

2 SITE SELECTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

1. This Section describes the consideration made with regard to the site selection and alternatives relevant to this ES Addendum. Information regarding the process for site selection and consideration of alternatives presented in the Original ES (Section 6: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives) is otherwise still valid.

2.2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2. The EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) requires developers to present within their environmental statement; *"where appropriate, an outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects"* (Article 5, Annex III, para. 2).

2.3 SITE SELECTION

3. With the exception of the minor amendment to the Original OfTW Corridor, the Amended Project Boundary, and hence the site selection process, remains as presented in Section 6: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives of the Original ES. The amendment to the Original OfTW Corridor was identified as a requirement through ongoing consultation with oil platform stakeholders. The amendment considered the requirement to ensure the safe operation of both the oil platforms and the OfTW, resulting in a change to the site selection for the Amended OfTW Corridor, as illustrated in Figure 1.3.
4. As per the Original ES, the grid connection point for the Amended Project to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) is at Blackhillock NETS substation. Since the submission of the Original ES, an application for Planning Permission in Principle has been submitted to The Moray Council for the OnTW which enable this connection.

2.4 NO DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO

5. As per the Original ES the 'no development' scenario has been represented by the current baseline situation. The baseline was reported in the technical assessment Sections of the Original ES and, where relevant to this ES Addendum, it has been updated in technical assessment Sections 5 to 14.

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