

A photograph of an offshore wind farm at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue, with a few wispy clouds. The sea is dark with white-capped waves in the foreground. Several wind turbines are visible, their silhouettes against the bright sky. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

# **Salamander Offshore Wind Farm**

## **Offshore EIA Report**

### **Volume ER.A.3, Chapter 19: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation**



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## Glossary

<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	Salamander Wind Project Company Limited (formerly called Simply Blue Energy (Scotland) Limited), a joint venture between Ørsted, Simply Blue Group and Subsea7.
<b>Cumulative effects</b>	The combined effect of the Salamander Project with the effects from a number of different projects, on the same single receptor/resource.
<b>Cumulative impact</b>	Impacts that result from changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the Salamander Project.
<b>Design Envelope</b>	A description of the range of possible elements that make up the Salamander Project design options under consideration, as set out in detail in the project description. This envelope is used to define Salamander Project for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known.
<b>Effect</b>	Term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.
<b>Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI)</b>	Energy Balancing Infrastructure which will provide services to the electrical grid, such as storing energy to meet periods of peak demand and improving overall reliability, as well as additional services such as system monitoring and computing. EBI will be housed within buildings and / or containers will be co-located with the Onshore Substation.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	A statutory process by which the likely significant effects of certain projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations (2017), including the publication of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
<b>EIA Regulations</b>	The regulations that apply to this project are the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007, and the Town and Country Planning (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)</b>	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
<b>Export Cable Corridor (ECC)</b>	The specific corridor of seabed (seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)) and land (landward of MHWS) from the Offshore Array Area (OAA) to the Onshore Substation, within which the export cables will be located.

<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Impact</b>	An impact is considered to be the change to the baseline as a result of an activity or event related to the Salamander Project. Impacts can be both adverse or beneficial impacts on the environment and be either temporary or permanent.
<b>Inter-Related Effect (or Inter-Relationships)</b>	The likely effects of multiple impacts from the proposed development on one receptor. For example, noise and air quality together could have a greater effect on a residential receptor than each impact considered separately.
<b>Landfall</b>	The generic term applied to the entire landfall corridor between Mean Low Water Spring (MLWS) tide and the Transition Joint Bay (TJB) inclusive of all construction works, including the offshore and onshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC), and landfall compound, where the offshore cables come ashore north of Peterhead.
<b>Offshore Array Area</b>	The offshore area within which the wind turbine generators, foundations, mooring lines and anchors, and inter-array cables and associated infrastructure will be located.
<b>Offshore Development</b>	The entire Offshore Development, including all offshore components of the Project (WTGs, Inter-array and Offshore Export Cable(s), floating substructures, mooring lines and anchors, and all other associated offshore infrastructure) required across all Project phases from development to decommissioning, for which the Applicant is seeking consent.
<b>Offshore Development Area</b>	The total area comprising the Offshore Array Area and the Offshore Export Cable Corridor.
<b>Offshore Export Cable(s)</b>	The export cable(s) that will bring electricity from the Offshore Array Area to the Landfall. The cable(s) will include fibre optic cable(s).
<b>Offshore Export Cable Corridor</b>	The area that will contain the Offshore Export Cable(s) between the boundary of the Offshore Array Area and MHWS.
<b>Onshore Development</b>	The entire Onshore Development, including Construction Compounds at the Landfall, temporary working areas, Onshore Export Cables, Transition Joint Bay, Joint Bays, Onshore Substation and Energy Balancing Infrastructure, Construction Compounds, any associated landscaping (if required) and access (and all other associated infrastructure) across all Project phases from development to decommissioning, for which the Applicant is seeking consent.
<b>Onshore Development Area</b>	The total area comprising the Landfall, Onshore Export Cable Corridor, and Onshore Substation, EBI and associated infrastructure.
<b>Onshore Substation</b>	Comprises a compound containing the electrical components for transforming the power supplied from the Salamander Project to 132 kV and to adjust the power quality and power factor, as required to meet the UK Grid Code for supply to the National Grid. The onshore substation is also the compound in which EBI and associated infrastructure will be co-located.

