

Neart na Gaoithe Proposed Offshore Wind Farm

Pre-Application with Communities Consultation Report



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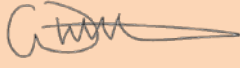

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Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FATOWDG	Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group
NnGOWL	Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd
PACC	Pre-Application with Communities Consultation Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The Pre-Application with Communities Consultation (PACC) Report provides an overview of the consultation undertaken to date by Mainstream Renewable Power on their proposed Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm. The proposal is to develop an offshore wind farm of up to 450MW, 15.5 km east of Fife Ness, off the coast of Fife and the Lothians.

Public consultation is now an important element of the planning application process. Discussions have been ongoing with Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council with regard to their requirements for Public and Stakeholder Engagement on the project.

The onshore works will be subject to a planning application under the Planning Act etc. (2006). The onshore works are considered a 'major' development and the planning application for this part of the scheme will be submitted to, and determined by, East Lothian Council. This PACC report is part of the pre-application process and demonstrates compliance with the consultation requirements identified by East Lothian Council in the 'Proposal of Application Notice' process.

Although two separate planning applications will be submitted for the onshore and offshore elements of the development, it was decided to consult on the whole development throughout the pre-application phase of the project.

Consultation has also been undertaken with Statutory consultees. The details of this consultation is not included in this report. However a summary is provided.

The main methods used to deliver the public consultation have been:

- † Public events and exhibitions
- † Website
- † Community council meetings and presentations

10 events were held in Fife, Angus and East Lothian from November 2011 to November 2012. 6 events were held in community halls with the remainder being held at community fetes and galas. **868 people visited these events.**


There are now **828 individuals registered on the project database.** They are sent regular updates on the project as it develops.

The output from the public consultation

At the exhibitions participants were asked to complete a questionnaire. The same questionnaire was also available online. Of the people that attended the exhibitions, **356 (41.0%) filled in the questionnaires.** A further 11 were completed online.

The first two questions examined people's attitudes to climate change and the development of offshore renewables. The responses demonstrate a high level of support for actions that address these issues.

The third question examined people's knowledge of development. Only **20.7%** of the participants said they were "very well informed" and "knew a lot" about the proposals. The remainder said they "knew little" or "nothing" about the project. This suggests that more communication about the proposal will need to be undertaken as the project develops.



The fourth question examined the participants perceived impact of the development. The results were that the greatest positive impacts will be CO₂ reduction & jobs. The participants believe the greatest negative impacts will be visual, birds, marine mammals, fishing and the natural environment. This question also highlighted the need for more understanding on the impacts on fishing, marine mammals and birds.

The fifth question asked for specific comments about the development. These comments have been grouped to allow analysis.

The sixth question examined participants' overall reaction to the scheme. Of the questionnaires completed:

- ☞ **66.9%** support the development;
- ☞ **22.3%** neither support or object the development;
- ☞ **10.9%** oppose the development.

The final question asked for feedback on the public events. There was a very positive response with **88.6%** of participants saying that they thought that the events were excellent or good.

Facilitating Change has adopted Planning Aid for Scotland's SP=EED framework to assess whether or not the public consultation undertaken by Mainstream Renewable Power either meets or exceeds the consultation requirements agreed by the relevant planning authorities (Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council). The audit indicates that elements of the consultation process have been highly successful in engaging affected communities and canvassing representative local opinion. Details of the audit are included in the report.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mainstream Renewable Power

Mainstream Renewable Power is a global company focused on developing, building and operating renewable energy plant in collaboration with strategic partners. Our mission is to work together with partners and communities to accelerate progress towards a sustainable future. We believe we have the passion, the expertise and the resources to make that vision a reality.

In February 2009, Mainstream was awarded the exclusive right to develop the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm in Scottish territorial waters. With a capacity of 450MW, the project is located in the outer Forth Estuary, some 30km north of Torness.

1.2 Introducing Facilitating Change

Facilitating Change (UK) Limited has prepared this report under contract to Mainstream Renewable Power.

Facilitating Change (UK) Limited is a highly respected facilitation company that works with clients in both the Public and Private sector:

- † to deliver public consultation processes
- † to facilitate meetings, workshops and conferences

They act independently to build mutual trust and respect with the groups that they work with. They specialise in delivering large consultation and engagement programmes where groups with diverse ideas and beliefs come together to discuss issues affecting their community.

Further information about Facilitating Change is available through its web site:

<http://www.fchange.com>


1.3 The purpose of this report

Facilitating Change has been commissioned by Mainstream Renewable Power to undertake, analyse and review the output of the consultation undertaken with the local community on its proposed Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm.

This report provides a brief description of the background to the development, and the legislative requirements that both the development itself, and the consultation process, must satisfy.

The report includes:

- † A review of the consultation undertaken to date, covering statutory consultation, information provision and public consultation
- † A review of the output from the public consultation, including the main issues raised by residents through the consultation process



Finally, the report includes an independent summary, by Facilitating Change, on the overall quality and effectiveness of the consultation that Mainstream Renewable Power has undertaken with regard to this development.

1.4 Reporting method

The report has been reviewed by Mainstream Renewable Power, but the views expressed and conclusions reached are those of the 367 completing the project questionnaire and do not necessarily represent the views of Mainstream Renewable Power.

1.5 Privacy statement

This document is supplied on the following terms and conditions:

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2.0 CONTEXT

This section contains a brief summary of the proposed development. It also describes current legislation on renewable energy sources, together with current and forthcoming planning legislation.

2.1 Background to the development

Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd is proposing to develop an offshore wind farm of up to 450MW, 15.5 km east of Fife Ness, off the coast of Fife and the Lothians (see Figure 1 - Illustrative Layout & Design). The proposed offshore wind farm is called Neart na Gaoithe. 'Neart na Gaoithe' is Gaelic for 'strength of the wind'.

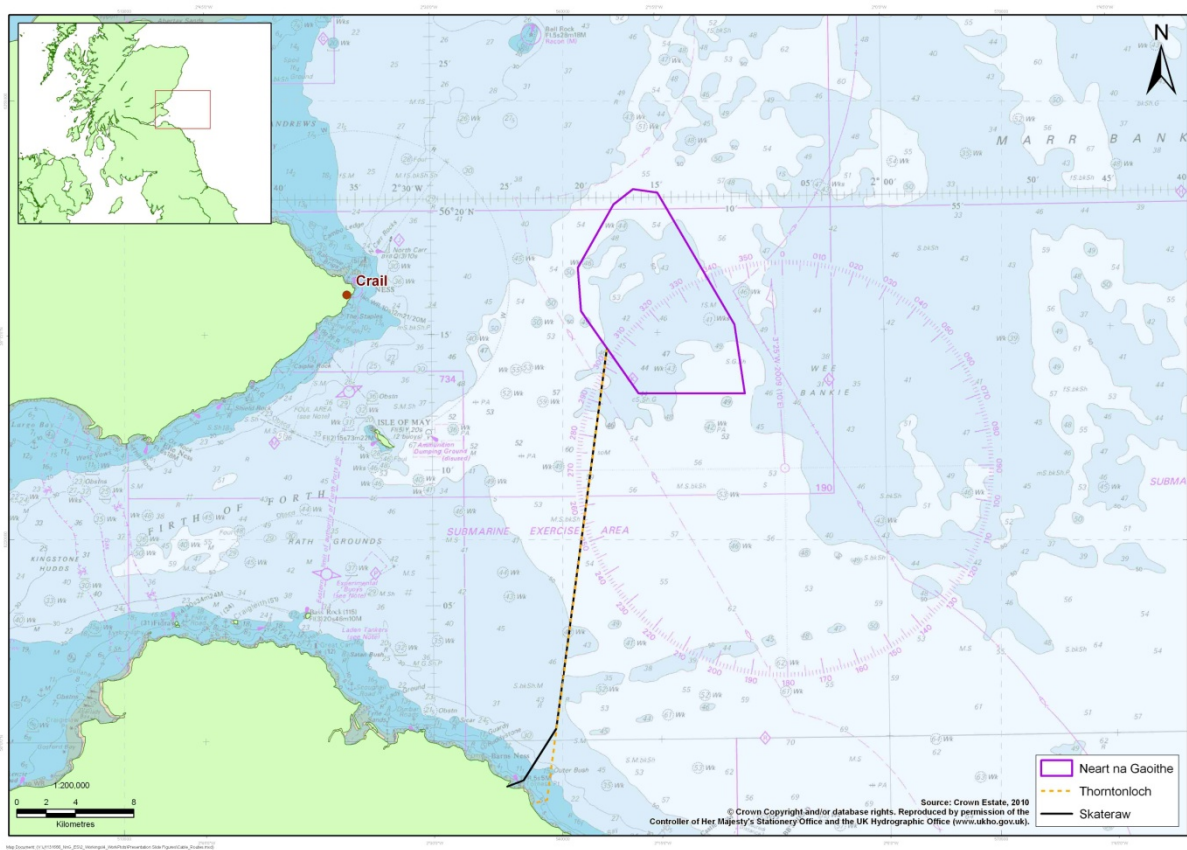


Figure 1 - Illustrative Layout & Design

The proposed development and the projected impacts of the offshore elements of the projects were described in the 'Neart na Gaoithe Scoping Report' (November 2009). The scoping report for the proposed onshore grid connection works was published in January 2012. The Scoping Reports provide an overview of the planned project, a desk-based environmental description and examine the potential impacts of the project at a high level. The initial Scoping Report formally opened dialogue between the stakeholders and the developer at an early stage of the project in terms of providing information and clarity of intent. It set out the stages of the process which had been undertaken to date and provided an opportunity for interested parties to review the proposed assessment methodologies and make recommendations or comments to the developer to consider in the next stages of the consent process.

2.2 Consenting procedure

For the construction of a power generation facility above 50MW, such as an offshore wind farm, Section 36 of the Electricity Act requires that an application be made to Scottish Ministers. For offshore projects this is managed through the Scottish Government agency, Marine Scotland.

Section 36 legislation suggests that the Government's Planning Advice Note 81¹ should guide engagement. Furthermore, the Act was recently amended by the 2004 Energy Act, which broadened the scope of Section 36 to include certain marine and navigational matters. Consequently there is no longer the requirement to promote a private bill in Parliament, with its associated public consultation. Discussions have been ongoing with Marine Scotland with regard to their requirements for Public and Stakeholder Engagement on the project.

The onshore works will be subject to a separate planning application under the Planning Act etc. (2006). The onshore works are considered a 'major' development and the planning application for this part of the scheme will be submitted to, and determined by, East Lothian Council.

The consenting procedure for a development of this type requires that an 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (EIA) is completed. Both aspects of this development will require an EIA. EIA is a process for ensuring that the potential environmental impacts of a project are identified, assessed, managed and reduced to acceptable levels before 'development consent' can be given. The EIA is also a means of providing information to the public regarding the likely environmental effects of the project, enabling them to make informed comments on the project to the competent authority before it makes its decision.

2.3 Consultation objectives

Mainstream Renewable Power's aim has been to work with all stakeholders (organisations, individuals and communities) who have an interest in the project, whether as a result of their activities or their location. This will enable the development to benefit from the considerable experience of the stakeholders and will allow the project to develop with the involvement of stakeholders whom it will ultimately impact on. This started in the pre-application phase of the development and will continue as the development progresses. A more comprehensive explanation of the aims and objectives of the public consultation on this project can be found in the Stakeholder Management Plan, which is included as Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Management Plan.


2.4 Scope of the consultation

Although two separate planning applications will be submitted for the onshore and offshore elements of the development, it was decided to consult on the whole development throughout the pre-application phase of the project. Although there was an emphasis on different aspects of the project at each of the public events to ensure that each individual event was relevant to the specific audience (ie Visualisations).

2.5 Programme of engagement

This document relates solely to consultation with local communities and local stakeholders, rather than engagement with statutory consultees e.g. the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The requirements for consultation with the statutory consultees and interested

¹ Section 36 Guidance Notes – 2.2.1



parties, such as landowners, are laid down in the Act and associated regulations. All statutory consultees have been consulted initially during the scoping of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

It is important to understand the consultation that has been undertaken with Statutory and Strategic consultees as it may influence the impact of any feedback from the public consultation process. Therefore a summary of the activities that have been undertaken with these stakeholders will be included later in this report. (Section 3.6 Consultation with statutory consultees).

In addition to consulting with the public through organised events, Mainstream Renewable Power will also consult with:

- † Community and interest groups who may require more targeted engagement to facilitate involvement in the consultation;
- † Other relevant non-statutory community and interest groups or organisations with an interest in the proposals.



3.0 OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

3.1 Community council meetings

Where possible public events have been planned with input from local Community Councils. This has been evident in East Lothian where the dates and venues of public events have been agreed as a result of consultation with the local Community Councils. Two of the East Lothian events, Innerwick and Spott, were scheduled to dovetail with meetings of East Lammermuir Community Council. Members of the community council attended the exhibition and then question and answer sessions were held with the developers.

Members of East Lothian Council met with members of the Mainstream development team immediately prior to the exhibition in Dunbar. They viewed the exhibition prior to it opening to the general public.

3.2 Website

There is a project website at www.neartnagaoithe.com. The website provides up to date information about the development. The website allows interested parties to register their interest and they are then sent out information as it is published. As the consultation has progressed participants have been offered the opportunity to add their details to the project contact list directly through the website or by entering their details on the questionnaire at the public events. There are now 828 individuals registered on the project database. They are sent regular updates on the project as it develops.

The website allows for the project questionnaire to be completed on-line.

3.3 Telephone helpline

The project has a dedicated telephone line to deal with any enquiries about the development.

3.4 Public events

3.4.1 Background to the events

In the first instance, public exhibition venues were selected in areas from where the development is likely to be most visible. On this basis two venues were chosen in Fife and one in Angus. The East Lothian venues were chosen as they are in the vicinity of the proposed cable route as it comes ashore.

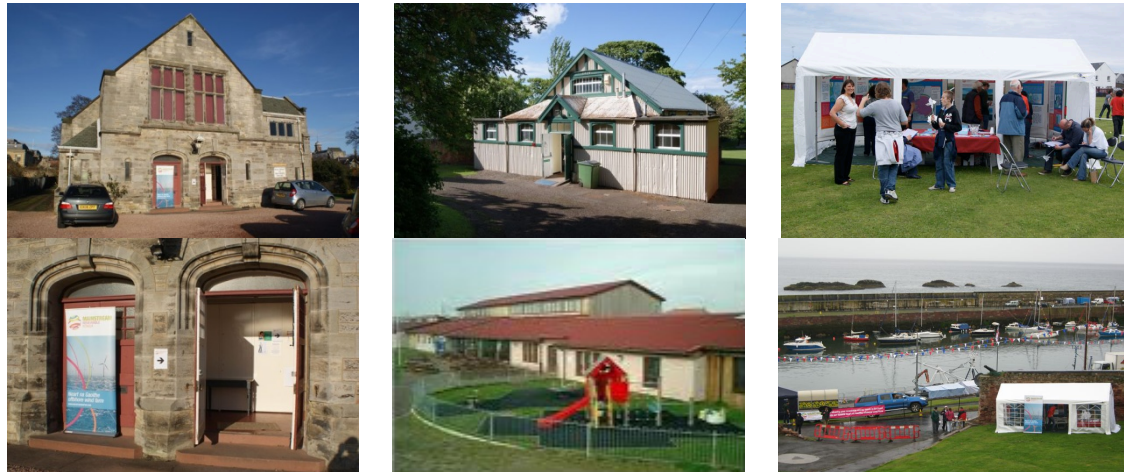
Feedback from early events was used to influence the design of the rest of the consultation process. As a result of this review public consultation was undertaken at public events (fetes and galas) in the consultation zone in an effort to reach the wider community. The initial proposal for the galas and fetes was to hold joint events with the other Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group (FATOWDG) members. However the only event where there was a joint presentation was at the Carnoustie event where Repsol (formerly SeaEnergy) attended and presented jointly with Mainstream.

A final consultation event was held in East Lothian in November 2011 to provide an update on the proposed onshore cable route. It was also the 'official' consultation event as agreed with East Lothian planning department as part of the Proposal of Application Notice².

In total there were:

² Planning Act etc. (2006)

- ☪ 3 community events in Fife and Angus community halls
- ☪ 4 events at Summer fetes and galas
- ☪ 3 community events in East Lothian community halls



	Event	Date	Event type
1	Holy Trinity Church Hall, St Andrews	Tues. 23 rd Nov. 2010	Fife and Angus
2	Crail Community Hall, Crail	Wed. 24 th Nov. 2010	Fife and Angus
3	Carnoustie Leisure Centre, Carnoustie ³	Tues. 25 th Jan. 2011	Fife and Angus
4	Innerwick Village Hall, East Lothian	Tues. 10 th May 2011	East Lothian
5	Hall Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar	Wed. 11 th May 2011	East Lothian
6	Pittenweem Gala	Sat. 25 th June 2011	Fetes and Galas
7	Carnoustie Gala:	Sat. 2 nd July 2011	Fetes and Galas
8	Dunbar RNLI day	Sat. 16 th July 2011	Fetes and Galas
9	Anstruther Muster	Sat. 6 th Aug. 2011	Fetes and Galas
10	Spott Village Hall, East Lothian	Tues. 29 th Nov. 2011	East Lothian

Table 1 - List of public events

To allow reporting and analysis of these events they have been grouped as described in the table above. Reports for each of these groups of events have been produced, the only exception is the final East Lothian event which was not included in the original East Lothian event report.

These reports are available in full on the project website.

³ The scheduled event at Carnoustie Leisure Centre on Tuesday 30th November 2010 had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions. It was re-scheduled for Tuesday 25th January 2011.

The results from the final East Lothian event and the on-line questionnaires are included in the analysis of the events which are contained in the main body of this report.

Venues that were chosen for the public events were accessible to the public and were staffed to ensure that those attending would be able to engage in face-to-face dialogue. All the events were scheduled to take place at times that were accessible to as many members of the community as possible.



3.4.2 Marketing of the events

A number of different media were used to promote the events. These included:

- ☞ Radio
- ☞ Newspaper adverts
- ☞ Press releases
- ☞ Email Invitations
- ☞ Posters
- ☞ Flyers
- ☞ Door to door leafleting
- ☞ Sponsorship

Additional marketing had to be planned to deal with the postponement and re-scheduling of the Carnoustie event.

3.4.3 Layout of the exhibitions





Information about the project was displayed at each of the venues.

The initial set of boards provided an introduction to the development, its time line and the consenting process.



The second area in the exhibition provided graphic representations of the development from key viewpoints. At most of the events a consultant was available to produce computer-generated visualisations from specific viewpoints as requested by participants.



The third area outlined some of the key areas of survey work that had been, and continues to be, undertaken on aspects of the development. At this stage in the exhibition participants were asked to complete a questionnaire. The consolidated output from these questionnaires is provided later in this report.



There was also a resources area where more information about renewable energy, the developer and the project were available, both for adults and children.

Refreshments were also available.

A condensed version of the exhibition was used at the Summer fetes and galas.


3.5 Other consultation events

A series of other consultation events have been held with some of the statutory and key stakeholders and in some instances have been co-ordinated by the Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group (FATOWDG). FATOWDG is a developers group, chaired by The Crown Estate, consisting of all the offshore wind farm projects in the Forth and Tay area.

3.6 Consultation with statutory consultees

Mainstream's overarching aim in engaging stakeholders has been to realise the efficient development of an environmentally and socially responsible project that is viable to construct and operate in a safe manner. During the consenting phase, the primary objective has been to understand, mitigate and eliminate risks to ensure that the project can be delivered as efficiently and safely as possible. To this end, Mainstream team members initiated the consultation process prior to submitting an application to the Crown Estate for consideration. This early engagement has allowed Mainstream to:

- † harness local and expert knowledge;
- † identify key issues to be addressed;
- † avoid unnecessary conflicts;



† optimise site selection.

Mainstream's approach has focused on managing relationships with stakeholders through a flexible process incorporating well planned, targeted consultations supported by clear objectives to avoid unnecessarily burdening stakeholders (and, in particular, regulators) with ill-informed, inappropriate or superfluous information. Similarly, Mainstream has sought to work with fellow developers and other marine industries to promote an integrated and collaborative approach which:

- † addresses the spatial implications of any development;
- † considers potential cumulative impact issues;
- † coordinates consultations to minimise the workload for regulators.

Throughout the consenting process, Mainstream has engaged the relevant regulatory bodies to progressively eliminate risk and accelerate project delivery. This process was initiated as early as possible with a view to identifying headline risks and constraints prior to site selection. Statutory and strategic stakeholders have also played instrumental roles in devising appropriate assessment methodologies to ensure that decisions regarding design, construction and operation can be taken based on robust evidence. The expertise and knowledge of these stakeholders has also augmented the credibility of any associated mitigation measures and monitoring protocols.

4.0 OUTPUT FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The following section examines the questionnaire responses. Of the 868 people that attended the exhibitions, 356 **(41.0%)** filled in the questionnaires. Of these 356 questionnaires not all participants completed all the questions. Only the questions with a response are included in the following analysis.

	Questionnaires completed	Numbers attending	Percentage
St Andrews	23	52	44.2%
Crail	31	40	77.5%
Carnoustie	13	25	52.0%
Innerwick	16	29	55.2%
Dunbar	55	75	73.3%
Pittenweem Gala	69	131	52.7%
Carnoustie Gala	57	205	27.8%
Dunbar RNLI day	12	79	15.2%
Anstruther Muster	54	190	28.4%
Spott	26	42	61.9%
TOTAL	356	868	41.0%

	Questionnaires completed	Numbers attending	Percentage
Fife & Angus	67	117	57.3%
East Lothian	97	146	66.4%
Summer Galas	192	605	31.7%
TOTAL	356	868	41.0%

Table 2 - Number attending the public exhibitions

11 responses were received from the on-line questionnaire that was available on the website.

The same core questions have been used throughout all consultation events. Results have been consolidated and compared in the section below. Graphs show an overview of the responses with an accompanying table providing more detailed data.

The interpretation of the output from the questionnaires can only be taken as an indication of the public views rather than a representative sample due to the numbers involved. Care must be taken when drawing assumptions from the online responses due to the small sample.

The quantitative responses from questions 1-4 and 6 will be considered first. Any qualitative written responses will then be considered. These responses were primarily collected from the responses in Question 5 but a small number of comments were made in response to the first four questions.

Secondly the demographic profile of those participating in the consultation process is examined.

Finally the response to the consultation process is presented.

4.1 Analysis of questionnaires

The first two questions in the questionnaire examined people's attitudes on the following subjects:

- ☛ Climate change;
- ☛ Offshore renewable sources.

The questionnaires showed that a high percentage of those polled thought that:

- ☛ Climate change is something that we should take action about now (85.6%);
- ☛ It is important that we take the development of offshore renewable energy sources seriously (88.4%).

The responses demonstrate a high level of support for actions that address these issues. Responses at the Summer Galas and through the on-line questionnaires show a higher level of support for renewables than at previous exhibitions.

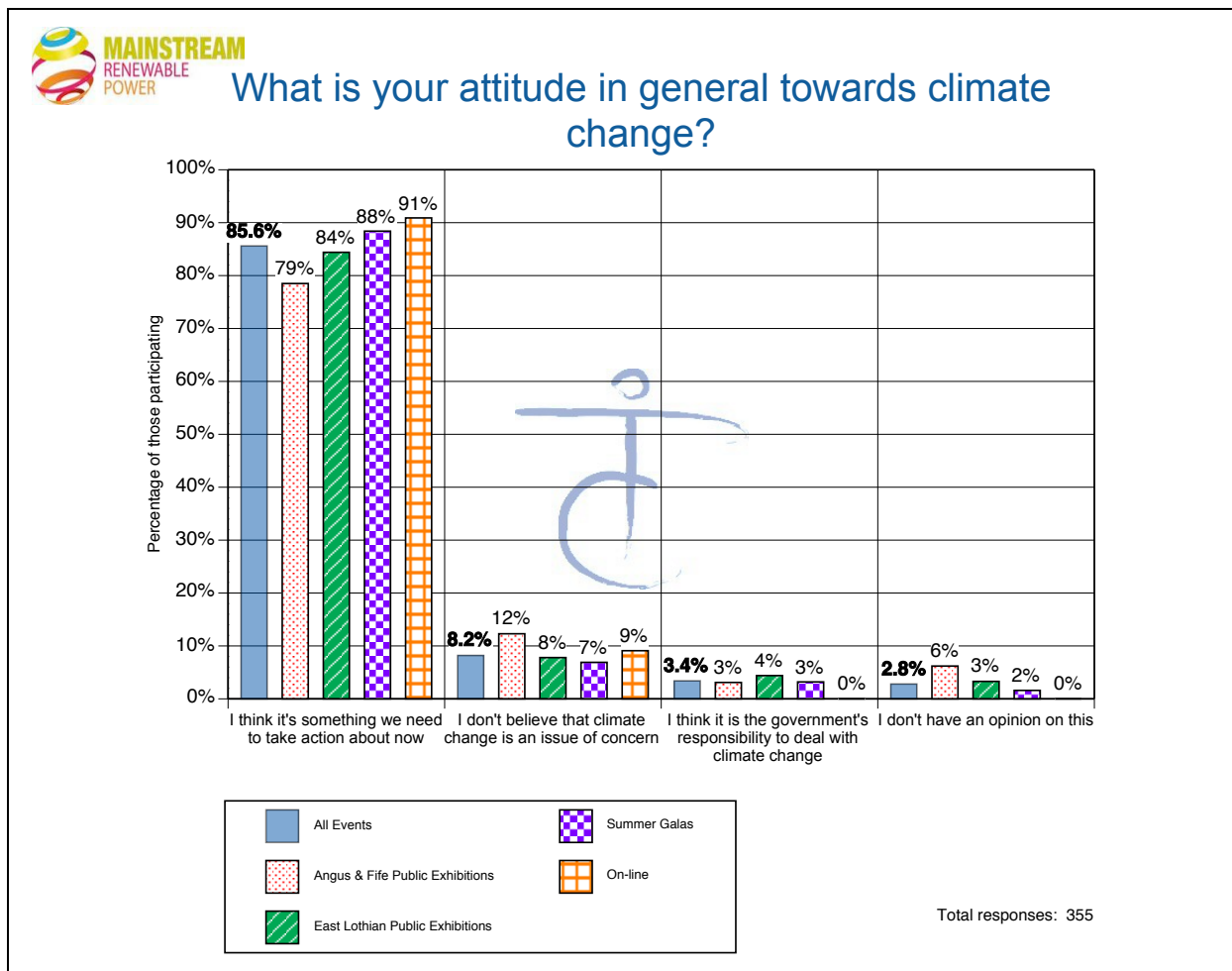


Figure 2 - Attitude towards climate change

Response	All events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	On-line	%tage
I think it's something we need to take action about now	304	85.6%	51	78.5%	76	84.4%	167	88.4%	10	90.9%
I don't believe that climate change is an issue of concern	29	8.2%	8	12.3%	7	7.8%	13	6.9%	1	9.1%
I think it is the government's responsibility to deal with climate change	12	3.4%	2	3.1%	4	4.4%	6	3.2%	0	0.0%
I don't have an opinion on this	10	2.8%	4	6.2%	3	3.3%	3	1.6%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	355	100%	65	100%	90	100%	189	100%	11	100%

What is your attitude in general towards offshore renewable energy sources?

