

## 5 CONSULTATION

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

1. This Section of the ES summarises the consultation which has been undertaken throughout the course of the EIA process. Consultation is a key aspect of an EIA exercise, and this Section outlines how consultation has informed the EIA and iterative design process.
2. This Section of the ES is supported by the following documents:
  - Annex 5A – includes Tables A1 to A6 which summarise consultation responses received; and
  - Annex 5B – Cumulative Impacts Assessment Discussion Document (CIADD)
3. BOWL and consultants engaged to carry out the EIA have undertaken consultation and communication exercises throughout the EIA process. This Section of the ES provides a description of the general approach to stakeholder engagement and summarises the key consultations undertaken and outcomes relating to the EIA. A stand-alone Pre-Application Consultation Report accompanies the consent applications and reports in detail the process and outcomes of the consultation on the Project.
4. The principal objectives of the consultation exercises carried out throughout the EIA process were to:
  - Inform the scope of the EIA and its appropriate methodologies and techniques;
  - Inform the design of the detailed proposals for both the Wind Farm and OfTW;
  - Engage a wide range of stakeholders;
  - Identify both site specific and general constraints;
  - Inform the parameters of the Rochdale Envelope;
  - Identify information gaps and to address these using local and industry knowledge;
  - Scope out effects considered not likely to be significant;
  - Reduce the potential for significant effects and develop and agree mitigation for significant effects identified; and
  - Consider and understand cumulative effects, particularly in combination with the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone.
5. The following consultation exercises have informed the EIA:
  - EIA Scoping – Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Scoping Report, and Onshore and Offshore Transmission Works Scoping Report;
  - Public exhibitions, including Wind Farm exhibitions, OnTW and OfTW exhibitions and pre-submission public exhibitions;
  - Cumulative impact assessment discussion group (see Section 5.4); and
  - Focused regulator, statutory consultee and stakeholder consultations.

### **5.1.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

6. A Project wide Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was prepared in 2009 before the start of any key consultation exercises. The SEP sets out the engagement strategy and communications protocol being used to engage with key stakeholders and will help to support the Project through the development, construction and operational phases. The SEP covers engagement with both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, including the public.
7. For the purposes of the EIA, the SEP provided a framework which has helped to guide the EIA related consultation and communication exercises. Each of the EIA consultation exercises which have been undertaken is discussed in turn in the sections which follow.

### **5.2 EIA SCOPING**

8. Separate Scoping Opinions were requested from MS-LOT by the Applicant for the Wind Farm and the Transmission Works (the OnTW and OfTW).

#### **5.2.1 WIND FARM SCOPING EXERCISE**

9. A Scoping Report for the Wind Farm was submitted to MS-LOT in March 2010. The Scoping Report was also issued to other statutory and non-statutory consultees by MS-LOT to ensure that all relevant organisations were consulted. A full list of organisations consulted is presented in Table 5.1.
10. A summary of consultation responses resulting from this Scoping exercise is presented in Table A1 of Annex 5A. Tables A2 and A3 in Annex 5A provide more detailed consultation responses from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and MS. The summary of responses in Annex 5A also indicates which topic Section of the ES addresses the comments.

**Table 5.1 Consultees - Wind Farm Scoping Report**

Consultee	
Aberdeenshire Council	Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG)
Aberdeen Lighthouse Field Station - Marine Mammals (The University of Aberdeen)	Moray Firth Partnership (and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Group)
Association of District Salmon Fisheries Board (ASFB)	Moray Firth Sea Trout Project
Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST)	NERL (NATS En Route Ltd)
Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP)	Northern Lighthouse Board
Caithness Petroleum	PA Resources UK Ltd
Chamber of Shipping	Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYA Scotland)
Cromarty Firth Port Authority	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Department of Energy and Climate Change (Aberdeen)	Scottish Enterprise (SE)
Friends of the Earth Scotland	Scottish Environment LINK
The Highland Council	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) (Wick and Inverness)	Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF)
Highland and Island Enterprise (HIE)	Scottish Government (Energy Division)
Historic Scotland	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL)
Ithaca Energy	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
Marine Conservation Society	Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU)
Marine Safety Forum	Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd
Marine Scotland	The Crown Estate
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Visit Scotland
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) Scotland
Moray Council	

