follow the same steps in the development process set out below.

1. Site Selection

Our offshore site was awarded in the ScotWind leasing round in 2022 and is leased from Crown Estate Scotland. The ScotWind sites were identified in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, based on number of factors including wind resource, minimising of environmental impact, proximity to other infrastructure and cognisance of other marine users. The location of our onshore infrastructure is driven by our allocated grid connection point, which is determined by the National Energy System Operator (NESO). We have undertaken a rigorous site selection process, informed by environmental and engineering assessments to identify a suitable landfall, cable corridor and substation location to reach our grid connection point allocated by NESO at SSEN-Transmission's proposed Hurlie substation.

2. Scoping

Due to the nature and scale of our project there is a legislative requirement for us to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for both the onshore and offshore aspects. To support the EIA process, Scoping Reports (separate onshore and offshore) were produced outlining the proposed approach to the project development and the EIAs to be undertaken. These Scoping Reports were submitted to Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing and Operations Team (MD-LOT) respectively, to obtain scoping opinions detailing the scope of the EIAs. The EIAs are then produced in line with the Scoping Opinions issued by MD-LOT and the Council.

3. Environmental Data Collection

Since 2022 we have had specialists conducting desk-based assessments and on site surveys to support site selection and identification of corridors and infrastructure locations onshore and offshore, as well as to support understanding of the environmental baseline. This has included extensive ground investigations, geophysical surveys, LiDAR, ecological and ornithological surveys.

4. Preparation of EIA

An EIA of the Onshore Infrastructure is required under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended). The purpose of the EIA is to identify the likely significant effects on the physical, biological, and human environment during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.

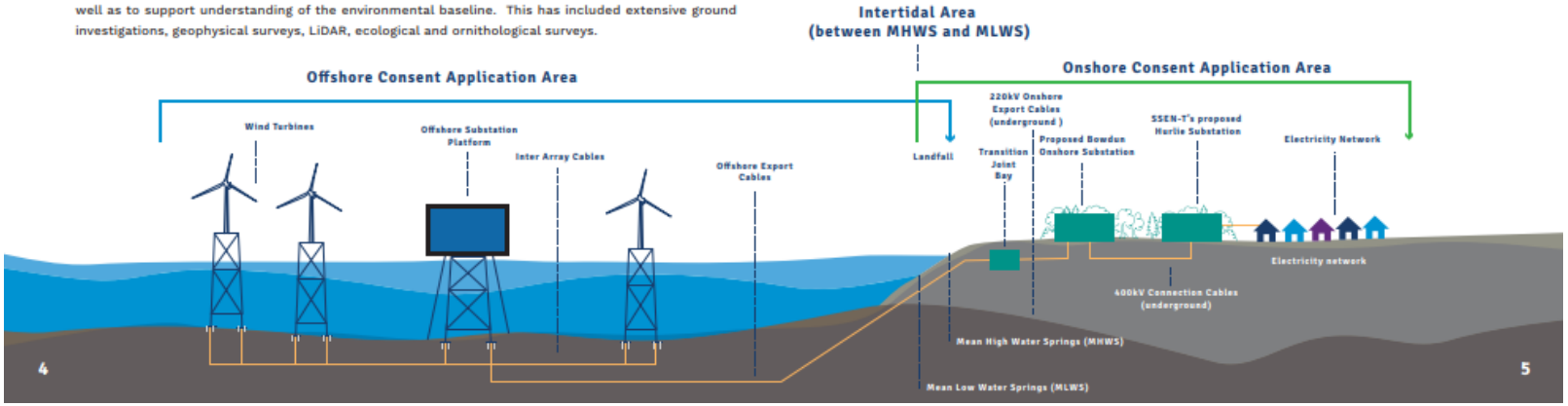
The EIA process provides a valuable opportunity to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts through design refinement. Environmental constraints and issues are identified through consultation, extensive environmental surveys and technical assessments. The information gathered is then used to inform decision-making throughout the design process, providing opportunities to address potentially significant impacts where practicable, for example by refinement of route alignment or by the incorporation of measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts.

5. Submission of Consent Applications

For the offshore infrastructure we will apply to MD-LOT for a Marine Licence and consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. For the onshore infrastructure we will apply to Aberdeenshire Council for planning permission in principle under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

6. Consideration & Determination of the Applications

Aberdeenshire Council will consider and determine the application for Planning Permission in Principle for the onshore infrastructure. The Marine Directorate will consider and determine our offshore Marine Licence and Section 36 application on behalf of Scottish Ministers.