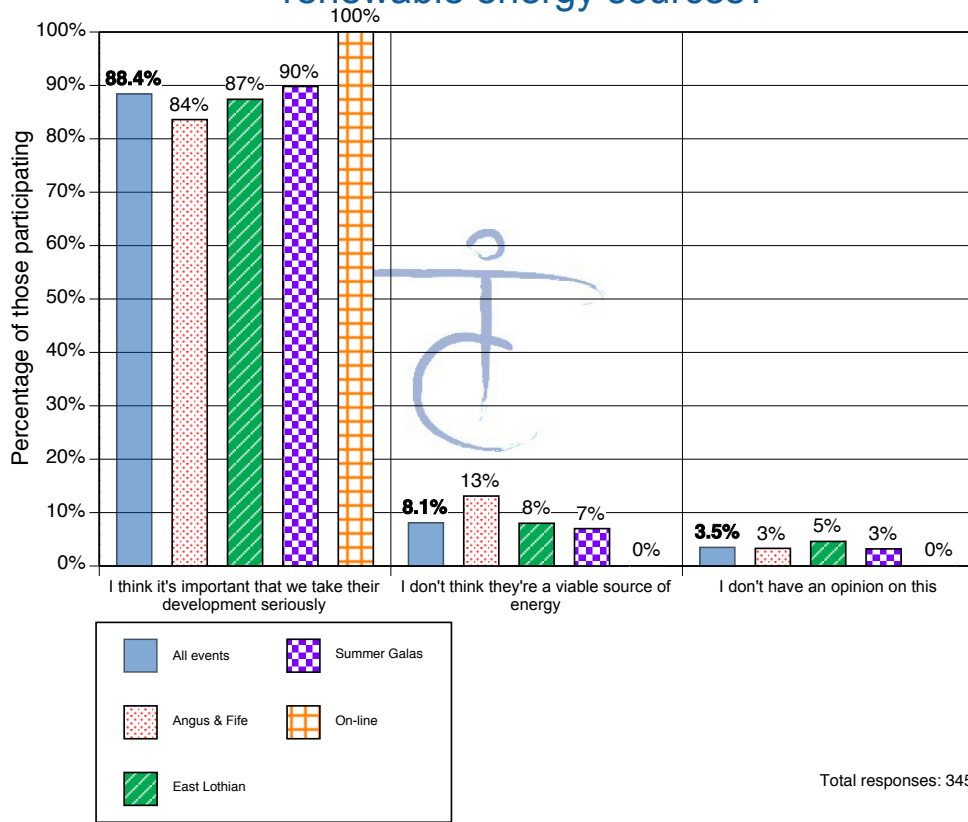


Figure 3 - Attitude towards offshore renewable sources

Response	All events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	On-line	%tage
I think it's important that we take their development seriously	305	88.4%	51	83.6%	76	87.4%	167	89.8%	11	100.0%
I don't think they're a viable source of energy	28	8.1%	8	13.1%	7	8.0%	13	7.0%	0	0.0%
I don't have an opinion on this	12	3.5%	2	3.3%	4	4.6%	6	3.2%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	345	100%	61	100%	87	100%	186	100%	11	100%

The third question examined people’s knowledge of the Neart na Gaoithe development. Given that, for many, this was the first opportunity to look in detail at the proposed development it is not surprising that only 20.7% of the participants said they were “very well informed” and “know a lot” about the proposals.

Those attending the galas seemed to be less informed than those attending the other ‘traditional’ community exhibitions.

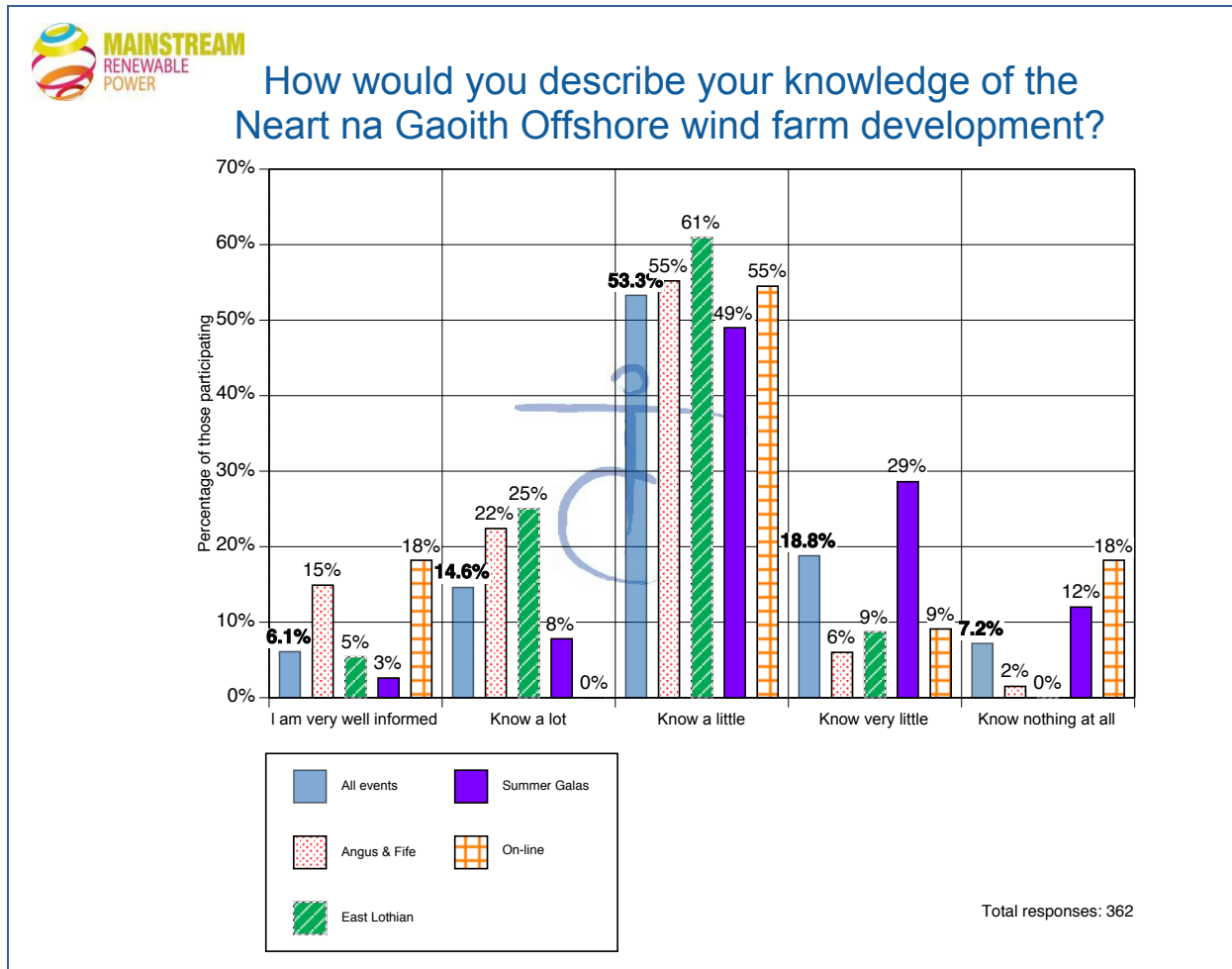



Figure 4 - Knowledge of the Neart na Gaoithe development

Response	All events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	On-line	%tage
I am very well informed	22	6.1%	10	14.9%	5	5.4%	5	2.6%	2	18.2%
Know a lot	53	14.6%	15	22.4%	23	25.0%	15	7.8%	0	0.0%
Know a little	193	53.3%	37	55.2%	56	60.9%	94	49.0%	6	54.5%
Know very little	68	18.8%	4	6.0%	8	8.7%	55	28.6%	1	9.1%
Know nothing at all	26	7.2%	1	1.5%	0	0.0%	23	12.0%	2	18.2%
TOTAL	362	100%	67	100%	92	100%	192	100%	11	100%



Recently introduced planning legislation in the UK has strengthened the requirement of public engagement on large developments. In the different regimes where this legislation has been implemented, the importance of the public understanding the impacts of a development has been stressed. It is important that they recognise and understand positive as well as negative impacts.

Question 4 examined the participant’s opinion on the perceived impact of the development for a number of pre-defined criteria. For each criterion the participants were asked to consider whether the development would have a:

- ☞ Positive / good effect
- ☞ Neutral / no effect
- ☞ Negative / bad effect
- ☞ Not sure

Figure 5 - Figure 8 detail the responses given. Individual graphs compare the assessment of effect for each criterion. For example the first graph shows the positive responses by criteria to allow a comparison.

Table 3 - Summary of responses to question 4 details all the responses to this question.

Of the total responses there were:

- ☞ 740 Positive / good effect
- ☞ 1,191 Neutral / no effect
- ☞ 615 Negative / bad effect
- ☞ 666 Not sure

The first graph shows that the participants believe that the greatest positive impacts will be:

☪ CO₂ reduction (68.5%)

☪ Jobs (58.2%)

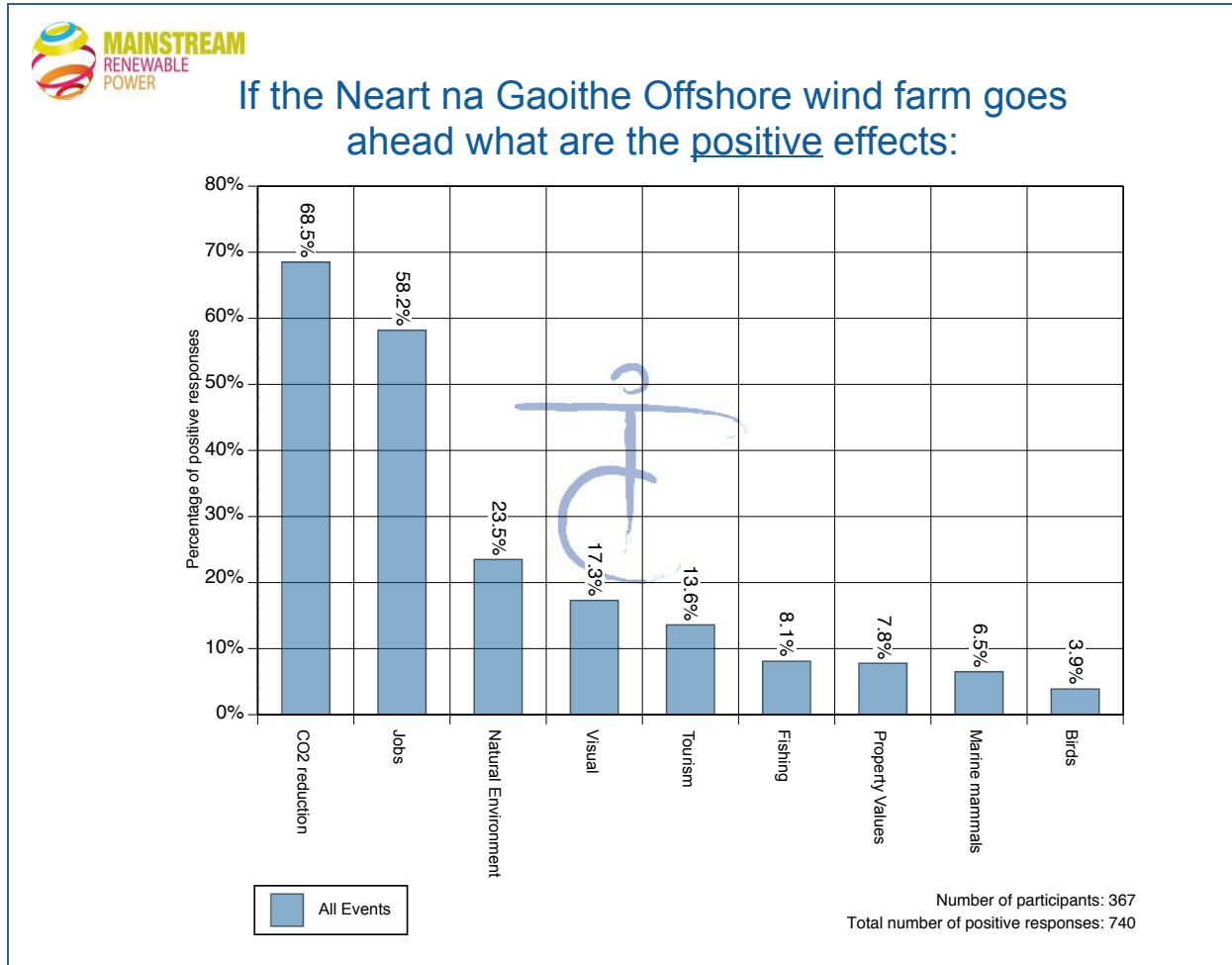


Figure 5 - Participants' understanding of the positive effects of the development

The second graph shows that the participants believe the greatest negative impacts will be:

- ☞ Visual (29.8%)
- ☞ Birds (28.3%)
- ☞ Marine mammals (26.5%)
- ☞ Fishing (24.9%)
- ☞ Natural Environment (24.4%)

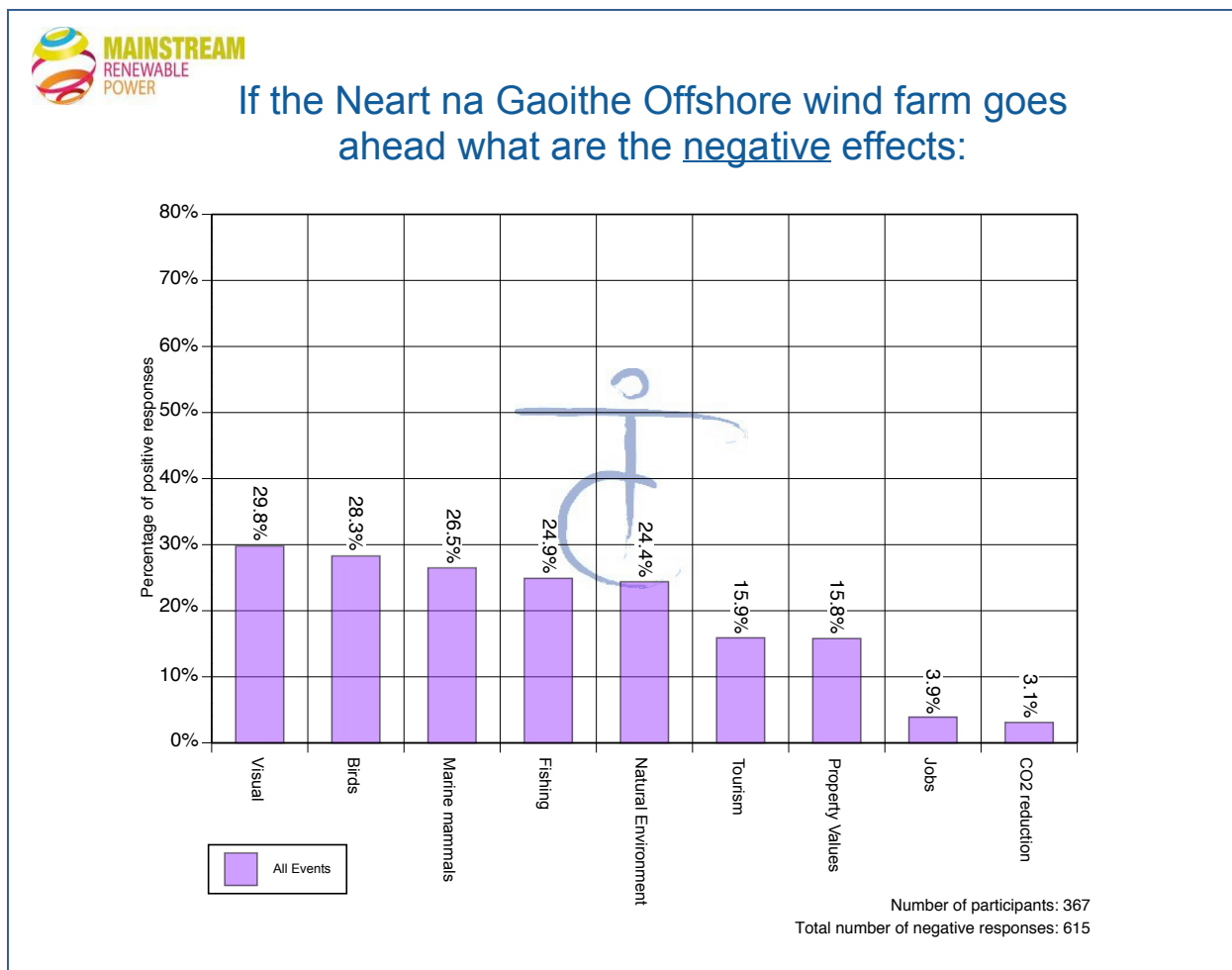


Figure 6 - Participants' understanding of the negative effects of the development

The third graph shows the areas that the participants believe will have neutral or no impact:

- ☪ Tourism (58.5%)
- ☪ Property Values (56.7%)
- ☪ Visual (43.8%)
- ☪ Birds (40.9%)

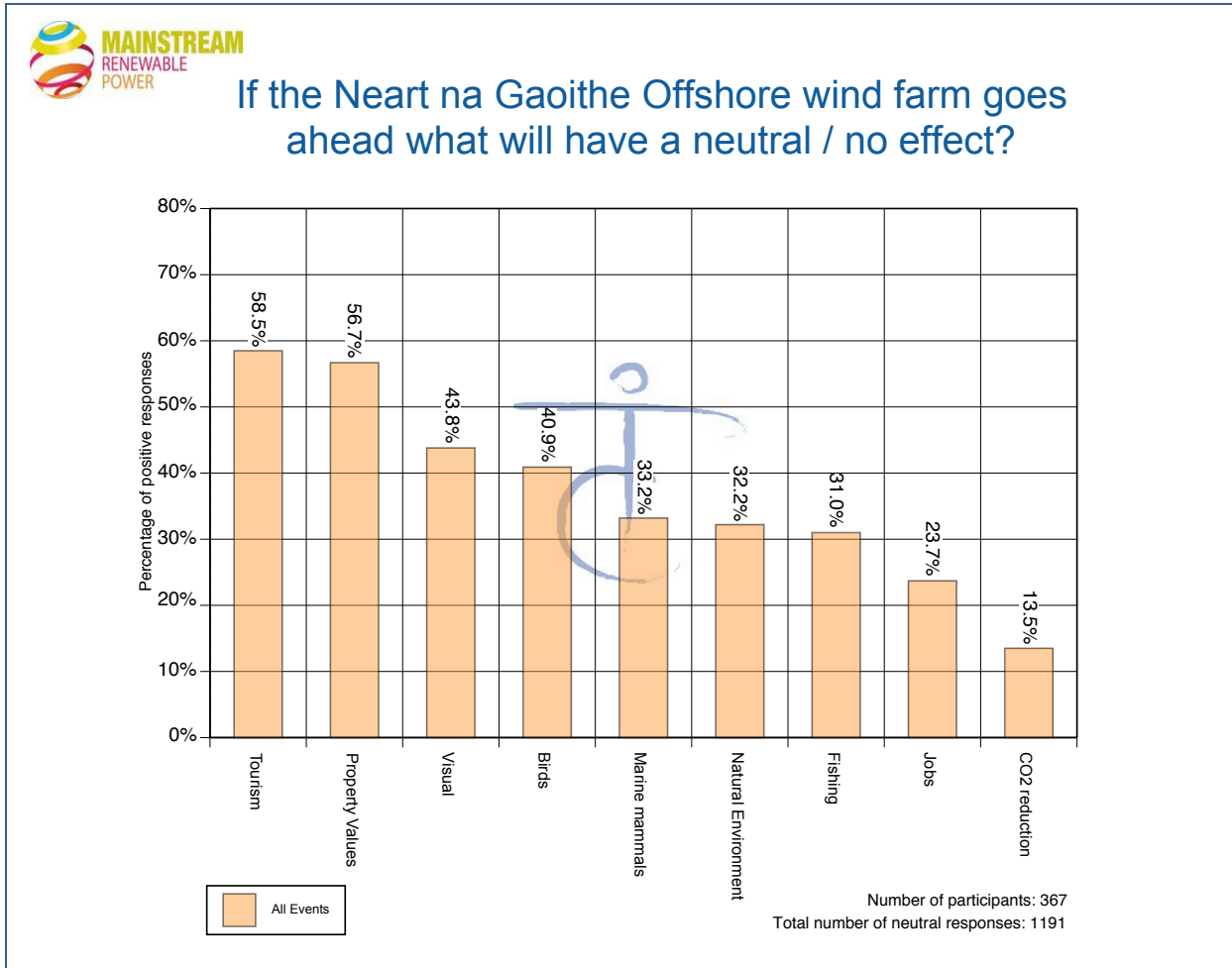


Figure 7 - Participants' understanding of the neutral / no effects of the development

The final graph in this series shows that the participants do not understand the effects of the development in the following areas:

- ☛ Fishing (36.0%)
- ☛ Marine Mammals (33.8%)
- ☛ Birds (26.9%)

The output from this part of the question suggests that the participants would benefit from further information being presented on these subjects. Assessment work is currently being undertaken to identify the likely effects on these topics and the results will be presented in a publicly available Environmental Statement to accompany the consent application. The public will be given the opportunity to formally comment on these findings and the development itself at that stage.

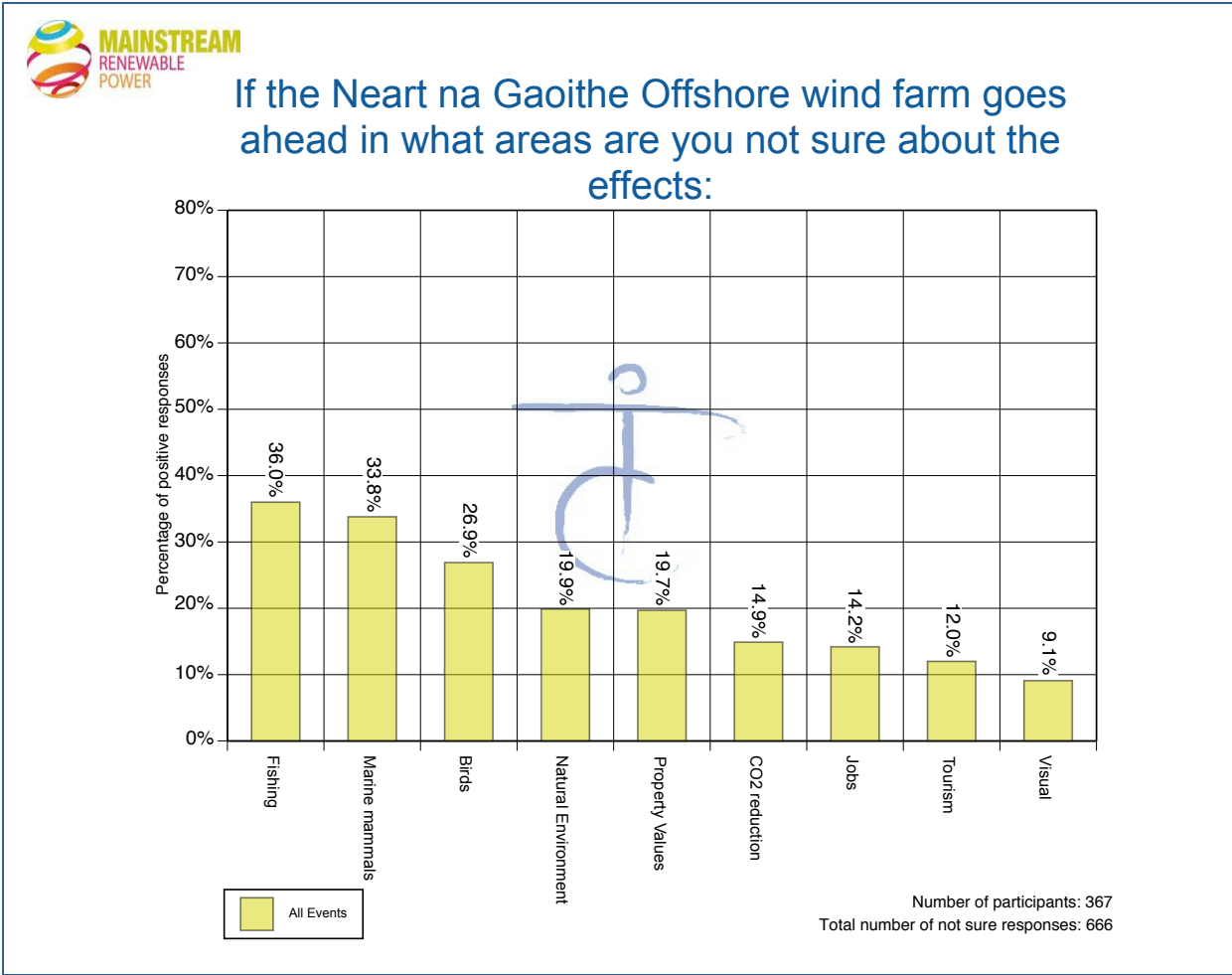
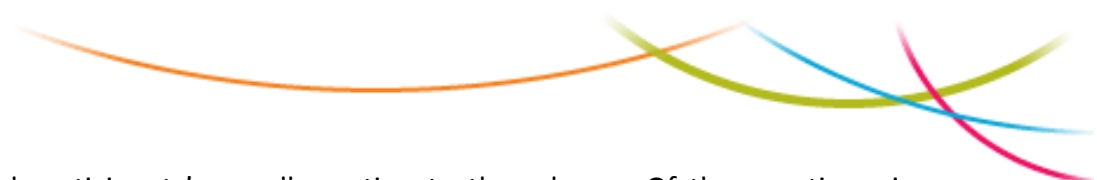


Figure 8 - Effects of the development that are not understood by the participants.

	Positive/Good effect	Neutral/No effect	Negative/bad effect	Not Sure	TOTAL
Visual	61	154	105	32	352
Natural Environment	84	115	87	71	357
CO2 reduction	243	48	11	53	355
Birds	14	146	101	96	357
Jobs	209	85	14	51	359
Tourism	49	210	57	43	359
Marine mammals	23	118	94	120	355
Property Values	28	204	57	71	360
Fishing	29	111	89	129	358
TOTAL	740	1191	615	666	3212

	Positive / Good effect	Neutral / No effect	Negative / bad effect	Not Sure	TOTAL
Visual	17.3%	43.8%	29.8%	9.1%	100%
Natural Environment	23.5%	32.2%	24.4%	19.9%	100%
CO2 reduction	68.5%	13.5%	3.1%	14.9%	100%
Birds	3.9%	40.9%	28.3%	26.9%	100%
Jobs	58.2%	23.7%	3.9%	14.2%	100%
Tourism	13.6%	58.5%	15.9%	12.0%	100%
Marine mammals	6.5%	33.2%	26.5%	33.8%	100%
Property Values	7.8%	56.7%	15.8%	19.7%	100%
Fishing	8.1%	31.0%	24.9%	36.0%	100%

Table 3 - Summary of responses to question 4



Question 6 examined participants' overall reaction to the scheme. Of the questionnaires completed:

- ☞ **66.9%** support the development;
- ☞ **22.3%** neither support or object the development;
- ☞ **10.9%** oppose the development.

