



MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

Appendix L – Windfarm Development Area Stakeholder Engagement Plan



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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

Term	Description
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Description
The Applicant	The legal entity submitting consent applications for the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm, namely MachairWind Limited.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').
Greenhouse Gas	A greenhouse gas is a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect, also known by the collective shorthand "carbon".
Habitats Regulations	A collective term used to describe the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.
MachairWind Offshore Windfarm	An offshore windfarm capable of exporting around 2 GW of renewable energy to the National Electricity Transmission System. MachairWind Offshore Windfarm comprises three Development Areas. The Windfarm Development Area is located on the west coast of Scotland to the northwest of Islay and west of Colonsay and the working assumption is that the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm will connect to a location within South Ayrshire. Work is ongoing to define the Offshore Transmission Development Area and Onshore Transmission Development Area. Separate consent and licence applications will be submitted for each Development Area.
The Project	MachairWind Offshore Windfarm.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

1. ScottishPower Renewables (herein referred to as ‘the Applicant’) has developed this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Windfarm Development Area, which sets out the likely future consultation requirements associated with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) following receipt of the Scoping Opinion to application submission.
2. Early and ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders is an important part of the development of offshore windfarms. Effective engagement ensures key messages are heard, understood, and remembered, and meaningful engagement ensures local and technical knowledge informs decisions throughout the development of MachairWind (herein referred to as ‘the Project’).
3. The SEP will be updated progressively throughout the course of the Project, from development and consent through to operations and maintenance, and decommissioning.

1.2 APPROACH TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

4. The Project is committed to developing trusted relationships with key stakeholders building on existing relationships and drawing on previous lessons learned. This recognises that the Applicant is reliant on long-term good relationships for the future development and operation of the Project.
5. Stakeholder engagement will be held throughout the lifetime of the Project, addressing updates, programme management, holding consultation activities, and being transparent in relation to stakeholder outcomes influencing decision making.
6. There are a wide variety of methods that will be employed to build relationships, capture ideas, and obtain feedback during the engagement and consultation periods. Offering multiple methods encourages feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.
7. Stakeholders and the public will be encouraged to read supporting engagement materials that enable them to provide informed responses to the engagement and consultation periods.
8. Table 1.1 provides a summary of the key milestones for the Project.

Table 1.1 – Indicative Milestones for the Project

Project Activity	Indicative Milestones for the Project
Option Lease Agreement from Crown Estate Scotland	Q2 2022
Environmental Scoping Report submission	Q3 2024
Scoping Report Opinion	Q1 2025
Section 36 & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Submission	Q1 2026




2 STAKEHOLDER OBJECTIVES AND MESSAGING

9. The below key messages will be consistently delivered throughout the lifetime of the Project. The Project will:
- Power the equivalent of up to 2 million homes across the United Kingdom;
 - Deliver a meaningful legacy, making a real difference to the lives of islanders;
 - Be shaped by local people, communities, and stakeholders;
 - Work in partnership with communities and stakeholders to maximise the socio-economic benefits for West of Scotland;
 - Produce strong Scottish content by supporting local employment opportunities and strengthening local supply chains; and
 - Support Scottish Government ambitions of achieving net zero¹ by 2045 and being Nature Positive² by 2030.
10. The objectives of this SEP are as follows:
- Ensure a constructive policy environment and positive stakeholder relationships at all scales (national to local) to support consenting;
 - Demonstrate compliance with statutory consultation requirements and best practice;
 - Address consultation requirements for licensing;
 - Identify and plan the key consultation activities with local, national, statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and members of the public;
 - Identify approach to commercial fisheries consultation and coordination;
 - Identify approach to landowner consultation and coordination;
 - Identify approach to communications for site award including supply chain roadshows, scoping and EIA, public exhibitions, and final EIA submission; and
 - Identify approach to create a community feedback process, which ensures effective and open communication with the local community.

¹ 'Net Zero' means the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we're able to take out will add up to zero.

² A Nature Positive Scotland is one where by 2030 there is more nature than there is today, where biodiversity is regenerating and underpinning a healthy and thriving economy and society and playing a key role in addressing climate change.



3 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

11. Stakeholders have been organised into broad stakeholder categories to help facilitate focused and targeted engagement based on stakeholders' shared interests, expectations, functions, and needs. These broad categories are listed below:
 - Governmental, regulatory, and statutory;
 - Environment, heritage and marine;
 - Maritime;
 - Commercial fisheries;
 - Elected representatives;
 - Communities;
 - Supply chain, skills and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths);
 - Industry;
 - Electricity networks; and
 - Infrastructure and transport.
12. These stakeholder groups will be further broken down and grouped based on their specific roles or area of expertise. The interaction and level of engagement with these stakeholder groups will be determined by which category they fall into.
13. The stakeholder groups have been mapped based on their influence in relation to the Project and their interest in the Project. This exercise is critical to the success of the engagement process as it clearly signals where time and effort should be devoted to ensuring stakeholders' voices are heard throughout the engagement process. Stakeholder level of interest will evolve over the duration of the Project and this analysis will be updated regularly to reflect changes and emerging issues or opportunities. As such, the stakeholder map will be updated as the Project progresses.