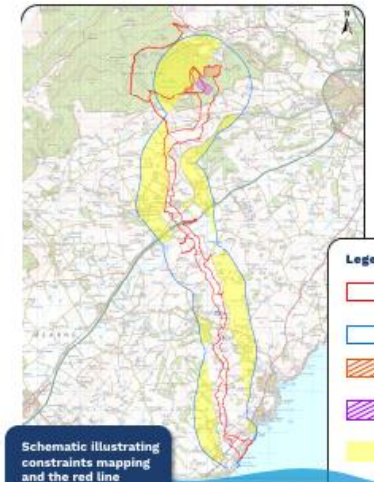
H.4: Page 4 and 5 of PAC 1 Brochure

Onshore Infrastructure Refinement

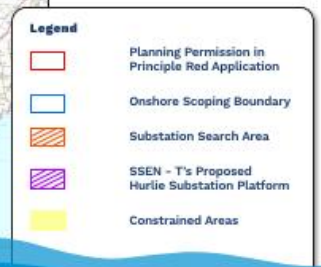
Since 2022 we have been working to identify potential landfall sites along the Aberdeenshire Coast to reach to a grid connection point determined by NESO. Our objectives were to identify a landfall site, cable corridor and a substation site which are technically and economically viable, and and limit the disturbance to the environment and local people, whilst meeting technical requirements for our infrastructure.

A number of options were identified, and we undertook a constraints analysis to refine the options. We mapped environmental and technical constraints (such as Special Protection Areas, Designated Heritage Assets, Local Nature Conservation Sites, challenging topography and local infrastructure including underground gas pipelines, the Forties Oil Pipeline and existing overhead lines) within a Scoping Boundary (blue). This allowed us to identify early areas that should ideally be avoided as well as potential suitable substation and landfall sites. This was presented to the public in October 2024 at a series of public information days at venues in Mearns and Stonehaven, specifically Gourdon, Drumlithie and Stonehaven. The aim of these events was to receive feedback on our Scoping Boundary and Substation Area of Search (orange) as well as gain local knowledge to inform site refinement. This information was fed into the design process and further constraint analysis work undertaken to narrow the cable corridor and select a preferred substation location.

Since our public information days, we have completed technical assessment work and taken account feedback received from local people and stakeholders including Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot. We have also attended a number of local community events to engage members of the public including Stonehaven's Feein' Market in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and the Gourdan Party in the Park 2025, of which TWP were headline sponsors. The proposed Application Boundary (red) presents the narrower refined corridor in which our onshore infrastructure will be located. The boundary constrains the project in the first of a multi-stage consent process. The constructed development footprint will be smaller, following further design refinement and subject to more detailed assessments and agreement with the Council should planning permission in principle be granted.



Schematic illustrating constraints mapping and the red line boundary



Onshore substation

TWP has been allocated a grid connection by NESO at SSEN-Transmission's proposed Hurlie Substation. The onshore cables that will transmit power from the offshore wind farm and run north from the landfall point near Benholm to the Bowdun Substation location within Fetteresso Forest, all onshore cables will be underground. The onshore substation will house transformers converting the voltage from our offshore wind farm to 400 kV, as required for transmission into the National Grid. From our onshore substation, 400 kV underground cables will run a short distance to the Hurlie Substation, here the energy will then feed into the National Grid. One of the key criteria for the Bowdun onshore substation location is the proximity to the grid connection point. Ofgem as regulator of the energy market demands that we keep the build and maintenance costs of cables down in order to avoid passing on costs to the consumer, so proximity to the grid connection point is a key consideration.

Our onshore substation will consist of either Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) or Hybrid Insulated Switchgear (HIS). The substation platform will have a maximum footprint of 500 m x 300 m and maximum building heights of 15 m. The exact number, configuration and sizes of buildings will be determined in detailed design, an indicative location is presented here. Landscape and visual impacts will be taken into account as we refine the design and mitigation, such as screening, will be considered to avoid or reduce visual impacts. Screening may include the creation of landscape features (mounds), alongside woodland planting. Noise modelling and assessment will inform the equipment selection and configuration to ensure it meets strict operational noise limits required by Aberdeenshire Council. The substation design will include the use of noise barriers and enclosers within the substation. The wider area around the substation will also include drainage e.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems designed to avoid flood risk.

Following completion of the works, the substation will be unmanned and will be visited intermittently for monitoring, maintenance and health and safety checks. Maintenance works will be required during the lifetime of the substation. The underground cables will be routinely checked to ensure operational and safety requirements are maintained.