Figures 9 - 12 examine the range of opinion across all the consultation events to date. The output demonstrates how the reaction to the proposal differs by:

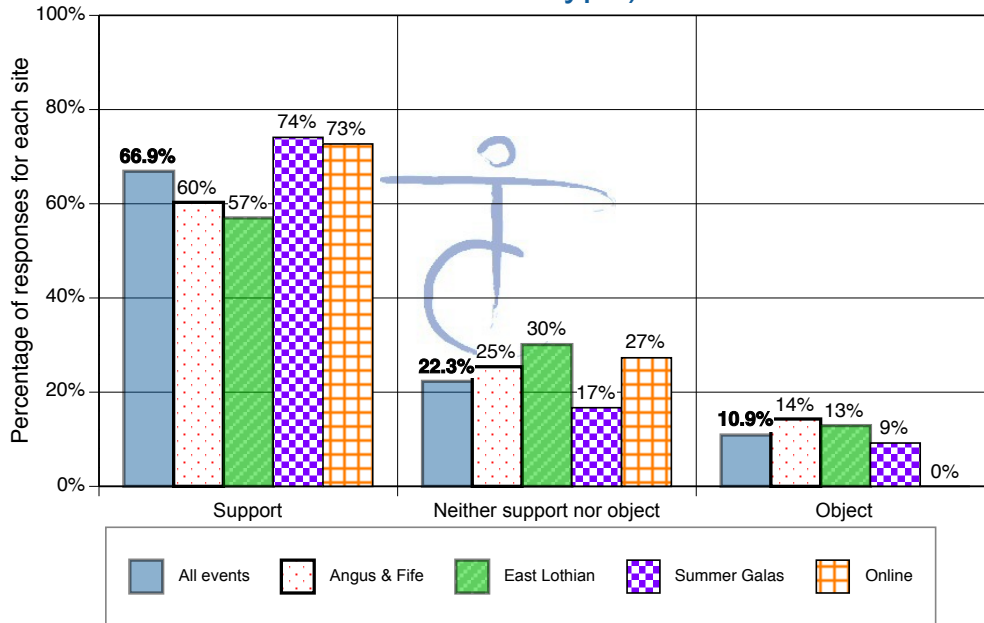
- ☞ Venue;
- ☞ Council area;
- ☞ Profession;
- ☞ Gender;
- ☞ Age⁴.

The graphs show that:

- ☞ Those living in Angus are more likely to support the project than are those living in Fife and East Lothian;
- ☞ The lower level of support in East Lothian may be due to potential disruption caused by the construction of the underground cable. A number of people coming to the exhibition in East Lothian did express their support for the Torness nuclear plant as a preferred method of electricity generation;
- ☞ Those with jobs classified as farmers and professionals were more likely to support;
- ☞ Fishermen showed least support for the project;
- ☞ However only 51.5% were prepared to disclose their occupation;
- ☞ Those under 40 were more likely to support the development than those over 40s, with the exception of the under 16s;
- ☞ Females are more likely to support the project than males.

⁴ Of these graphs only the analysis by venue includes the website responses

Overall, how would you describe your reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm? (by event type)

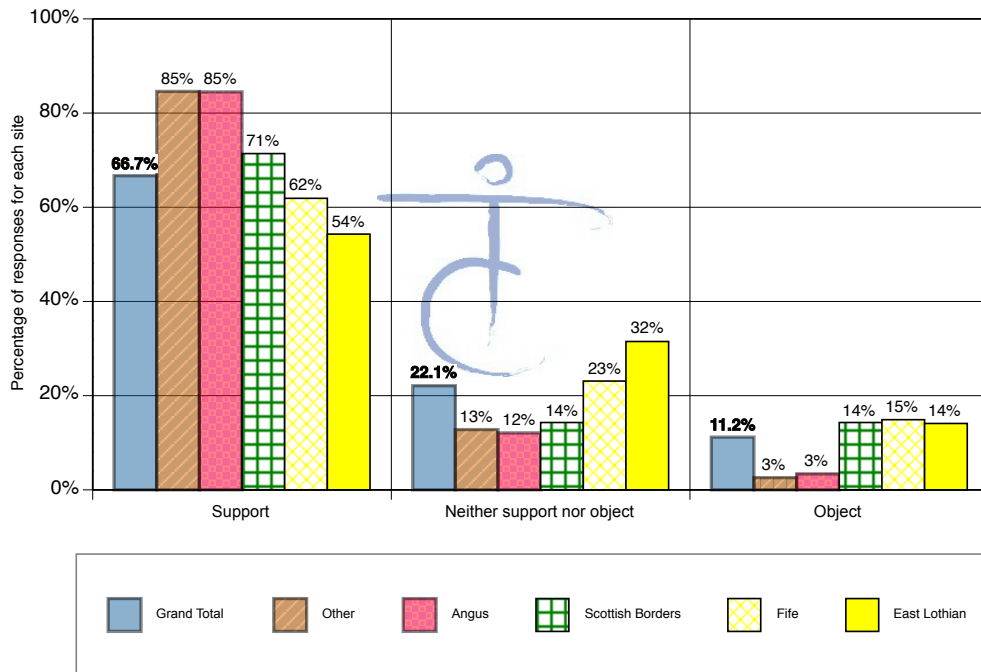


Total responses: 341

Figure 9 - Reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm (by event type)

Response	All events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	Online	%tage
Support	228	66.9%	38	60.3%	53	57.0%	129	74.1%	8	72.7%
Neither support nor object	76	22.3%	16	25.4%	28	30.1%	29	16.7%	3	27.3%
Object	37	10.9%	9	14.3%	12	12.9%	16	9.2%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	341	100%	63	100%	93	100%	174	100%	11	100%

Overall, how would you describe your reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm? (by Council Area)



Total responses: 330

Figure 10 - Reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm (by council area)

Opinion	Grand Total	Other	Angus	Scottish Borders	Fife	East Lothian
Support	220	33	49	5	83	50
Neither support nor object	73	5	7	1	31	29
Object	37	1	2	1	20	13
TOTAL	330	39	58	7	134	92

Opinion	Grand Total	Other	Angus	Scottish Borders	Fife	East Lothian
Support	66.7%	84.6%	84.5%	71.4%	61.9%	54.3%
Neither support nor object	22.1%	12.8%	12.1%	14.3%	23.1%	31.5%
Object	11.2%	2.6%	3.4%	14.3%	14.9%	14.1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Overall, how would you describe your reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm? (by profession)

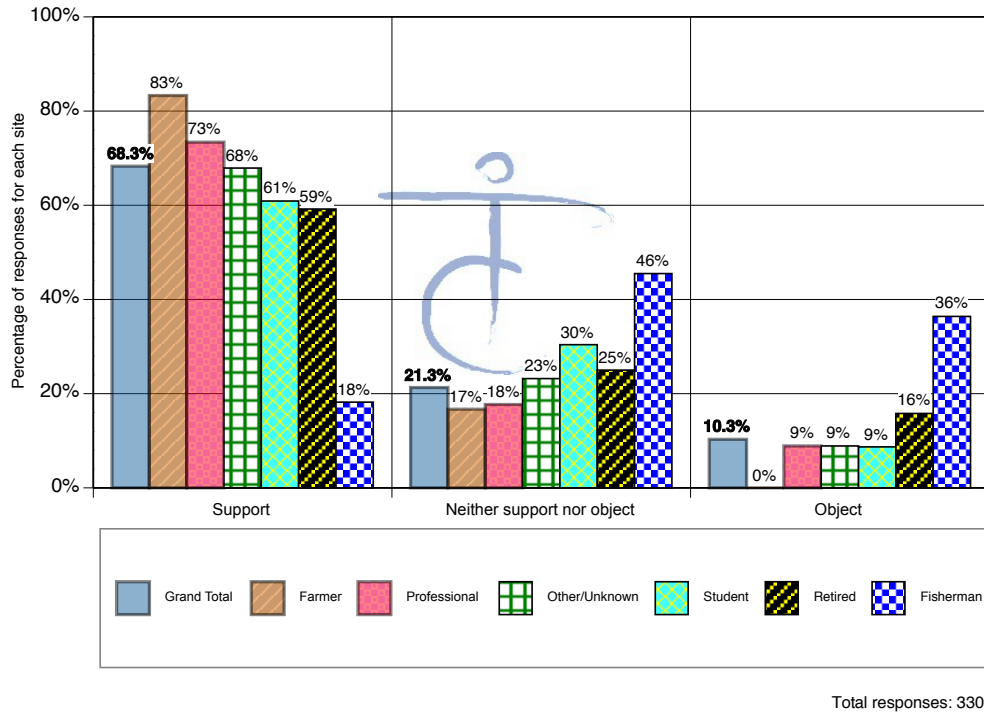
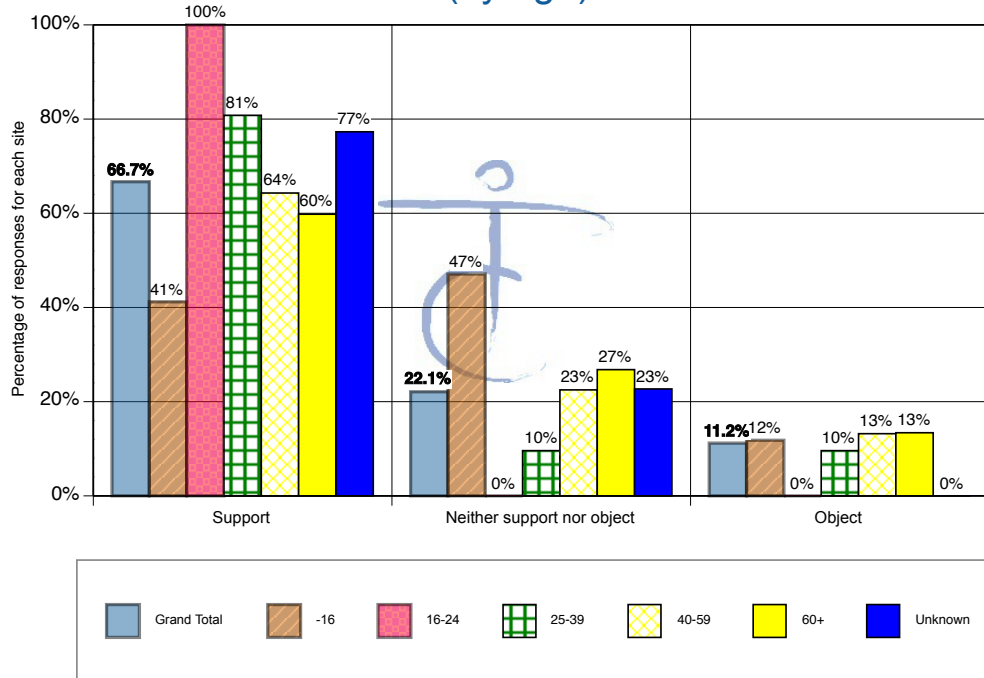


Figure 11 - Reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm (by profession)

Opinion	Grand Total	Farmer	Professional	Other / Unknown	Student	Retired	Fisherman
Support	218	5	116	38	14	45	2
Neither support nor object	68	1	28	13	7	19	5
Object	33	0	14	5	2	12	4
TOTAL	319	6	158	56	23	76	11

Opinion	Grand Total	Farmer	Professional	Other / Unknown	Student	Retired	Fisherman
Support	68.3%	83.3%	73.4%	67.9%	60.9%	59.2%	18.2%
Neither support nor object	21.3%	16.7%	17.7%	23.2%	30.4%	25.0%	45.5%
Object	10.3%	0.0%	8.9%	8.9%	8.7%	15.8%	36.4%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Overall, how would you describe your reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm? (by age)



Total responses: 330

Figure 12 - Reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm (by age)

Opinion	Grand Total	-16	16-24	25-39	40-59	60+	Unknown
Support	220	7	13	42	83	58	17
Neither support nor object	73	8	0	5	29	26	5
Object	37	2	0	5	17	13	0
TOTAL	330	17	13	52	129	97	22

Opinion	Grand Total	-16	16-24	25-39	40-59	60+	Unknown
Support	66.7%	41.2%	100.0%	80.8%	64.3%	59.8%	77.3%
Neither support nor object	22.1%	47.1%	0.0%	9.6%	22.5%	26.8%	22.7%
Object	11.2%	11.8%	0.0%	9.6%	13.2%	13.4%	0.0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Overall, how would you describe your reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm? (by gender)

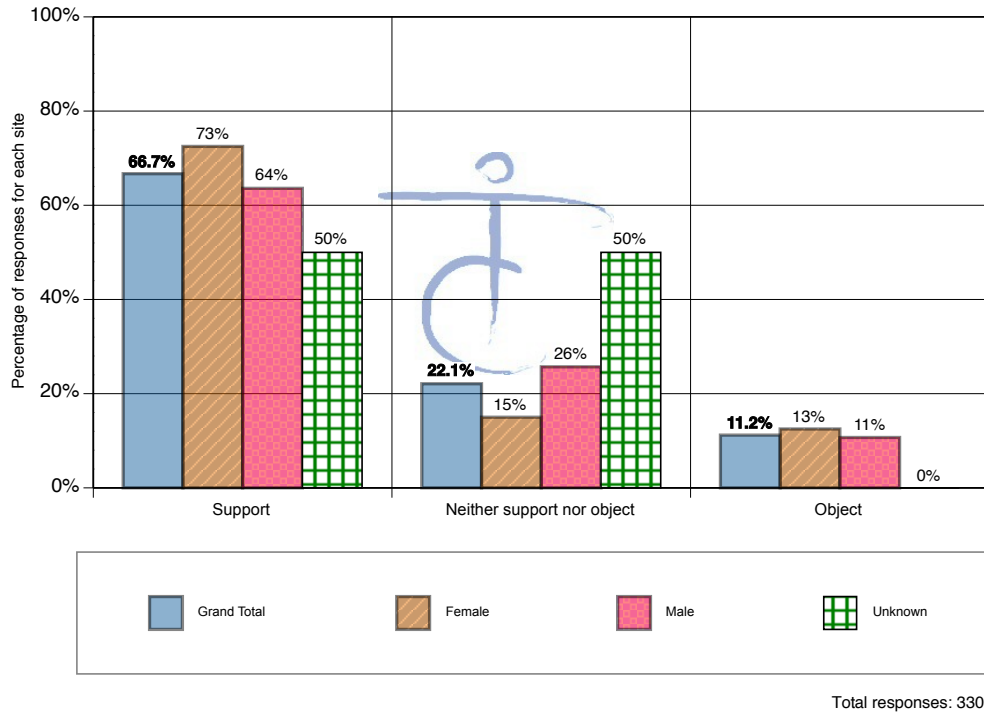


Figure 13 - Reaction to the proposal for the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm (by gender)

Opinion	Grand Total	Female	Male	Unknown
Support	220	87	131	2
Neither support nor object	73	18	53	2
Object	37	15	22	0
TOTAL	330	120	206	4

Opinion	Grand Total	Female	Male	Unknown
Support	66.7%	72.5%	63.6%	50.0%
Neither support nor object	22.1%	15.0%	25.7%	50.0%
Object	11.2%	12.5%	10.7%	0.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

4.2 Comments on the development

This section of the report provides a summary of all the written comments. To aid analysis and understanding, all of the written responses have been collated into either comments about the development or feedback on the events. General comments will be discussed in this section of the report whereas feedback on the report will be dealt with later in the report.

The main area where written comments were made was in Question 5:

Do you have any specific comments about the proposed Neart na Gaoithe Offshore wind farm development and its onshore infrastructure?

Of the 356 questionnaires completed, 108 (30.3%) provided comments in response to question 5. 2 of the 11 online questionnaires had comments included.

Of the 868 people attending the events 12% provided a written comment about the development.

All comments included in the report are unedited and where appropriate have been anonymised with XXXX. Where it has been difficult to interpret handwriting or where context has been added, additional comments that have been made by the author use the following nomenclature [].

An attempt has been made to group the comments into common themes. For each theme the report will aim to:

- † Summarise the main issues raised;
- † Group the comments into positive, negative/issues, questions and comments.

After examining the general comments made, issues that were identified by participants in question 4 as having a positive effect will be reviewed. Then those issues that were considered to have a negative effect will be reviewed.

Summary of Comments made

The first section of comments examines the more general comments made in response to the proposed development. The number of positive comments seem to support the findings presented earlier in the report that there is strong support for this development.

In relation to the comments made there are a number of requests for further information about the project and the studies that have been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Given that the initial exhibitions were held prior to some of the assessment work starting it would be worthwhile considering how the results of the Environmental Statement are going to be communicated to the public and key stakeholders.

Positive

- ☞ "Get on with it"
- ☞ "I can only see that it could be very positive for the area"
- ☞ "Want more of them"
- ☞ "It's a very important development"
- ☞ "I think its cool!!!"
- ☞ "There is no perfect answer but I think the project is acceptable overall"
- ☞ "I think that it is a good idea"
- ☞ "Good luck!"
- ☞ "We need to act sooner rather than later"
- ☞ "Good luck - hope you get permission!"
- ☞ "I know that there will be some opposition to these wind farms but we must accept that they are necessary for us"
- ☞ "It's a really good thing to see developments of this sort taking place"
- ☞ "The quicker it comes to fruition the better"
- ☞ "Yes please keep us informed"
- ☞ "Good presentation. Hope it goes ahead"
- ☞ "Excellent idea - needs to be done"
- ☞ "I am a strong supporter of the project. I would like to see it gain visible vocal support locally, and nationally. Scotland's future depends on the success of the renewable industry led reindustrialisation, and communities may benefit greatly, if they are organised to take advantage of this. Too regularly the majority remains silent, and a vocal, antagonistic minority dominate the debate, with often outlandish objections to minor changes to the physical landscape. XXXXXX was set-up in order to change this, and to use the methods of community organising to build a broader visible consensus around renewables-led reindustrialisation of Scotland, allied to ensuring that communities are better organised to take advantage of this opportunity for the nation.
- ☞ There is a growing appetite for this kind of development in Scotland. It is an untapped resource, and it is one that can be unlocked in this and other projects through community organising methods.

Negative/issues

- ☞ "Although I agree we need to address this issue I am still concerned that wind farms are not the answer. Too many negative outcomes"
- ☞ "Don't do it!"

☞ "I don't agree. We have enough here as it is. Our once tranquil land has been destroyed beyond recognition"

Questions

☞ "Do we need it?"

☞ Given the imminent closure of the Fifeness Coastguard station, would it not be prudent to utilise the site (as it is being sold off as a safety and control centre for the operations side of the venture? Ideally situated and easily converted, the communications infrastructure is already in place?

Comments

☞ "I hope that the issues requiring further study, highlighted in this exhibition, will be given due consideration"

☞ "It looks to me that there's quite a bit still to be determined before this can be considered a truly viable project. i.e. Impact on fishing"

☞ "I would like to read the research to answer these questions [on the questionnaire]"

☞ "To be honest I don't know enough about it to make a completely honest opinion. I need to research it further"

☞ "Probably ok but I need more information"

☞ "Too much conflicting information"

☞ "Need more information on impact"

☞ "I am in need of more information"

☞ "More methods of information need to be given"

☞ "[I need to see the results of the environmental impact] for me to get behind it"

☞ "[I'm] on Community Council will pass on information to fellow councillors"

☞ "Very concerned that any of these wind farms can be "steam-rolled" through"

☞ "Not sure exhibition made it quite clear as to role of Scottish Government in presumably approving Marine Scotland's recommendation to progress wind farm"

☞ "It's an issue which people will make up their own minds about, I think. Most people would prefer not to have them, I suspect, but I feel we all have to take responsibility for the consequences of our views. We need power. Your company want profits - end of!"

☞ "Please don't phase your marker lights to go on and off at the same time"

☞ "Too late"

☞ "We need to debate it fully.."

Summary of Comments made

Participants identified CO₂ reduction as the biggest positive impact of the proposed development. There are a number of comments that extol the virtues of renewable generation against traditional forms of electricity generation. Some of the opposing comments have identified preferences for other forms of renewable energy generation. However there were a number of comments made that given a choice, people would prefer turbines located offshore rather than onshore.

There is a suggestion about installing wave devices on the turbine bases to increase power generation.

There are some specific comments about the amount of CO₂ used in the manufacture and installation of the wind farm.

There is also a comment about how Mainstream Renewable Power can assist the local communities in the reduction of their CO₂.

Positive

- ☞ "I think that it is important to quickly progress plans like these to reduce the countries reliance on more traditional power stations, gas & oil and also to help the environment"
- ☞ "Our planet needs alternative resources NOW or our planet will die like any other living being"
- ☞ "Don't know much about it but don't understand why people get so uptight about wind farms. Anything that preserves/utilises natural energy sounds good to me"
- ☞ "Anything that helps the environment must be a good thing"
- ☞ "We need renewable sources of energy. Not everyone agrees but it is necessary"
- ☞ "Good idea, more investment should be given to renewables"
- ☞ "I strongly favour the development of the utilisation of natural resources (always subject to costs)"
- ☞ "Good idea, pleased that our local area is taking a role in producing renewable energy"
- ☞ "I think it is vital to increase the use of wind, sun and sea power. The Governments over decades have been very slow to develop these natural resources to their shame"
- ☞ "Big supporter of tidal & wave"
- ☞ "I am very much in favour of wind power developments & hope the planning process is successful"
- ☞ "I hope that the development manages to address the varied issues from environmental to carbon challenge in a positive way"
- ☞ "I am in favour of this renewable energy development and believe that the carbon reduction will be of value in relationship to climate change"
- ☞ "I am very much in favour of any natural energy being developed - wave energy included"
- ☞ "Necessary evil as I don't like nuclear power (long-term safety issues and disposal of waste). Would hope that there are enforced plans to remove them from positions when their lives are over, or less intrusive methods of harnessing power are viable"
- ☞ "Need action now as fossil fuels are running out"
- ☞ "Not that much of an eyesore & no noise so better than land wind farms in rural areas"
- ☞ "It is better than on-shore wind farms"
- ☞ "I think that it is better to locate wind farms offshore as they will have less effect on the local inhabitants"



Negative/issues

- ☞ “Not required due to surplus water in Highlands for Hydropower”
- ☞ “It will never produce enough power to supply Britain, never mind Scotland. Nuclear is the safest way to go”
- ☞ “I believe in the nuclear option, offshore wind is too expensive and damaging to the environment”
- ☞ “I accept the fact that something is affecting our climate. I am not convinced that this is completely due to human activity. Nevertheless I consider it sensible to explore alternative energy supplies as fossil fuels are eventually going to run out. I think that wind turbines are better suited to micro generation. It will still be necessary to have conventional base-load generation for the days when the wind doesn’t blow and I see no alternative at the moment”

Questions

- ☞ “Can wave power be developed on the same installations - doubling power output but not doubling costs and visual effects?”

Comments

- ☞ “Climate change is cyclical and probably beyond control by any human efforts. Not convinced that humans are responsible”
- ☞ “Climate change is occurring but now too late to change. Wind farms will make no difference”
- ☞ “I think it’s something we need to take action about now but I don’t believe that climate change is as big issue of concern”
- ☞ “If we did not need the energy I would be totally against it but we need the energy. While I do not find wind turbines unattractive this is a serious example of human's encroaching on nature to satisfy their own needs”
- ☞ “The issue is not about cable. It is about what these turbines actually produce and the degree of visualisation. Not the perfect speed wind conditions [for a] 24/7 operation. It is also very much about the to sea being ruined forever”
- ☞ “Tidal & nuclear are better”
- ☞ “I like it but you cannot survive on renewables alone if you want power 24/7”
- ☞ “Only know from exhibition. Not sure about consistency of offshore wind. Have no faith in wind farms”
- ☞ “Re CO₂: if the cost of making concrete etc. consumes greater amount than benefit not sure of the figures on this”
- ☞ “I would like to see active engagement with coastal communities on how Mainstream can assist with their reduction in CO₂ emissions & improve energy efficiency. Risk otherwise is that it is perceived as solely commercial without a wider context.”

Summary of Comments made

With regard to the economic impact of the development there are a number of points made. There is an interest in the positive economic impact of the development in relation to the creation of employment opportunities. There are some questions on this subject.

Comments and questions have been raised regarding the payment of community benefit to local communities. This is a practice that has been established in the onshore windfarm sector. A number of local community groups as well as individuals have raised questions about whether community benefit will be paid, at what level and how it will be distributed.

Some of the negative economic comments relate to the amount of subsidy that the development will receive once it is generating electricity.

There are also a number of specific questions about the economics of the development.

One comment states that the development will have “an adverse impact on jobs”. The one area where this may be an issue is tourism. Comments on this subject will be reviewed on completion of the ‘economic’ section.

Positive


- ☞ “I think Scotland is one of the leading countries on renewables and the Government should be investing in it. It sounds like a great project”
- ☞ “Fantastic for local economies”
- ☞ “Good opportunities for local recruitment”
- ☞ “Would like it to be up and running as soon as possible. We would like employment opportunities in Fife and Lothians maximized in production of turbines, installation and subsequent maintenance”
- ☞ “Community benefits in terms of direct payments to local community development trusts should be considered”
- ☞ “Generally very supportive - would like to see opportunities for local investment in the project & for community benefit funds to be used to develop our local low carbon infrastructure”

Negative/issues

- ☞ “The seabed should be owned by Scotland and revenue given to the people of Scotland. I object if the money goes to Crown and the developers”
- ☞ “It should not go ahead due to the adverse impact on jobs”
- ☞ “Financial disaster, Electricity when no wind? Transmission losses, costs servicing, life span”
- ☞ “The government aim to have total renewable energy by 2020 is far too optimistic and may, anyway, be impossible. I cannot see how this wind farm is cost effective without huge government grants”
- ☞ “Wind energy is now only viable with substantial government grants. If the grants weren't available these farms would not be built. Most land wind farms are not even reaching the minimum 30% usage by the wind”
- ☞ “Wind farms must be self-financing and receive NO!! Government subsidy”
- ☞ “I am also concerned at the cost of the end user (me) in my electricity bills”

Questions

- ☞ “Where will the turbines be manufactured?”
- ☞ “Will local labour be used?”
- ☞ “Does the local labour possess the required skills for the construction of the turbines?”

- 
- ☞ “How will this project be funded?”
 - ☞ “What is the payback in each for each tower? What happens after 40 years? Are they removed?”
 - ☞ “I would like to know more about what will be required during construction, operations and maintenance”
 - ☞ “I would like to know more about the effect on energy prices compared to other energy resources”
 - ☞ “What do you estimate your generated cost per unit (KwH)?”
 - ☞ “What is the estimated generating factor?”
 - ☞ “Are there investment opportunities for individuals?”

Comments

- ☞ “Mainstream should consider the Scottish Government standpoint regarding revenue from the Crown Estate rather than Scottish Government.”
- ☞ “Serious look at jobs in the local economy”
- ☞ “It would have been interesting to know more about the short-long term impact on the local economy”
- ☞ “Commit to placing contracts with local/Scottish steel fabricators”
- ☞ “Need benefits for local community, best benefits are jobs i.e. maintenance contracts”
- ☞ “Community benefits for Dunbar and surrounding area”
- ☞ “Community Benefit should be substantial especially if it could be finance measures that will reduce our need for energy”
- ☞ “I would love to see Dunbar harbour developed to support the farm”

Tourism

Summary of Comments made

Comments were made about the impact on tourism. There were some comments that suggest that tourism maybe adversely affected by this development. However there were also suggestions about how the tourism industry may benefit.

