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## **Volume 1 Overview Chapters**

### Chapter 8 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

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# Volume 1 Chapter 8 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EIAR</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
<b>JNCC</b>	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
<b>MCA</b>	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
<b>MD-LOT</b>	Marine Directorate Licencing and Operation Team
<b>MoD</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>MSS</b>	Marine Scotland Science
<b>NATS</b>	National Air Traffic Services
<b>NLB</b>	Northern Lighthouse Board
<b>PAC</b>	Pre-Application Consultation
<b>RSPB</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>RYA</b>	Royal Yachting Association
<b>SEPA</b>	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
<b>SP=EED</b>	Successful Planning - Equals Effective Engagement and Delivery
<b>SSEN-T</b>	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks - Transmission

## 8 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement and consultation undertaken by Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) during the pre-application stage for the Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) (the Proposed Development), to determine the scope of this offshore and onshore EIAR, as well as the public consultation undertaken to inform and obtain feedback from the local community on the Proposed Development.
- 8.1.1.2 The Caledonia OWF comprises, Caledonia North and Caledonia South, collectively referred to as the Proposed Development (Offshore). The Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) required to transfer the power from the Proposed Development (Offshore) to a connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) is referred to as the Proposed Development (Onshore). Collectively, the Proposed Development (Offshore) and Proposed Development (Onshore) are referred to as the "Proposed Development".
- 8.1.1.3 To facilitate the development of the Caledonia OWF, the Applicant is required to submit several consenting applications including:
- 2 x Section 36 applications (Caledonia North and Caledonia South) for the construction of the power generation site (OWF) and any inter-array cabling. To be submitted to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT);
  - 4 x Marine Licence applications for any offshore platforms and cabling to the platforms and to shore (2 x Generation and 2 x Transmission). To be submitted to MD-LOT; and
  - A Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) application submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for all onshore works (all works landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)).
- 8.1.1.4 These applications are supported by a single EIAR (covering the Proposed Development).
- 8.1.1.5 Further information on the consultation process and wider engagement can be found in the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report (refer to Application Document 1) accompanying both the PPP application to Aberdeenshire Council, Section 36 and marine licence applications to MD-LOT.
- 8.1.1.6 An overview of the Proposed Development's consultation process is summarised in Figure 8-1