Schematic of indicative site layout

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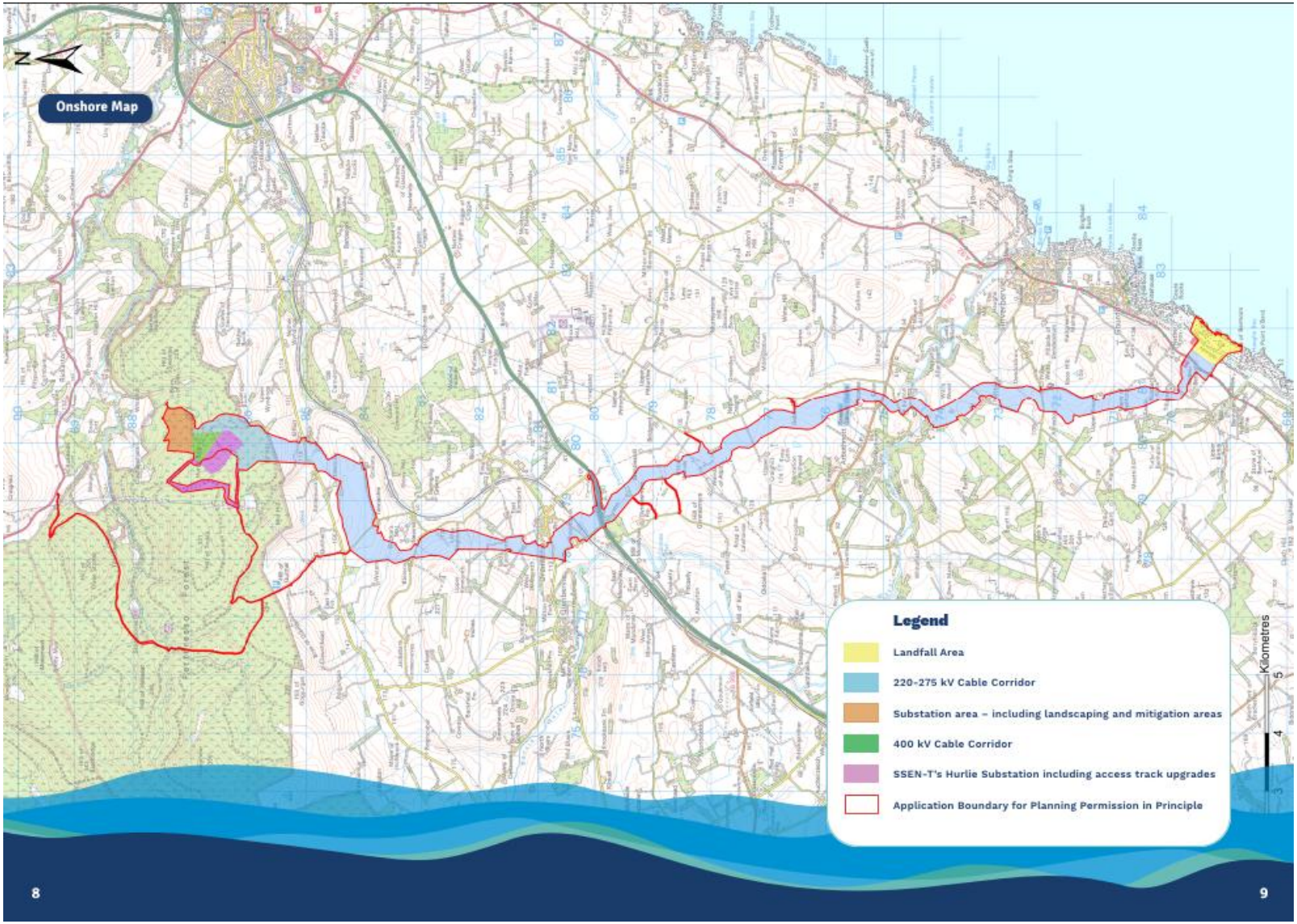
H.5: Page 6 and 7 of PAC 1 Brochure



H.6: Page 8 and 9 of PAC 1 Brochure

Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment Output

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Potential Impact	Mitigation
Visual impact of the substation building(s) on the landscape and visual amenity	Reinstatement of existing vegetation removed during construction. Provision of new planting and earth bunding to provide visual screening. Embedded mitigation in the design e.g. limiting building heights to a maximum of 15m and underground cables for 220/275 kV and 400 kV circuits.
Noise and vibration impacts during construction and operation	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to include how noise and vibration will be managed during construction e.g. limiting working hours and management of construction plant. Operational noise limits for the substation to meet with British Standards and Aberdeenshire Council's Environmental Health Officer requirements. Nosie barriers and enclosures within the substation.
Damage to local road network and disruption during construction.	Construction Traffic Management Plan. Specified transport routes for construction. Trenchless crossing construction techniques such as HDD under main roads. Dedicated haul roads within the project boundary to avoid using public roads where possible.
Impacts on watercourses	Flood Risk and Drainage Assessment to include implementation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). CEMP and Control Plan. Use of trenchless crossing construction techniques such as HDD under major river crossings.
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Impacts on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Avoidance of known heritage assets where possible. Non-invasive and invasive archaeological investigations. Archaeological Clerk of Works monitoring during construction.
Damage to agricultural land	CEMP to include soil resource management during construction. Restoration of agricultural land following construction of underground cables. Biosecurity measures. Engagement with landowners at all stages.

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H.7: Page 10 and 11 of PAC 1 Brochure

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i) handing it to a member of the project team (if attending one of our local events)

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iii) emailing it to our Community Engagement Manager Kirsty MacAulay, k.macaulay@twp.scot; or

Fill out the online feedback form in the virtual exhibition room which is located https://www.thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/virtual-room/;

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposals can do so before the 17th October 2025.

At this stage comments on the development are representations to the developer, not Aberdeenshire Council. There will be the opportunity to make representations to the planning authority once an application is submitted.

Q1. What are the key things you are concerned about with our development (please circle).

