

Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Pre-Application Consultation Report

July 2015

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Document History

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Executive Summary

As part of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 a formal pre-application submission is now required for those activities with the potential to have significant impacts upon the environment, local communities and other legitimate uses of the sea. The purpose of these new requirements is to allow local communities, environmental groups and other interested parties to comment upon proposed marine developments at an early stage and before a formal application to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT).

To meet these regulations Kincardine Offshore Wind Limited (KOWL) have undertaken a number of pre-application consultation processes during the preparation of the Environmental Statement and this has included the following:

- Public meeting - held 18th December 2014
- Stakeholder engagement as part of the Scoping Assessment and Environmental Statement
- Production of a KOWL website and associated e-mail comment register

The data provided at the public meeting fulfilled the pre-application regulations by providing the following information:

- Bill boards with the relevant KOWL project information;
- A description of the KOWL project;
- A presentation of the possible visual impacts of the site on four key landscape locations (Identified following consultation with the key statutory stakeholders (MS LOT, SNH, Aberdeen Council and Aberdeenshire Council);
- The key statutory consultees were informed of the public meeting and the reason for the marine license application six week prior to the consultation event being held; and
- Provision of formal feedback questionnaires/forms during the public consultation event to allow comments to be submitted to KOWL.

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1. Introduction

As part of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 a formal pre-application submission is now required for those activities with the potential to have significant impacts upon the environment, local communities and other legitimate uses of the sea. The purposed of these new requirements is to allow local communities, environmental groups and other interested parties to comment upon proposed marine developments at an early stage and before a formal application to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT).

This Consultation Report has been prepared by Kincardine Offshore Wind Limited (KOWL) to set out, in detail, the consultation programme undertaken by KOWL on its proposals to build the Kincardine Floating Offshore Wind Farm. The objective of pre-application consultation (PAC) with local communities was to keep the public informed of the development of the proposal from an early stage and to provide real opportunities to comment on the design of the proposed wind farm. The process aims to improve the quality of the planning application by understanding the views of the locals, mitigating negative impacts from an early stage where possible, address any misunderstandings and deal with any issues which may be addressed at this stage.

KOWL places a great deal of importance on open and transparent consultation, and thus sought to involve the local community and other stakeholders from a very early stage of the project and this process will continue to occur as the project progresses.

In line with best practice and guidance (MS-LOT) this report details the methods behind the pre-application consultation, relevant stakeholders that have been consulted, feedback received and how it has been incorporated in the final application, evidence of the PAC.

1.1. Background to the Project

The KOWL development is considered a commercial demonstrator site, which will utilise floating foundation technology, and will be the one of world's first array of floating wind turbines. It has been included within the Survey, Deploy and Monitoring scheme for offshore renewable systems (similar to wave and tidal devices). This will establish a leading position for Scotland in the development and deployment of this novel technology within a global perspective. Floating foundations open the possibility for future offshore wind farms to be located further from shore in deeper waters, reducing impacts to sea bird populations and minimising visual impacts whilst accessing hitherto untapped wind resources that can be found in offshore locations that has the potential to substantially increase the effective rate of power generation per MW of installed capacity. The proposed site for the Kincardine Wind Farm is located approximately 8nm (15km) south-east of Aberdeen (Figure 1).

