

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 THE APPLICATIONS**

1. In April 2012 applications were submitted for consent to construct, operate and decommission the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm (the Wind Farm) and associated offshore transmission works (OfTW), together known as 'the Project'. The consent applications were submitted to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT), acting on behalf of the Scottish Ministers for consent under the following legislation:
  - Consent under Section 36 and 36A of the Electricity Act 1989; and
  - Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
2. The applications included an Environmental Statement (ES) (the Original ES) to report the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which was carried out to assess the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment.
3. Since the submission of the application in April 2012, consultation responses have been received from statutory and non-statutory consultees. In addition, there have been advancements in assessment methods for some of the environmental receptors. There have also been some minor amendments to the Project itself (the Project as amended is known as the 'Amended Project'). As such, the Applicant, Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Limited (BOWL), is submitting this Addendum to the Original ES (the ES Addendum) to ensure this further information is incorporated in the EIA for the Amended Project.

### **1.2 THE APPLICANT**

4. The Applicant, BOWL, is a joint venture company of which 75% of its share capital is held by SSE Renewables Holdings (UK) Limited and 25% is held by Repsol Beatrice Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Repsol Nuevas Energias UK Limited).
5. Further details on the Applicant are provided in Section 1.2 of the Original ES.

### **1.3 PURPOSE, SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS ES ADDENDUM**

#### **1.3.1 PURPOSE OF THIS ES ADDENDUM**

6. As introduced above, this ES Addendum has been prepared to incorporate the following into the EIA:
  - Advances in certain assessment methodologies and knowledge of the environmental receptors which have occurred since submission of the Original ES;
  - Responses received from consultees on the Original ES, including requests for clarification and further information. Examples included a request for a description and discussion of a 'most likely' scenario (see Section 1.6). Ongoing consultation has been undertaken with these statutory and non-statutory consultees to scope how these issues will be addressed in this ES Addendum;

- Further information which has become available on cumulative developments, in particular the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone, for which a consent application was submitted in August 2012;
  - Alterations to the size of the footprint of the jack-up vessels proposed to be used during construction of the Wind Farm;
  - Alterations to the anticipated timescales for the installation of cables; and
  - An amendment to the OfTW Corridor as shown in Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.
7. The final three bullets in this list above constitute the amendments to the Project itself assessed in this ES Addendum (see further Section 1.4).

### **1.3.2 SCOPE OF THIS ES ADDENDUM**

8. As a result of the further information and changes to the Project listed in Section 1.3.1 above, this ES Addendum includes the following clarifications, additions and revisions to the Original ES (described in more detail in Section 3.3 of this ES Addendum):
- Fish and shellfish ecology: Section 5: Fish and Shellfish Ecology presents an addendum to Original ES Sections 11: Wind Farm Fish and Shellfish Ecology and 23: OfTW Fish and Shellfish Ecology;
  - Marine mammals: Section 6: Marine Mammals presents an addendum to Original ES Sections 12: Wind Farm Marine Mammals and 24: OfTW Marine Mammals;
  - Ornithology: Section 7: Ornithology presents an addendum to Original ES Section 13: Wind Farm Ornithology. This ES Addendum does not apply to Section 25: OfTW Ornithology of the Original ES;
  - Seascape, landscape and visual: Section 8: Seascape, Landscape and Visual presents an addendum to Original ES Section 14: Wind Farm Seascape, Landscape and Visual;
  - Revised assessments of technical topics from the Original ES whose assessment may have been affected by Project amendments, including the amendment to the OfTW Corridor, change in jack-up vessel footprint and/or changes to OfTW cable installation timescales. These technical topics are:
    - Section 9: Physical Processes and Geomorphology (OfTW Corridor; jack-up footprint and OfTW cable installation timescales);
    - Section 10: Benthic Ecology (OfTW Corridor; jack-up footprint and OfTW cable installation timescales);
    - Section 11: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (OfTW Corridor and OfTW cable installation timescales);
    - Section 12: Commercial Fisheries (OfTW Corridor and OfTW cable installation timescales);
    - Section 13: Shipping and Navigation (OfTW Corridor and OfTW cable installation timescales); and
    - Section 14: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism (OfTW Corridor and OfTW cable installation timescales).