Noise	Flooding	Heritage	Fisheries
Landscape/Visual	Traffic	Water Environment	Other (detail below)
Ecology	Mitigation	Tourism	

Q2. What types of mitigation would you like us to consider to reduce the impact of the onshore components of the project? For example, this could include things like: landscaping, planting woodland or parkland, design suggestions for the substation buildings, wildlife and habitat conservation or enhancement, access routes, and road improvements, etc.

Q3. Do you have any specific comments or questions about the proposed Onshore Infrastructure for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm?

12

Q4. How would you describe your reaction to the following (please circle)

Are you in favour of renewables?	Yes	No	Neutral
Are you in favour of this development?	Yes	No	Neutral
Are you in favour of offshore wind farms?	Yes	No	Neutral

About You

Please tell us a bit about yourself so we can capture views from across the community. This will help us to ensure we are reaching a wide audience with our engagement.

Q5. Which category best describes you (please circle)

Member of the public Landowner Marine User

Stakeholder Tourist Other

Q6. What is your postcode

Q7. Have you been to previous events or exhibitions run by TWP? (please circle)

Yes No

Q8. How old are you? (please circle)

Under 16 years 26 - 29 years 30-44 years 45-59 years

60-74 years 75 years and over

Q9. If you would like to receive project updates, please provide an email or postal address.

Name

Email

Address

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H.8: Page 12 and 13 of PAC 1 Brochure

H.9: Final Page of PAC 1 Brochure

Annex I: Formal Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 2 Event Brochure

I.1: Front Page of PAC 2 Brochure

Contents

Using this Document

TWP are holding a series of formal Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events to share our proposals regarding the Onshore Infrastructure for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm. This includes underground cables and a new Bowdun Onshore Substation near SSEN-Transmission's proposed Hurlie Substation, our grid connection point.

In this brochure, you will find information about our company, the proposed plans for the Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm as well as the initial outputs from our Environmental Impact Assessment.

How to Provide Feedback

There are four ways that you can provide feedback and comments to us:

1) Online via the feedback form in the virtual exhibition room which is located at: https://www.thistlewindpartners.scot/bowdun/virtual-room/;

2) Pick up a paper form to fill out and hand it to a member of the project team (if attending one of our local events);

3) By filling in form at the end of our brochure and posting it to Thistle Wind Partners, Capital Building, 12-13 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2AF; and

4) By emailing your feedback to our Stakeholder Engagement Manager Kirsty MacAulay, k.macaulay@twp.scot

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposals can do so before the **17th October 2025.**

At this stage any comments are representations to the Developer, not Aberdeenshire Council. There will be the opportunity to make representations to Aberdeenshire Council once an application is submitted.

I.2: Page 1 of PAC 2 Brochure

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

Project Background

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm will be located 38 km (c.24 miles) off the coast of Aberdeenshire, and comprises infrastructure both onshore and offshore. The wind farm array area is located within our ScotWind lease option area. This area is where the offshore infrastructure required to generate electricity will be constructed (including wind turbines, offshore substation platform(s) and inter-array cables). Export cables will connect the offshore infrastructure to our proposed onshore substation (the Bowdun Substation) in Fetteresso forest. The export cables will come ashore or 'landfall' near Benholm, Aberdeenshire and run underground for approximately 22 km to the Bowdun Substation. At the substation the electricity voltage will be converted from 220/275 kV to 400 kV as required by the National Grid. Underground cables will connect the Bowdun Substation to the planned Hurlie Substation for onwards transmission of the electricity into the National Grid.

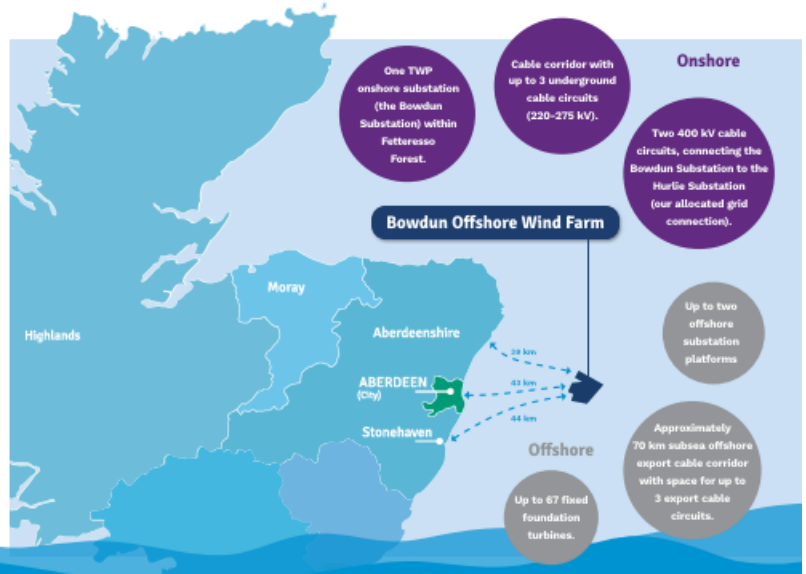
Who We Are

TWP is an offshore wind developer founded in 2020 to deliver our two ScotWind Projects – Ayre and Bowdun, for which we were awarded leases in Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind process. We were founded by a consortium of three companies – DEME Concessions, Qair and Aspiravi. Our founder companies work on a wide variety of renewable energy, environmental remediation and marine infrastructure projects around the world, and bring a strong track record in offshore wind development. The TWP team brings a wealth of Scottish experience and capability in the fields of engineering and consenting focused on delivering our projects.