## 5.2.2 ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION WORKS SCOPING EXERCISE

11. A Scoping Report for the OnTW and OfTW was submitted to MS-LOT and other statutory and non-statutory consultees in May 2011. A full list of organisations consulted is presented in Table 5.2. A summary of consultation responses is given in Table A4 in Annex 5A.

**Table 5.2 Consultees - Onshore and Offshore Transmission Works Scoping Report**

Consultee	
Aberdeen Lighthouse Field Station - Marine Mammals (The University of Aberdeen)	Moray Firth Partnership (and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Group)
Association of District Salmon Fisheries Board (ASFB)	NERL (NATS En Route Ltd)
Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST)	Network Rail
Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP)	Northern Lighthouse Board
Caithness Petroleum	PA Resources UK Ltd
Chamber of Shipping	Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYA Scotland)
Cromarty Firth Port Authority	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Scottish Enterprise (SE)
Department of Energy and Climate Change (Aberdeen)	Scottish Environment LINK
Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) (Wick and Inverness)	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
The Highland Council	Scottish Government Energy Division
Highland and Island Enterprise (HIE)	Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF)
Historic Scotland	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd (SHETL)
Ithaca Energy	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
Local Community Councils	Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd
Marine Safety Forum	The Crown Estate
Marine Scotland	Transport Scotland
Moray Council	Visit Scotland
Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG)	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WCDS) Scotland

### 5.3 PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

12. In addition to the specific consultation exercises on EIA scope, BOWL has undertaken a wider stakeholder communication and consultation exercise to ensure all identified stakeholders, including the public, were engaged in and/or informed of the Project throughout its development.
13. Public exhibitions were held during August and September 2010 for the Wind Farm and during July 2011 for the OnTW and OfTW. Public exhibition venues and the

dates on which they were held are set out in Table 5.3. A second round of pre-submission public exhibitions was undertaken in November 2011, details are given in sections 5.3.3 and 5.3.4.

14. The Wind Farm exhibitions were undertaken at the same time and location as the MORL public exhibitions. This joint strategy was adopted to make it easier for the general public to attend the public exhibitions for the two projects. The BOWL OnTW and OfTW exhibitions were undertaken solely by BOWL in July 2011.
15. The exhibitions were advertised in the local and regional press and through the Moray Firth Partnership, as well as through writing to key political stakeholders in the area (including Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of Scottish Parliament (MSPs), Local Councils and Community Councils).

**Table 5.3 Public Exhibition Details**

Location	Date	Timing
<b>Wind Farm Exhibitions</b>		
Wick, Mackay's Hotel	31 August 2010	12pm - 8pm
Helmsdale, Community Centre	1 September 2010	12pm - 8pm
Brora, Royal Marine Hotel	2 September 2010	12pm - 8pm
Tain, Royal Hotel	3 September 2010	12pm - 8pm
Inverness, Eastgate Shopping Centre	7 September 2010	9am - 6pm
Fraserburgh, Leisure Centre	15 September 2010	12pm - 8pm
Elgin, St Giles Shopping Centre	16 September 2010	9am - 5.30pm
<b>OnTW and OfTW Exhibitions</b>		
Buckie, Town House	5 July 2011	3pm - 7pm
Keith, Longmore Hall	6 July 2011	3pm - 7pm

16. These exhibitions were designed to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions, understand the Project proposals and provide feedback to BOWL for consideration as part of the EIA and iterative design process. The following tools were used at the exhibitions:
  - Display boards were prepared and used to illustrate and describe the Project;
  - An information leaflet was prepared summarising the display boards so these could be taken home or shared with those who could not attend; and
  - Feedback forms were provided with a comment box provided for completed forms or a postal address for onward issue.
17. In addition, the Project website, [www.sse-beatrice.com](http://www.sse-beatrice.com), provides background information on the Project and downloadable information sheets and comment forms.