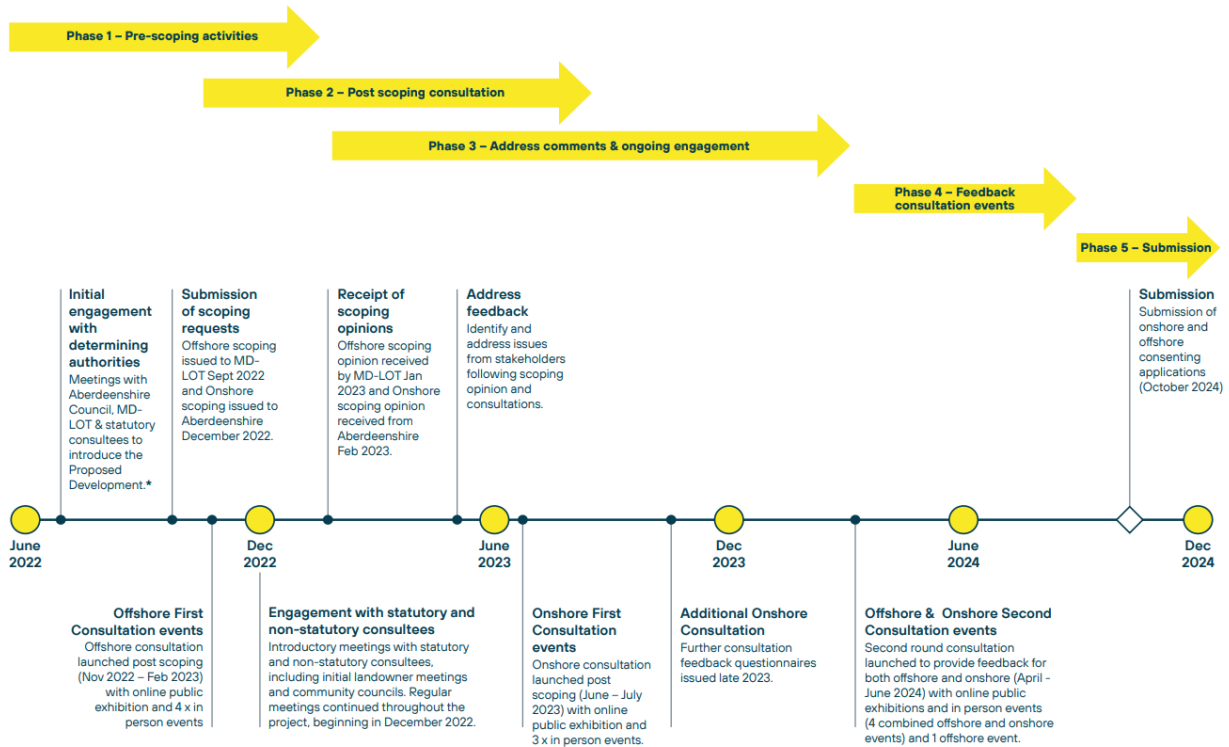


Figure 8-1: Summary of consultation process

8.1.1.7 The approach to consultation and engagement for the Proposed Development was implemented in line with relevant policy and legislation in relation to pre-application consultation for the consenting procedures, detailed in the Volume 1, Chapter 2: Legislation and Policy Chapter. Furthermore, the consultation strategy was developed considering key guidance for undertaking effective engagement.

8.1.1.8 The primary purpose of this EIAR chapter is to summarise:

- The stakeholder engagement processes applied to the pre-application stage;
- Informal and formal stakeholder engagement undertaken in relation to the development of the EIAR; and
- Public consultation undertaken to inform and obtain feedback from the local community on the Proposed Development.

8.1.1.9 The PAC Report (Application Document 1: Pre-Application Consultation Report) provides further details of consultation undertaken and is provided as an accompanying report to this EIAR and submitted with the consent applications.



## 8.2 Policy, Legislation and Guidance

### 8.2.1 Policy and Legislative Context

8.2.1.1 An overview of the policy and legislation on renewable energy infrastructure as relevant to the Proposed Development is presented in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Legislation and Policy of the EIAR.

### 8.2.2 Best Practice Guidance

8.2.2.1 The Applicant has sought to follow best practice throughout pre-application consultation and engagement on the Proposed Development.

8.2.2.2 The Applicant's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy identifies four objectives to deliver the strategy:

- Identify – identification of those stakeholders with an interest in the Proposed Development;
- Communicate – provide appropriate information on the Proposed Development to stakeholders including any potential positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse) impacts that the Proposed Development may have; and
- Consult – seek and record views and potential concerns of stakeholders; and
- Communicate again – provide information to stakeholders detailing the results of consultation and provide reassurance to any concerns raised.

8.2.2.3 The Applicant has endeavoured to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to all stakeholder concerns and that opinions are integrated into the Proposed Development decision making process.

8.2.2.4 Throughout the development phase of the Proposed Development, the Applicant has ensured consultation and engagement with statutory and non-statutory consultees, and with members of the public has followed the principles and best practice guidance including:

- **The Aarhus Convention:** An Implementation Guide (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, 2014<sup>1</sup>) (2011 and 2014 versions) representing best practice in respect of how to consult with members of the public on major projects;
- **The Gunning Principles:** Legal tests, which if followed, are designed to make consultation fair and a worthwhile exercise (Scottish Government, 2022<sup>2</sup>). The tests are:
  - that consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
  - that the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response;

- o that adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
- o that the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision.
- **The Scottish Government’s Planning Advice Note (PAN) PAN3 / 2010 Community Engagement** (Scottish Government, 2010<sup>3</sup>) which provides advice to applicants on ways to effectively engage with communities on planning matters; and
- **Successful Planning - Equals Effective Engagement and Delivery (SP=EED) Framework**, which was developed by Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) (Planning Aid Scotland, 2020<sup>4</sup>). A guide to engagement in planning by PAS targeted at all stakeholders in Scotland’s planning system designed to help design, deliver and assess the process of engagement.

## 8.3 Consultation on the EIA

### 8.3.1 EIA Scoping

- 8.3.1.1 The scope of the Onshore and Offshore EIAR has been informed by the formal Scoping exercise. EIA scoping is a non-mandatory part of the EIA process in which the applicant identifies the key issues to be assessed in detail as part of the EIA and aspects of the assessment methodology that will be used. Scoping is an important preliminary step in the EIA process, which sets the context for agreeing the content of the EIAR.
- 8.3.1.2 The EIAR Methodology (Volume 1, Chapter 7: EIA Methodology) describes the EIA scoping process undertaken and how the comments raised have been addressed through each of the topic specific chapters.
- 8.3.1.3 In relation to the Proposed Development (Offshore):
- The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to Scottish Ministers, via the Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)<sup>i</sup> in September 2022; and
  - A Scoping Opinion was received from MD-LOT in January 2023.
- 8.3.1.4 In relation to the Proposed Development (Onshore):
- The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to Aberdeenshire Council in December 2022; and
  - A Scoping Opinion was received from Aberdeenshire Council in February 2023.