DEME CONCESSIONS Qair Aspiravi

Need for the Project

Offshore wind plays a central role in Scotland's net-zero journey and is key to realising the economic opportunity of the global energy transition in Scotland. The Scottish Government has set out ambitious targets in relation to offshore wind, because offshore wind is established and a proven part of the mix of technologies that power our energy systems. Offshore wind is key to decarbonise the National Grid by 2035 and support the UK goal to achieve net-zero by 2050. Bowdun will play a significant role in meeting these energy targets through the supply of 1 GW of renewable power, sufficient to power 1.2 million homes. Scotland already excels in innovation in offshore renewable energy, being home to the world's first floating offshore wind farm, Hywind Scotland, off the coast of Peterhead, and the EMEC Wave and Tidal Energy test sites in Orkney. There is a real opportunity for Scotland to grasp a first-mover advantage in developing the goods, services and innovative Intellectual Property for a fast-growing global offshore renewable energy market, placing Scotland on the global stage. By harnessing our rich resource of renewable energy, we can ensure better energy security for people in Scotland and beyond, reducing dependence on fluctuating international markets and related price increases.



I.3: Page 2 and 3 of PAC 2 Brochure

The Development Process

The onshore and offshore elements of the project are subject to different consents but follow the same steps in the development process set out below.

1. Site Selection

Our offshore site was awarded in the ScotWind leasing round in 2022 and is leased from Crown Estate Scotland. The ScotWind sites were identified in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, based on number of factors including wind resource, minimising of environmental impact, proximity to other infrastructure and cognisance of other marine users. The location of our onshore infrastructure is driven by our allocated grid connection point, which is determined by the National Energy System Operator (NESO). We have undertaken a rigorous site selection process, informed by environmental and engineering assessments to identify a suitable landfall, cable corridor and substation location to reach our grid connection point allocated by NESO at SSEN-Transmission's proposed Hurlie substation.

2. Scoping

Due to the nature and scale of our project there is a legislative requirement for us to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for both the onshore and offshore aspects. To support the EIA process, Scoping Reports (separate onshore and offshore) were produced outlining the proposed approach to the project development and the EIAs to be undertaken. These Scoping Reports were submitted to Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing and Operations Team (MD-LOT) respectively, to obtain scoping opinions detailing the scope of the EIAs. The EIAs are then produced in line with the Scoping Opinions issued by MD-LOT and the Council.

3. Environmental Data Collection

Since 2022 we have had specialists conducting desk-based assessments and on site surveys to support site selection and identification of corridors and infrastructure locations onshore and offshore, as well as to support understanding of the environmental baseline. This has included extensive ground investigations, geophysical surveys, LiDAR, ecological and ornithological surveys.

4. Preparation of EIA

An EIA of the Onshore Infrastructure is required under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended). The purpose of the EIA is to identify the likely significant effects on the physical, biological, and human environment during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning.

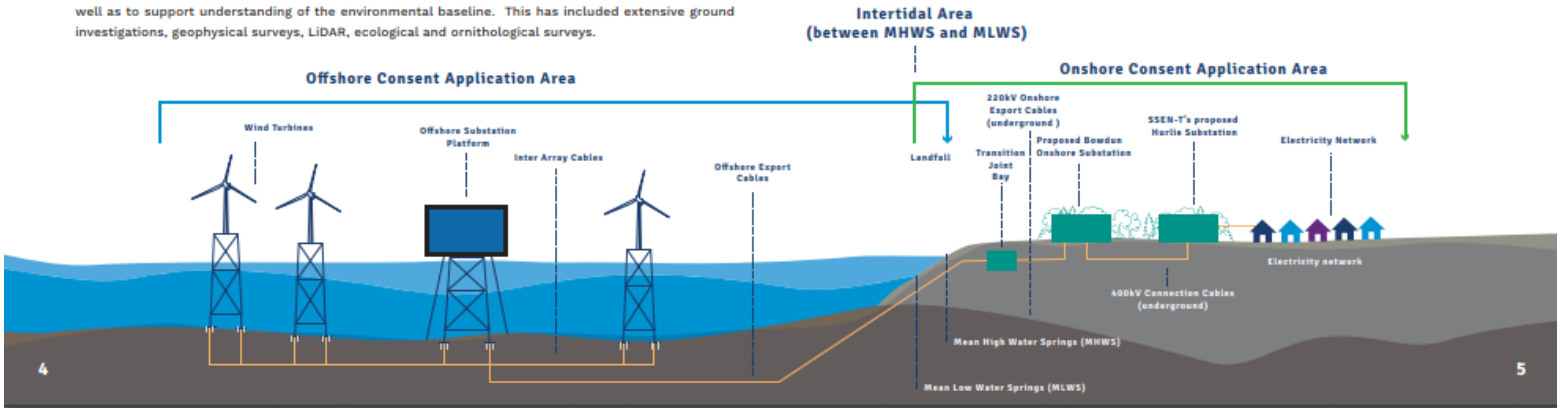
The EIA process provides a valuable opportunity to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts through design refinement. Environmental constraints and issues are identified through consultation, extensive environmental surveys and technical assessments. The information gathered is then used to inform decision-making throughout the design process, providing opportunities to address potentially significant impacts where practicable, for example by refinement of route alignment or by the incorporation of measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts.