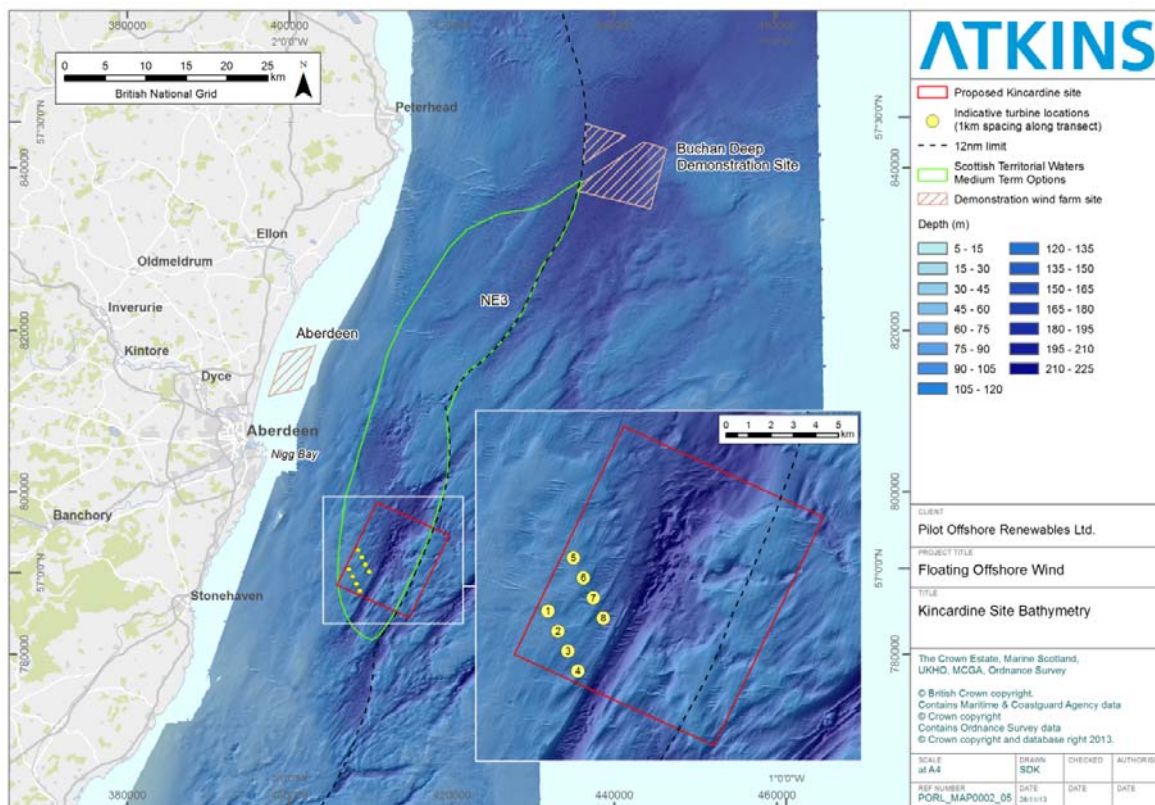


Figure 1: Location of the KOWL Development

1.2. Legislative Requirement

Under sections (22, 23 and 24) of the Marine (Scotland) Act, Scottish Ministers may prescribe through regulations that certain classes or descriptions of licensable activity are subject to pre-application consultation procedure and together with the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, set out what that process entails.

The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ('the Regulations') were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 10 October 2013. They prescribe the marine licensable activities that are subject to pre-application consultation and, in combination with the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, set out the nature of the pre-application process.

From 6 April 2014, the pre-application consultation report has been required as a pre-requisite the submittal of all relevant marine licence applications to MS-LOT.

These requirements only apply in respect of relevant applications in the Scottish Inshore Region from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) to 12 nautical miles.

2. Overview of Activity

The pre-application consultation process is intended to make for more open, positive working relationships between developers and local communities. Pre-applicant consultation provides, where possible, opportunities for community views to be reflected in the development moving forwards.

2.1.1. Application Notice

If pre-application consultation is required applicants must submit a Proposal of Application Notice at least 12 weeks prior to the submission of the planning application. The Notice must detail the consultation process the applicant will undertake including when, how and with whom. The planning authority will respond to the notice within 21 days stating whether the proposed consultation is sufficient or whether any additional consultation is required.

2.1.2. Notification of Public Event

An advert was produced (see Appendix B) and advertised in the following places:

- Press & Journal (Aberdeen Edition) - Monday 3 November
- Mearns Leader / Kincardineshire Observer – Thursday 4 November

The advert briefly details the proposed project, where further information can be found, details of the time and place of the event. Details of the event were also depicted on the dedicated project webpage as detailed in section 2.1.6 (formal submittal document Appendix C).

2.1.3. Public Event

Pre-application consultation has been undertaken with local residents and stakeholders through a pre-consultation event held on the 18th December 2013.

The event was a drop in style event held between 13:00 and 19:00 at:

The Bettridge Centre
Coastal Park
Newtonhill
Aberdeenshire
AB39 3UL

The event portrayed details of the proposed development through a series of display boards throughout the centre, including projections of the visual aspects of the project (poster boards and a PowerPoint presentation on the possible visualisation of the project from four key locations). In addition leaflets were created for the event. Representative for KOWL were present to answer specific questions about the development. There were approximately 30 attendees of which only 14 provided feedback information about the project with no negative comments or issues being highlighted by those present at that stage.