<sup>i</sup> In 2023, Marine Scotland was renamed Marine Directorate, and thus the marine licensing and consents team is now referred to as MD-LOT.

8.3.1.5 Each Scoping Opinion detailed a summary of the key points raised by Aberdeenshire Council, MD-LOT and relevant consultees on the proposed scope of the EIAR. A list of bodies that responded to the Scoping Request(s) is presented in Table 8-1: and Table 8-2.

Table 8-1: List of bodies that responded to the Onshore Scoping Report

<b>Organisations</b>	
Aberdeenshire Council – Contaminated Land	Aberdeenshire Council – Roads
Aberdeenshire Council - Archaeology	Transport Scotland
Aberdeenshire Council – Flood Risk and Coastal Protection	NatureScot
Aberdeenshire Council – Environmental Health	Historic Environment Scotland
Aberdeenshire Council – Natural Heritage	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Table 8-2: List of bodies that responded to the Offshore Scoping Report

<b>Organisations</b>	
Aberdeenshire Council	North Sea Transition Authority
Highlands & Islands Airports Limited	Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)
Historic Environment Scotland	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Royal Yachting Association
Marine Analytical Unit	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – Transmission (SSEN-T)
Marine Directorate	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation
Marine Scotland Science (MSS)	Scottish Water
Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA)	SEPA
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Spey District Salmon Fishery Board

<b>Organisations</b>	
Moray Council	The Highland Council
Mountaineering Scotland	Transport Scotland
National Air Traffic Services (NATS)	UK Chamber of Shipping
NatureScot	University of Aberdeen Lighthouse Field Station

8.3.1.6 A copy of the Scoping Reports and Scoping Opinions received can be found in Volume 7, Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4.

8.3.1.7 Consultation with stakeholders listed in Table 8-1 and Table 8-2, and others, identified as the EIA progressed, is continuing as appropriate, and will continue throughout the determination and post-consent stages as appropriate.

### **8.3.2 Engagement with statutory and non-statutory consultees**

8.3.2.1 To support the development of the EIA, the Applicant has sought to engage with relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies on a range of topics. Engagement has included meetings, correspondence, and provision of digital documentation where appropriate.

8.3.2.2 The list of organisations that were engaged during the pre-application process, including scoping and post-scoping, for the Proposed Development are listed in Table 8-3 below.

8.3.2.3 Feedback received during technical engagement relating to the EIAR has been addressed in specific topic chapters and appendices.

8.3.2.4 Additionally, engagement with landowners in relation to the Proposed Development has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period.

Table 8-3: Statutory and non-statutory consultees (Onshore)

Organisation	
Aberdeenshire Council – Roads	Aberdeenshire Council Environment and Ecology
Aberdeenshire Council – Flood Risk and Coastal Protection	Aberdeenshire Council Drainage
Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department	Historic Environment Scotland
Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development	NatureScot
Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment	River Deveron District Salmon Fisheries Board
Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Health	SEPA

Table 8-4: Statutory and non-statutory consultees (Offshore)

Organisation	
Aberdeen International Airport	National Trust Scotland
Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development	NatureScot
Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department	NLB
Association of District Salmon Fisheries Boards	Office of Gas and Electricity Market
Chamber of Shipping	Port and Harbour Authorities inclusive of the Harbour Master
Civil Aviation Authority	Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Committee on Climate Change	RSPB
Crown Estate Scotland	Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
Fisheries Management Scotland	Scottish Development International
Highland Council	Scottish Enterprise

Organisation	
Historic Environment Scotland	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
JNCC	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
Marine Analytical Unit	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Marine Directorate	SEPA
Marine Scotland Policy Team	Serco NorthLink Ferries
MCA	Spey District Salmon Fishery Board
MoD	SSEN-T
Mountaineering Scotland	Surfers Against Sewage
MD-LOT	UK Government
MSS	UK Hydrographic Office
NATS	Visit Scotland
National Grid ESO	Whale and Dolphin Conservation
National Nature Reserves	Wick Airport

## 8.4 Public Engagement

### 8.4.1 Pre-Application Consultation

8.4.1.1 As detailed in the Policy and Legislation Chapter (Volume 1, Chapter 2: Legislation and Policy), statutory PAC must be carried out in relation to both the onshore and offshore development. Where possible and appropriate, the Applicant has sought to combine consultation and engagement activities for onshore and offshore to limit the burden on stakeholders and reduce stakeholder fatigue.