<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Receptor (Onshore)	Any physical, biological or anthropogenic element of the environment that may be affected or impacted by the Salamander Project. Receptors can include natural features such as rivers, forests and wildlife habitats as well as man-made features like residential areas, schools and cultural heritage sites.
Receptor (Offshore)	Any physical, biological or anthropogenic element of the environment that may be affected or impacted by the Salamander Project. Receptors can include natural features such as the seabed and wildlife habitats as well as man-made features like fishing vessels and cultural heritage sites.
Salamander Project	The proposed Salamander Offshore Wind Farm. The term covers all elements of both the offshore and onshore aspects of the project.
Scoping	An early part of the EIA process by which the key potential significant impacts of the Salamander Project are identified, and methodologies identified for how these should be assessed. This process gives the relevant authorities and key consultees opportunity to comment and define the scope and level of detail to be provided as part of the EIAR – which can also then be tailored through the consultation process.
Trenched methods	Trenched methods, such as open cut, involves the excavation of a trench and the installation of a cable or duct. The trench is then backfilled onshore, whereas offshore the trench may be either backfilled or left to infill naturally, though this is dependent on seabed conditions.
Trenchless methods	Also referred to as trenchless crossing techniques or trenchless methods. These techniques include Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), thrust boring, auger boring, pipe jacking and arc drilling, which allow ducts to be installed under an obstruction without breaking open the ground and digging a trench.
Wind Turbine Generator	All the components of a wind turbine, including the tower, nacelle, and rotor

## Acronyms

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AC	Aberdeenshire Council
ACC	Aberdeen City Council
APS	Annual Population Survey
ASHE	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings



<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>BRES</b>	<b>Business Register and Employment Survey</b>
<b>CAPEX</b>	<b>Capital expenditure</b>
<b>CEA</b>	<b>Cumulative Effects Assessment</b>
<b>EBI</b>	<b>Energy Balancing Infrastructure</b>
<b>ECC</b>	<b>Export Cable Corridor</b>
<b>EIA</b>	<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>Full-time equivalent</b>
<b>GVA</b>	<b>Gross Value Added</b>
<b>INTOG</b>	<b>Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas</b>
<b>IUC</b>	<b>Internet User Classification</b>
<b>MAU</b>	<b>Marine Analytical Unit</b>
<b>JV</b>	<b>Joint Venture</b>
<b>MD-IOT</b>	<b>Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team</b>
<b>MW</b>	<b>Megawatt</b>
<b>NPF4</b>	<b>National Planning Framework 4</b>
<b>NVQ</b>	<b>National Vocational Qualification</b>
<b>ONS</b>	<b>Office for National Statistics</b>
<b>OAA</b>	<b>Offshore Array Area</b>
<b>OPEX</b>	<b>Operational expenditure</b>
<b>PAC</b>	<b>Pre-application Consultation</b>
<b>PV</b>	<b>Photovoltaic</b>
<b>SEIA</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment</b>
<b>SFF</b>	<b>Scottish Fisherman’s Federation</b>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>SIMD</b>	<b>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</b>
<b>SIA</b>	<b>Special Landscape Area</b>
<b>SMR</b>	<b>Scottish Marine Region</b>
<b>SWPC</b>	<b>Salamander Wind Project Company Limited (formerly called SBES)</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>WTG</b>	<b>Wind Turbine Generator</b>
<b>ZOI</b>	<b>Zone of Influence</b>

## 19 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

### 19.1 Introduction

19.1.1.1 The Applicant, Salamander Wind Project Company Ltd. (SWPC) is proposing the development of the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter ‘Salamander Project’). The Salamander Project will consist of the installation of a floating offshore wind farm (up to 100 megawatts (MW) capacity) approximately 35 kilometres (km) east of Peterhead. It will consist of both offshore and onshore infrastructure, including an offshore generating station (wind farm), export cables to landfall, and connection to the electricity transmission network (please see **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 4: Project Description** for full details on the Project Design).