4 GAP ANALYSIS REPORTING

14. In line with Scottish Government guidance³ the Project will track all stakeholder feedback from Project set up, throughout development and into execution. Throughout the consenting process and into the post-consent period it is important to ensure that issues specified in the Scoping Opinion, and comments raised subsequently by consultees, are adequately addressed, and taken to completion through an auditable process. Marine Directorate - Licencing Operations Team (MD-LOT) requires that this is achieved through gap analysis.
15. The aim of the gap analysis process provides developers with fixed targets around data and evidence provision requirements and for the advisors and regulators to have clarity around what is to be provided and when. This has the advantage of allowing a more focused gate-check process on those topics. The gap analysis process offers valuable benefits in the form of:
- Providing greater certainty for all parties on the existing information and the amount and range of additional evidence required and to be collected;
 - Focusing evidence requirements so they are proportionate;
 - Addressing issues in pre-application to reduce the likelihood of unexpected issues and disagreements; and
 - Clarity for the decision-makers to inform robust, streamlined decisions.
16. The gap analysis methods are applied at three stages in the licensing process:
- Stage 1: Scoping**
17. The Scoping Report results in the adoption of a Scoping Opinion by Scottish Ministers. This Scoping Opinion will specify a range of issues that are required to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). As part of the package of documents supplied by the Project at gate-check in support of the application, the Project will provide a log of the issues raised in the Scoping Opinion, and of the actions taken in respect of each issue, together with a reference to the relevant section of the EIAR where issues have been addressed.
18. MD-LOT will review the gap analysis and identify where issues have not been addressed or have not been addressed in a sufficiently complete way. Following this, the Project will be advised to rectify these gaps prior to submission of the EIAR.
- Stage 2: Environmental Impact Assessment**
19. The EIAR and other elements of the application package, including the HRA, will be subject to broad consultation. The consultee comments will be passed to the Project where a second gap analysis will be created. This will provide information on the Project views or actions taken in response to each of the consultee comments, together with evidence of satisfactory resolution.
20. MD-LOT will review this second gap analysis and identify where issues have not been addressed or have not been addressed in a sufficiently complete way. These gaps need to be rectified prior to determination of the application

³ Gov.Scot (2018). Marine Scotland Consenting and Licensing Guidance. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2020/02/marine-licensing-applications-and-guidance/documents/guidance/guidance-manual-for-offshore-wind-wave-and-tidal-energy-application/guidance-manual-for-offshore-wind-wave-and-tidal-energy-application/govscot%3Adocument/Guidance%2BManual%2Bfor%2BOffshore%2BWind%252C%2BWave%2Band%2BTidal%2BEnergy%2BApplication.pdf>



Stage 3: Post Consent

21. In the post-consent period, a third gap analysis will be prepared by the Project that reflects the comments raised by consultees on the various plans prepared by the Project as required by the consent and licence conditions. MD-LOT will review this and identify gaps where issues have not been addressed or have not been addressed in a sufficiently complete way. The Project will rectify these gaps before plans can be approved.
22. In addition to the gap analysis process, the plan for engagement will utilise the Applicants relationships at both strategic and Project-specific levels.



5 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

23. The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation (PAC)) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 apply to activities that have the potential to have significant impacts upon the environment, local communities and other legitimate uses of the sea applicable in the Scottish Inshore Region, from Mean High Water Springs to 12 nautical miles (nm).
24. The Applicant will hold public consultation events throughout the EIA, prior to the submission of the EIAR, and will follow the principles of the Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Regulations, which include holding one public event with at least six weeks advance notification. The Applicant intends to exceed the minimum PAC requirements by holding a series of in person and online consultation events and issuing a PAC report. The Applicant will advertise these events widely and will ensure the events are held in suitably accessible venues.
25. Section 7(2) of these Regulations states that a PAC event must be held no earlier than six weeks after the date on which notification of such event is given. Section 8 of the Regulations then goes on to state that a PAC report must be prepared.
26. The PAC report needs to detail what has been done to comply with the requirements of the Planning Act and associated Regulations. The report must:
- Specify who has been consulted;
 - Set out what steps have been taken to comply with the statutory requirements and additional requirements of the Council;
 - Contain copies of all illustrative drawings, and any other materials, exhibited to communities at the PAC events; and
 - Set out how the applicant has responded to the comments made by the public and consultees and including whether the proposals have changed as a result of pre-application consultation.
27. To deliver high-quality engagement, the Project has the following aims for PAC:
- To seek the views and concerns of all interested parties so that these may be considered and if necessary, addressed in Project planning;
 - To provide all members of the communities local to the proposed development with access to the developer and provide the opportunity to enter dialogue and record their views on the proposed development;
 - To enable dialogue with those stakeholders impacted upon by the proposed infrastructure works.
 - To initiate relationships with community councils and other relevant local stakeholders with a geographic interest in the works;
 - To ensure that the Applicant initiates an appropriate level of engagement with all the interested parties;
 - To identify suitable mitigation measures; and
 - To comply with relevant regulations.
28. The consultation throughout the EIA Process will include discussions on the most appropriate information sources, interim results, assessment methods and EIA outputs, in addition to continued updates relating to the Project activities and opportunities.
29. Upon application acceptance, the public will have the opportunity to make formal representations to Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government; the timescales and procedure for this will be outlined in the application process.