5. Submission of Consent Applications

For the offshore infrastructure we will apply to MD-LOT for a Marine Licence and consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. For the onshore infrastructure we will apply to Aberdeenshire Council for planning permission in principle under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

6. Consideration & Determination of the Applications

Aberdeenshire Council will consider and determine the application for Planning Permission in Principle for the onshore infrastructure. The Marine Directorate will consider and determine our offshore Marine Licence and Section 36 application on behalf of Scottish Ministers.



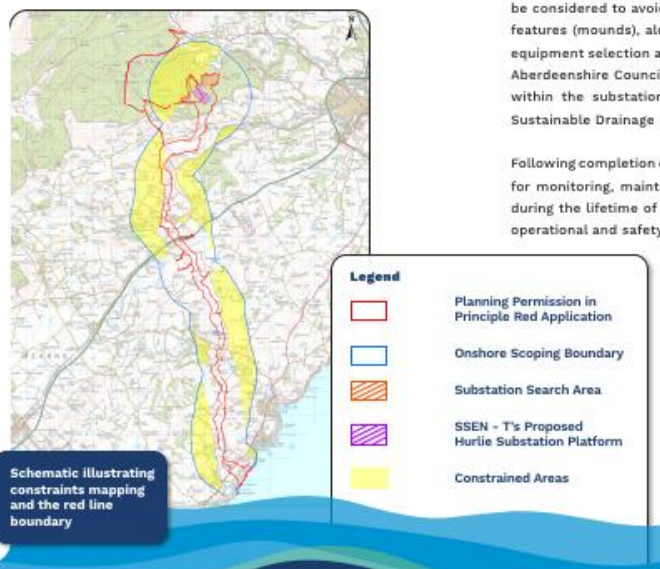
I.4: Page 4 and 5 of PAC 2 Brochure

Onshore Infrastructure Refinement

Since 2022 we have been working to identify potential landfall sites along the Aberdeenshire Coast to reach to a grid connection point determined by NESO. Our objectives were to identify a landfall site, cable corridor and a substation site which are technically and economically viable, and and limit the disturbance to the environment and local people, whilst meeting technical requirements for our infrastructure.

A number of options were identified, and we undertook a constraints analysis to refine the options. We mapped environmental and technical constraints (such as Special Protection Areas, Designated Heritage Assets, Local Nature Conservation Sites, challenging topography and local infrastructure including underground gas pipelines, the Forties Oil Pipeline and existing overhead lines) within a Scoping Boundary (blue). This allowed us to identify early areas that should ideally be avoided as well as potential suitable substation and landfall sites. This was presented to the public in October 2024 at a series of public information days at venues in Mearns and Stonehaven, specifically Gourdon, Drumlithie and Stonehaven. The aim of these events was to receive feedback on our Scoping Boundary and Substation Area of Search (orange) as well as gain local knowledge to inform site refinement. This information was fed into the design process and further constraint analysis work undertaken to narrow the cable corridor and select a preferred substation location.

Since our public information days, we have completed technical assessment work and taken account feedback received from local people and stakeholders including Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot. We have also attended a number of local community events to engage members of the public including Stonehaven's Feein' Market in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and the Gourdon Party in the Park 2025, of which TWP were headline sponsors. The proposed Application Boundary (red) presents the narrower refined corridor in which our onshore infrastructure will be located. The boundary constrains the project in the first of a multi-stage consent process. The constructed development footprint will be smaller, following further design refinement and subject to more detailed assessments and agreement with the Council should planning permission in principle be granted.