2.1.4. Feedback Forms

At the meeting feedback forms were issued to those present to allow attendees to leave their comments including the following questions:

- Did you receive the information you were looking for?
- Are you in support of the project?
- Please tell us your thoughts
- Would you like further information?

2.1.5. Stakeholder Email & Letter

An email was sent to a range of stakeholders (see appendix D for list of stakeholders). For those emails which received a 'bounce-back' a hard copy of the information was sent. This was undertaken as part of the environmental scoping assessment work.

2.1.6. Project Webpage

A dedicated project webpage is being maintained to provide updates and links to key documents, see link below: <http://pilot-renewables.com/>

3. Conclusion

In accordance with the correct legislation and guidance, KOWL has fulfilled the minimum statutory consultation activity and documented it within this report. As there were no specific comments on the design, number of turbines or turbine placement from the stakeholder event, this has not altered the KOWL Development.

A. Event Feedback Forms

Name	Company (if relevant)	Did you receive the information you were looking for?	Are you in support of the project?	Tell us your thoughts	Would you like further information?
Archie Johnston	Northern Lighthouse Board	Yes	Yes	Will continue to work with developers and consultants to progress the project	Not at present.
Paul Hudson		Yes	Yes	Great opportunity for Scotland to take a world leading role in floating offshore wind technology. Should have benefits for local supply chain as well as future opportunities to export experience and technical know-how to global markets (US/Japan/South America etc.).	
Stephen Thompson		Yes	Yes	Critical development to ensure commercialisation of floating wind concept. Much rests on the success of projects like this for security of supply in future, for jobs in the supply chain and de-carbonisation of power generation.	Firm project schedule when available
Hiroki Ishihara		Yes	Yes	I see large potential in this offshore floating project	I would like to see if Scottish supply chain is involved
Chris Milner	BPP Tech	Yes	Yes	Interested in supporting for cables-related scopes	Please keep us informed on developments
Patrick Jordan	Aberdeen Harbour Board	Yes	Yes	It would be reassuring to more clearly understand the approach to shipping and navigation assessment. AHB is very open to discussions via synergies in development/constructions;	

				opportunities to provide mutually supportive activity/infrastructure that cut costs, mobilisation/demob fees.	
John Buchan		Yes	Yes		
Richard Cockburn		Yes	Yes	Good to have pioneering project such as this near Aberdeen. Minimal visual impact which is good. Support of Aberdeen Harbour is welcome.	No
Chris Cowperthwaite	Reef Subsea	Yes	Yes	Should have minimal visual impact due to distance offshore. Floating wind is the future of OWF's and the jobs created will be beneficial	Construction and installation time frames
Iiona A Sultana		Yes	Yes		Interested to know the general feedback collected from the public
Sam Gomursan		Yes	Yes	A floating offshore wind development is valuable experience for the sector	No
John Beattie	Anatec	Yes	Yes	Good idea to research the floating technology so that it opens up deeper water areas around Scotland and the UK for offshore wind. Best wishes with the proposed development.	No
Allan Taylor	DECC	Yes	Yes	The demonstration of commercial viable floating wind will be key if Scotland wants to achieve its RE targets. The technology deployed also fits well with Scotland's fabrication base, therefore greater jobs potential	Project timings, funding
Lynne Falconer	Offshore Renewables Institute	Yes	Yes	Very interesting project	Would like to see diagrams of the structure to see how the mooring works

B. Public Notice –Newspaper Advert

14	Public Notices
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**KINCARDINE OFFSHORE WINDFARM LIMITED
MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013**

Notice is hereby given that Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Limited, (SC475345, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EN) plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity south east of Aberdeen (central grid reference 1°50'0"W 57°0'0"N). The activity consists of eight demonstrator floating semi-submersible wind turbine generators.

Further information, can be obtained concerning the proposed demonstrator floating offshore windfarm development from:
www.pilot-renewables.com

The pre-application consultation event will be held at 13.00 - 19.00 on 18 December 2014 at:
The Bettridge Centre
Coastal Park
Newtonhill
Aberdeenshire
AB39 3UL

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed demonstrator floating offshore wind farm development can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at:
enquiries@pilot-renewables.com

Or by post to
Allan MacAskill, Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Ltd, 95 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen AB15 5BD
in either case not later than 31 January 2015.

Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT). If Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Ltd submits an application for a marine licence to MS-LOT, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.

Figure 2: Public Notice advertised in the local paper

C. Public Notice – Post/Website

KINCARDINE OFFSHORE WINDFARM LIMITED

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

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D. Stakeholder List

- The Scottish Government
- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeenshire Council
- Angus Council
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
- British Telecom (Radio Network Protection Team)
- CAA
- Chamber of Shipping
- Crown Estate (Offshore Wind)
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation
- Inshore Fisheries Groups
- Joint Radio Company
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Marine Safety Forum
- Marine Scotland – Licensing Operations Team
- NATS
- Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)
- Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
- RSPB
- Scottish Canoe Association
- Scottish Fisherman's Federation
- Scottish Fisherman's Organisation
- Scottish Surfing Federation
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Sport Scotland
- Surfers Against Sewerage
- Whale & Dolphin Society (WDS)
- Visit Scotland
- Ports & Harbours (Transport Scotland)
- Historic Scotland
- Transport Scotland
- Marine Scotland Compliance: Aberdeen Fishery Office
- East Grampian Coastal Partnership
- Aberdeen Harbour Board
- Aberdeen International Airport
- Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group
- Forth Ports
- OFCOM
- DECC
- National Grid
- SSE
- Network Rail
- Scottish Water
- Oil and Pipelines Agency
- Receiver of Wreck
- Dunecht Estates
- Stonehaven Golf Club
- Portlethen Golf Club
- Murcar Links Golf Club
- Trump International
- Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Scottish Environmental LINK
- University of Aberdeen Lighthouse Field Station
- University of St Andrews (Sea Mammal Research Unit)

- Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers
- Scottish Sub Aqua Club
- Royal Aberdeen Golf Club
- King's Links Golf Club
- Northern Golf Club
- Caledonian Golf Club

E. Kincardine Turbine A1 Board (Public Consultation)



Offshore wind in Scotland

Scotland has around a quarter of Europe's potential offshore wind resources.

These resources have the potential to boost Scotland's economy, create jobs and training opportunities and support businesses right across the supply chain. Offshore wind projects in Scotland have already led to over £164 million investment. If we continue to develop new sites and new technology the industry could be worth billions of pounds and create thousands of jobs.

At the same time, offshore wind will help make Scotland a cleaner and greener society and ensure that we reach our renewable energy targets.

Pioneering floating turbine technology

Floating technology has the potential to harness Scotland's plentiful supply of wind energy in a far more efficient manner than existing technology and further Scotland's position as a global leader in offshore wind. Once tested and proven floating turbines will be deployed much further offshore than current fixed foundation turbines, meaning they are out of sight of land and in areas where wind resources are at their peak.

The Kincardine Offshore Wind project will be the first commercial demonstration of semi-submersible floating turbine technology in the UK. Prototypes of the turbines we propose to install are already in operation off the coast of Portugal and off the coast of Japan at Fukushima.

With no fixed foundations on the sea bed, floating turbines require less construction and installation work to be carried out offshore, minimising any potential noise impacts on sea mammals.





The Kincardine Offshore Wind Project

The eight-turbine Kincardine Offshore Wind project will be located approximately 10 miles off the coast of Kincardine, south of Aberdeen. It is being developed by Pilot Offshore Renewables, a Scottish company.

The small size of the windfarm and its distance offshore mean the potential visual impacts from land are limited.

The project will have a maximum capacity of 50MW. Each turbine will be at least 6MW, meaning the development will produce enough electricity to power 45,000 homes.

We are committed to using Scottish technology providers, manufacturers and energy parks for both construction and maintenance of the wind farm.

Construction is scheduled to commence at the beginning of 2016 with the windfarm being fully commissioned by the end of 2017.

F. Kincardine Leaflet (Public Consultation)

The Kincardine Offshore Wind Project



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An aerial photograph of a single wind turbine on the Kincardine Offshore Wind Project. The turbine has three white blades with red tips, mounted on a yellow and black lattice tower. The sea is a deep blue with white-capped waves. The shadow of the turbine is cast onto the water to the left.

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For further information
please contact:

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