Positive

☞ "I believe they would be a tourist attraction"

Oppose

☞ "It should not go ahead due to the adverse impact on tourism"

☞ "It makes a nonsense of all of East Lothian councils efforts to improve the "visitability" of the area"

☞ "East Lothian is actively trying to promote tourism. This will have a very negative effect"

☞ "People come to Scotland to see the scenery not wind farms"

☞ "May spoil tourism - altering the natural beauty of sites!"

Questions

☞ "Will you create tourist information point at locales along the coast to explain what is happening on the horizon? Wind farms close inshore eg Scroby Sands is a talking point for visitors to Great Yarmouth. There are even boat trips out to sea around it"

Comments

☞ "In terms of public consultation and generating public interest and long-term support, utilise the remote viewing opportunities offered by the Scottish Seabird Centre (S.S.C) in North Berwick i.e. mount 360' cameras on the met pole that can be remotely operated by visitors to S.S.C."

Visual

Summary of Comments made

Visual impact was the issue raised as the greatest concern in the questionnaire responses. There are a number of comments made about visual impact, mostly negative but there were some positive comments. Those attending the Fife events made most of the comments. Given the proximity of the development to the Fife coast this is probably not surprising.

Positive

☞ "I like the look of them"

☞ "No visual problem"

Negative/issues

☞ "Do not like the visibility of the wind farm from shore"

☞ "My home is on the shore at Cellardyke so overall while I agree with the idea of renewable energy sources I do not want this farm in my view"

☞ "Carnoustie is seen as a golf and seaside community and I think it will spoil the area"

☞ "Further South is more commercial physically and visibly"

☞ "With the size of the Scottish coastline I feel that there is more isolated spots to place wind farms"

☞ "It should not go ahead due to the adverse impact on amenity"

☞ "Its only spoiling our beautiful views"

☞ "Would prefer them to be much further offshore. Visual impact will be horrendous especially from Fife Ness and St Andrews"

☞ "Wish you couldn't see them from Crail / Fife Ness"



Comments

- ☞ "I'd prefer smaller turbines. I was surprised about the visual impact of the larger ones from Dunbar. People appreciate the open sea views from the town"
- ☞ "I think it will be an eyesore on a most beautiful area of coastline. But because the population of the area is small, there will not be enough opposition to stop it."

Cumulative effects and other developments in the vicinity

Summary of Comments made

Comments have been made about the cumulative impact of developing a number of projects in this area. There have also been requests for further information for the other developments that are proposed in this area.

Oppose

- ☞ "Firth of Forth going to be too cluttered (120? Turbines)"
- ☞ "This is far too large and too close to shore. Why not develop only the large area to the East of the Scheme?"
- ☞ "Windfarms have a part to play as an alternative energy source. Neart na Goithe is probably fine but combined with other proposals is not satisfactory"

Comment

- ☞ "It is important that all people involved in the process from Mainstream are clear on [all the] proposals rather than just knowing about one area"

Questions

- ☞ "Where are the other wind farm proposals?"
- ☞ "[I] need more information pertaining to the Inch Cape Farm
- ☞ "[I am] informed, but not very concerned about Round 3 proposals. Why not relocate it 30 miles further away out of sight?"

Summary of Comments made

The negative impact on birds, marine mammals and the natural environment was identified in Question 4. However there were not many specific comments about these three areas.

The main request seems to be for more information and feedback on the results of the Environment Assessments.

Negative/issues

- ☞ “Why here? A conservation area”
- ☞ “I don't think that the impact on the environment gives fair payback in terms of "green" power”
- ☞ “Concerned about the impact on the marine environment and migrating birds and other creatures. Even if the development has minimal effect now that could change as species alter”

Questions

- ☞ “Will the results of the various environmental impact studies (on birds, mammals etc.) be made public?”
- ☞ “What criteria will be used to determine whether environmental dis-benefits outweigh benefits?”
- ☞ “There are obviously unanswered questions such as the likely impacts on seabirds, marine life & fishing. Presumably results of current surveys & future ones will be posted on your website.”

Comments

- ☞ “I know very little but I've now got the leaflet. Effects on marine mammals and fishing are recoverable”
- ☞ “Good level of information but I need to be convinced that there will not be a detrimental effect on marine/bird life”
- ☞ “Interested in the seabed regeneration of shellfish eg. Native Oyster”
- ☞ “Please consult when you have the results of the impact assessments to test them against local knowledge. Not sure about any local benefit? Particularly for young people can this development look for ways to improve local environment?”
- ☞ “Only the scientific researchers know the REAL answers. I don't trust the politicians promotion in the slightest!”
- ☞ “Effects on birds and marine mammals will depend on what they find out during baseline studies. Hope these are well planned”
- ☞ “The environmental consultancy I [work for] has successfully undertaken static passive acoustic monitoring studies with PODs, which indicate elevated feeding around offshore structures”
- ☞ “As the only environmental consultancy that offers MMO/PAM services for monitoring marine mammals for survey or mitigation purposes and being listed on page 1 of Google, I'm surprised nobody has notified us, asked for our "collaborative involvement", so I will contact Mainstream and hopefully change that”

Fishing

Summary of Comments made

The impacts of the development on fishing are identified in the following comments. Although there are not many in number there were lengthy discussions with fishermen and their representatives at some of the exhibitions. This seems to be an area where relationships have been created and developed over the duration of the pre-application consultation.

Negative/issues

☞ "From an [Inshore Fisheries Group] IFG perspective the development phase will have a negative effect on commercial fishing. It's not possible at this stage to assess the long-term effects on commercial fishing"

Questions

☞ "Why is onshore in North Berwick and not Fife? Fife could really do with the jobs"

☞ "Will I be allowed to work pots in the area? Will claming be allowed?"

☞ "What about jobs for the fishermen in the project? e.g. construction and maintenance"

Comments

☞ "Concerned about the effect on local fishing grounds. Has fishing been affected around other offshore wind farms?"

☞ "No fishing zone may improve fish stocks"

☞ "As long as they keep the wind farm on the shingle bank and not the deep water on the mud where trawling is taking place"

☞ "Remember the fishermen if there are any stand-by jobs"

Shipping /Sailing

Summary of Comments made

A number of representatives from local recreational sailing clubs attended the various exhibitions. The comments that they made via the questionnaire are recorded below.

Negative/issues

☞ "I have concerns regarding the navigational aspects for small craft (fishing, tourism & recreational sailing) to ensure positive identification of structures and safe routes"

Questions

☞ "How does this development affect access to the area for yachts?"

Comments

☞ "Avoid restriction on leisure craft anchoring near landfall by adequate depth of cover"


☞ "Ensure ability to identify location in fog if craft stray into the array"

☞ "Consider use of rock cover [of the cable] rather than bury"

Onshore works

Summary of Comments made

Although there were four separate events held in East Lothian there were a relatively small number of comments made about the onshore works that are proposed. One comment was made by a representative of the surfing community about the impact on that particular amenity on the beach where the cable will come ashore.



At the exhibitions there were a number of questions about the rationale behind the decision to connect to the grid at Crystal Rig. There are a couple of comments which raise this specific point.

There is also a comment about the levels of electromagnetic field generated by the cable.

Negative/issues

☞ “I have serious concerns about the location of the cable and the effect that the wind turbine foundations will have on swell. This will effect my job as a surf instruction and lifestyle choice as a surfer if the waves are significantly changed”

Comments

☞ “The landing site of the marine cable should be up the Forth at the existing coal-fired power station and use its grids connection. Any landfall at Torness may be encased when it is decommissioned but its existing underground cables make a poor second choice. Skateraw is an [important] site = maximum damage!”

☞ “It would appear that the Crystal Rig connection is a financial issue rather than a load issue.”

☞ “Concerned about installation works and cable trenching. Impact on seabed and visual effect”

☞ “Concerns with regard to levels of electromagnetic field if walking over ground i.e. 0-20 μ t, 20-100 μ t, >100 μ t. Have installed ICD”



The name

Summary of Comments made

The name of the development, Neart Na Gaoithe, generated much discussion at the exhibitions, most of this negative and this is reflected in some of the comments made on the questionnaires.

- ☞ “Why did they call it Neart Na Gaoithe offshore?”
- ☞ “Change the name”
- ☞ “Change the name this is not a Gaelic speaking region”
- ☞ “You must consider a change of name before you put in for planning permission”
- ☞ “Why a Gaelic name in Fife?”
- ☞ “Why is the proposed development a Gaelic name? 99.9% of British population don't speak Gaelic and couldn't pronounce the name! More tokenist appeasement of the Gaelic lobby!!!”
- ☞ “Let's have a Scots name”
- ☞ “Stupid name for a wind farm”
- ☞ “Change the name to something in English”
- ☞ “The title should be in English as Gaelic has hidden what this project is about from the local community”
- ☞ “Terrible name!”

4.3 Overview of the output from the consultation events

The range of events that have been held as part of this consultation process have ensured that as well as reaching a wider range of the general public and demographic groups the developer has been able to engage with some of the key stakeholder groups such as elected representatives, sailors and fishermen over a sustained period of time.

It is anticipated that consultation will continue after the relevant planning applications have been submitted.

The exhibitions were an opportunity for the developer to engage directly with some specific community groups. There were representatives present from:

- † Community Councils;
- † Local Councils;
- † Key user groups e.g. Recreational Sailing, Fishermen;
- † Environmental Groups;
- † Harbour Authority and Users.

The events proved to be a good opportunity to instigate dialogue and build relationships with key individuals. A number of key stakeholders attended more than one event which has helped build trust and relationships.

It was particularly pleasing to see a number of fishermen, particularly at the Crail event. This is a group whose activities have been identified as having the potential to be impacted adversely by the development. Although specific consultation events have been organised for fishermen and their representatives, this event provided an opportunity for some individual fishermen to engage in discussion with the development team to understand more about the potential impacts of the project.

It was interesting to note that many people spent a lot of time in the exhibition. Typically about 45 minutes.



There was a poignant moment at the Anstruther Muster when a group of former submariners were able to see images of two vessels that had been ship-wrecked in a war-time accident. They were at Anstruther to hold a remembrance service for those who perished in the accident. The images had been captured as result of seabed survey work.

4.4 Mainstream Renewable Power's response to the major concerns identified

Section 4.2 identified comments that have been raised throughout the pre-application process. A key action will be to communicate the outcomes of the assessment work that has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Statement as this provides responses to the majority of the issues raised.

A 'Frequency Asked Questions (FAQ)' section on the project website will be developed to respond to some of the more commonly asked questions from the five events held to date.

4.5 Analysis of those taking part in the consultation exercise

Figures 14 - 16 examine the demographic make-up of those completing questionnaires.

It is no surprise that the majority of the participants were from those areas where the events were held.

Figure 15 examines the age profile of those attending compared to the known combined population profile of Fife, Angus and East Lothian. The graphs show that the summer galas managed to engage a more representative age range than the other traditional consultation events.

Finally in Figure 16 the gender of those attending is analysed and compared to the local population. Males were over represented when comparing participants to the local demographic profile.

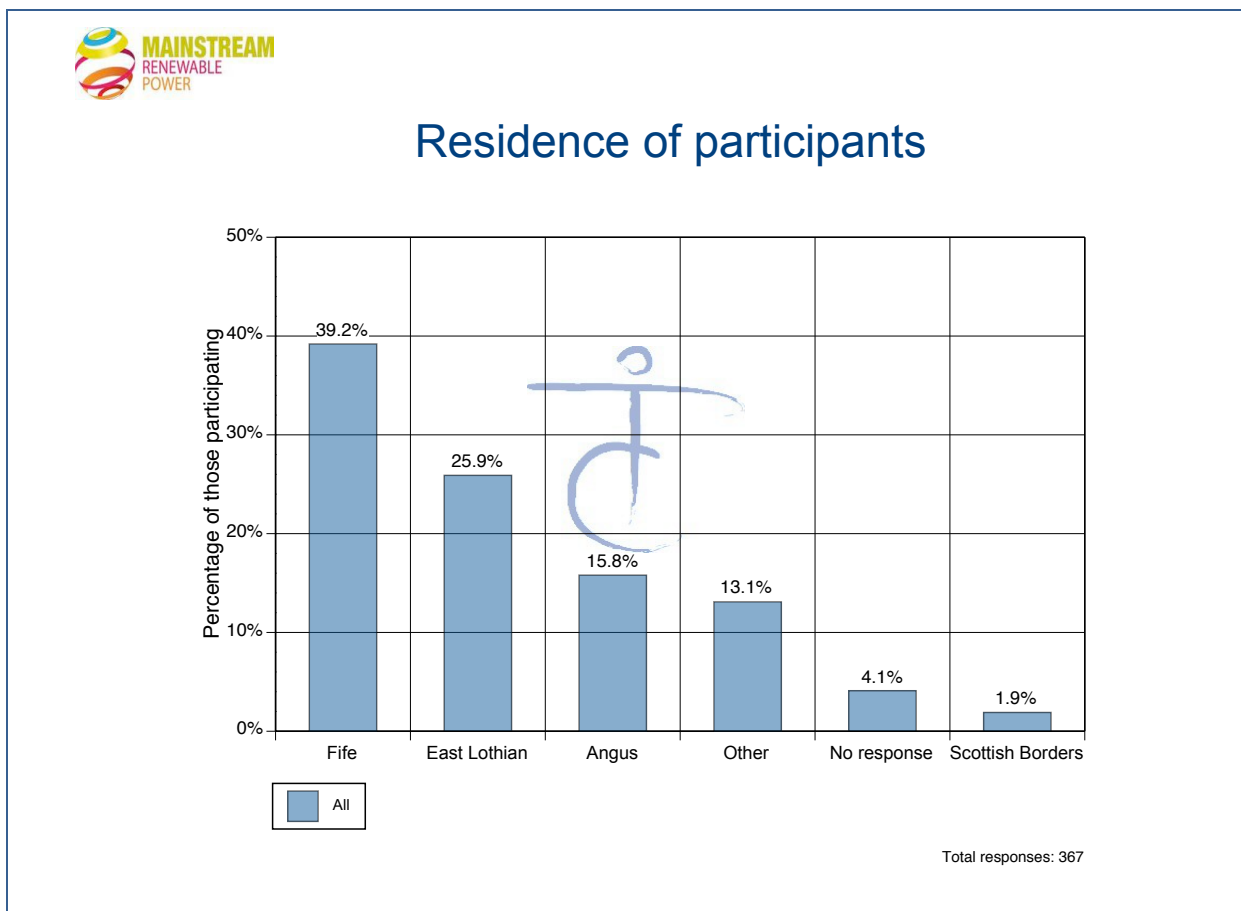


Figure 14 - Residence of those attending the events

Council Area	All events	Percentage
Fife	144	39.2%
East Lothian	95	25.9%
Angus	58	15.8%
Other	48	13.1%
No response	15	4.1%
Scottish Borders	7	1.9%
Total	367	100%

Age of those participating in Neart na Gaoithe Consultation events

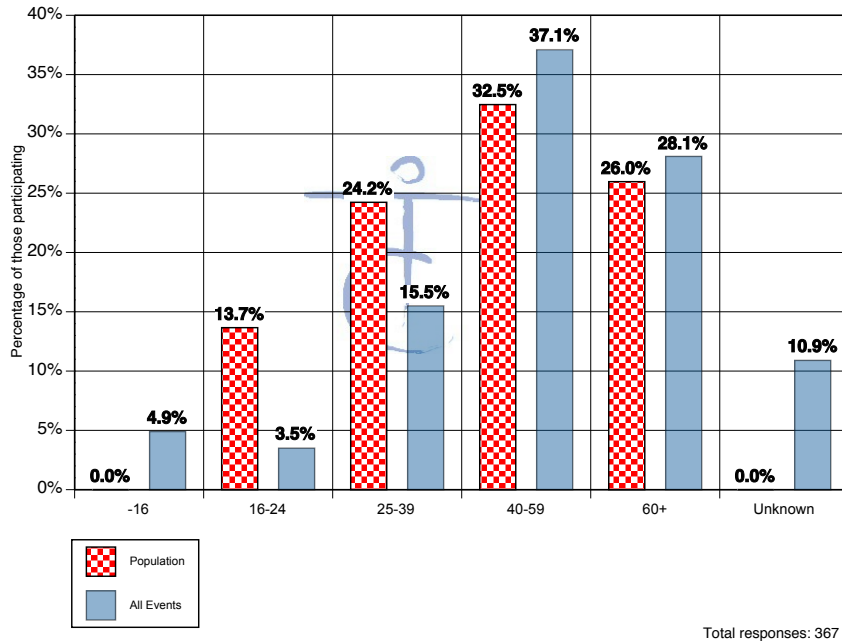


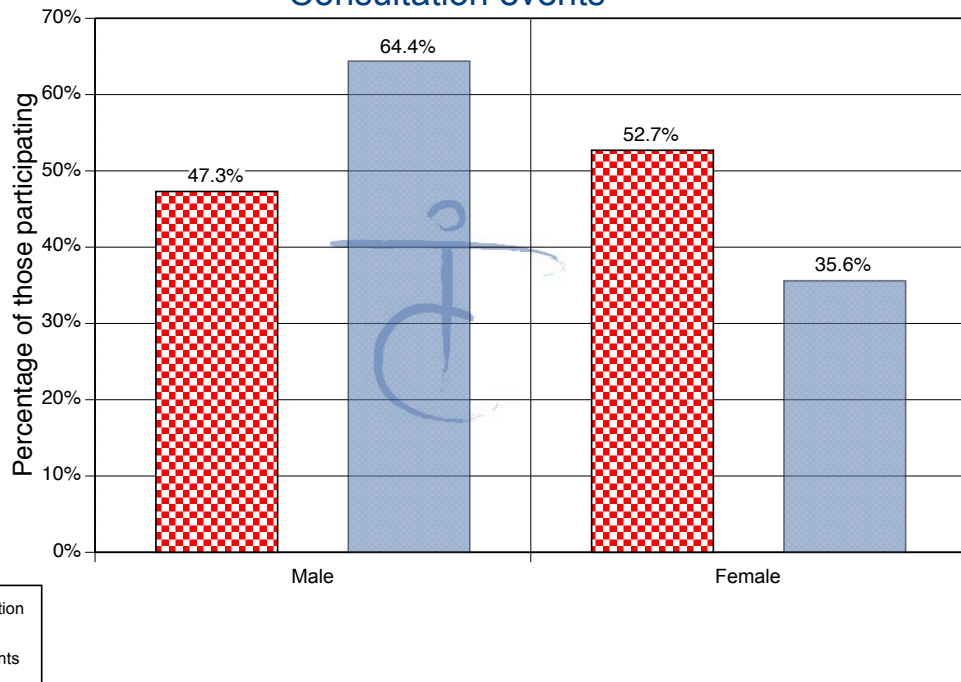
Figure 15 - Age of those attending the events

Source of demographic data⁵

Age	All Events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	On Line	%tage
-16	18	4.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	9.4%	0	0.0%
16-24	13	3.5%	2	3.0%	2	2.1%	9	4.7%	0	0.0%
25-39	57	15.5%	6	9.0%	13	13.4%	34	17.7%	4	36.4%
40-59	136	37.1%	27	40.3%	42	43.3%	62	32.3%	5	45.5%
60+	103	28.1%	29	43.3%	33	34.0%	39	20.3%	2	18.2%
Unknown	40	10.9%	3	4.5%	7	7.2%	30	15.6%	0	0.0%
	367	100%	67	100%	97	100%	192	100%	11	100%

⁵ Source: Scotlands census results online

Gender of those participating in Neart na Gaoithe Consultation events



Total responses: 343

Figure 16 - Gender of those attending the events

Gender	All Events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	On Line	%tage
Male	221	64.4%	51	79.7%	65	69.1%	94	54.0%	11	100.0%
Female	122	35.6%	13	20.3%	29	30.9%	80	46.0%	0	0.0%
	343	100%	64	100%	94	100%	174	100%	11	100%

4.6 Feedback on the Events

The final question on the questionnaire asked the participants for their feedback on the event.

The response from those attending was very positive:

- ☞ 32.2% thought the event they attended was excellent;
- ☞ 56.4% thought the event they attended was good;
- ☞ Only 2.4% of those present had a negative opinion of the event they attended.

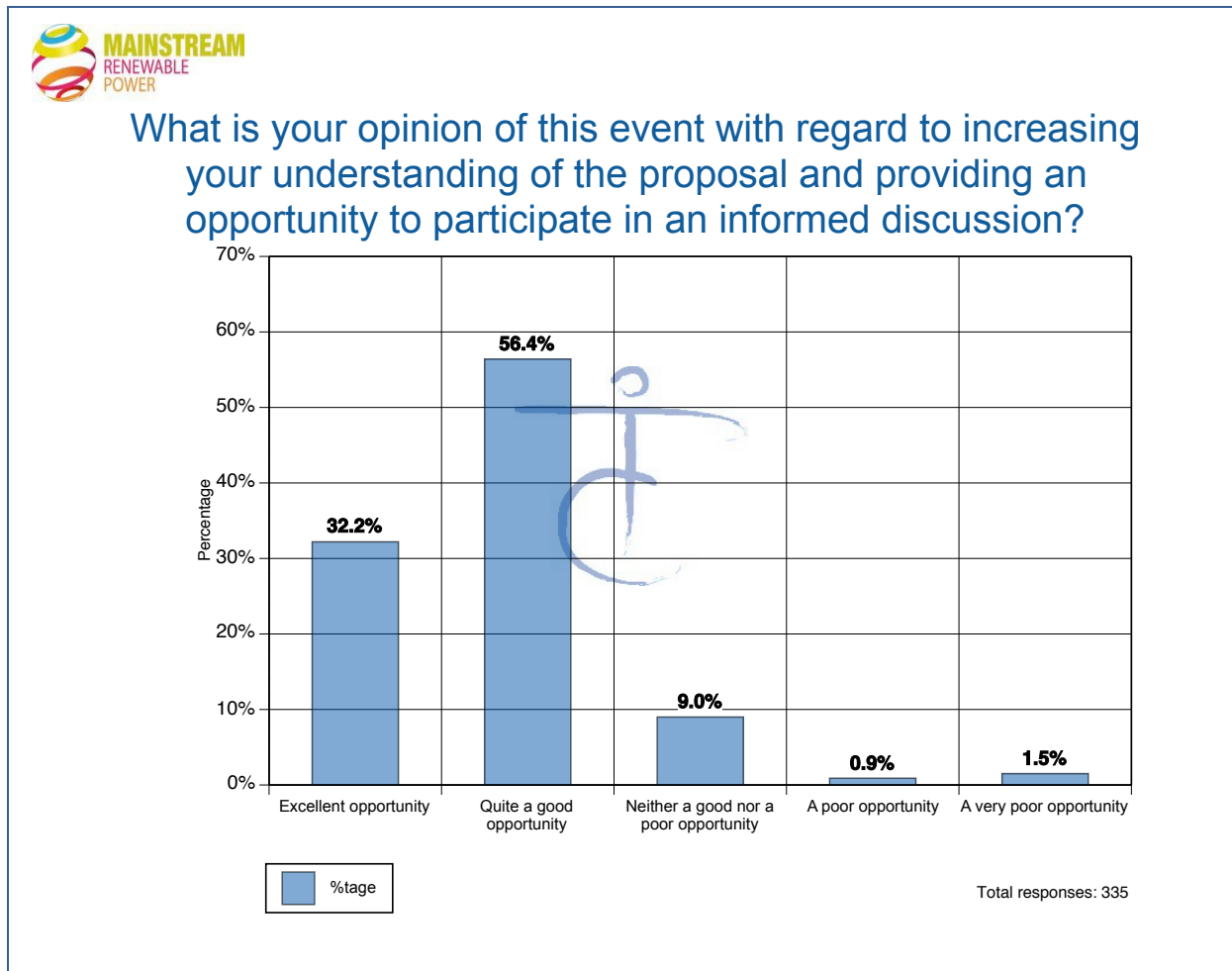


Figure 17 - Feedback on the events

Feedback	All Events	%tage	Angus & Fife	%tage	East Lothian	%tage	Summer Galas	%tage	On Line	%tage
Excellent opportunity	108	32.2%	27	43.5%	26	30.6%	51	28.8%	4	36.4%
Quite a good opportunity	189	56.4%	31	50.0%	49	57.6%	103	58.2%	6	54.5%
Neither a good nor a poor opportunity	30	9.0%	1	1.6%	8	9.4%	20	11.3%	1	9.1%
A poor opportunity	3	0.9%	1	1.6%	0	0.0%	2	1.1%	0	0.0%
A very poor opportunity	5	1.5%	2	3.2%	2	2.4%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%
	335	100%	62	100%	85	100%	177	100%	11	100%

Summary of Comments made

The positive comments about the events focus on the quality of staff available at each event in terms of their knowledge and attitude.

A number of complimentary remarks were made about the quality of information available at each event.

There were some comments about:

- ☞ The level of publicity undertaken for each event;
- ☞ Ideas for other types of events;
- ☞ Availability of staff;
- ☞ A lack of detailed information about the project;
- ☞ The questions that were asked in the questionnaire;
- ☞ Future contact of stakeholders.

Facilitating Change response

After each event a review was undertaken of the event feedback and certain changes made. After the first round of events the radio advertising was replaced by door-to-door leafleting. A major change was to exhibit at local fetes and galas which meant more people were engaged in the consultation.

At times it was difficult to attend to all the participants promptly. This was because it was very difficult to anticipate how many people would attend each event. The Carnoustie Gala and the final East Lothian event were particularly busy. Another factor that reduced the accessibility of key staff was the length of time that people stayed at the events engaged in conversation. Although this was very positive in terms of the quality of conversations, it did mean that key staff were engaged in conversations for long periods of time. Sometimes two hours!

The timing of the first round of events meant that at that time there was a lack of detailed project information available. This is one issue with pre-application consultation as details of

the project will emerge in the time leading up to a planning application being submitted. Previous actions have suggested ways of disseminating information as the project progresses.

There were some comments about the wording of some questions on the questionnaires but it was felt important to retain the same questions throughout all the consultation events and the questionnaire was therefore not amended.

As the project progressed a database for contacts was created. Everyone who registered their details at the events now gets regular project updates.

Positive

- ☞ "Good to ensure the local community have the opportunity to have their say and understand better what is planned"
- ☞ "Events like these are a very good opportunity to keep the local community updated and should be encouraged"
- ☞ "Very good and had good information available"
- ☞ "Very good presentation"
- ☞ "Been very good from the start"
- ☞ "Staff are very knowledgeable"
- ☞ "Presenters have good technical knowledge"
- ☞ "Excellent feedback from the staff"
- ☞ "Friendly staff"
- ☞ "Friendly staff"
- ☞ "Very good exhibition, excellent staff and discussions"
- ☞ "Well selected personnel!"
- ☞ "Well informed. Mainstream were able to provide detailed information"
- ☞ "Very helpful staff, very knowledgeable and approachable"
- ☞ "Answered all questions fully, it was very interesting"
- ☞ "Friendly approachable well informed staff"
- ☞ "I feel that it has been a positive process with staff friendly, helpful and honest"
- ☞ "The exhibition is good [and] the number of informed staff to discuss matters with visitors is excellent"
- ☞ "It is good to speak to people directly and to be able to ask questions and clarify understanding"
- ☞ "Enjoyed meeting people"
- ☞ "It has been very good and from an early stage NNG have engaged with the South-East fisheries group"
- ☞ "There has been a willingness for the developers to engage with the South-East fisheries group"
- ☞ "Very pleasant and very good in getting over all the information required. Very approachable team on hand to discuss scheme and made very welcome"
- ☞ "Informative, well-informed, well-structured"
- ☞ "Interesting, comprehensive information panels"
- ☞ "Well laid out display, informative posters"

- ☞ "A well laid out exhibition"
- ☞ "Good to see the photomontages"
- ☞ "Good information on boards"
- ☞ "Literature concerning the development is valuable and enables one to gain a more in depth understanding of what is proposed"
- ☞ "Clear and informative"
- ☞ "Fantastic to give the locals the opportunities they need"
- ☞ "I have only been aware of the Spott village demo. Good exhibition"
- ☞ "A good idea to consult at events such as this [Pittenweem Gala]. Presumably other opinions are being made to assess local reactions (mail shot?)"