Schematic illustrating constraints mapping and the red line boundary

Onshore substation

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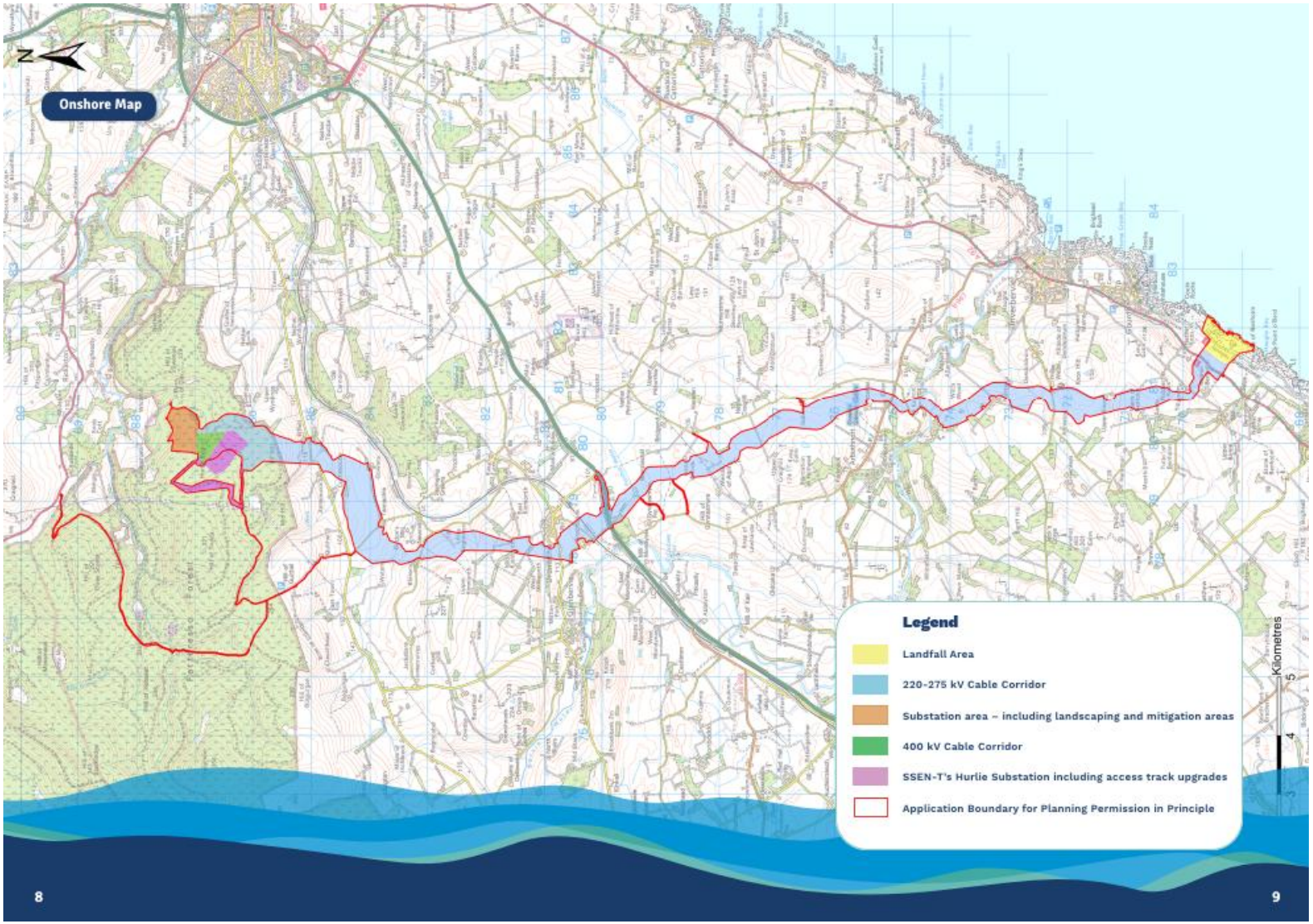
I.5: Page 6 and 7 of PAC 2 Brochure



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I.7: Page 10 and 11 of PAC 2 Brochure

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Q8. How old are you? (please circle)

Under 16 years 26 - 29 years 30-44 years 45-59 years

60-74 years 75 years and over

Q9. If you would like to receive project updates, please provide an email or postal address.

Name

Email

Address

13

I.8: Page 12 and 13 of PAC 2 Brochure

I.9: PAC 2 Brochure

Your Comments, Our Response

Here are the key issues raised at the Augist 2025 Pre-Application Consultation events that we have been investigating with our technical teams and the outcomes of those discussions.