### 5.3.1 WIND FARM EXHIBITION OUTCOMES

18. Approximately 280 people attended the joint (BOWL / MORL) public exhibitions in August and September 2010, with 91 completed BOWL feedback forms returned.

100% of respondents found that the exhibitions were at least 'helpful' in terms of providing further information about the Wind Farms.

19. All consultation materials (including display boards, the information leaflet and the feedback form) were subsequently made available on the BOWL project website to ensure that the materials were made accessible to the public with an opportunity to comment. A community helpline number and postal address was also made available so that, if requested, a hard copy of the information could be sent.
20. The comments received from the Wind Farm exhibitions provided the following feedback:
  - 97.8% of respondents indicated that they were "supportive" of renewable energy (0% said that they were "against"); and
  - 92.3% of respondents indicated that they were "supportive" of the proposals for Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm (0% said that they were "against").

### **5.3.2 OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE TRANSMISSION WORKS EXHIBITION OUTCOMES**

21. These exhibitions were undertaken in July 2011 at the times and locations identified in Table 5.3. Approximately 40 people attended the public exhibitions with 15 completed feedback forms returned.
22. All consultation materials (including exhibitions boards, information leaflet and feedback form) were subsequently uploaded onto the Project website to ensure that the materials were made as accessible as possible to the public with an opportunity to comment.
23. The comments received from the OnTW and OfTW exhibitions provided the following feedback:
  - 100% of respondents indicated that they were "supportive" or "very supportive" of renewable energy;
  - 86.7% of respondents indicated that they were "supportive" of the proposals for Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm (0% said that they were "against"); and
  - 100% of respondents indicated that they found the Transmission Works exhibitions "helpful" or "a little helpful".

### **5.3.3 PRE-SUBMISSION WIND FARM AND OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION WORKS PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS**

24. A second round of public exhibitions was undertaken pre-submission to present to the public, and other stakeholders, how the Wind Farm and OfTW had developed since the first exhibitions. This also gave a further opportunity for feedback to be provided to the team prior to submission of the applications. The second round of exhibition venues and the dates on which they were held are set out in Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4 Pre-Submission Public Exhibition Details**

Location	Date	Timing
Wick, Mackay's Hotel	8 November 2011	1pm - 7pm
Helmsdale, Community Centre	9 November 2011	1pm - 6pm
Buckie, Town House	10 November 2011	1pm - 7pm
Inverness, Eastgate Shopping Centre	11 November 2011	9am - 5pm

25. Pre-submission exhibitions were not held at Tain, Brora, Fraserburgh and Elgin due to low numbers attending the public exhibitions in those locations in 2010. An exhibition was held in Buckie due to its proximity to the location of the cable landing. Pre-submission exhibitions will be held in Keith prior to submission of the OnTW application.

#### **5.3.4 PRE-SUBMISSION EXHIBITION OUTCOMES**

26. 121 members of the public attended the pre-submission public exhibitions with 46 completed feedback forms returned. The majority of attendees found out about the exhibitions through adverts in the local newspaper.
27. The comments received from the pre-submission exhibitions provided the following feedback:
- 93.4% of respondents indicated that they were “supportive” of renewable energy (2.2% said that they were “against”);
  - 89.1% of respondents indicated that they were “supportive” of the proposals for the Project (6.6% said that they were “against”); and
  - 100% of respondents found the exhibitions “helpful”.