Negative/issues

- ☞ "Not always easy to actually talk to someone"
- ☞ "Project Manager not available to talk to"
- ☞ Initially not well publicised"
- ☞ "Poor- because there are so very few people {members of the public} here"
- ☞ "More posters and associations being informed would have been useful"
- ☞ "Total lack of technical / financial information. Whole exercise is window dressing. Waste of time"
- ☞ "Problem with the timing as results of the impact assessments aren't available"
- ☞ "Would have preferred to see some detailed financial projections"
- ☞ "The information on structures and methods of construction is not available. As a fisherman who works the area in question this seminar has offered very little but the staff were very nice"
- ☞ "Sad that the venue is not on a main road & is relatively distant from the shops"
- ☞ "Questions 1 & 2 are politically motivated pre-cursors to the questions which followed"
- ☞ "None of these [questions 1 & 2] reflect my views"
- ☞ "[Question 1] is not neutral – we should think about taking action"
- ☞ "[Question 2] is not neutral. I'm fairly positive about [renewable energy], but not wind turbines"
- ☞ "A "Don't know" box [for question 3] would give a positive answer and in my opinion be a clearer question than "Not Sure".

Comments

- ☞ "Don't know much about it"
- ☞ "I think that it is vital that the public are fully informed of all aspects both positive and negative. Any idea of a cover up of anything would badly effect public opinion"
- ☞ "Not a local resident - visiting family"
- ☞ Learnt a lot. Please make your presentation documents more reader friendly. A lot of words and dense sentences"
- ☞ "This is a good start but it is clear that this project is part of a much bigger series of developments so I will be keen to develop my understanding further"
- ☞ "A good beginning in informing the communities of the development I would like to see good localised engagement as the project develops"

- 
- ☞ "Very pleasant people, more information about community benefit and the reasons behind the grid connection at Crystal Rig being financial rather than a load issue should be displayed. The embedded carbon of this on-shore work should also be considered"
 - ☞ "Need more pictures and a summary of the research"
 - ☞ "We would have liked to have seen more pictures of the turbines, maybe some models"
 - ☞ "More publicity for the website address"
 - ☞ "More information especially in the press"
 - ☞ "Increased publicity would be good to ensure more people know about the proposal"
 - ☞ "I preferred to take myself around the show. Would certainly welcome the opportunity to take part in a discussion about the subject"
 - ☞ "A 6 hour expo on one afternoon / evening is not sufficient or trustworthy. A staged involvement with 3-4 week gaps might be a fairer and more productive"
 - ☞ "You could exhibit at Dunbar Primary School summer fair on Saturday 11th June 2011 (pm)"
 - ☞ "Would you consider having a live public meeting nearer the time of the start up of the wind farm?"
 - ☞ "This needs to be advertised more into St Andrews & other areas & will affect tourism very badly"
 - ☞ "Keep informed via local press"
 - ☞ "Perhaps if your venue had been in the High Street more people would look in. Anyway I'm glad I came. WILLING TO LEAFLET"
 - ☞ "Questions rather simplistic. The issues are more complex"
 - ☞ "Keen to be kept informed in the future development"
 - ☞ "Display took me by surprise. No idea this was a viable proposal householders need to be kept informed"
 - ☞ "Community Involvement"
 - ☞ "We are a local firm and only just found out about this"
 - ☞ "Very friendly but as the research is not complete its hard to form an opinion on what the impact will really be!"
 - ☞ "I think your effort is adequate but always have concerns that views expressed may not subsequently be acted upon"
 - ☞ "I would like to know how I can make my views known and potentially influence the process"
 - ☞ "Has to be done"
 - ☞ "Pro-active communication with Dunbar Fishermen's association would be most welcome"
 - ☞ "Please contact xxxxxx at xxxxxx for contact details for St Andrews Harbour Trust"
 - ☞ "I would like to be kept informed especially as it applies to the yacht club"
 - ☞ "Representing Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland"
 - ☞ "Early Days"
 - ☞ "Please send me more information on decommissioning obligations"

5.0 AN AUDIT OF CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

5.1 SP=EED Audit

In planning the consultation activities on this project it was decided to:

- † Design the consultation with best practice in mind;
- † Audit the engagement activities to ensure that best practice guidance was being delivered.

The design of the consultation can be found in Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Management Plan.

Facilitating Change has worked with Mainstream Renewable Power to develop a front-loaded engagement process – that is, one in which effective stakeholder engagement commences as early as possible, before too much has been invested and/or irreversible decisions have been made. The consultation plan was submitted to both Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council for consideration and both consenting bodies have indicated that, if implemented, the proposed plan represents an acceptable format and level of stakeholder engagement. This audit seeks to identify to what extent the proposed stakeholder consultation plan has effectively been implemented and whether or not further engagement activities are required prior to a planning application being submitted.

Appendix 2 – SP=EED report contains the audit report. The audit of engagement activities that Mainstream Renewable Power had undertaken in relation to the proposed Neart na Gaoithe wind farm took place in October 2011, prior to the final exhibition. This allowed some of the recommendations in the audit to be implemented prior to the completion of the consultation.

The audit allowed Mainstream to establish whether or not the consultation process has been ‘meaningful and appropriate’ in line with the 2006 Planning Act. In this regard, Facilitating Change has adopted Planning Aid for Scotland’s SP=EED framework to assess whether or not the consultation undertaken by Mainstream Renewable Power either meets or exceeds the consultation requirements agreed by the relevant planning authorities (Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council).

The audit indicates that elements of the consultation process have been highly successful in engaging affected communities and canvassing representative local opinion. In particular, Mainstream has attained Level 3 of the SP=EED framework (ie: the highest level) in relation to the appropriateness of the engagement process and it is anticipated that it will also achieve this level for responsiveness. Furthermore, it has achieved Level 2 in relation to coordination, information and inclusiveness. It is expected that Level 2 will be reached in all but two of the areas once planned activities are undertaken.



	Level 0: Legal Requirement	Level 1: Giving Information	Level 2: Consulting & Listening	Level 3: Partnership
1. Transparency and Integrity	N/A	ACHIEVED	Fail	Fail
2. Co-ordination	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	Fail
3. Information	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	Fail
4. Appropriateness	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED
5. Responsiveness	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Planned</i>	ACHIEVED
6. Inclusiveness	N/A	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	Fail
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	N/A	<i>Planned</i>	ACHIEVED	Fail
8. Learning and Sharing	N/A	<i>Planned</i>	Fail	Fail

Table 4: Summary of SP=EED Audit Findings

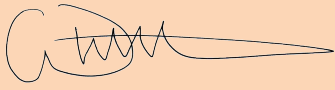
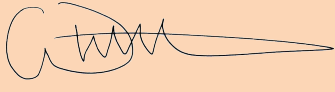
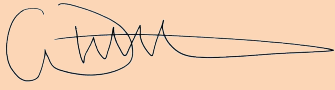


A Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Management Plan

Neart na Gaoithe Proposed Offshore Wind Farm

Stakeholder
Management Plan
June 2010

Proposed Offshore Wind Farm Scoping Consultation Report: Neart na Gaoithe

Document Release and Authorisation Record			
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QA	Name	Signature	Date
Project Manager	Chris Whitehead		31 May 2010
Report written by	Chris Whitehead		31 May 2010
Report checked by	Lone Wright	<i>Lone Wright</i>	1 June 2010
Report authorised by	Chris Whitehead		2 June 2010

Project website: www.neartnagaoithe.com

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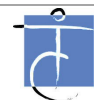


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Acronyms

CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMU	EMU Limited
ES	Environmental Statement
FATOWDG	Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group
IAP2	Institute of Public Participation
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MP	Member of Parliament
MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament
NnGOWL	Near na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited (NnGOWL)
PAN 81 People	Scottish Planning Advice Note 81: Community Engagement, Planning With People
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SMG	Stakeholder Management Group
SMP	Stakeholder Management Plan
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SOCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SP=EED	(Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery)



1.0 Executive Summary

This Stakeholder Management Plan presents the proposed Public and Stakeholder Engagement approach for the 'Nearth na Gaoithe' proposed Offshore Wind Farm. The plan will focus on the key engagement activities that Nearth na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Limited (NnGOWL) plans to undertake in the pre-application phase of its development.

The proposal is to develop a 450MW offshore wind farm 'Nearth na Gaoithe', situated off the coast of Fife and the Lothians.

The plan will:

- Identify the key features of the proposed Offshore Wind Farm;
- Outline the consenting procedure for developments of this nature, in particular the consultation responsibilities of the developer;
- Identify the objectives of the proposed engagement;
- Outline the process for engaging with its key stakeholders;
- Identify the key stakeholders and classify them into appropriate groups;
- Propose a number of different engagement methods for this development;
- Define how comments will be recorded and reported;
- Propose structures for engaging with key stakeholders following the planning submission.

This document will itself be subject to consultation prior to its publication. It is anticipated that the bodies responsible for determining the planning submission will have an input to the Stakeholder Management Plan to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets best practice standards before the main pre-application consultation commences.

2.0 Introduction

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd (NnGOWL), herein referred to as the developer, a subsidiary company of Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd, is proposing to develop an offshore wind farm of up to 450 MW, 15.5 km east of Fife Ness (see Figure 1 - Illustrative Layout & Design). The proposed offshore wind farm is called Neart na Gaoithe and is located off the coast of Fife and the Lothians. NnGOWL has engaged the consultancy services of Facilitating Change (UK) Ltd to develop the Stakeholder Management Plan for the development.

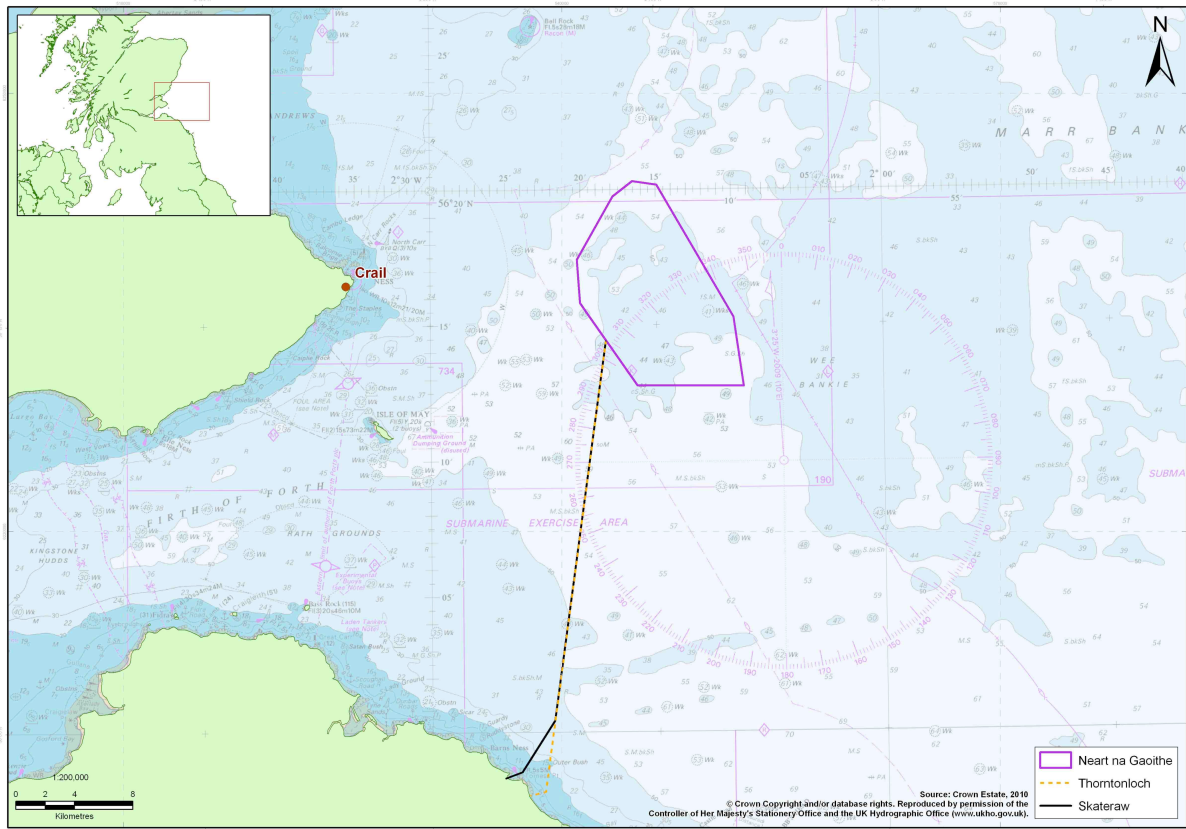
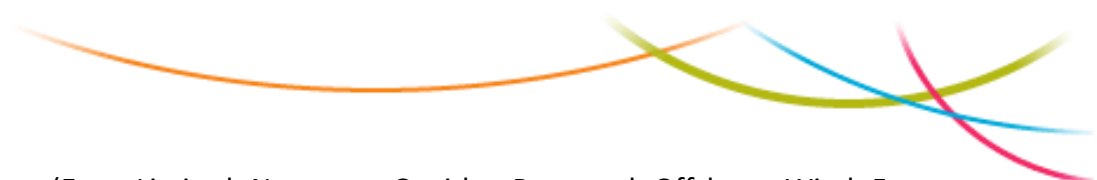


Figure 1 - Illustrative Layout & Design

The proposed development and the projected impacts were described in the “Neart na Gaoithe Scoping Report”. The Scoping Report provides an overview of the planned project, a desk-based environmental description and examines the potential impacts of the project at a high level. The Scoping Report formally opened dialogue between the stakeholders and the developer at an early stage of the project in terms of providing information and clarity of intent. It set out the stages of the process, which have been undertaken to date and provided an opportunity for interested parties to review the proposed assessment methodologies and make recommendations or comments to the developer to consider in the next stages of the consent process.

To date the following reports have been developed and published on the project website (www.neartnagaoithe.com):

- 
- Scoping Report (Emu Limited Neart na Gaoithe Proposed Offshore Wind Farm Scoping Report November 2009, reference 09/J/1/06/1419/0848) herein referred to as the Scoping Report;
 - Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Stakeholder Event Report (Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Stakeholder Event Report, January 2010), herein referred to as the Workshop Report.



2.1 Timeline for Development

The development of offshore wind farms generally follows a five stage phasing:

1. Pre-application phase (associated with the works required to obtain consents to construct the project)
2. Pre-construction phase (post-consent award)
3. Construction phase
4. Operation phase (operation and maintenance of the generating wind farm)
5. Repowering
6. Decommissioning

Stakeholders are able to have greater input to the project proposals earlier in the process, and this document focuses on stakeholder engagement through the pre-application phase of the project.

The general timeline for the project through this first phase of development is outlined in Appendix 1.

2.2 Consenting Procedure

For the construction of a power generation facility, such as an offshore windfarm, Section 36 of the Electricity Act requires that an application be made to Scottish Ministers through the Scottish Government agency, Marine Scotland.

This is a different process to the conventionally understood planning procedure for major developments. When applying for a Coast Protection Act (CPA) licence current requirements are for a statutory 28 day public consultation whereby the location and type of works are publicised in local newspapers and made available in a local public building. The new marine licence is unlikely to do away this but at this stage the requirements are uncertain. However Section 36 guidance suggests that engagement should be guided by the Government's Planning Advice Note 81¹. Furthermore, the Act was recently amended by the 2004 Energy Act, which broadened the scope of Section 36 to include certain marine and navigational matters. Consequently there is no longer the requirement to promote a private bill in Parliament, with its associated public consultation.

The proposed development will have the potential to interact with many aspects of the existing societal, cultural, aesthetic, commercial and environmental setting, both on and offshore. It is therefore vital that the organisations, communities and individuals, who have an interest in the project, are able to be part of its development, and this Engagement Strategy aims to encourage and enable that involvement.

¹ Section 36 Guidance Notes – 2.2.1



3.0 Engagement Plan Objectives

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd want to work with all stakeholders (organisations, individuals and communities) who have an interest in the project, whether as a result of their activities or their location. This will enable the development to benefit from the considerable experience of the stakeholders and will allow the project to develop with the involvement of stakeholders whom it will ultimately impact on.

The Stakeholder Management Plan will outline the engagement that the developer plans to undertake with all its stakeholders and the general public ('community').

3.1 Statement of Community Consultation

It is intended that information about the final proposal, as submitted to the Scottish Executive, will be published at the time the Section 36 submission is made. This will include a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) indicating how:

The SOCC will contain:

- Details of stakeholder and community consultation;
- A list of everyone consulted;
- A summary of the discussions with consultees;
- Details of how the proposals have changed throughout the engagement programme;
- A summary of issues that have been raised and how they have been addressed, describing whether action has been taken or if none has been taken the rationale for that decision.

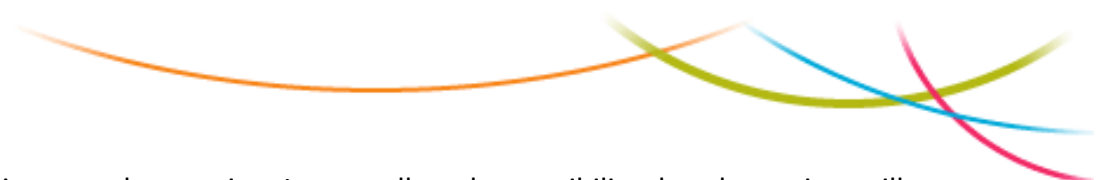
3.2 Primary Objectives Of Engagement

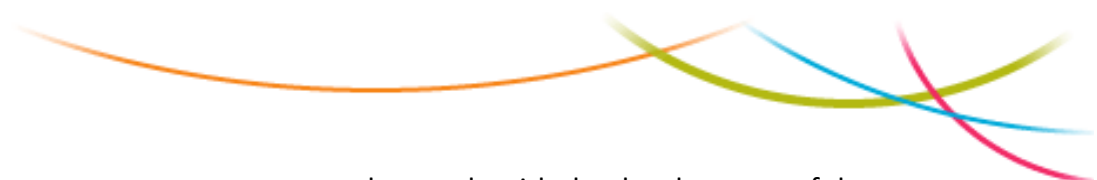
The consultation arrangements need to be founded on sound principles and best practice. The recommendations in this report take account of:

- The 1998 Aarhus Convention, which deals with decision-making on environmental matters;
- National Standards for Community Engagement (Communities Scotland);
- Institute of Public Participation (IAP²) Values.

Experience gained from similar developments has allowed a number of preliminary specific stakeholder engagement objectives to be identified. The primary aim should be that the consultation process should be open and transparent. In particular:

- As far as possible, all relevant stakeholders should be identified at the outset and the justification for identifying them should be recorded;
- There must be clarity about the nature of the proposal on which opinions are being sought;

- 
- The consultation must be genuine. It must allow the possibility that the project will be modified as a result of public comment; this clearly requires allowing sufficient time for the process;
 - The scope for modification of the proposals should be indicated as clearly as knowledge allows;
 - All agencies, organisations and individuals that wish to be involved should have the opportunity to participate in the development of the proposals;
 - Anyone who wishes to express interest in the proposals should have access to information about the proposals that meets their needs in a form that is appropriate;
 - Information about the developers should be provided as part of the consultation;
 - All reasonable assistance should be offered to enable participation; this may include, for example, an offer of transport to a meeting or assistance with caring costs;
 - Events including meetings and interviews should be carried out at suitable times for those involved;
 - A range of consultation methods should be used, both to ensure that as many people as possible are able to participate and to provide some assessment of consistency between methods;
 - There should be flexibility in the arrangements to accommodate unforeseen needs or events, or to draw early lessons from the process;
 - Adequate publicity using all appropriate means should be provided;
 - All comments and suggestions that are made by the public or particular agencies should be recorded and should, wherever possible, be used to refine and improve the proposals;
 - Where comments and suggestions cannot be taken into account, reasons will be provided;
 - Consultees should be asked for their opinions on the engagement process itself and lessons learned should be used to improve it;
 - All stages in the process and all consultations and responses should be documented so that an audit trail is available;

- 
- Consultation arrangements are concerned not only with the development of the proposals but must be maintained during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project.

This list is not exhaustive, and reflecting the dynamic nature of the strategy, it is expected that these will be revised as relationships with different stakeholders develop.

3.3 Engagement Definitions

Stakeholder engagement comprises of two main elements; communication and consultation. It is important to define these terms; Facilitating Change defines these terms in the following ways:

- **Communication:** Keeping stakeholders fully informed on the progress of the development;
- **Consultation:** Local community input influences the final design and operation of the development;
- **Engagement:** A combination of communication and consultation.


This is expressed as an overarching objective in the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note PAN-81 Community Engagement, Planning With People, 2007:

*"Effective community engagement means ensuring that people are made aware of proposals that affect them as early in the process as possible, that they have the facts to allow them to make a contribution, that they have had the opportunity to engage, and having made their views known, they get a clearer explanation of how and why decisions were made"*²

In each stage of the development it is anticipated that the engagement will follow the pattern outlined below:

- **Identify:** identification of stakeholders;
- **Communicate:** provide appropriate information to stakeholders;
- **Consult** : discussing issues which influence the final design of the development;
- **Communicate again:** provide information to stakeholders detailing the results of consultation.
- **Record:** throughout the engagement it will be important to systematically capture the views and opinions of all stakeholders.

² PAN -81 Scottish Planning Advice Note -81 Community Engagement, Planning With People, 2007, p9



These principles are reflected in the Protocol for Public Engagement with Proposed Wind Energy Developments in England.³

3.4 Scope of Consultation

It is crucial in any consultation that those consulted should be able to grasp what they are being consulted about. Any lack of clarity about what is being proposed presents difficulties in both explanation and comprehension.

At the start of the engagement programme (late May 2010), there remains some uncertainty about:

- the geographical boundaries of the site (although it is known that it will not extend beyond the area surveyed);
- the landfall and routing of the onshore grid connection.

It is intended that engagement will take place at key milestones in the project's development. For example: at the information gathering phase and during the assessment phase. The engagement will focus on the impact to the design of the development. in each key design area as, and when, design options are agreed.

It is anticipated that the engagement methods deployed will provide answers to the questions that stakeholders are likely to ask. However, the consultation programme is intended to provide many opportunities for all concerned to discuss the proposals in detail with NnGOWL representatives.

3.5 Main Design Areas to be consulted on

At this early stage in the process it is expected that the engagement programme will focus on three distinct design areas as detailed below:

- The offshore wind farm and offshore cable route (inter-turbine and to shore)
- The onshore grid connection and landing points;
- Onshore construction and logistics.

³ Protocol for Public Engagement with Proposed Wind Energy Developments in England, DTI p7

4.0 Stakeholder Identification & Management

The process of stakeholder identification and management will follow best practice guidelines set by Renewables UK⁴ with the aims of inclusiveness and equality, and giving stakeholders the opportunity to determine, within the context of this strategy, how they would wish to be consulted.

Many stakeholders will be interested in the project and will want to be engaged in dialogue. It is our aim to provide broad and fair access to enable stakeholders to participate as equals in the engagement process by delivering a consultation process, which respects the different needs and expectations of stakeholders.

4.1 Stakeholder Groupings

Stakeholders can be grouped under four broad headings for the purposes of developing an engagement strategy. There may be overlap between categories and some stakeholders may fit into more than one category:

i. Statutory Consultees

This group is generally easiest to identify as stakeholders and their engagement are defined through consultation legislation. A number of stakeholders will be consulted by Marine Scotland, in its role as the consenting agency.

Although the process for engagement with statutory stakeholders is defined by legislation, a number of key stakeholders will also be included within the broader non-statutory consultation as they can bring much to the discussion through their experience and perspective.

- Statutory regulatory agencies, for example Marine Scotland, Local council planning department, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

ii. Political Stakeholders

This group consists of those elected officials who will be responsible either directly, or indirectly, in the determination of the planning application. These stakeholders must be engaged appropriately to ensure their role in the decision-making process is not compromised. For example:

- MPs, MSPs, MEPs, local councillors.

iii. Strategic Stakeholders

This group includes the organisations and individuals who have a specific interest or expertise in the project at national, regional or local level, and whose views and expertise in a particular aspect of the project's impact or development are significant, but who would not have the opportunity to be consulted directly through the statutory process. This includes organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Friends of the Earth, the Royal Yachting Association, etc. These organisations often have specialist subject

⁴ Best Practice Guidelines - Consultation for Offshore Wind Developments - British Wind Energy Association

or local knowledge, or the project may have a specific bearing on their activities. It is therefore important that they are given early opportunity to engage with the project.

- National or local voluntary organisations who should be consulted because they have a special interest or expertise (e.g. RSPB; Local Anglers’ Association.)
- Local voluntary groups that may be consulted because they may provide a forum for consultation with the members of the public (e.g. SWRI).

iv. Community Stakeholders

This group includes organisations or individuals because they live, work, or pursue other activities in the area, which the project will affect. Although the statutory process enables statutory consultees (such as elected representatives) to comment on their behalf, it is absolutely essential that the people whom the project will affect are informed about the activity and have the opportunity to be included in the consultation undertaken by the project team.

Specific community groups who may be consulted as:


- a representative sample (e.g. the Your Voice sample or a sample approached by a polling agency such as NOP or MORI)
- people with a particular perspective (e.g. school students and young people, to whom an approach should be made via the Youth Voice Executive)
- people who are identified as ‘hard to reach’
- people who have formed themselves into any group or groups for the purpose of objecting to or supporting the proposals

Mapping these broad stakeholder categories onto the design areas identified earlier in the Stakeholder Management Plan allows the identification of individual stakeholders. The stakeholders may be different in each of the design areas. Individual stakeholders will be identified once the outline design decisions are agreed.

	Statutory Consultees	Political Stakeholders	Strategic Stakeholders	Community Stakeholders
The offshore wind farm				
The grid connection aspects and landing points				
Onshore construction and logistics				
Offshore Grid				

Table 1 - Main stakeholder groups for each design area

A list of consultees will be drawn up with the assistance of Marine Scotland and Local Planning officers. Consultation material will be offered to all interested parties.



Undertaking a more detailed analysis of the broad stakeholder groups identifies the most effective methods of engagement for each group. This process of Stakeholder Mapping is outlined in Section 4.3 - Stakeholder Mapping.