19.1.1.2 This chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) presents the results of the EIA on the potential impacts of the Salamander Project on Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation receptors. Specifically, this chapter considers the potential impact of the Salamander Project during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Offshore and Onshore Development.

19.1.1.3 The chapter provides an overview of the existing environment for the proposed Offshore and Onshore Development Areas, followed by an assessment of the significance of effect on Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreational receptors, as well as an assessment of potential cumulative effects with other relevant projects and effects arising from interactions on receptors across topics.

19.1.1.4 The assessment of socio-economic impacts and effects is based on:

- Capital (CAPEX) and operational (OPEX) expenditure to include onshore and offshore elements including project design, development, management, project construction and installation. To properly assess the impacts of the Salamander Project on the existing baseline – the ‘whole project’ has been considered.
- The Salamander Project could potentially affect both onshore and offshore tourism and recreation receptors and businesses. Therefore, it is considered robust to assess the impact of both onshore and offshore infrastructure on marine recreation.

19.1.1.5 This chapter has been authored by ERM. Further competency details of the authors of this chapter are outlined in **Volume ER.A.4, Annex 1.1: Details of the Project Team**.

### 19.2 Purpose

19.2.1.1 The primary purpose of this EIAR is for the application for the Salamander Project to satisfy the requirements of Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and associated Marine Licences. This EIAR chapter describes the potential environmental impacts from the offshore and onshore development and assesses the significance of their effect.

19.2.1.2 The EIAR has been finalised following the completion of the pre-application consultation **Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report** and the Salamander EIA Scoping Report (SBES, 2023), (and takes account of the relevant advice set out within the Scoping Opinion from Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) (MD-LOT, 2023) relevant to the Offshore Development. Comments relating to the Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI) will be addressed within the Onshore EIAR. The Offshore

EIAR will accompany the application to MD-LOT for Section 36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989, and Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

**19.2.1.3 This EIAR chapter:**

- Outlines the existing environmental baseline determined from the assessment of publicly available data, and stakeholder consultation;
- Presents the potential environmental impacts and effects arising from the Salamander Project on Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation receptors;
- Identifies mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce, or offset impacts and effects and enhance beneficial effects on the environment; and
- Identifies any uncertainties or limitations in the methods used and conclusions drawn.

**19.3 Planning and Policy Context**

**19.3.1.1** The preparation of the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation chapter has been informed by the following policy, legislation, and guidance outlined in **Table 19-1**.

**Table 19-1 Relevant policy, legislation and guidance relevant to the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment**

<b>Relevant policy, legislation, and guidance</b>
<i>Policy</i>
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (2023)
Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022)
Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023
Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023
Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015)
Offshore Wind Sector Deal (2020)
<i>Legislation</i>
Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

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*Wider relevant policies and plans*

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Scottish Energy Strategy (Scottish Government, 2017)

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British Energy Security Strategy (DESNZ, 2022)

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Climate Change Plan Update (Scottish Government, 2020)

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Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (HM Treasury, 2021)

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Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (Scottish Government, 2020)

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Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scotland (Scottish Government, 2020)

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Energy Strategy: Position Statement (Scottish Government, 2021)

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Just Transition Commission Annual Report (Scottish Government, 2023)

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Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (Scottish Government, 2023)

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*Guidance*

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Defining Local Area for assessing the impact of offshore wind (Marine Scotland, 2022)

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Green Book: Appraisal and evaluation in central government (HM Treasury, 2022)

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General Advice for Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (Marine Scotland MAU, December 2022)<sup>1</sup>

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19.3.1.2 Further details on the requirements for EIA are presented in **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 2: Legislative Context and Regulatory Requirements**.