### **1.3.3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS ES ADDENDUM AND THE ORIGINAL ES**

9. This ES Addendum is intended to be read in conjunction with the Original ES. To avoid repetition, cross reference is made to the Original ES where appropriate.
10. Generally, the information in this ES Addendum is supplemental to the Original ES. Where this ES Addendum updates or replaces part of the Original ES, this is clearly stated.

### **1.3.4 ES ADDENDUM STRUCTURE**

11. The section structure in this ES Addendum mirrors that of the Original ES so reviewers are able to follow the revised assessments presented in this ES Addendum against those presented in the Original ES.
12. The ES Addendum comprises the following documents:
  - Non Technical Summary (NTS);
  - Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 1: Main Text;
  - Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 2: Figures;
  - Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 3: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Assessment Figures; and
  - Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 4: Technical Annexes.
13. Volume 1: Main Text is structured as follows:
  - Sections 1 to 4 provide a description of the Amended Project plus its context in terms of the legislative, planning and consenting process and requirements including details of consultation undertaken and site selection and consideration of alternatives, insofar as applicable to this ES Addendum;
  - Sections 5 to 14 present the topic specific EIAs which consider both the Wind Farm and OfTW elements of the Amended Project as applicable. These sections include (where applicable to this ES Addendum) a summary of the consultation received on the Original ES, baseline data, amendments to assessment methods, assessment of likely significant effects, proposed mitigation measures, subsequent residual effects and an assessment of cumulative effects; and
  - Section 15 provides a summary of residual effects.

### **1.3.5 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**

14. Information to inform an Appropriate Assessment is also included in Annex 3B of this ES Addendum. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a separate assessment to the EIA which focuses on the effects of the Amended Project on designated European sites.

## **1.4 THE AMENDED PROJECT**

15. The Amended Project assessed in this ES Addendum comprises two key elements:
  - The Wind Farm; and
  - The OfTW (as amended).
16. These elements are fully defined and described in Section 1.5 of the Original ES, with the following amendments which are included in this ES Addendum:

- The assessment of the Wind Farm in this ES Addendum includes the alterations to the size of the footprint of the jack-up vessels proposed to be used during construction of the Wind Farm; and
  - The assessment of the OfTW in this ES Addendum includes the amendment to the OfTW Corridor and the alterations to the anticipated timescales for the installation of cables.
17. The amendment to the OfTW Corridor was identified as a requirement through ongoing consultation with oil platform stakeholders. The OfTW Corridor has been widened in the vicinity of the Beatrice Bravo oil platform. This is to ensure that the subsea cable can be 1.5 km away from the oil platform; a separation distance identified by the oil platform stakeholders. An additional area of 3.71 km<sup>2</sup> has been added to the OfTW Corridor as a result of this amendment (see Figure 1.3).
18. In addition to the offshore works, BOWL will also require Onshore Transmission Works (OnTW) to connect the OfTW to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). An application for Planning Permission in Principle was submitted to The Moray Council for the OnTW in October 2012 and was approved in February 2013.

### **1.5 THE 'WORST CASE' SCENARIO**

19. The Original ES was based on the assessment of the 'worst case' scenario for each receptor derived from the Project's 'Rochdale Envelope', a range of development parameters within which the Project would sit, presented in the Original ES (Table 7.1, Section 7: Project Description). The Rochdale Envelope approach is fully described in Section 4: EIA Process and Methodology of the Original ES. The changes to the Rochdale Envelope as a result of the minor changes to the Project outlined in Section 1.4 above are described in more detail in Section 4: Amended Project Description of this ES Addendum.
20. The consent applications are for the Amended Project described in the Rochdale Envelope (as amended). The Original ES and ES Addendum together assess the worst case parameters from within the Rochdale Envelope for the Amended Project.