The main offshore stakeholder groups that have been identified are:

Stakeholder Groupings	Examples - Offshore		Statutory	Non-Statutory	
UK Government/ Government Advisors/ Executive Agencies/ Non-departmental public bodies.	Marine Scotland		x		
	Department for Environment and Climate Change (DECC)		x		
	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)		x		
	Historic Scotland (HS)		x		
	The Crown Estate (TCE)		x		
	Ministry of Defence / Defence Estates (MoD)		x		
	UKHO		x		
Statutory Bodies and Strategic Organisations	Cables	British Telecom (BT)	x		
	Aviation / Radar	Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) / NATS	x		
	Fisheries	Association of Salmon Fisheries Boards			x
		Marine Scotland - Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA)		x	
		Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)			x
		Fife Fishermen's Association			x
		Forth Fisheries Foundation			x
		Association of Salmon Fishery Boards			x
		Arbroath Fishermen's Association			x
		North Sea Regional Advisory Council			
		Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (TDSFB)			x
	Shipping	MCA		x	
		NLB		x	
		RYA		x	
		Scottish Canoe Association			x
		Port Authorities / Local Harbour Authorities			x
		Chamber of Shipping (CoS)			x
		British Ports Authority			x
		Visit Scotland			x
		British Marine Aggregates Producers Association			x
		British Marine Federation			x
		The Coal Authority			x
	Non-Governmental	Forth Estuary Forum			x
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)			x		

Organisation	British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)		x
	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society		x
	Firth of Forth Seabird Group		x
	Isle of May Bird Observatory		x
	Fife Bird Club		x
	Greenpeace		x
	National Trust for Scotland		x
	SMRU		x
	WWF Scotland		x
	Bat Conservation Trust		x
	Tay Estuary Forum		x
	Other	Renewable UK	
Scottish Renewables Forum (SRF)			x

The main onshore stakeholder groups identified are:

Stakeholder Groupings	Examples - Onshore	Statutory	Non-Statutory
UK Government/ Government Advisors/ Executive Agencies/ Non-departmental public bodies.	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	x	
	Historic Scotland (HS)	x	
	Ministry of Defence / Defence Estates (MoD)	x	
	Angus Council <i>Within the council: conservation officer, archaeology officer, biodiversity officer etc).</i>	x	
	Dundee Council <i>Within the council: conservation officer, archaeology officer, biodiversity officer etc).</i>	x	
	East Lothian Council <i>Within the council: conservation officer, archaeology officer, biodiversity officer etc).</i>	x	
	Fife Council <i>Within the council: conservation officer, archaeology officer, biodiversity officer etc).</i>	x	
Statutory Bodies and Strategic Organisations	Cables British Telecom (BT)	x	
	Aviation / Radar Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) / NATS	x	

	Fisheries	Association of Salmon Fisheries Boards		x
		Association of Salmon Fishery Boards		x
		Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (TDSFB)		x
	Shipping	Port Authorities / Local Harbour Authorities		x
	Economic	Scottish Enterprise		x
		Local Chamber of Commerce		x
		Visit Scotland		x
		The Coal Authority		x
	Landowners	Local landowners		x
	Non-Governmental Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)		x
		British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)		x
		Fife Bird Club		x
		Greenpeace		x
		National Trust for Scotland		x
		Fife Coast & Countryside Trust		x
		WWF Scotland		x
		Bat Conservation Trust		x
		Tay Estuary Forum		x
	Recreational	Carnoustie Golf Club		x
	Other	Renewables UK		x
Scottish Renewables Forum (SRF)			x	
Community	Local Coastal Communities	People living in the immediate vicinity of the windfarm or its ancillary works. These communities may wish to put forward proposals designed to increase the general acceptability of the proposals, for example to reduce visual impact on important public views or manage the overall impact of construction traffic on the local road network.		x
	General Public	The wider public living out with the immediate area, including individuals with an interest in the proposals who may wish to comment on the proposals or suggest amendments aimed at improving them.		



Some stakeholder groups are considered to be both on and offshore.

This list is not exhaustive, and the identification of stakeholders will be an ongoing process as the project develops. The existing stakeholders will have the opportunity to identify additional individuals and organisations for inclusion. The development of the list will be the subject of discussion with the relevant local planning authorities and the Marine Scotland.

4.2 Stakeholder Management Group

The large number of stakeholders, spread across a wide geographic area means that local knowledge will be important to develop a deployment plan for this strategy, which will be effective in meeting the different requirements of stakeholders across the area.

It is our intention to utilise the Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group (FATOWDG) to co-ordinate the input from various stakeholders.

It may be appropriate to create a number of different sub-groups within FATOWDG to fulfil the needs of different stakeholder groups. Two groups have been suggested below:

- **Offshore Wind Farm Community Forum.** Broadly, its remit would be to ensure that community concerns over the impact of the development were brought to the attention of the developer and the Planning Authority so that they could be addressed.
- **Offshore Wind Environmental Advisory Group.** It would be formed of representatives of environmental and regulatory organisations together with representatives of the local Councils. It would be independently chaired and would have an active monitoring function.

4.3 Stakeholder Mapping

The following diagrams illustrate the differences in impact and influence on the stakeholder groups for design area:

4.3.1 Offshore Wind Farm and Grid

Of the stakeholders some of the strategic stakeholders have the potential to be most greatly impacted by the development (see Figure 2- Stakeholder Mapping - Offshore Wind). These groups of stakeholders will need to be consulted on a regular basis as the design of the development progresses. It is recommended that this consultation is undertaken through a series of face-to-face meetings. At key times in the development cycle it may be appropriate to hold workshops to bring the key stakeholders together (e.g. Scoping Workshop).

The impact on the communities will be relatively low due to the distance of the development and its infrastructure from the nearest settlement. It is anticipated that changes to the design will have little impact on the overall impact of the development. It is suggested that communities are kept informed of the development through a series of local exhibitions and using either traditional or electronic media. The engagement strategy should reflect the fact that there are a number of other proposed offshore developments in the immediate area. It is expected that communities will want to understand the cumulative impact of these developments where possible information should be presented through the

consultation process and opportunities for joint events with other developers should be explored.

It will be important to keep local politicians informed on progress through individual briefings and private viewings of the exhibitions.

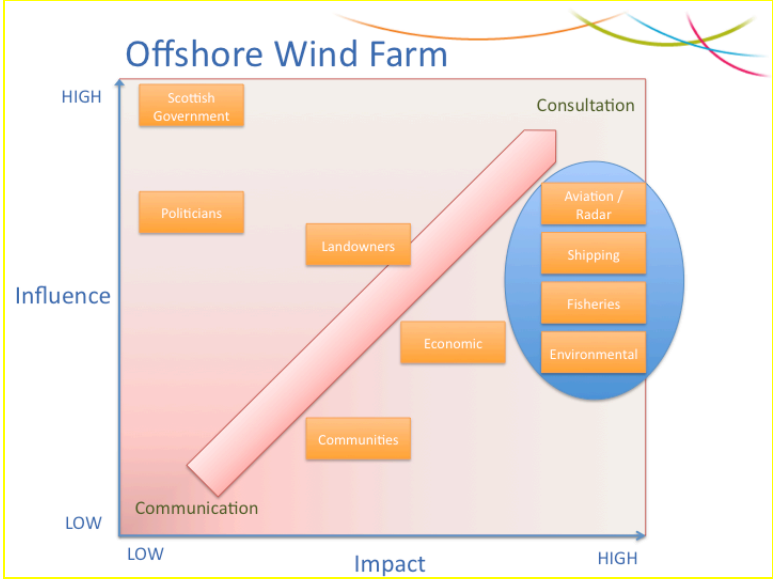


Figure 2- Stakeholder Mapping - Offshore Wind Farm

4.3.2 Onshore Grid Connection

The responsibility for consultation for the onshore grid connection will be shared between Scottish Power, the company responsible for providing the grid connection and NnGOWL. It is likely that the provision of a grid connection will require the construction of an electrical sub-station close to the point of landfall of the cable which transports the electricity from the wind farm. Impact is likely to be greater for local communities than compared to the offshore elements of the development. (See Figure 3 - Stakeholder Mapping - Onshore Grid). Therefore focus will be needed on consultation with local communities and their representative groups (eg Community Councils) to identify any ways of mitigating the impact of the development.

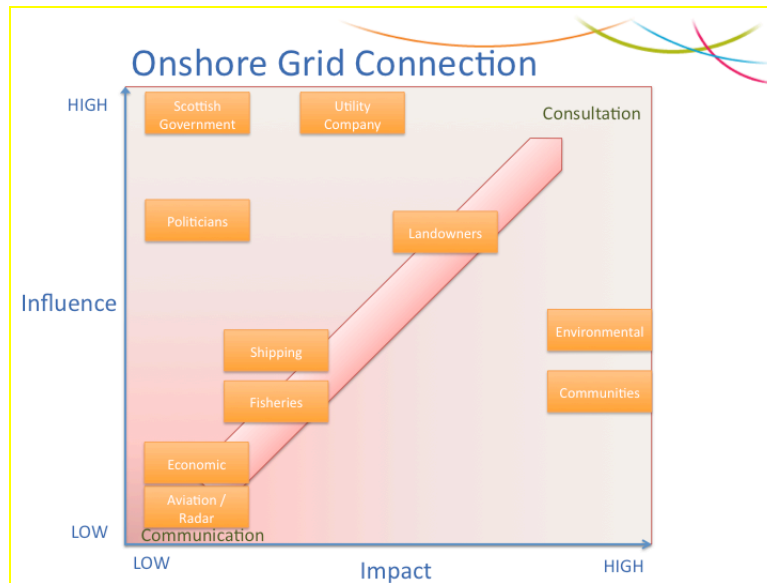


Figure 3 - Stakeholder Mapping - Onshore Grid Connection

4.3.3 Onshore Construction and Logistics

Consultation will need to take place with the stakeholders involved in onshore construction and logistics. There must be consideration of routine vessel movements (ferries, cargo, tanker traffic), port and harbour operations and fishing activities. Offshore surveys will also involve a vessel being stationary at locations within the site which should also be taken into consideration. The responsibility for consultation for the onshore construction and logistics will be shared between the port and harbour supplying the components and logistics for the development. Any planning application for changes to the port facility(ies) will be the responsibility of the relevant port authority rather than NnGOWL. However NnGOWL will need to consider specific consultation with the Economic stakeholders as well as the Shipping stakeholders. It is recommended that this consultation be undertaken jointly with the relevant port facility.

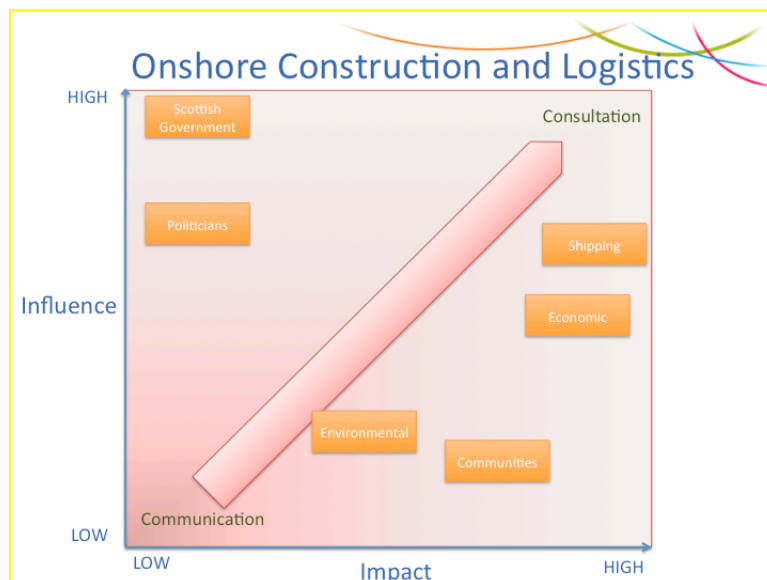


Figure 4 - Stakeholder Mapping - Onshore Construction and Logistics



5.0 Techniques for Stakeholder Engagement

Section 4.3 - Stakeholder Mapping identified some broad approaches to engaging the relevant stakeholder groups. Once key decisions have been made in each design area specific and appropriate engagement methods need to be selected in order to enable each of these groups to become involved in a way that is convenient for them. They also need to be provided with sufficient information in order to enable them to make an informed judgement.

The initial scoping consultation was aimed at familiarising consultees with the proposals and enabling them to make comments that will help improve the quality of submission made to the Scottish Executive.

While the method for engagement with statutory consultees is defined to meet legislative requirements, heavily focussed on document review, the engagement of strategic and community stakeholders requires a range of different approaches to enable and encourage effective engagement, with different methods employed to suit the needs of different groups. The most effective way of engaging all stakeholders will be to allow them to influence the direction their involvement takes. The Stakeholder Management Group will be important in tailoring appropriate approaches to different stakeholder groups.

5.1 Standard Question Set

Prior to each stage of engagement it is anticipated that we will develop a standard question set which will be agreed by the Stakeholder Management Group. It will be used with each engagement method to allow understanding of:

- Benefits
- Issues
- Options
- Opinion

5.2 Stakeholder Group Meetings/Focussed Topic Meetings

5.2.1 Workshops


Detailed specific engagement will be undertaken with specialist interest groups during the development phase of the project according to need, which will be assessed following the first stages of engagement. It is possible that the landowner, Crown Estates or FTOWDG, will want to organise these workshops with some of the other offshore developers.

As the project develops, there is likely to be a requirement to discuss specific topics, which are of interest to more than one stakeholder. For example the issue of navigation will be of interest to a range of organisations, and a single meeting for all interested participants may be beneficial.

Consideration will need to be given to the timing of the workshops. For those stakeholders involved in the fishing industry it will be best to plan workshops in the winter months. Workshops involving the community should be planned to avoid the main holiday periods.

5.2.2 Scoping Response

Consultation has already been held to gain input on the development's scoping report.



Stakeholders were informed of the availability of the Scoping Report via email. Comments were invited via email, letter or via the project website in the form of questionnaires or a direct contact option. The consultation process has gathered formal responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees. Although the Scoping Report was publically available, no responses were received from members of the public in direct response to it. Four responses were received using the questionnaire option on the website, two of which were from members of the public.

The associated consultation also included a stakeholder workshop in Dundee on the 25th November 2009, which was attended by representatives of NnGOWL, Emu Ltd and invited stakeholders. A separate Workshop Report (Near na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Stakeholder Event Report, January 2010) has been developed and is available to download on the project website.

The responses received were generally positive and related in the most part to the provision of guidance and legislative information and the inclusion of certain aspects to the Environmental Statement (ES).

The Scoping Consultation Report (reference 10/J/1/06/1419/1000) provides a qualitative analysis of the responses received during the consultation period. The review seeks to highlight the key issues raised by consultees during the consultation process, and to identify the next steps required to address the issues raised. The ultimate aim of the Scoping Consultation Report is to detail those comments received influence the scope and approach of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

A specific onshore scoping report will be produced and be subject to consultation in a similar way to the initial Scoping Consultation Report.

5.2.3 Community Groups

Engagement will be undertaken with existing community groups such as:

- Community Councils
- Schools
- Uniformed organisations, such as Scouts, Boys & Girls Brigade


to ensure that the engagement is representative.

5.3 Briefings and Newsletters

In order to provide a broad audience with the necessary information to express views and opinions on the project, briefing notes and newsletters, offering the opportunity to comment on the project will be made available and distributed directly to stakeholders. Different stakeholders will have interests in different aspects of the project, and materials will be drafted to suit their different interests. Copies of any communications will also be made available on the website.

5.4 Media Updates

At key stages throughout the project, information will be disseminated to the local press through issuing news releases. The local press will also be used to advise of public events such as exhibitions to enable broad public access. Near na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd expects to develop a strong relationship with representatives of the local media through the



development of the project; the nature of the project is expected to be of interest to national media, especially at key stages of the project's development and deployment.

5.5 Pre-Application Public Exhibitions

Public exhibitions will be held at suitable locations along the coastline in settlements on the Lothian and Fife coast. They will be advertised through the local press and through local community councils, notice boards, etc. An initial round of exhibitions will be held in late November 2010. The exhibitions will provide a range of means of disseminating information including:

- A project 'story board' display
- General information about offshore windfarms
- Project briefing notes which offer the opportunity for stakeholder feedback
- Video displays
- Face to face discussion with representatives of the project
- Capturing opinions / views on the development

Such events provide an opportunity for broad stakeholder involvement, and encourage participation by people who may be discouraged from contributing in the forum of a conventional public meeting. Such exhibitions will be held over the course of a day and evening, and are thus accessible to more people than a public meeting whose audience is restricted to those who can attend at a given time. These will be held in a variety of venues (community halls, shopping centres etc.) with guidance from the Stakeholder Management Group.

Previous experience of such events held to engage with stakeholders highlights the real benefits of this form of engagement. The events provide interested members of the general public direct access to the project team, who should be able to discuss technical, social and environmental questions, which will be raised.


It is proposed that a programme of public exhibitions will be planned after the publication of the scoping report, to enable stakeholders to comment on the development, and commence the process of issue identification and discussion at an early stage in the process.

A further programme of public exhibitions is proposed after the publication of the Environmental Statement and Consultation Report in order to disseminate information about how consultation has shaped the development proposals, and how decisions about the final application have been reached.

5.6 Project Website

Increasing use of the internet means that this is a convenient way for many stakeholders to engage with proposed developments. Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd has already established a dedicated project website to provide updates on the project, access to key documents and contact information for the project team.

The project website can be found at www.neartnagaoithe.com and already contains information on the Scoping Report which has influenced the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment. A dedicated public email address exists (info@neartnagaoithe.com) for people to contact the development team.



The website will provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to register for e-mail updates, and a dedicated public email address will allow stakeholders an easy means of providing comment and feedback on the proposed development.

Questionnaires used at different stages of the development will be available at the relevant times.

5.7 Other Engagement Methods

Examples of consultation methods that can be used are:

- ☞ Individual face to face meetings with close neighbours;
- ☞ Telephone polls;
- ☞ Employment of specific industry liaison officers eg Fishery Liaison Officers.;
- ☞ Focus groups;
- ☞ Social networking.

The design of each engagement programme will be agreed with the Stakeholder Management Group. In addition the results of each engagement will be monitored to ensure that the engagement programme meets and exceeds agreed standards. Moreover, because all methods used have a consistent design, reporting will be clear and consistent. In particular, meaningful like-for-like comparison of the output from different consultation activities will be possible.

5.8 Single Point of Contact

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd will identify a named project representative at an early stage in the project. Their contact details will be supplied to stakeholders and community leaders to allow an effective relationship between stakeholders and the project to be established. This is Zoe Crutchfield.



6.0 Model For Stakeholder Engagement

The stakeholder management strategy will be guided by the SP=EED (Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) framework.

6.1 SP=EED Auditing Process

SP=EED is a framework published by Planning Aid for Scotland in October 2008. Planning Aid for Scotland is an independent voluntary organisation comprising of qualified and respected planning experts, which aims:

“...to provide advice and training, delivered by our network of fully qualified and experienced town planners. [It] also undertakes action research to continue to provide best practice on community engagement”⁵

The SP=EED framework is derived from PAN 81, which was issued by the Scottish executive in 2006 in conjunction with the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. SP=EED itself is:

“a practical guide to community engagement for all those involved in the Scottish planning system. It is designed to speed up the process of public involvement in planning, while also enhancing the quality of that process”⁶

Though neither prescriptive nor legally binding, it does provide what amounts to an accumulation of best practice. It encourages a front-loaded engagement process – that is, one in which effective stakeholder engagement commences as early as possible, before too much has been invested and/or irreversible decisions have been made.

⁵ See Planning Aid for Scotland website at www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk

⁶ A Practical Guide to Better Engagement in Planning in Scotland, published by Planning Aid for Scotland in October 2008.

6.2 Details of the SP=EED Approach

The SP=EED approach is based around a matrix describing ten criteria of effective engagement, with three levels for each criterion. The following table contains a summary of the matrix:

	Level 1: Giving Information	Level 2: Consulting and Listening	Level 3: Partnership
Transparency and Integrity	Clear purpose for the consultation.	Communities made clearly aware of how they can participate.	Key stakeholders involved in the design of the engagement process.
Time and Resources	Published timetable.	Adequate periods for meetings and discussion are planned.	Timetable agreed with communities, and support given to them to develop their own proposals.
Information	Relevant, accurate, accessible and verifiable information.	Information is actively shared between all participants.	Communities encouraged to identify information gaps and helped to disseminate their own findings.
Co-ordination	Relevant relationships explained.	Co-ordinated approach that avoids duplication of effort.	Co-ordination strategy discussed and agreed with communities.
Responsive	Further information can be sought by anyone.	Responses, and actions arising from them, are communicated to all stakeholders.	Structured forums provided for stakeholder responses, and stakeholder influence on final proposal explained in detail.
Accessible and Appropriate	Information available to all stakeholders.	Information in a format tailored for relevant stakeholders.	Effectiveness of the consultation approach assessed regularly and transparently.
Inclusive and Reaching Out	Information can reach all stakeholders.	Consultation consciously designed to engage all stakeholders, especially groups that might be under-represented.	Marginalised groups actively assisted to enable them to participate.
Representative	Stakeholders are identified and reached.	Consultation profile matches local demography as well as non-local stakeholders.	Robust systems put in place, and monitored, to ensure full stakeholder representation.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Information distribution is monitored.	The feelings and opinions of all participants are assessed.	Monitoring systems devised, agreed with all stakeholders, and put into continuous operation.
Learning and Sharing	Experience gained is used for continuous improvement.	“Lessons learned” are shared with others.	Sharing of experience and skills throughout the process, with training available to all participants.

Table 2 - Summary of SP=EED



6.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

This application for development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will describe the project and consider the potential environmental impacts (including socio-economic impacts) in detail. The outcome of the assessment will be detailed in an Environmental Statement (ES).

The EIA process itself makes provision for concerns about the impact of the project to be raised and appropriately addressed before the application is submitted. It also makes available information about the project through an established procedure for consulting with a limited number of (usually statutory) consultees. The broader voluntary stakeholder engagement process will, as far as possible, mesh with the formal process for statutory consents; however the methods, materials and timescales for engagement will require to be tailored to suit the different needs of a much broader audience of stakeholders.

The scope and terms of reference of the EIA have already been established through the scoping report, which has already been submitted to the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Consents Unit, and to statutory consultees. This report forms the first part of the EIA process, and will provide information about the project and focus attention on the key impacts of the project and thereby the priority issues to be addressed.

6.4 Reporting & Recording

The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will bring Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd in contact with a large volume of individuals and organisations. We will maintain a database to record that contact, the issues which are raised and the responses to those issues.

This will enable the publication of a Consultation Report along with the Environmental Statement prior to the submission of application. This document will allow stakeholders to review the engagement process, identify how consultation has influenced the project, and understand how and why decisions about the development proposals have been reached.



7.0 Post Application Engagement

This document has focussed on pre-application stakeholder engagement. Although consultation with stakeholders becomes the responsibility of statutory bodies after the application is submitted, NnGOWL will continue to work closely with stakeholders, and with the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland while the formal application is being considered.

NnGOWL will put in place suitable structures and procedures to ensure effective community engagement during the construction and operation and maintenance of the development (see Section 4.3 - Stakeholder Management Group.)

8.0 Project Contacts

Cameron Smith, Country Manager Scotland
Zoe Crutchfield, Environment and Consents Manager

Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd.,
Abbey Business Centre, "The Beacon",
176 St. Vincent Street
GLASGOW.
0141 249 6580

9.0 Action Required

Those in receipt of this paper are asked to consider the proposed consultation programme and put forward any suggestions for alterations or additions.

10.0 References

Emu Limited 2009, Neart na Gaoithe Scoping Report (Neart na Gaoithe Proposed Offshore Wind Farm Scoping Report, November 2009, reference 09/J/1/06/1419/0848).

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Stakeholder Event Report, January 2010



B APPENDIX 2 – IAP² VALUES

Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.



B Appendix 2 – SP=EED report

Neart na Gaoithe Proposed Offshore Wind Farm

An independent audit
of the community
consultation process

October 2011



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Facilitating Change (UK) Ltd

Consultation Audit Report – October 2011:

Document Release and Authorisation Record.			
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Date:	05 October 2011		
Client Name:	Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd		
Client Contact(s):	Ewan Walker		
QA	Name	Signature	Date
Project Manager	Victoria McCusker (Facilitating Change)		06/10/2011
Report written by	Victoria McCusker (Facilitating Change)		06/10/2011
Report checked by	Chris Whitehead (Facilitating Change)		21/10/2011
Report authorised by	Ewan Walker (Mainstream Renewable Power)		



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document summarises the audit of the public consultation by Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd, both completed and planned, for the proposed Neart Na Gaoithe wind farm. The audit has been undertaken by Facilitating Change. It describes the proposed development and Planning Aid for Scotland's "SP=EED" framework (Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) which forms the basis of the auditing process.

The quality of public consultation is only one factor in determining the merits, or otherwise, of a major development and Facilitating Change do not presume to comment on whether the proposal should or should not be approved. Nevertheless, the consultation plan was submitted to both Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council for consideration and both consenting bodies have indicated that, if implemented, the proposed plan represents an acceptable format and level of stakeholder engagement.

Facilitating Change has worked with Mainstream Renewable Power to develop a front-loaded engagement process – that is, one in which effective stakeholder engagement commences as early as possible, before too much has been invested and/or irreversible decisions have been made. This audit seeks to identify to what extent the proposed stakeholder consultation plan has effectively been implemented and whether or not further engagement activities are required prior to a planning application being submitted.

The audit indicates that elements of the consultation process have been highly successful in engaging affected communities and canvassing representative local opinion. In particular, Mainstream has attained Level 3 of the SP=EED framework (ie: the highest level) in relation to the appropriateness of the engagement process and it is anticipated that it will also achieve this level for responsiveness. Furthermore, it has achieved Level 2 in relation to coordination, information and inclusiveness. It is expected that Level 2 will be reached in all but two of the areas once planned activities are undertaken.

Notwithstanding the above successes, the audit also highlighted a number of gaps in the consultation process. Indeed, a number of fairly minor changes to the implementation process would have resulted in a more consistent and comprehensive level of achievement in the audit scoring system.

The audit concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at addressing the gaps identified in the consultation process. The recommendations are detailed in relation to the corresponding criteria and levels they seek to fulfil.



INTRODUCING FACILITATING CHANGE

Facilitating Change (UK) Limited has prepared this report under contract to Mainstream Renewable Power.

Facilitating Change (UK) Limited is a highly respected facilitation company that works with clients in both the public and private sectors:

- ☞ to deliver public consultation processes
- ☞ to facilitate meetings, workshops and conferences

We have in-depth knowledge of current and forthcoming planning legislation, at both local and national levels as well as pan-European best practice principles. As independent facilitators, we work with the three major groups involved in the planning process:

- ☞ Developers
- ☞ Planning authorities
- ☞ Local communities

In undertaking consultation activities, Facilitating Change professionals act independently to build mutual trust and respect with stakeholder groups. They specialise in delivering large consultation and engagement programmes where groups with diverse ideas and beliefs come together to discuss issues affecting their community.

By their very nature, major developments are often contentious, since they can involve many conflicting interests. Facilitating Change's aim is to broker agreement and consensus between parties as early as possible in a development. In doing so, we aim to foster constructive long-term relationships so that:

- ☞ planning authorities can meet national and local objectives and national targets;
- ☞ developers can build installations that are both commercially and socially viable;
- ☞ local communities can actively influence their design, construction and operation.