## **19.4 Engagement and Consultation**

19.4.1.1 Consultation is a key part of the application process. It has played an important part in ensuring that the baseline characterisation and impact assessment is appropriate to the scale of development as well as meeting the requirements of the regulators and their advisors.

19.4.1.2 An overview of the Salamander Project consultation process is outlined in **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 5: Stakeholder Consultation**. Consultation regarding Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation has been conducted through the scoping process as well as directed engagement with relevant consultees.

19.4.1.3 The issues raised during consultation specific to Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation are outlined in **Table 19-2**, including consideration of where the issues have been addressed within the EIAR.

19.4.1.4 Further engagement with relevant local stakeholders (excluding statutory consultees) was undertaken from late November to early December 2023 regarding the potential impacts of the Salamander Project. At the time of writing, no responses were received.

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<sup>1</sup> As included at Annex 1 within Marine Analytical Unit (MAU) Scoping Response, 21 June 2023

**Table 19-2 Consultation responses specific to Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation topic**

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Date and Forum</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Where it is addressed within this EIAR</b>
Scottish Ministers (MD-LOT)	Scoping Opinion 21 June 2023	The Scottish Ministers advise that a full Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (“SEIA”) must be included in the EIA Report. With regard to economic impacts, the Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the proposed indicators for assessing economic impacts however, advise that the SEIA must include direct, indirect and induced impacts and take account of deadweight, leakage, displacement and substitution.	This EIA chapter provides a SEIA. The methodology is described in <b>Section 19.11</b> of this chapter. It includes an assessment of direct, indirect and induced impacts and explains how deadweight, leakage, displacement and substitution is considered. This is explained in both <b>Sections 19.11 and 19.12.</b>
Scottish Ministers (MD-LOT)	Scoping Opinion 21 June 2023	With regard to the baseline environment, the Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the data sources outlined by the Developer at Table 9-21 of the Scoping Report. The Scottish Ministers advise that the most up to date data is used for all analysis and direct the Developer further to the MAU advice in this regard.	Latest data is used and the baseline methodology is presented in <b>Section 19.6</b> and all data sources are referenced in <b>Table 19-4</b> of this chapter.
Scottish Ministers (MD-LOT)	Scoping Opinion 21 June 2023	Furthermore, the SEIA must consider sensitivity analysis to account for risk, uncertainty and optimism bias. The SEIA must include a detailed description of the methodology used to assess economic impacts and must include specific details about the methodological approach taken and any key assumptions. These requirements are in line with the advice from the MAU which must be addressed in full, in addition to consideration to the representation from the SFF. The Scottish Ministers would draw particular attention to Annex 1 of the MAU advice which may be of assistance in this regard.	Linked to comments above, latest data is used, the baseline methodology is presented in <b>Section 19.6</b> and all data sources are referenced in <b>Table 19-4</b> of this chapter.  <b>Section 19.11</b> explains how risk and uncertainty is addressed by assuming the realistic worst-case design scenario (i.e. the maximum impact) and the lower case project costs. Monetised economic benefits, i.e. Gross Value Added (GVA), are discounted over time in line with HMT Green Book guidance to account for risk and uncertainty. Optimism bias has not been applied to project costs



Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
			because it is a privately financed project. This is explained in <b>Section 19.6</b> of this chapter.
Scottish Ministers (MD-LOT)	Scoping Opinion 21 June 2023	The Scottish Ministers broadly agree with the impacts scoped in and out of the EIA Report in Table 9-24 of the Scoping Report. However, the Scottish Ministers do not agree with the Developer's proposal to scope out socio-cultural effects and distributional effects due to insufficient evidence within the Scoping Report to justify the scoping out of these. This is a view supported by both the SFF and the MAU and the Scottish Ministers direct the Developer further to the MAU advice in this regard and advise that these impacts are scoped into the SEIA for further assessment.	Relevant socio-cultural and distribution effects are now included within the assessment. This is addressed in the impact assessment in <b>Section 19.11</b> .
Scottish Ministers (MD-LOT)	Scoping Opinion 21 June 2023	The Scottish Ministers advise that further engagement with a wider range of interest groups is required with socio-economic impacts to be the focus of some of the engagement. This is a view supported by the MAU advice. The information gathered from the engagement must be recorded accurately within the SEIA and the Scottish Ministers direct the Developer to the MAU advice for further detail in this regard.	As noted in <b>Section 19.4</b> , the Salamander Project conducted further consultation with key local stakeholders which included local marine recreational and community groups. The stakeholder engagement process and a full list of stakeholders is included in <b>Appendix A of Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report</b>  In addition, the Salamander Project undertook consultation with multiple interest groups via a questionnaire, as provided in <b>Appendix A</b> . The consultation focused on socio-cultural and distributional issues.  No responses were received from consultees.

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
Scottish Ministers (MD-LOT)	21 June 2023; Scoping Opinion	With regard to mitigation, the Scottish Ministers advise that at this stage, further work is required in terms of identifying and assessing socio-economic impacts and therefore consideration and identification of potential mitigation measures must be addressed through the SEIA.	In addition to comments above, Project mitigation is addressed in <b>Section 19.12</b> of this chapter.
ScotWays	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	This scoping consultation relates solely to offshore aspects of this proposed windfarm, so can confirm that we have no comments to make at this stage. I can also confirm that ScotWays will want to be consulted regarding the scoping opinion relative to the remaining onshore infrastructure elements, so we look forward to hearing from Aberdeenshire Council in due course.	ScotWays were consulted directly in relation to the onshore elements but did not provide a response.
Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	<p>Economic Impacts</p> <p>We broadly agree with the scoping report’s proposed indicators for assessing economic impacts, including years of employment, GVA, type and number of jobs created etc. The assessment should include direct, indirect and induced impacts and take account of deadweight, leakage, displacement and substitution. Sensitivity analysis to account for risk, uncertainty and optimism bias should also be considered. Please see Annex 1 for more advice. We expect to see a detailed description of the methodology used to assess economic impacts in the EIA, including specific details about the methodological</p>	As noted above, the SEIA methodology is described in <b>Section 19.10</b> of this chapter. It explains how key factors such as leakage, deadweight, displacement, substitution and sensitivity, risk, optimism bias are considered.

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		<p>approach taken and any key assumptions that underpin any estimates. This may be supplied in a technical annex if necessary.</p>	
<p>Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>Socio-cultural effects</p> <p>Socio-cultural effects are defined as “any potential impacts on lifestyle, family structure, social problems (such as crime deprivation), human rights, community character etc.”. These impacts are not discussed anywhere else in the report and have been scoped out because the development is offshore and so these impacts are assumed to be minimal. We do not feel that there is enough evidence presented in the report to justify this assumption. The other impacts scoped in, such as employment, demand for housing and local services, and tourism and recreation, could all generate socio-cultural effects. The impacts scoped into other chapters in the human environment section (cultural heritage, commercial fishing, visual impacts) could, similarly, generate socio-cultural effects. It may be helpful to use SIMD data as a baseline for these impacts, and other social impacts, where relevant.</p>	<p>Socio-cultural effects such as changes in population, resulting from new employment which may create further socio-cultural effects, are now considered in the assessment, as well as impacts of this on local social infrastructure. See <b>Section 19.11</b> of this chapter.</p>
<p>Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>Distributional Impacts</p> <p>Distributional impacts are defined as “the potential for the Project to impact specific groups within a society (including different age groups, religious groups and ethnic minorities) or communities which are defined by their geographic location.” These have been scoped</p>	<p>Distributional effects are considered by assessing the distribution of impacts by geography, based on defined Study Areas, and therefore ‘communities of place’ i.e. those defined by their geographic location. See <b>Section 19.5</b> on the Study Areas and <b>Section 19.10</b> on methodology, of this chapter.</p>

