

Nicola Bain  
Marine Scotland  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Ref: LF000005-LET-102 Beatrice Design Statement Viewpoint Consultation  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

Dear Ms Bain

We are contacting you on behalf of Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (BOWL) with regard to consultation for the discharge of Condition 14 relating to the s36 consent of the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm. As you are aware the Development received consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 on 19th March 2014.

*Condition 14 states that ‘The Company must, prior to the Commencement of the Development, submit a Design Statement (“DS”), in writing, to the Scottish Ministers that includes representative wind farm visualisations from key viewpoints agreed with the Scottish Ministers, based upon the final DSLP [Development Specification and Layout Plan] as approved by the Scottish Ministers (as updated and amended from time to time by the Company). The DS must be provided, for information only, to the Planning Authorities, and the JNCC, SNH and any such other advisors or organisations as may be required at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers. The DS must be prepared and signed off by at least one qualified landscape architect, instructed by the Company prior to submission to the Scottish Ministers.’*

LDA Design undertook the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) of the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm for the planning application. We have been instructed by BOWL, as qualified Landscape Architects in accordance with Condition 14, to prepare the Design Statement. It is in this role that we are contacting you to seek your agreement to the choice of key viewpoints and the approach to the Design Statement.

### The Design Statement Approach

The Design Statement, alongside the visualisations that will be provided from the proposed key viewpoints, will provide an updated narrative on the final design in relation to the content of the ES and Supplementary Environmental Information Statement (SEIS) previously submitted for Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm. It is acknowledged that current guidance (page 17, SNH, 2014) steers away from ‘design viewpoints’ recognising that it is very difficult to change a layout to address a particular view without then having subsequent implications upon other viewpoints from different stretches of coastline. This is particularly the case for large offshore wind farms given the numbers of turbines involved and the need to optimise layouts to achieve scheme viability. The Design statement will provide a considered narrative on the identified layout and will reference the key views identified below.

The Development Specification and Layout Plan (DSLPL) for the Project, which is a requirement of Condition 13 of the s36 consent, will not be finalised by BOWL until Q1 2015. However, an indicative Project layout with turbine dimensions has been made available to aid consultation. This is the current base case and, whilst there remains the possibility it may change, any subsequent adjustments are deemed unlikely to affect either the choice of viewpoints or the approach to be adopted for the Design Statement.

The indicative Project details are within the consent parameters. The layout is based on the key dimensions set out in the table below. The details of the realistic worst case scenarios (RWCS) assessed in the SLVIA ES and SEIS is also provided below to allow a comparison.

Assessment	Turbine MW	Turbine no.	Hub height	Blade-tip height
Proposed Turbines	6 or 7MW	83	109.7 m	186.7 m
SLVIA ES RWCS	7MW	142	115.9 m	198.4 m
SLVIA ES RWCS (alternative)	3.6MW	277	87 m	140.6 m

As can be seen in the table above the proposed turbine numbers and sizes are a noticeable reduction to the worst case assessed within the SLVIA.

### Key Viewpoints

It is proposed that visualisations from six of the original sixteen viewpoints included within the ES SLVIA will be utilised to illustrate the final project layout for the purposes of the Design Statement. On review of the existing SLVIA assessment findings those viewpoints which would potentially experience the most change as well as those that represent a range of receptors are proposed to be utilised for the Design Statement. In addition, it should be noted that this includes the viewpoints at Wick and Lybster which had previously been highlighted by consultees during the original SLVIA consultation process as important viewpoints where the design of the layout should be particularly considered. The proposed viewpoint list is set out in the table below:

Viewpoint (numbered as ES SLVIA reference)	Primary Receptors	Distance from application scheme
2. Keiss Pier	Visitors	27.3km
4. Wick Bay (north)	Residents	18km
5. Sarclet	Residents Visitors	13.9km
7. Lybster (end of Main St)	Residents	19.3km

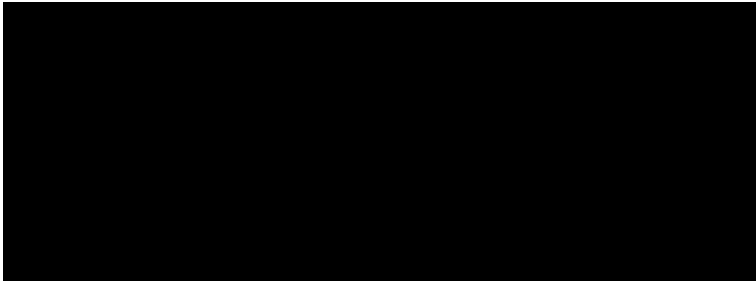
8. Latheron (A9)	Travellers	23km
9. Dunbeath	Residents Visitors	25.6km

It is also noted that since the production of the SLVIA and the Project consent, the guidance for the production and presentation of visualisations has been updated by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH 2014). We are proposing that the wireframes and photomontages for each of the viewpoints above will be produced, using the existing viewpoint photography, to comply with this new 2014 SNH guidance.

To help inform your response to this letter we have provided wireframes from Wick and Dunbeath which illustrate the proposed layout. Given the new visualisation methodology used, a direct comparison with the previous scheme is not possible but we have provided the ES wireframes from these viewpoints for your information and ease of reference.

We would be grateful for your feedback on the above viewpoints and any other matter relating to the Design Statement by the 15th December 2014. Please do not hesitate to call if you would like to discuss any of the above.

Yours sincerely



William Wheeler

Director

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cc. Alexander Ford, Marine Scotland  
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