

From: [Catriona Gall](#)
To: [Aires C \(Catarina\)](#)
Cc: [MARINEENERGY](#); [Bain N \(Nicola\) \(MARLAB\)](#); [Drew J \(Jessica\)](#); [Stainer P \(Paul\) \(MARLAB\)](#); [Sarah.Canning@jncc.gov.uk](#); [Karen Hall \(JNCC\)](#); [Erica Knott](#)
Subject: SNH & JNCC advice on BOWL intra-array cable plan
Date: 16 June 2016 12:50:46

Dear Catarina,

Thanks for providing us with a copy of BOWL's intra-array cable plan for comment. It sets out BOWL's requirements for design and installation of the intra-array cables between turbines, and the commitments that the key contractor and sub-contractors will be expected to follow in undertaking this work.

The cable plan does not exist in isolation but it provides greater detail on this particular construction activity at the Beatrice wind farm site. The roles and responsibilities of project staff and contractors have already been set out in the Environmental Management Plan and Construction Method Statement and hence have not been duplicated here.

The plan collates the available information from the survey work carried out to date (see Table 5.1) and indicates the key constraints on-site and sediment types across the site. The majority of intra-array cabling will be going into soft sediment (see Figure 5.4) so it is anticipated that jet trenching will be the primary method of installation, with the possibility that a "hybrid tool capable of both chain cutting and jet trenching" might be used as a contingency if any areas of harder sediment are encountered. Figure 9.1 gives an overview of the installation sequence and this is detailed in section 9.2.

A cable burial risk assessment has been carried out and is presented in chapter 8. This confirms that the target depth of lowering will be between 0.6m and 0.8m (see Figure 8.1 and paragraph 8.4.1), and it's not anticipated that any cable protection will be required due to the nature of the sediments. A protective sleeve will be used for the short section of exposed cable from the wind turbine to the pop out point on the sea bed (see Figure 9.8 and paragraph 9.2.22).

SNH & JNCC confirm that we are satisfied with the proposed installation process and intended level of cable burial for the intra-array cabling, including no anticipated requirement for cable protection materials. Cable burial should limit the range of any electromagnetic fields (see section 7.3), so that any effects are localised and do not give rise to significant impacts on fish or benthic interests. While the primary biotope across the site is identified as a priority marine feature (PMF), it is robust to disturbance and should quickly recover from the impacts of cable burial given the spatial and temporal impacts of this activity. Nor will cable installation give rise to any significant noise disturbance of marine mammals, as previously addressed in the EPS licence consultation (see SNH advice of 22 January 2016 and JNCC advice of 29 January 2016).

We make one suggestion, which is that it might be helpful to discuss the intra-array cable installation in the context of other construction activity taking place at the same time (wind farm piling and jacket installation), and the overall construction programme. While this aspect has previously been addressed in the Construction Method Statement (see Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2 of that plan) and the construction programme (see Appendix A) it could be helpful to also include a short summary in the cable plan itself.

Finally, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries about this advice from SNH &

JNCC. We look forward to receiving the consultation on the export cable in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Gall

Marine Renewables Casework Adviser - Offshore Wind

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From: Catarina.Aires@gov.scot [mailto:Catarina.Aires@gov.scot]

Sent: 30 May 2016 17:04

To: MARINEENERGY; jnccadvice@jncc.gov.uk; navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk; renewables@sff.co.uk

Cc: Nicola.Bain@gov.scot; Jessica.Drew@gov.scot; Paul.Stainer@gov.scot

Subject: Consultation on BOWL Post-Consent Cable Plan (Wind Farm), by 28th June 2016

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 & MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009, PART 4 MARINE LICENSING

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd ("BOWL"), having received consent under the above legislation and in order to discharge conditions of their Section 36 Consent, has submitted to the Licensing Authority the documents attached.

Please find enclosed a proposed 'Cable Plan (Wind Farm)' ("CaP-OWF") post-consent plan and covering letter addressed to MS-LOT from BOWL. The purpose of the CaP-OWF is to attempt to satisfy the requirements of condition 19 of the Section 36 Consent, awarded to BOWL on the 19th March 2014.

The Decision Letter and Conditions, as well as other relevant documents, can be found on our website, following the link below:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/scoping/Beatrice>

The condition states that the plan is to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for their written approval following a consultation with the JNCC, SNH, MCA and any such other advisors as may be required at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers. MS-LOT, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, would also like to invite comments from the SFF on the attached CaP-OWF.

We would appreciate any comments you may have on the attached CaP-OWF in order to determine whether it is fit for purpose for the Scottish Ministers to give it their written approval. Please note that we do not seek comments on the Consent nor on the conditions, which will not be amended.

If you wish to submit any comments, please send them to MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot before the **28th June 2016**.

Best regards,
Catarina

Catarina Aires

Marine Renewables Casework Officer

[marinescotland](http://marinescotland.gov.scot)

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