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		<p>out because the project is offshore, and these impacts are considered to be unlikely. Again, we feel that there is not enough evidence presented in the scoping report to support this conclusion. The impacts scoped in could all have distributional impacts, as could the impacts scoped into other chapters, mentioned above. For example, it would be good to understand who is likely to benefit from potential employment opportunities.</p> <p>We would, therefore, recommend that socio-cultural effects and distributional impacts are scoped in for all phases of the development i.e. Construction, Operation and Maintenance, and Decommissioning.</p>	
<p>Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>Onshore impacts</p> <p>The developers state that the socio-economic impacts of the offshore and onshore components have been considered together. This is positive but does not seem to be fully reflected in the socio-economic chapter and the impacts considered.</p> <p>In the onshore section of the report, impacts presented in the human environment chapter have largely been scoped in. These include impacts on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Onshore Air Quality, Landscape and Visual Amenity, Traffic and Transport, Noise and Vibration, Land Use and other users. Many of these have the potential to have general social impacts, including socio-cultural effects and</p>	<p>The SEIA in this chapter considers the potential impacts of both the Offshore and Onshore development together on socio-economic, tourism and recreation receptors. Impacts from the Onshore Development on other onshore receptors are not considered in this Offshore EIAR but will be included in the Onshore EIAR.</p> <p>The SEIA builds upon the impact assessments contained within other chapters including:</p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries</b> which assesses the impacts on commercial fisheries in <b>Section 19.11</b>.</p>

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		<p>distributional impacts. For example, it would be good to understand which areas will be affected by traffic and transport disruptions.</p>	<p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 16: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> where insights from this chapter are used to assess impacts on tourism and recreation receptors in <b>Section 19.11</b>.</p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 17: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b> which assesses the interaction between the Salamander Project and cultural heritage in <b>Section 19.11</b>.</p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 18: Other Users of the Marine Environment</b>, which assesses the interaction between the Salamander Project and other users, including tourism and recreation, in <b>Section 19.11</b>.</p>
<p>Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>Engagement</p> <p>The engagement that has been carried out so far is fairly minimal and focuses on statutory consultees or key interest groups. Socio-economic impacts have not been the focus of the engagement so far.</p> <p>The report states that there is more engagement planned, but there is little detail given about who will be engaged, on what topics and in what way.</p> <p>We would like to see a detailed plan for future engagement activities. We would like socio-economic impacts to be the focus of some of this engagement. We would also recommend that these activities are designed in such a way that the information gathered during these</p>	<p>As set out in <b>Section 19.4</b>, the <b>RP.A.4.1 - Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report</b> describes the full stakeholder and community consultation process. The pre-application consultation is also summarised in <b>Volume ERA.2, Chapter 5 Stakeholder Consultation</b> of this EIAR.</p> <p>The Salamander Project conducted further consultation with key local stakeholders, noted above, which included local marine recreational and community groups. The consultation focused on socio-cultural and distributional issues. However, no responses were received from these consultees.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with stakeholders is planned through the project website, newsletters and direct consultation with key</p>

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		<p>activities can meaningfully inform the SEIA. For example, this might mean ensuring that information gained is recorded accurately, that details of participants are recorded, and that efforts are made to engage with a range of people. Would recommend appointing a community liaison officer to improve engagement and communication with impacted communities.</p>	<p>stakeholders. Refer to <b>Section 8.2 of RP.A.4.1 - Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report</b></p> <p>The Salamander Project will appoint a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) that will aim to build a connection between the Salamander Project and the local community. A key role of the CLO will be to monitor and report any concerns raised by key stakeholders and the local community.</p>
<p>Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>We recommend that a full socio-economic impact assessment is scoped in and that this should include socio-cultural effects, distributional impacts, and the knock-on social impacts of impacts to other receptors such as commercial fisheries, cultural heritage and visual impacts.</p> <p>We recommend that knock-on social impacts of impacts to the human environment identified in the onshore impact assessment are included in the socio-economic impacts assessment.</p>	<p>As above, this chapter includes a full SEIA including socio-cultural effects, distribution effects and knock on effects to other receptors. It builds upon conclusions from:</p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries</b></p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 16: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 17: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p><b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 18: Other Users of the Marine Environment</b></p>
<p>Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>We understand that at the point of applying for a license, the developers may not know which ports or landfall locations they will use, nor where they will source their workforce from. Without this information, it is difficult to plan primary research and provide a</p>	<p>Assessments have been made based on available project information. Areas of uncertainty have been identified and explained in <b>Section 19.8</b> of this chapter.</p>



Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		<p>detailed assessment of social impacts. Nevertheless, we expect transparency on what has the potential to significantly impact but which cannot be assessed fully due to a lack of sufficient detail.</p>	
<p>Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>P77, para "6.6.1 Consideration of Human Health", accepts that the Project will interact with human health in relation to noise, air quality, visual, transport and socio-economics.</p> <p>SFF consider the possibility that the project will negatively impact the local fishermen in terms of employment and income sources. There is a chance that this will badly impact the education, lifestyle, and community identity of them. Therefore, SFF would want to see these scoped-in to understand any possible negative impacts.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that there is the potential for the loss of earnings to commercial fisheries for receptors within the Offshore Development Area. This would be largely due to loss of access to fishing grounds, displacement, impediment of vessel trips and other security/safety issues. However, <b>Volume ER.A.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries</b> assessed these impacts and concluded that commercial fisheries are not expected to be significantly impacted. This is assessed in <b>Section 19.11</b> of this chapter.</p>
<p>Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>Socio-economics, Scoping Questions</p> <p>Do you agree that all relevant legislation, policy and guidance documents have been identified for the socio-economics assessment, or are there any additional legislation, policy and guidance documents that should be considered?</p> <p>Answer: No specific comment.</p> <p>Do you agree with the study areas defined for socio-economics?</p> <p>Answer: Yes.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		<p>Do you agree with the data and information sources identified to inform the baseline for socioeconomics, or are there any additional data and information sources that should be considered?</p> <p>Answer: No specific comment.</p>	
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	<p>"Do you agree with the suggested embedded mitigation measures?"</p> <p>Answer: No. Experience tells us that post-consent is too late to agree on much of the mitigation; therefore, it needs to be agreed pre-consent.</p> <p>In addition, the SFF realise the fact that the project may have a negative impact on commercial fisheries; therefore, simply saying "the new jobs" is not enough. SFF would expect to see the development scoping where the new jobs are created and ensure that they do not replace fishing jobs.</p>	<p>As noted above, <b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries</b> assessed this and concluded that commercial fisheries are not expected to be significantly impacted.</p> <p><b>Section 19.9</b> considers knock on socio-economic effects of the Salamander Project on other sectors.</p>
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	<p>"Do you agree that all potential receptors and impacts have been identified for Socio-economic?"</p> <p>Answer: No. For the SFF it is recognised that for every job offshore there are five jobs ashore which has not been considered here.</p>	Refer to comments above.
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	"Do you agree that the impacts proposed can be scoped out of the socio-economics EIA chapter?"	Socio-cultural and distributional effects are considered in the assessment, in <b>Section 19.9</b> .