Further information about Facilitating Change is available through its web site:

<http://www.fchange.com>



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ACRONYMS

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FTOWDG	Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group
NnGOWL	Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
SP=EED	Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement & Delivery
COWRIE	Collaborative Offshore Wind farm Research into the Environment
PAN	Planning Advice Note
SOCC	Statement of Community Consultation
CC	Community Council

1.0 OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd is proposing to develop an offshore wind farm of up to 450MW, 15.5 km east of Fife Ness, off the coast of Fife and the Lothians (see Figure 1 - Illustrative Layout & Design). The proposed wind farm is known as Neart na Gaoithe and is expected to comprise between 64 and 130 turbines (either 3.6MW or 7MW machines). The target capacity of the development will be 420MW with a projected lifetime of 40 years.

Further details of the proposal are provided in Mainstream's own storyboards and A5 booklet which were used during the consultation process.

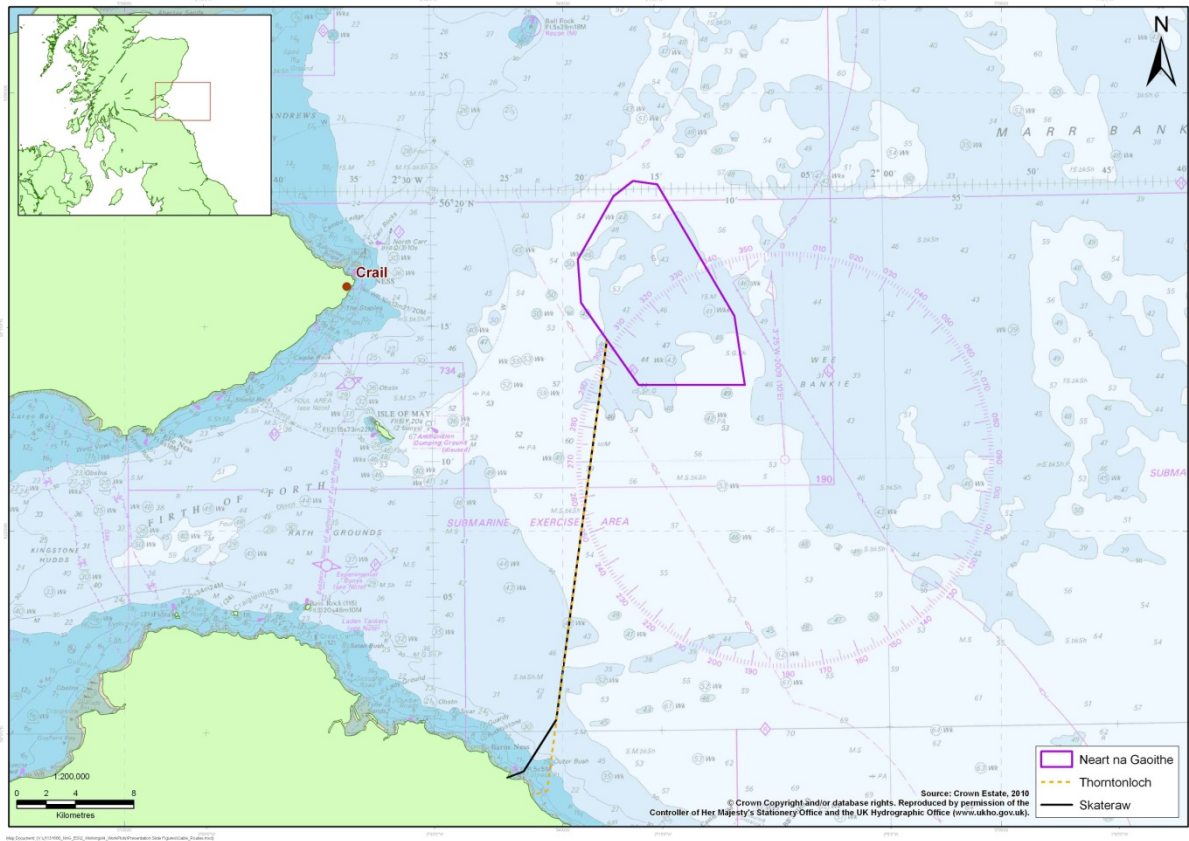


Figure 1 - Illustrative Layout & Design



2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 has reformed the Scottish planning system with a view to creating more efficient planning processes with higher quality outcomes. Specifically, speeding up the processing of 'national' and 'major' developments through the planning system has been a key objective of the reform.

The Scottish Government is also keen to ensure that communities have increased involvement in the planning of developments which will have an impact on either their community or the environment. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 and the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 make legislative provisions to ensure that developers of 'major' project undertake meaningful and proportionate consultation with affected communities.

In accordance with the 2006 Act, the developer is required to provide a "proposal of application notice" to the consenting body; identifying the consultation that has been, and will be, undertaken with the community prior to the planning application being submitted.

2.2 CONSENTING PROCEDURE

For the construction of a power generation facility, such as an offshore wind farm, Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 requires that a planning application be made to Scottish Ministers through the Scottish Government agency, Marine Scotland.

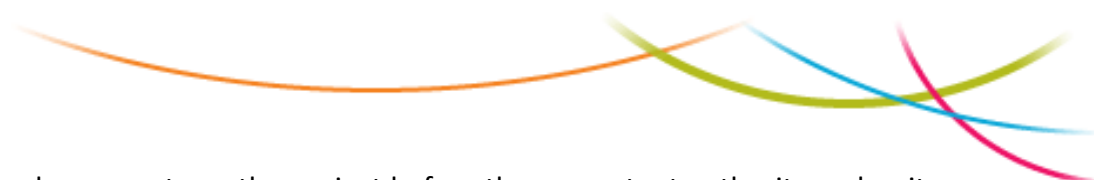
Section 36 legislation suggests that the Government's Planning Advice Notes PAN 81¹ should guide engagement. (This PAN has since been revoked and is replaced by PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement). Furthermore, the 1989 Act was recently amended by the Energy Act 2004 which broadened the scope of Section 36 to include certain marine and navigational matters. (There is no longer the requirement to promote a private bill in Parliament, with its associated public consultation.) Discussions are on-going with Marine Scotland with regard to their requirements for public and stakeholder engagement on the project.

The onshore works will be subject to a separate planning application under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. The onshore works are considered to constitute 'major' development and the planning application for this part of the scheme will be determined by East Lothian Council.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

The consenting procedure for a development of this type requires that 'Environmental Impact Assessments' (EIAs) are conducted in relation to both the onshore and offshore aspects of the proposal. EIA is a process for ensuring that the potential environmental impacts of a project are identified, assessed, managed and reduced to acceptable levels before 'development consent' can be given. The EIA also provides a means of supplying information to the public regarding the likely environmental effects of the project, enabling

¹ Section 36 Guidance Notes – 2.2.1



them to make informed comments on the project before the competent authority makes its decision.

2.4 SCOPING

The proposed development and the projected impacts were described in the 'Near na Gaoithe Scoping Report' (November 2009). The Scoping Report provided an overview of the planned project, a desk-based environmental description, and an examination of the potential impacts of the project at a high level. The Scoping Report formally opened dialogue between the stakeholders and the developer at an early stage of the project in terms of providing information and clarity of intent. It set out the stages of the process which have been undertaken to date and provided an opportunity for interested parties to review the proposed assessment methodologies and make recommendations or comments to the developer to consider in the next stages of the consent process.



3.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

Mainstream Renewable Power continues to seek to work with all stakeholders (organisations, individuals and communities) who have an interest in the project, whether as a result of their activities or their location. It is intended that this approach will enable the development to benefit from the considerable experience of the stakeholders and allow the project to develop with the involvement of those stakeholders whom it will ultimately impact on.

3.2 STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT PLAN

In order to achieve its consultation objectives, Mainstream commissioned the creation of a Stakeholder Management Plan which outlined the engagement that the developer planned to undertake with all of its stakeholders and the general public (or 'community'). The resulting plan was published in June 2010.

3.3 LIMITATIONS OF CONSULTATION AUDIT

Notwithstanding the above, this audit report relates solely to consultation with local communities and local stakeholders, rather than engagement with statutory consultees (e.g. the Scottish Environment Protection Agency). The requirements for consultation with the statutory consultees and interested parties, such as landowners, are laid down in the 2006 Act and associated regulations. While reference is made to the initial consultation which has taken place with statutory and non-statutory consultees during the scoping of the Environmental Impact Assessment, this audit will not report in detail on that process.

3.4 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION & MANAGEMENT

Following publication of the Scoping Report, Mainstream conducted a workshop with those stakeholders identified as having an interest in the issues raised. The list of invitees was devised based on the delegate list from an earlier collaborative workshop held by the Crown Estate which sought to introduce FTOWDG members to key stakeholders. The purpose of the scoping workshop was two-fold:

1. To consult with stakeholders regarding the content, data sources, and overall assessment contained in the Scoping Report;
2. To discuss and critique the proposed survey methodology with key experts prior to commencement of the surveys.

In addition to the above aims, the workshop also served to identify any gaps in the stakeholder mapping process and provided insight into the best ways in which to engage with key groups. The results of the scoping workshop are detailed in the Stakeholder Workshop Report.

3.5 COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The relevant community councils were consulted regarding the locations and timings of the public events. In response, the Innerwick public exhibition was timetabled to dovetail with a meeting of the East Lammermuir Community Council. Similarly, the exhibition scheduled for November 2011 has been arranged to dovetail with their November meeting which is being held in Spott Village Hall.



3.6 MEDIA UPDATES

Each of the public consultation events has been advertised in local publications and on local radio stations, where relevant. Press releases have also been issued with a view to securing editorial coverage.

3.7 PROJECT WEBSITE

Mainstream Renewable Power has created a project website which provides details of the proposal and includes links to associated sources of information, such as the Scottish Government, the Crown Estate and COWRIE (Collaborative Offshore Wind farm Research into the Environment). The website is regularly updated with details of forthcoming events, including public exhibitions. Specifically, it includes a project update information brochure, produced at the end of 2010 which: gives a summary of progress; describes the new consenting process; and discusses future consultation plans and public involvement strategies.

Documents such as the Scoping Report which was submitted to the Scottish Government are also available to download (www.neartnagaoithe.com).

3.8 PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

A key consultation tool has been the use of public exhibitions and attendance at established community events. These are summarised in **Table 1** with full reports appended to this document.

In the first instance, public exhibition venues were selected in areas from where the development is likely to be most visible. On this basis, two venues were chosen in Fife and one in Angus. Venues were chosen that were accessible to the public and were staffed to ensure that those attending would be able to engage in face-to-face dialogue.

In May 2011, additional public exhibition events were held in East Lothian (Dunbar and Innerwick), close to the location of the proposed onshore cable route and grid connection. Again, these were held in accessible locations and were staffed for the duration of the events.


In an attempt to reach population groups that were not fully represented at the earlier events, Mainstream made the decision to exhibit at four community galas and fetes in Fife, Angus and East Lothian throughout the summer of 2011. As well as reaching a wider range of demographic groups than the initial exhibitions, these events were a good opportunity to engage with some of the key stakeholder groups such as sailors and fishermen.

The initial proposal was to hold joint events with the other Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group (FTOWDG) members. However the only event where there was a joint presentation was at Carnoustie where Repsol (formerly SeaEnergy) attended and presented jointly with Mainstream.

In autumn 2011, a further exhibition is planned at Spott Village Hall, Dunbar. This is in the vicinity of the proposed cable route as it comes ashore.

3.9 FORMAT OF EVENTS

Information about the project was displayed at each of the events, whether public exhibitions or stands at fetes and galas. Exhibition boards were used to illustrate:

- 
- Introduction to the development
 - Overview of the development time line
 - Outline of consenting process
 - Graphic representations of the development from key viewpoints
 - Key areas of survey work that has been (and continues to be) undertaken on aspects of the development

Each even included a resources area where more information about renewable energy, the developer and the project were available, both for adults and children.

Exhibition participants were also asked to complete a questionnaire about the development and associated issues.

3.10 PROMOTION OF EVENTS

Table 1 includes information regarding the key tools Mainstream used to promote each of the public consultation events, including: leaflet drops, on-street canvassing, media coverage, advertising, and e-mail invitations. In the two weeks prior to the events taking place, posters were distributed to local businesses, the buildings hosting the events (where appropriate), and other local public buildings. As this was done in person, it also presented an opportunity for the proprietors of these properties to be briefed on the events and to allow them to spread the message.

In addition to the marketing approaches detailed above, Mainstream also provided sponsorship of each of the summer galas and fetes as a way of increasing the profile of the development and developing relationships with the local coastal communities.

Table 1: Summary of Public Consultation Events & Associated Promotional Activities

Location	Date	Format	Leaflet Drop	Media	Invited	Report
Dundee, Fife	Wed 25 th Nov 2010	Stakeholder scoping workshop	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	List of identified stakeholders	Yes
St. Andrews, Fife	Tues 23 rd Nov 2010	Public exhibition	On event days, Facilitating Change team member walked around vicinity handing out flyers and encouraging attendance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advert broadcast on Radio Tay prior to events ¼ page adverts in East Fife Mail, Herald & Citizen, Fife Leader, Carnoustie Guide, Arbroath Herald, www.fifetoday.co.uk 	Emails sent to 480 interested individuals	Yes
Crail, Fife	Wed 24 th Nov 2010	Public exhibition				
Carnoustie, Angus	Tues 25 th Jan 2011	Public exhibition				
Innerwick, East Lothian	Tues 10 th May 2011	Public exhibition	EH42 1 TD13 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¼ page advert in East Lothian Courier Press release to same paper 	Emails sent to 480 interested individuals	Yes
Dunbar, East Lothian	Wed 11 th May 2011	Public exhibition	EH42 1 TD13 5			
Pittenweem, Fife	Sat 25 th June 2011	Gala	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events promoted throughout local areas by organisers Additional media coverage to specifically promote Mainstream's exhibition was not deemed appropriate/ necessary 	N/A	Yes
Carnoustie, Angus	Sat 2 nd July 2011	Gala				
Dunbar, East Lothian	Sat 16 th July 2011	RNLI day				
Anstruther, Fife	Sat 6 th Aug 2011	Muster				
Dunbar, East Lothian	Tues 29 th Nov 2011	Public exhibition	EH42 1 TD13 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¼ page advert in East Lothian Courier Press release to same paper 	Emails sent to 480 interested individuals	Yes

4.0 AUDIT OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 PURPOSE OF AUDIT

The purpose of this document is to audit the engagement activities that Mainstream Renewable Power has already undertaken in relation to the proposed Neart na Gaoithe wind farm. The audit will allow Mainstream to establish whether or not the consultation process has been ‘meaningful and appropriate’ in line with the 2006 Act. In this regard, Facilitating Change has adopted Planning Aid for Scotland’s SP=EED framework to assess whether or not the consultation undertaken by Mainstream Renewable Power either meets or exceeds the consultation requirements agreed by the relevant planning authorities (Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council).

4.2 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Ultimately, Mainstream Renewable Power will submit a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) to support the Section 36 application to Marine Scotland. The SOCC will be expected to contain:

- Details of stakeholder and community consultation;
- A list of everyone consulted;
- A summary of the discussions with consultees;
- Details of how the proposals have changed throughout the engagement programme;
- A summary of issues that have been raised and how they have been addressed, describing whether action has been taken or if none has been taken the rationale for that decision.

In light of the above, it is the intention that this audit will highlight any gaps in the consultation process and ascertain which aspects of the stakeholder management plan still require to be addressed.

4.3 SP=EED AUDITING PROCESS

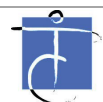
SP=EED (Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) is a framework published by Planning Aid for Scotland in October 2008 (and updated in 2011). Planning Aid for Scotland is an independent voluntary organisation comprising qualified and respected planning experts which aims to:

“...provide advice and training, delivered by our network of fully qualified and experienced town planners. [It] also undertakes action research to continue to provide best practice on community engagement.”²

The SP=EED framework is derived from PAN 81, which was issued by the Scottish Executive in 2006 in conjunction with the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. It is also endorsed by the Scottish Government in PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement which replaces PAN 81. SP=EED itself is a:

“...practical guide to community engagement for all those involved in the Scottish planning system. It is designed to speed up the process of public involvement in planning, while also enhancing the quality of that process.”³

² See Planning Aid for Scotland website at www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk



Although neither prescriptive nor legally binding, SP=EED does provide what amounts to an accumulation of best practice. Specifically, it **encourages a front-loaded engagement process; that is, one in which effective stakeholder engagement commences as early as possible, before too much has been invested and/or irreversible decisions have been made.** This is in keeping with the intention of the Planning Act itself.

4.4 DETAILS OF THE SP=EED APPROACH

The SP=EED approach is based around a matrix describing eight (formerly ten⁴) criteria for effective engagement, with three levels for each criterion.

Table 2 contains a summary of the matrix including what should be aimed for to meet the three levels of engagement.

4.5 FACILITATING CHANGE'S USE OF THE SP=EED AUDIT PROCESS

At Facilitating Change, we recognise the value of SP=EED, particularly in its aims of fostering co-operation between stakeholders and front-loading consultation.

Based on our extensive experience of the consultation process, stakeholder engagement, and independently gauging stakeholder opinion, we have produced a series of closed questions for each element of the matrix to enable us to state clearly whether a consultation process does, or does not, meet the requirements of each criterion at each level.

For each of the eight criteria, we are thereby able to determine what level of SP=EED has been reached.

4.6 LEVEL 0: LEGAL REQUIREMENT

In the spirit of the tool which is meant to serve as a guideline, Facilitating Change has added a foundation level (Level 0) to the existing SP=EED Levels 1-3. Level 0 represents the statutory minimum level of engagement necessary for a planning application to be considered at all. In any given case, the relevant planning authority may require more than this minimum and, in general, Facilitating Change encourages developers to exceed it although this may not always be appropriate.

In accordance with the legislative guidance, Level 0 does not cover all eight SP=EED criteria but only relates to the following four:

2. Co-ordination
3. Information
4. Appropriateness
5. Responsiveness

4.7 TAILORING FOR NATIONAL & MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

SP=EED is intended to be used to guide consultation in the context of both development planning and development management (which covers all national and major

³ A Practical Guide to Better Engagement in Planning in Scotland, published by Planning Aid for Scotland in October 2008.

⁴ The original 10 criteria were reduced to 8 in the re-drafted version of SP=EED, published in 2011. Although there are now fewer criteria, they broadly cover the same aspects as were referred to in the original 10.

developments). The development with which this document is concerned is a major development, and we have therefore targeted the audit questions accordingly.



Table 2: SP=EED Criteria for Effective Engagement

	Level 1: Giving Information	Level 2 (Level 1 +): Consulting & Listening	Level 3 (Levels 1 & 2+): Partnership
1. Transparency and Integrity	The purpose of the engagement is clear and people can find out about it easily.	Rights to participate are clearly explained and opportunities to express opinions are publicised.	Dialogue will take place with partners about how they will be involved in the engagement process and how their input will be used.
2. Co-ordination	The timetable for the engagement process will be published and relevant relationships explained.	The timetable for the engagement process will include adequate periods for meetings, public events and discussions with stakeholders.	The timetable for the engagement process will include opportunities for partners to develop their own ideas; partners will be involved in discussing how to co-ordinate actions.
3. Information	Information will be relevant, accurate and comprehensible to the target audience.	Information will be communicated and shared, aiming to invite feedback.	Identification, collection and dissemination of relevant new information by partners is encouraged.
4. Appropriateness	Information will be presented to suit its intended audience and can be accessed by all stakeholders at each stage of the process.	Engagement processes to fit the situation to be used, with opportunities for discussion and for questions to be raised and answered.	A collaborate approach to working with partners on proposals, and regular review of the engagement process.
5. Responsiveness	Relevant information will be provided at every stage of the process.	Findings from the engagement process will be analysed, disseminated, and potentially incorporated.	Partners will be offered the opportunity to present and discuss their own ideas and receive feedback.
6. Inclusiveness	Relevant representative groups/ organisations will be identified and information will be designed and disseminated to reach them.	An emphasis will be placed on allowing the voices of seldom heard groups and those most likely to be affected to be heard.	Assistance and advice will be made available to seldom heard groups to enable them to become partners in the process; overall, a representative range of stakeholders will be consulted.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	Distribution of information and feedback received on the engagement process will be analysed after the process is completed.	Monitoring and evaluation of the engagement process will take place on an on-going basis.	Monitoring and evaluation processes will be devised in collaboration with stakeholders.
8. Learning and Sharing	Lessons from the engagement process will be identified and lead to on-going improvements in quality.	Lessons from the engagement process will be reviewed and shared with a focus on learning and training.	The creation of a creative, problem-solving culture where skills and experience are pooled, shared and enhanced.

5.0 AUDIT FINDINGS

The full audit findings are appended to this report (Appendix A).

5.1 SUMMARY OF AUDIT OUTCOME

In terms of meeting the eight SP=EED criteria, the findings are summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Summary of SP=EED Audit Findings

	Level 0: Legal Requirement	Level 1: Giving Information	Level 2: Consulting & Listening	Level 3: Partnership
1. Transparency and Integrity	N/A	ACHIEVED	Fail	Fail
2. Co-ordination	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	Fail
3. Information	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	Fail
4. Appropriateness	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED
5. Responsiveness	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Planned</i>	ACHIEVED
6. Inclusiveness	N/A	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	Fail
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	N/A	<i>Planned</i>	ACHIEVED	Fail
8. Learning and Sharing	N/A	<i>Planned</i>	Fail	Fail

5.2 ANALYSIS

The audit has indicated that certain aspects of the consultation process have been undertaken successfully and have fulfilled the requirements of the SP=EED framework. Nevertheless, the audit has also revealed that the consultation plan has not been wholly implemented in a methodical and systematic manner. While a considerable range of effective public events has been held, the engagement infrastructure has not always supported these events to take best advantage of the opportunities they have presented. It is now necessary for a degree of remedial and consolidating action to be undertaken to maximise the benefits of the engagement and ensure that the consultation process as a whole fulfils the requirements of the planning process.

In relation to **transparency and integrity**, to achieve Level 2 of SP=EED it is a requirement that an explanation is provided to stakeholders during the life of the project which issues they can actually influence. It is not apparent that this has been done during the consultation process. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the SP=EED tool is designed to cover engagement during the processes of development planning as well as development management. It is suggested that this goal may be a more achievable ambition for projects

involving the former as opposed to this type of scheme which involves the latter. It therefore may well be the case that Level 2 cannot be achieved in this instance.

Regarding responsiveness, a number of key tasks are planned. Therefore Levels 0, 1 & 2 can only be achieved once these activities are complete. It is anticipated that these will not represent onerous undertakings and recommendations aimed at fulfilling them are detailed in Table 4.

To improve **inclusiveness**, it is suggested that the survey tool employed at the public events and through the website be used to survey the population as a whole. This could be done through the use of a telephone or postal questionnaire and will allow a more representative view of public opinion to be established.

To satisfactorily complete the **monitoring and evaluation** process, it will be necessary to prepare a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report which details the consultation practises employed. This should include a summary of the methods used, events held, and numbers reached, as well as a demographic profile of participants. Should Mainstream aspire to reach Level 3 in relation to this criterion, then consideration will require to be given to involving stakeholders in devising monitoring and evaluation processes to appraise their satisfaction with the engagement. This should be undertaken with a view to reviewing or amending the consultation process in response to any stakeholder feedback received during the course of the process.

Key aspects of best practice relate to **learning and sharing** experiences with colleagues and other practitioners. While undertaking a consultation audit provides a significant opportunity to achieve this aim, to be truly effective it is critical that the findings of the audit are relayed to relevant staff. It should also be the case that the experiences of this consultation process are used to inform future engagement exercises and, potentially, to train future stakeholder groups in stakeholder engagement techniques.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS OF AUDIT

Table 4 details the audit recommendations for further action by Mainstream Renewable Power. The recommendations are categorised according to the SP=EED criteria to which they relate and each is made with a view to achieving a particular level of the SP=EED assessment (indicated in brackets following the recommendation). It should be noted, however, that while implementing these recommendations would represent best practice, it may not necessarily guarantee achievement of the level indicated. Indeed, reaching the next level of SP=EED may not always be feasible or desirable.

Table 4: Recommendations of Audit

1. TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY	
Recommendation	<p>It is important to understand how those consulted can influence the design of the final development. Once this is understood it should be communicated to all relevant stakeholders. (LEVEL 2)</p> <p>All decisions relating to changes to the proposals should be recorded and made accessible to the community via the project website. (LEVEL 3)</p>
2. CO-ORDINATION	
Recommendation	<p>An engagement or liaison group with representatives from the local community should be established to cover the construction phase of the onshore aspects of the development. (LEVEL 3)</p>
3. INFORMATION	
Recommendation	<p>Consideration should be given to achieving Level 3 for future engagement processes. This will mean engaging community groups in the earliest stages of designing the consultation. (LEVEL 3)</p>
4. APPROPRIATENESS	
Recommendation	<p>Processes should be replicated in future engagement activities. (LEVEL N/A)</p>
5. RESPONSIVENESS	
Recommendation	<p>A more formal system or process for responding to queries and feedback should be established. (LEVEL 0)</p> <p>Responses to comments made during the consultation should be recorded in the PACC Report. (LEVEL 0)</p> <p>A baseline development proposal should be established which can then be compared to the final proposal and any changes publicised on the project website. (LEVEL 1)</p> <p>The event reports should be put on the project website and publicised to stakeholders via the email mailing list. (LEVEL 2)</p>
6. INCLUSIVENESS	
Recommendation	<p>The questionnaire used at the public events could be used to undertake a more extensive (and representative) assessment of the population as a whole; either through a telephone or postal survey. (LEVEL 3)</p>
7. MONITORING & EVALUATION	
Recommendation	<p>Consideration should be given to achieving Level 3 for future engagement processes. This will mean engaging community groups in the earliest stages of designing the consultation. (LEVEL 3)</p>
8. LEARNING & SHARING	
Recommendation	<p>The outcome of the SP=EED audit of the consultation process should be relayed to relevant staff. (LEVEL 1)</p>

APPENDICES

A: AUDIT OUTPUT

SP=EED AUDIT FOR CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL & MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

CRITERIA	LEVEL 0	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	Legal Requirement	Giving Information	Consulting & Listening	Partnership
1 Transparency & Integrity		The purpose of the engagement is clear and people can find out about it easily.	Rights to participate are clearly explained and opportunities to express opinions are publicised.	Dialogue will take place with partners about how they will be involved in the engagement process and how their input will be used.
2 Coordination	The developer identified and formally consulted with all those community councils within or adjoining the development site.	The timetable for the engagement process will be published and relevant relationships explained.	The timetable for the engagement process will include adequate periods for meetings, public events and discussions with stakeholders.	The timetable for the engagement process will include opportunities for partners to develop their own ideas; partners will be involved in discussing how to co-ordinate actions.
3 Information	The development and public event have been advertised in the local press. Specific responses from the community been included in the reports.	Information will be relevant, accurate and comprehensible to the target audience.	Information will be communicated and shared, aiming to invite feedback.	Identification, collection and dissemination of relevant new information by partners is encouraged.
4 Appropriateness	At least one public event been held and members of the community were able to contribute meaningfully.	Information will be presented to suit its intended audience and can be accessed by all stakeholders at each stage of the process.	Engagement processes to fit the situation to be used, with opportunities for discussion and for answers to be raised and answered.	A collaborate approach to working with partners on proposals, and regular review of the engagement process.
5 Responsiveness	The PACC report shows who has been consulted and it responds to comments made by the community.	Relevant information will be provided at every stage of the process.	Findings from the engagement process will be analysed, disseminated, and potentially incorporated.	Partners will be offered the opportunity to present and discuss their own ideas and receive feedback.
6 Inclusiveness		Relevant representative groups/ organisations will be identified and information will be designed and disseminated to reach them.	An emphasis will be placed on allowing the voices of seldom heard groups and those most likely to be affected to be heard.	Assistance and advice will be made available to seldom heard groups to enable them to become partners in the process; overall, a representative range of stakeholders will be consulted.
7 Monitoring & Evaluation		Distribution of information and feedback received on the engagement process will be analysed after the process is completed.	Monitoring and evaluation of the engagement process will take place on an on-going basis.	Monitoring and evaluation processes will be devised in collaboration with stakeholders.
8 Learning & Sharing		Lessons from the engagement process will be identified and lead to on-going improvements in quality.	Lessons from the engagement process will be reviewed and shared with a focus on learning and training.	The creation of a creative, problem-solving culture where skills and experience are pooled, shared and enhanced.