8.4.1.2 Details of the events held by the Applicant to meet these requirements are summarised in Table 8-5. The aim of the consultation events was to provide updated information on the Proposed Development and allow the Applicant to respond to any questions the public may have.

8.4.1.3 Full details on the PAC events, compliance with the relevant requirements, and feedback received are provided within the PAC Report (Application Document 1: Pre-Application Consultation Report).

Table 8-5: Summary of PAC activities

Date	Overview	Description
November 2022 – February 2023	Offshore First Consultation – Post Scoping	<p>Following the submission of the offshore scoping, the first offshore PAC events were held at three venues (Buckie, Wick and Fraserburgh) in November 2022 with one further event (Banff) in February 2023.</p> <p>A virtual public consultation room was made available to the public and stakeholders during the consultation period.</p> <p>Communities were encouraged to provide feedback to consultation at both the in-person events and online.</p>
June – July 2023	Onshore First Consultation – Post Scoping	<p>Following the submission of the onshore scoping, the first onshore PAC events were held at three venues (Banff, New Deer and Turriff) in June and July 2023.</p> <p>A virtual public consultation room was made available to the public and stakeholders during the consultation period.</p> <p>Communities were encouraged to provide feedback to consultation at both the in-person events and online.</p>
April 2024	Offshore and Onshore Second Consultation - Feedback events	<p>A further round of additional feedback events were held to provide feedback to the public on the development of the EIA and Proposed Development design.</p> <p>Events were held at two venues for the offshore development (Buckie and Wick) and two venues for combined offshore and onshore feedback (Banff and New Deer) in April 2024.</p> <p>A virtual public consultation room was made available to the public and stakeholders during the consultation period. Communities were encouraged to provide feedback to consultation at both the in-person events and online.</p>

Date	Overview	Description
June 2024	Offshore PAC-event	<p>A PAC event was held to provide feedback to the public on the development of the EIA and Proposed Development design.</p> <p>An event was held in Banff for the offshore development in June 2024.</p> <p>A virtual public consultation room was made available to the public and stakeholders during the consultation period.</p> <p>Communities were encouraged to provide feedback to consultation at both the in-person events and online.</p>

## 8.4.2 Wider Engagement

- 8.4.2.1 In addition to formal pre-application consultation events, the Applicant has carried out local engagement with the public, community councils, businesses and local organisations.
- 8.4.2.2 Information has been communicated to the wider community through a variety of channels, both in the lead up to and in addition to the consultation events. This has included; leaflet drops, newspaper adverts, newsletters, posters in local venues and press releases.
- 8.4.2.3 The Proposed Development website has been kept up to date with relevant information including both onshore and offshore aspects of the Proposed Development. The website also includes details and facts about the Proposed Development, and ways to contact the Project team.

## 8.4.3 Conclusion

- 8.4.3.1 This chapter has provided an overview of the stakeholder engagement and consultation undertaken by the Applicant in relation to the Proposed Development during the pre-application stage. This has informed the scope of this offshore and onshore EIAR and the development of the design.
- 8.4.3.2 The Applicant has sought to engage with a broad range of stakeholders through a range of methods including formal consultation events (both in person and online) as well as technical meetings.
- 8.4.3.3 The PAC Report (Application Document 1: Pre-Application Consultation Report) provides further details of consultation undertaken and is provided as an accompanying report to this EIAR and submitted with the consent applications.



## 8.5 References

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2014) 'The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide'. Available at: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/aarhus-convention-implementation-guide-second-edition> (Accessed: 27/02/2024).

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government (2022) 'Consultations in the Scottish Government: guidance'. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/consultations-in-the-scottish-government-guidance/> (Accessed: 19/04/2024).

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government (2010) 'Planning Advice Note 3/2010 Community Engagement'. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-3-2010-community-engagement/>. (Accessed: 19/04/2024)

<sup>4</sup> Planning Aid Scotland (2020) 'SP=EED Successful Planning =Effective Engagement and Delivery: A Practical Guide to Better Engagement in Planning'. Planning Aid Scotland. Available at: [https://www.pas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SPEED\\_July2020.pdf](https://www.pas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SPEED_July2020.pdf) (Accessed: 19/04/2024).

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