### **1.6 THE 'MOST LIKELY' SCENARIO**

21. Since submission of the Original ES, the conceptual design for the Project has progressed. Whilst these advances are still at concept consideration stage, and hence cannot be used as the basis for the consent application or EIA, it has allowed the development of a 'most likely' scenario which has been used for illustrative purposes in this ES Addendum (Section 3: EIA Process and Methodology) to discuss the impacts of the Amended Project and to allow the worst case assessment to be placed in context.
22. A full description of the most likely scenario is presented in Section 4: Amended Project Description of this ES Addendum.

## 1.7 THE EIA TEAM

23. The ES Addendum coordination and EIA team is summarised in Table 1.1 and includes technical experts from a number of specialist consultancies as well as input from BOWL.

**Table 1.1: EIA Team**

Topic Area	Organisation Responsible
<b>EIA Team</b>	
EIA coordination and management	Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd (Arcus)
Introduction, Site Selection and Alternatives and EIA Process and Methodology	Arcus
Amended Project Description	BOWL Arcus
Fish and Shellfish Ecology	Brown and May Marine (BMM)
Marine Mammals	RPS Energy
Ornithology	MacArthur Green
Seascape, Landscape and Visual	LDA Design
Physical Processes and Geomorphology	ABP marine environmental research (ABPmer)
Benthic Ecology	Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CMACS)
Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Headland Archaeology
Commercial Fisheries	BMM
Shipping and Navigation	Anatec
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	SQW

## 1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

24. For the purposes of this ES Addendum, the definitions in Table 1.2 have been used. These take a consistent approach to those within the Original ES, however, where it is required to distinguish between the Original Project and the Amended Project, new terms have been defined.

**Table 1.2: Definition of Terms**

Term	Definition
BOWL	Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited, the company submitting the consent application for the Project.
The Original Project	The offshore development proposal in its entirety, including the Original Wind Farm and the Original OfTW Corridor as presented in the Original ES.

Term	Definition
The Amended Project	The offshore development proposal in its entirety, including the Wind Farm and the Amended OfTW Corridor. This incorporates the changes to the Original Project presented in this ES Addendum.
The Original Project Boundary	The Original Project Boundary includes the Wind Farm Site and the OfTW i.e. the whole area to which the consent applications relate, including the Original OfTW Corridor as presented in the Original ES.
The Amended Project Boundary	The Amended Project Boundary includes the Wind Farm and the Amended OfTW Corridor i.e. the whole area to which the consent applications relate (see Figure 1.1).
The Original Wind Farm	The Original Wind Farm means the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm as assessed in the Original ES including wind turbines, inter-array cabling and meteorological masts.
The Wind Farm	The Wind Farm itself assessed in this ES Addendum is physically unchanged from that described in the Original ES. However, it is noted that the assessment in this ES Addendum covers the alterations to the size of the footprint of the jack-up vessels proposed to be used during construction of the Wind Farm – references to the 'Wind Farm' in this ES Addendum should be read as including this amendment.
The Wind Farm Site	The area within which the Wind Farm will be located.
The Original OfTW	The Offshore Transmission Works. The OfTW includes the approximate 65 km length of the route of the cable required to connect the Wind Farm to the NETS. This covers the cable route from the offshore substation platform(s) (OSPs) to the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) at the landfall west of Portgordon on the Moray coast. For the purposes of this ES Addendum, the OSPs are assessed in the Wind Farm topic sections (although they may be owned in the future by the owner of the OfTW). The OSPs however form part of the Marine Licence application for the OfTW.
The OfTW	The assessment in this ES Addendum covers the amendment to the OfTW Corridor and the alterations to the anticipated timescales for the installation of cables. References to the 'OfTW' in this ES Addendum should be read as above including these amendments.
The Original OfTW Corridor	The area within which the OfTW cable was to be located as presented in the Original ES.
The Amended OfTW Corridor	The area within which the OfTW cable will be located as amended and presented in this ES Addendum (see Figure 1.2).
The OnTW	The Onshore Transmission Works. All components and operations for the onshore elements. The EIA of these elements is reported in a separate ES and is subject to a separate consent application.
The Original ES	The Environmental Statement as submitted in April 2012 accompanying the Section 36 and Marine Licence applications.
The ES Addendum	This Addendum to the Original ES.