	Level Complete
	Partially undertaken will be complete by the time planning submission is made
	Not Applicable

1 TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY

			Reference		
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para
1	No Entry				
2	No Entry				
3	No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information					
4	Complete	The purpose of the consultation was included in the storyboards that were used at the public exhibition events and on the project website.	Near na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (1 of 2)	4	
5	Complete	An outline of the planning process for this development was included in the storyboards that were used at the public exhibition events and on the project website.	Near na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (1 of 2)	2,3	
6	Complete	Activities to promote the public events included: leaflet drops, on-street canvassing, media coverage, advertising, and e-mail invitations.	Near na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	5.6	
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening					
7	Fail	This has not been explicitly stated in the consultation materials.			
8	Complete	Information has been made available through the website which includes a download version of the Scoping Report. The Scoping Report is also available at the local planning office.	Scoping Report submitted to Scottish Government in 2009		
9	Complete	Exhibitions participants were asked to complete a questionnaire during the final stage of the exhibition and the results of these have been collated, analysed and presented in a series of reports.	Event Report on public exhibition events held in East Lothian in May 2011	12 to 38	
LEVEL 3 : Partnership					
10	Complete	A scoping workshop with invited stakeholders was conducted at the outset of the engagement process.	Report on scoping workshop with stakeholders (including Appendix A)		
11	Planned	It is recommended that this be undertaken.			
12	Fail	There is no evidence that this took place.			

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	No Entry
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Complete
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Fail
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Fail

2 COORDINATION

			Reference			
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para	
1	Has the developer produced a Stakeholder Management Plan which sets out how and when the engagement process will be conducted?	Complete	A Stakeholder Management Plan was prepared in June 2010. Copies were submitted to Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council.	Stakeholder Management Plan outlining the proposed process for engagement		
2	Has the developer formally consulted with each community council whose area is within or adjoins the development site?	Complete	East Lammermuir CC was consulted regarding the time and location of the rural East Lothian events which were programmed to dovetail with their CC meeting. Dunbar CC was consulted regarding the time and location of the public event scheduled for November 2011.			
3		No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information						
4	Have the roles of all stakeholders been communicated?	Complete	The Stakeholder Management Plan details the roles of all identified stakeholders.			
5	Has an appropriate and realistic timetable for the engagement process been devised and published?	Complete	This is included in the Stakeholder Management Plan with a summary included on the exhibition story boards.			
6		No Entry				
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening						
7	Have events been planned to reach the widest range of stakeholders?	Complete	Events have been planned to access stakeholders who would not typically attend traditional public exhibitions.	Event Report on public exhibition events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011		
8	Has the developer sought to include relevant statutory as well as non-statutory stakeholders at events?	Complete	Targeted publicity resulted in representatives from the recreational sailing community, fishermen, Community Councils, East Lothian Council, environmental groups, Harbour Authority, and harbour users attending events.	Event Report on public exhibition events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011	14	
9	Are timescales for engagement adequate and flexible?	Complete	The consultation process commenced in 2009 and has included re-scheduling of events where necessary.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in winter 2010	13	
LEVEL 3 : Partnership						
10	Has the developer sought advice from those with experience of the partnership approach?	Complete	The developer asked for input on its Stakeholder Management Plan from Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council.			
11	Has sufficient time been allowed to give partners the opportunity to develop their own ideas or proposals?	No Entry	N/A			
12	Has the developer sought to set up a steering group or liaison group with representatives from the local community and interested parties?	Fail	This is something the developer should consider setting up especially in East Lothian throughout the construction process.			

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	Complete
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Complete
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Complete
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Fail

3 INFORMATION

			Reference		
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para
1	Have the specific responses from the community been included in reports?	Complete	Reports have been prepared which document the responses received from the community at the public events.		
2	Has the development been advertised in local press?	Complete	Adverts have been place in the local press prior to events being held. Press releases have also been issued.		
3	Has the public event been advertised in local press?	Complete	Adverts have been place in the local press prior to events being held. Press releases have also been issued.		
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information					
4	Is information that has been provided about the development fully supported?	Complete	The storyboards contain references to sources of information and the project website contains links to sources.	Near na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (2 of 2)	
5	Have summaries of key documents been provided?	Complete	A summary of the Scoping Report is included in the storyboards for the public events.	Near na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (1 of 2)	
6		No Entry			
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening					
7	Has there been opportunity to include comment on specific areas of the the development?	Complete	Comments can be made through the website or at public events using the questionnaire. Open-ended questions invite comments on any aspect of the proposals.	Event Report on public exhibition events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011	36 to 38
8	Have the specific responses from the community been included in reports?	Complete	Reports have been prepared which document the responses received from the community at the public events.	Event Report on public exhibition events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011	
9		No Entry			
LEVEL 3 : Partnership					
10	Have you discussed with community groups how information should be collected and distributed?	Fail			
11	Have you described what information is being collected and how it will be used?	Fail			
12	Have you asked community groups for their input on questionnaire design?	Fail			

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	Complete
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Complete
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Complete
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Fail

4 APPROPRIATENESS

			Reference			
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para	
1	Has at least one public event been held by the developer in a location that is accessible to the affected community?	Complete	9 x public events have been held in East Lothian, Fife & Angus, with a further one scheduled for November 2011.	Near na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	5,6,7	
2	Were members of the community able to contribute meaningfully to the proceedings?	Complete	Members of the community were able to engage directly with the project team who attended all events and to complete a questionnaire which sought their views and comments.	Event Report on public exhibition events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011	3	
3		No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information						
4	Are all documents available locally?	Complete	Project related documents are available to download from the project website. Those submitted to the local planning department are also available from East Lothian Council's office.	Project website		
5	Are public meetings held in venues and times accessible by the public?	Complete	Public meetings have been held in a variety of venues and at times that are accessible to the public, including evenings for those who work during the day. Public exhibitions have also been held at galas and fetes to expand access a broad cross-section of the public.	Near na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	5,6,7	
6	Were a variety of appropriate methods used to publicise the PAC?	Complete	Public events were advertised in local press publications, through local radio, via leaflet drops to selected postcodes, by e-mail, on-street canvassers and in local community buildings and commercial premises.	Near na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	5	
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening						
7	Did the venues for the public events reflect the locations of those most likely to be affected by the proposals?	Complete	Public exhibition venues were selected in areas from where the development is likely to be most visible including East Lothian, Fife & Angus. Events have been held in East Lothian where the onshore works are to take place.	Near na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	5,6,7	
8	Were all stakeholders provided with an opportunity to record their views through various means?	Complete	Attendees at the public events were invited to record their views through a questionnaire which can also be completed via the project website. The website invites queries and feedback to be submitted by e-mail, post or telephone.	Project website		
9	Were relevant professional staff available to answer questions at events?	Complete	Project team staff were available to answer questions at all events.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011	3	
LEVEL 3 : Partnership						
10	Have steering groups, workshops or forums been established to discuss the proposals?	Complete	A scoping workshop was conducted with invited stakeholders to discuss the assessment of the proposals. Other meetings have been held with specific stakeholder groups.	Report on scoping workshop with stakeholders (including Appendix A)		
11	Has independent advice been sought on how best to conduct the consultation process?	Complete	Independent advice has been sought from Facilitating Change who specialise in facilitating engagement and consultation with stakeholders in relation to this type of proposal.	Stakeholder Management Plan outlining the proposed process for engagement		
12		No Entry				

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	Complete
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Complete
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Complete
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Complete

5 RESPONSIVENESS

			Reference		
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para
1	Planned	There is no evidence to suggest that this exists.			
2	Planned	These will be included in the PACC report, when completed.			
3	No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information					
4	Complete	The exhibition boards, flyers, and website all contain full contact details of a named individual.	Near na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (2 of 2)		
5	Complete	Relevant documents are available on the project website.	Project website		
6	Planned	The details of the proposals have not yet been determined. It is important for the environmental consultants to establish baseline proposals which can then be compared to the final proposition.			
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening					
7	Complete	All events have included provision for recording queries and feedback, though feedback forms and questionnaires.	Report on scoping workshop with stakeholders (including Appendix A)	9 to 26	
8	Planned	Responses have been analysed and reported but the associated documents have not been made available to stakeholders. Put on website and email database.			
9	Complete	Feedback received during the scoping workshop informed the schedule of consultation events. Additional events were programmed following responses to initial public events.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011		
LEVEL 3 : Partnership					
10	Complete	The a broad range of stakeholders representing the interested identified in the Scoping Report attended a scoping study workshop which discussed process and content of engagement processes.	NNG_Scoping_Report_2009_FINAL		
11	Complete	Skilled personnel have been used throughout the consultation process; from the scoping study workshop through all the public events.	Consultation Plan		
12	No Entry				

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	Planned
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Planned
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Planned
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Complete

6 INCLUSIVENESS

			Reference		
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para
1	No Entry				
2	No Entry				
3	No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information					
4	Complete	A contacts database has been established and is regularly updated, primarily through interested individuals registering on the project website.	Project website		
5	Complete	Seldom heard groups were identified during the scoping workshop and issues associated with them accessing information were discussed. Exhibiting at events such as the RNLI Day was undertaken to access such groups.	Report on scoping workshop with stakeholders (including Appendix A)	9, 10	
6	Complete	The questionnaire used at the public events included questions relating to location, age, gender & occupation.	Event Report on public events held in East Lothian in May 2011	38, 39	
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening					
7	Complete	Each of the local authorities likely to be affected by the proposals was represented at the scoping workshop where the issue of who to consult was raised.	Report on scoping workshop with stakeholders (including Appendix A)	App A	
8	Complete	Public exhibitions were held at local galas and events where seldom heard groups were most likely to attend. All events were publicised through a wide-reaching range of channels.	Near na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	15	
9	Complete	Public exhibitions were held at local galas and events to access those who don't typically attend consultation events.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011		
LEVEL 3 : Partnership					
10	Fail	It may be necessary to review the engagement process with key stakeholders and / or Planning Aid for Scotland			
11	Complete	The outcomes of the comparisons are found in the event reports.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011		
12	Fail	Although surveys have been professionally designed and conducted at stakeholder events, the population as a whole has not been surveyed. Recommend telephone surveys or postal questionnaires.			

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	No Entry
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Complete
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Complete
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Fail

7 MONITORING & EVALUATION

			Reference		
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para
1	No Entry				
2	No Entry				
3	No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information					
4	Complete	An update has been provided after each series of Public consultation events. A final summary will be included in the Environmental Statement and Pre-Application Consultation with Communities (PACC) Report with Communities.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011		
5	Complete	An update has been provided after each series of Public consultation events. A final summary will be included in the Environmental Statement and Pre-Application Consultation with Communities (PACC) Report with Communities.	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011		
6	No Entry				
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening					
7	Complete	The questionnaire used at the public events includes questions relating to the engagement process.	Event Report on public events held in East Lothian in May 2011	36, 37	
8	Complete	Each public event (and its associated findings) is reported through a series of event reports.	Neart na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	7	
9	No Entry				
LEVEL 3 : Partnership					
10	Fail	The Stakeholder Management Plan was circulated to the Consenting bodies it did not include the Questionnaire			
11	Complete	Events were organised to try and address the lack of representation at the initial events held in local village halls			
12	No Entry				

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	No Entry
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Complete
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Complete
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Fail

8 LEARNING & SHARING

			Reference		
LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement		Comments	Document	Page	Para
1	No Entry				
2	No Entry				
3	No Entry				
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information					
4	Planned	A full audit of the consultation process has been undertaken using the SP=EED framework. This should be relayed to relevant staff.			
5	No Entry				
6	No Entry				
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening					
7	Complete	Professional facilitators with expertise in stakeholder engagement were employed to undertake the consultation.			
8	Fail	Other groups with experience of similar kinds of development were not readily accessible prior to, or during, the consultation process.			
9	No Entry				
LEVEL 3 : Partnership					
10	Fail	There is no evidence to suggest this is the case.			
11	No Entry				
12	No Entry				

Summary

LEVEL 0 : Legal requirement	No Entry
LEVEL 1 : Giving Information	Planned
LEVEL 2 : Consulting & Listening	Fail
LEVEL 3 : Partnership	Fail

B : Document List

Document List		
	Description	File Name / Reference
A	Participation Statement	
B	Proposals Brochure	
C	Environmental Statement	
D	All records documented in the project office	
E	Consultation Plan	NNG_Stakeholder_Mgt_Plan v5
F	Pre-application Consultation with Communities (PACC) report	
G	Neart na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (1 of 2)	Neart na Gaoithe Storyboards Portrait Stage 2
H	Neart na Gaoithe storyboards displayed at public events (2 of 2)	Neart na Gaoithe Storyboards Portrait Stage 2 Hi Res
I	Neart na Gaoithe Consultation Audit	NNG - Consultation Audit v2
J	Scoping Report submitted to Scottish Government in 2009	NNG_Scoping_Report_2009_FINAL
K	Scoping Report Appendices (submitted to Scottish Government in 2009)	STW-MRP-Scoping-Appendices-FINAL - 2009
L	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in winter 2010	NNG_Event_report_May2011_East_Lothian FINAL
M	Event Report on public events held in Angus & Fife in summer 2011	NNG_Event_report_Aug2011 Summer Galas
N	Project website	www.neartnagaoithe.com
O	Event Report on public events held in East Lothian in May 2011	NNG_Event_report_Feb2011 Final High Res
P	Report on scoping workshop with stakeholders (including Appendix A)	NNG-Stakeholder-Workshop - Feb 2010
Q	Appendix B - poster of topics with associated post-it notes from scoping workshop	Appendix-B-Poster-and-Post-it-photos - Nov 2009
R	Appendix C - photos from scoping workshop	Appendix-C-Photo-Album-Dundee-Stakeholder-Event - Nov 2009
S	Appendix D - presentation posters from scoping workshop	Appendix-D-Presentation-Posters - Nov 2009
T	Plan of Scottish wind farm zones	Scotland_Areas_A1Landscape - Nov 2009



For Office Use Only

Ref No:

Registration Date:

Proposal of Application Notice

(To be completed in respect of national and major categories of development)

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

The Planning Authority will respond within 21 days of receipt of the Notice advising whether the proposed pre-application consultation is acceptable, or what additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum requirements is necessary.

The minimum consultation activity includes consultation with every community council, any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the development is proposed, the holding of one public event, and the advertisement of the public event in a local newspaper.

1. Applicant

Name:	Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Ltd (NnGOWL)*	Tel No:	+44 (0) 141 249 6847
Address:	Abbey Business Centre, 'The Beacon' 176 St. Vincent Street Glasgow	Mobile::	+44 (0)7850 207 515
		Email:	Ewan.Walker@mainstreamrp.com
Postcode:	G2 5SG		

* A subsidiary company of Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd.

2. Agent (if applicable)

Name:	Facilitating Change (UK) Ltd	Tel No:	+44 (0) 01786 820111
Address:	P.O.Box 15047 Dunblane, Perthshire	Mobile::	+44 (0)797 417 9730
		Email:	chris@fchange.com
Postcode:	FK15 9YB		

3. Address and Location of Development Site

If the site has no postal address, describe its location. Please provide site plan indicating the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify the site.

The Neart na Gaoithe development site is a proposed offshore wind farm located approximately 15.5 km east of the coast of Fife Ness. The depth range across the site is between 45m and 58m. The site is approximately 105 km² and has a maximum capacity of 450MW.

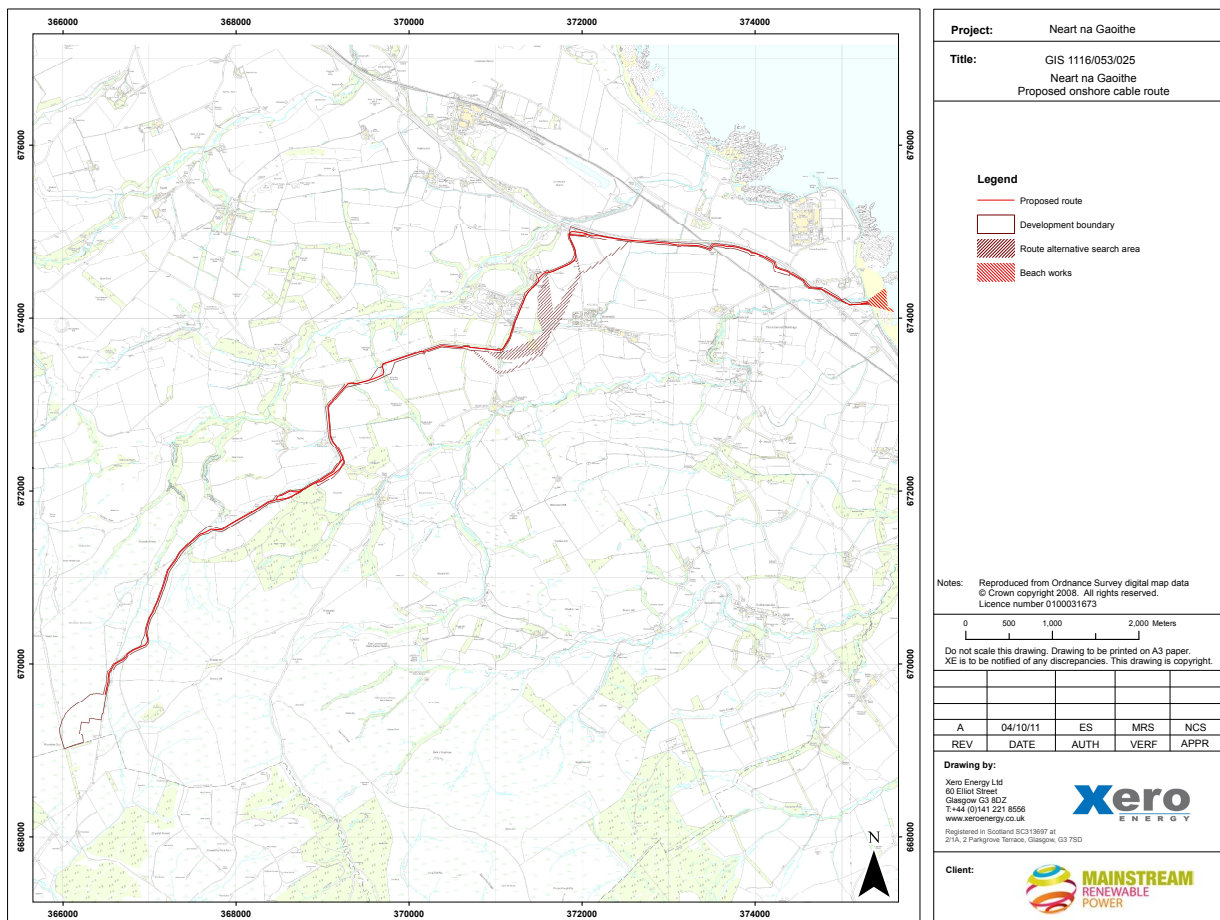
Depending on the rated capacity of the turbines deployed on site (between 3.6 and 7MW), the estimated number of turbines is between 64 and 130.

The grid connection offered to NNGOWL by National Grid is at Crystal Rig II onshore wind farm in east Lothian. The likely landing point for the cable is at Thorntonloch adjacent to Torness Power Station. This Proposal of Application Notice only relates to the onshore works from the landfall of the cable at Thorntonloch to the connection point at the Crystal Rig substation. This ‘major’ application will be dealt with by East Lothian Council whereas consenting for the offshore works will be the responsibility of Marine Scotland.

The intention is to bury the cable from the landing point to the substation at Crystal Rig II.

Please see the diagram below for the indicative route of the cable.

Postcode:



4. Describe in general terms the development to be carried out

The onshore works will consist of:		
- a cable 'jointing' pit close to the beach where the offshore cables and onshore connection will meet;		
- cable buried in a trench for a distance of approximately 13kms to Crystal Rig II.		
- a new substation adjacent to the existing substation at Crystal Rig II..		
State class of Development (please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major

5. State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

Please continue on a separate sheet, if required

Community Council (s)	Date Notice served
i.) East Lammermuirs Community Council, East Lothian	5 th September 2011
ii.) Dunbar Community Council, East Lothian	5 th September 2011
iii.) Cockburnspath Community Council, Borders	5 th September 2011
Any other parties	Date Notice served
i.)	
ii.)	
iii.)	

6. Provide details of the proposed consultation

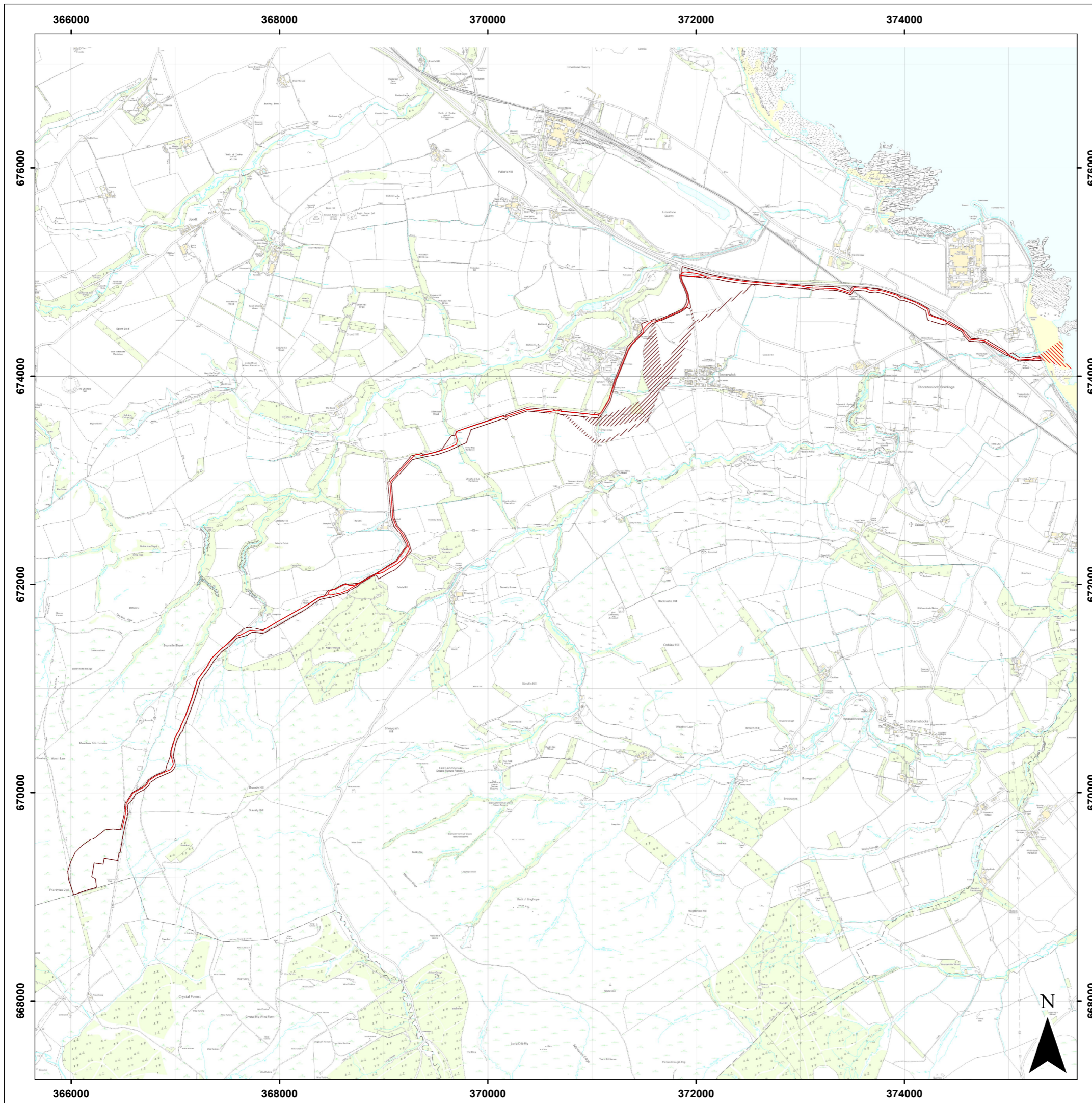
Please continue on a separate sheet, if required

Proposed public event	Venue	Date and Time
i.) Community Consultation event*	Spott Village Hall	29/11/11 16:00 -20:00
ii.)		
iii.)		
Proposed date for newspaper advert	w/c 14 th November 2011	
Newspaper(s) where it will be published	East Lothian Courier	





*The date and venue for the event has been suggested by East Lammermuirs Community Council to coincide with their community council meeting which will be held immediately after the exhibition finishes.

Public events already undertaken	Venue	Date and Time
i.) Community Consultation event	Innerwick Village Hall. EH42 1SE	10 th May 2011 16:00 - 20:00
ii.) Community Consultation event	Hall Hill Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar. EH42 1RF	11 th May 2011 14:00 - 20:00
iii.) Community Consultation event	Dunbar RNLI day	16 th July 2011 12:00 - 16:00

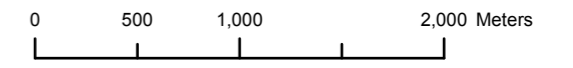
Reports on these community events are available on request.



Project: Neart na Gaoithe
Title: GIS 1116/053/025
 Neart na Gaoithe
 Proposed onshore cable route

- Legend**
-  Proposed route
 -  Development boundary
 -  Route alternative search area
 -  Beach works

Notes: Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data
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 XE is to be notified of any discrepancies. This drawing is copyright.

A	04/10/11	ES	MRS	NCS
REV	DATE	AUTH	VERF	APPR

Drawing by:

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 Glasgow G3 8DZ
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Registered in Scotland SC313697 at
 2/1A, 2 Parkgrove Terrace, Glasgow, G3 7SD

Client:



Our Ref: 11/00008/PAN
Your Ref:
Ask For: Keith Dingwall
Direct Line: 01620 827229
Direct Fax: 01620 827723
Date: 28 October 2011

Chris Whitehead
Facilitating Change (UK) Ltd
PO Box 15047
Dubliner
Perthshire
FK15 9YB

Dear Chris Whitehead

**Proposal of Application Notice
Thorntonloch to Crystal Rig, Dunbar**

I refer to the above Proposal of Application Notice, which was received by us on the 18 October 2011.

On behalf of East Lothian Council as Planning Authority I can confirm that the consultation activity you propose is acceptable.

If you wish to discuss this matter further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Keith Dingwall
Principal Planner