#### **5.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION DOCUMENT CONSULTATION**

28. The potential for cumulative effects was recognised by BOWL as an important aspect of the consenting process for offshore wind developments in the Moray Firth area. In recognition of this, MFOWDG was formed by BOWL and MORL, in partnership with The Crown Estate, to work collaboratively on potential regional cumulative effects arising from the proposed offshore wind developments. This included developing and agreeing common approaches to environmental data gathering and interpretation to inform the EIA, particularly the assessment of cumulative effects.
29. A discussion document was prepared in collaboration with MORL and issued to consultees in April 2011 (see Annex 5B). A full list of organisations that were consulted is presented in Table 5.5. The aim of this document was to instigate discussion and responses regarding the proposed approach to the assessment of cumulative effects of the Project and other existing or planned developments. A summary of consultation responses to the cumulative impacts assessment discussion document is presented in Table A5 of Annex 5A. Table A6 in Annex 5A provides more detailed consultation responses from SNH and JNCC on the CIADD.

**Table 5.5 Consultees - Cumulative Impact Assessment Discussion Document**

Consultees	
Aberdeenshire Council	Marine Scotland
Banff Harbour Office	Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Bond Offshore Helicopters	Ministry of Defence
Bristow Helicopters	Moray Council
Buckie Harbour Office	Moray Firth Sea Trout Project
Caithness Petroleum	NATS En-Route Ltd (NERL)
Chamber of Shipping	Northern Lighthouse Board
CHC Scotia Ltd	Orkney Council
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Oil and Gas UK
Cromarty Firth Port Authority	PA Resources UK Ltd
Cruising Association (CA)	Peterhead Port Authority
Fishery Industry Representatives	Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)
Fisheries Association Limited	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Fraserburgh Harbour	Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYA Scotland)
The Highland Council	Scallop Association
Historic Scotland	Scottish Fisherman's Federation (SFF)
Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG)	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Inverness Harbour Trust	Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd
Ithaca Energy	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Wick Harbour
MacDuff Harbour Office	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Wood Group

## 5.5 FOCUSED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

30. Throughout the course of the EIA exercise there has been ongoing correspondence, discussions and meetings between EIA specialists and relevant stakeholders and regulators. In relation to specialist topics any key EIA consultation discussions and decisions are summarised in each ES topic Section, and comment is included on how specific issues raised, or requests for further information have been addressed.
31. BOWL has also undertaken regular meetings with the decision makers. These meetings were undertaken to ensure MS-LOT were kept abreast of progress on issues such as survey results, design refinement and submission strategy. Table 5.6 summarises the key meetings and consultations undertaken.



**Table 5.6 Summary of Key Consultations with MS-LOT**

Meeting Date	Summary of Consultations
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2010	Project progress, EIA approach and OfTW issues.
25 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	BOWL and MORL – approach to cumulative impact assessment. BOWL approach to benthic ecology and fisheries assessments. Geotechnical surveys and Rochdale Envelope approach.
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011	Project progress update, target dates for EIA and identification of EIA challenges. Rochdale Envelope approach and consenting strategy discussed.
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	Progress towards defining Rochdale Envelope.
24 <sup>th</sup> May 2011	Presentation of final Rochdale Envelope.
21 <sup>st</sup> July 2011	Update on EIA progress. Details of consenting and submission strategy.
29 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	Consenting clarifications and submission strategy detail.
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2012	Pre-submission meeting, clarification on Habitats Regulations Appraisal documentation requirements.

32. Further consultation with MS was undertaken with regard to specific technical assessments as detailed within the relevant Sections.

## **5.6 POST-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSIONS**

33. During the determination of the consent applications BOWL and the specialist consultants will be required to continue dialogue with the decision makers and stakeholders. In particular, BOWL will engage in dialogue with consultees which MS-LOT are required to consult as part of the consenting process under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and the organisations contacted during pre-submission consultation.
34. BOWL is committed to ensuring stakeholders, including the public are kept informed of project progress before and during the construction phase, and on the commencement of operation. A specific post-consent engagement strategy will be developed to ensure that there is appropriate and timely dissemination of information to stakeholders and the public on key milestones and significant events.

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