Issues Raised	Our Response
Traffic and Transport	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Logistic Plan (CLP) will be developed containing details of measures to control, monitor and enforce heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) movements during construction. This will also include details of travel routes and accesses to minimise the impacts of construction traffic on local residents. To minimise the amount of traffic on the local road network during construction, temporary haul roads would be installed along the onshore cable construction corridor to provide safe access for construction vehicles, thus reducing the requirement for vehicles to travel via public highways as much as possible. Temporary construction storage and laydown areas may also be used. Each public road that would have HGVs travelling on them during construction would either already be suitable for two-way HGV movements or be modified in advance of construction to enable this. Further traffic management plans that need to be approved by Aberdeenshire Council will specify exact requirements, for example there may be a ban on construction traffic through certain areas. A construction specific Travel Plan is also proposed to provide the mechanism to support and promote shared and sustainable travel for staff, contractors and visitors travelling to the work sites. The Travel Plan would seek to encourage workers to access the site via sustainable travel modes, improving travel choices, and managing single occupancy car use. The Travel Plan would also indicate the approved routes to site and the approved parking locations. We will undertake pre-condition surveys of roads prior to construction to assess and record existing condition and to inform reinstatement post construction. We propose collaboration with SSEN; FLS in the Forest, Transport Scotland (regarding Trunk Road Use and Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) movements) and Aberdeenshire Council regarding joint working, phasing, AIL movements and road improvements.
Cumulative	A robust cumulative impact assessment will be included with the EIA. The projects assessed will be agreed with the determining authority, Aberdeenshire Council, and based on applications in the planning system and other committed development.
Onshore Substation Impacts (Operational Noise and Lighting)	We are commited to including embedded measures within the final substation design such as barriers and enclosures to meet noise limits required by Aberdeenshire Council (taking cumulative noise into account from other noise sources). The substation lighting is to be sensitively designed to limit amenity impacts. This will involve inward facing lighting, timers and limited use. The substation will be unmanned and only emergency lighting will be present.
Disruption resulting from Construction	The application will include an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. This will include specific measures to limit noise, vibration and dust. For example through the selection of quieter equipment, limiting working hours, the application of industry best practice techniques and appropriate mitigation to reduce and suppress dust, and the use of temporary mitigation where detailed design defines it as necessary. The cable installation along the cable route is completed sequentially. First, the topsoil and subsoil are stripped and stored, the haul routes constructed, and trenches dug. The cable ducting is then installed, and the trenches backfilled. The cables would then be pulled through the ducts. The sequential nature of the work means that potential disturbance would be localised as the work progresses along the cable route. Although highly dependent on local conditions, a reasonable assumption for the progression rate of the cable installation is approximately 400 m every 4-6 weeks with HDD locations taking approximately 12 weeks.
Local Economic Development	TWP are committed to spending £600 million in Scotland for our Bowdun project and an ambition to increase that to over £1 billion. The project will create jobs during construction and operation as well as in the wider supply chain and generate wider economic benefits, such as increased spending in the local economy and investment in the region. The Project is actively supporting local businesses in overcoming barriers to entering the market, we have been running supply chain events and engaging with local businesses through our award winning Supply Chain Pathways Programme.

I.10: PAC 2 Brochure

Issues Raised	Our Response
Visual Impacts	Visualisations of the substation and offshore turbines are presented as part of the PAC 2 events. These indicate visibility of the substation from representative viewpoints and have been prepared under a 'worst-case scenario' with a maximum 15 m height for any buildings within the Substation Search Area. This scenario illustrates the maximum visibility that might occur from the Proposed Development. The height of the substation building has been limited to 15 m to minimise potential visual impacts. Forestry re-planting and retention will be implemented to provide further mitigation of visual impacts, as well as providing biodiversity enhancements. A sequential installation of the cable route would ensure potential visual disturbance is localised and thus minimised as the work progresses along the cable route. Specific measures to mitigate visual effects from construction, operation and maintenance phases will be developed at the detailed design stage and agreed with the Council. A mixture of approaches would be utilised with the aim to integrate the final structures into the surrounding landscape. This could include screening for the substation elements, earthworks to help integrate the substation into the landscape and specific building finishes.
Landfall	The landfall will be constructed using a trenchless technique. We are currently exploring suitable options for this work. The installation in this area will begin in the offshore cable corridor and the onshore construction will be from the agricultural field adjacent to the landfall avoiding the beach, here a transition joint bay will be dug and then reinstated to ground level. Construction will be planned to avoid closures of the beach and coastal path.
Biodiversity	Baseline ecological surveys, collecting data on protected species (fauna and flora) ornithology habitats and watercourses undertaken; the findings to be published in the EIA report. All habitats subject to temporary disturbance during construction, will be reinstated following the completion of construction and mitigation proposals include enhancements to existing habitats to increase local biodiversity.
Private Water Supplies (PWS)	PWS within 250 m of excavations required for the final design will be identified in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and a detailed risk assessment undertaken seeking to avoid impacts on supplies in line with SEPA guidance. Should a significant impact on a PWS be confirmed, an alternative source of water will be provided. The Contractor will be required to prepare a supply-specific monitoring plan and mitigation strategy in communication with affected landowners. At PPP stage properties with 1 km search area have been included in an initial screening.
Flood Risk	The substation will be designed to avoid increasing flood risk. The EIA fully considers hydrology and flood risk for each phase of the onshore infrastructure i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning. Future changes resulting from climate changes have been factored into the flood risk assessment and an Outline Drainage Management Plan has been produced.
Potential WWII Aircraft Remains and Associated Contamination	The nearest reported crash site is a Royal Navy Air Service (RNAS) Swordfish Torpedo Bomber (Serial No. P4031) reported as flying into Hill of Trusta (outside the Cultural Heritage Study Area) during the night of the 14 September 1942. No WWII aircraft remains have been identified within the Cultural Heritage Study Area for the proposed development. If previously unknown WWII aircraft remains are identified these would be protected under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Should any such remains be identified additional consultation with the Ministry of Defence and Aberdeenshire Council would be undertaken, and a licence would be required from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre before any disturbance of the remains could be undertaken. Where possible, any such remains would be avoided through design and / or micrositing of associated elements of the Proposed Development. If required a detailed remediation strategy for any associated contamination would also be submitted to and approved by Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA prior to works commencing.

Bowdun Offshore Wind Farm

7.1.1 I.11: PAC 2 Brochure

Annex J: Poster advertising the PAC Events

Annex: K Visualisations