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIAR
		Answer: No. SFF recommends that the “Socio-cultural effects” and “Distributional effects” to be scoped in since the development will have impacts on both of them.	
Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF)	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	<p>“Do you agree with the approach for cumulative effects assessment and transboundary impacts?”</p> <p>Answer: No. The developers will be able to deduce the size and impacts of all ScotWind projects and they could scope in the worst-case scenario.</p>	The approach to cumulative assessment is outlined in <b>Section 19.13</b> . Only projects where sufficient information to inform an assessment are included.
Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF)	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	<p>“Do you agree with the approach to analysis and assessment that will inform the EIA?”</p> <p>Answer: No specific comment</p>	Noted
NatureScot	21 June 2023; Scoping Response	<p>Wet storage</p> <p>Section 4.6.2 (Floating Substructures) refers to the potential for wet storage of the substructures prior to their installation within the array area, either at the initial assembly site, the wind turbine integration site or a separate dedicated storage location. Section 4.7.1 (Floating Assembly) also indicates that once operational the substructures and WTGs will form an integrated assembly piece – the replacement of any major component parts of which is expected to be achieved by towing the assembly to port. Wet storage could represent a</p>	Wet storage of the floating substructures (and integrated WTGs) prior to tow-out to the OAA is considered to be outside the scope of this EIA and the Marine Licence applications for the Offshore Development. This is due to the fact that at this stage of the Salamander Project it is not known which port(s) will be used for wet storage and therefore it is challenging to undertake a meaningful assessment of impacts related to wet storage. The intent is that the Salamander Project will utilise the services of a port(s) that offer wet storage sites, which will have appropriate consents (obtained by the port authority) for wet storage of floating substructures, fabrication

Consultee	Date and Forum	Comment	Where it is addressed within this EIA
		<p>significant impact. Consideration of the potential impacts on all receptors needs to be addressed with the EIA and HRA. We would welcome further discussion on this as and when further details are confirmed, noting the intention to seek a separate marine licence application for any requirements for wet storage outwith the array area.</p>	<p>and assembly with the WTGs. To enable the availability of this option for the Salamander Project within the required timeframe, SWPC is an official member of the TS-FLOW UK-North Joint Industry Project (JIP) exploring the challenges of wet storage and identifying the opportunities and potentially suitable locations for these activities. This JIP is in collaboration with relevant ports and other floating offshore wind developers.</p> <p>Separate Marine Licences and associated impact assessments for wet storage areas outwith the Offshore Development Area will be applied for and undertaken as appropriate.</p>
<p>Local community stakeholders</p>	<p>21 June 2023; Scoping Response</p>	<p>No responses specific to socio-economic issues were received during pre-application consultation.</p>	<p>As noted above, a full list of stakeholders is identified in <b>Appendix 1 of Volume RPA.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report</b>. It includes community councils, community associations, sports groups, heritage organisations and others, who were invited to engage in the pre-application consultation.</p>

19.4.1.5 The Applicant held meetings with statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout the EIA process. These meetings were used to inform consultees on the progress of the Offshore Development. These meetings enabled consultees to raise concerns and discuss them with the Applicant, and to ensure the assessment process was transparent and robust. In addition to meetings, consultation has also taken place through emails, online exhibitions and online meetings.

19.4.1.6 The engagement programme for the Salamander Project has reached out to engage a wide range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, key interested stakeholders and the local community.

## 19.5 Study Area

19.5.1.1 The Salamander Project has the potential to create both positive and negative socio-economic effects at neighbourhood, local, and national levels. The purpose of a SEIA within the context of an EIA is to assess significant impacts, enhance positive effects and minimise negative effects, and with focus on receptors significantly impacted by the Salamander Project. The defined Study Areas below were determined based on the Scoping Opinion and application of relevant guidance, “Defining Local Area for assessing the impact of offshore wind (Marine Scotland, 2022)”.

19.5.1.2 Guidance suggests that the socio-economic Study Areas are determined by the Salamander Project’s potential socio-economic impacts. Potential socio-economic impacts included in this assessment are determined by the Scoping Opinion, feedback from consultation, policy and guidance noted above, and wider project experience. This includes impacts from both the Offshore Development and Onshore Development of the Salamander Project. Potential impacts are grouped into four categories:

- **Socio-economic impacts:** Net additional direct, indirect and induced jobs and Gross Value Added (GVA) created through the construction and operation and maintenance of the Salamander Project, after accounting for leakage, deadweight, displacement, and substitution effects. The distribution of net additional jobs and GVA across functional economic geographies and sectors is also considered.
- **Wider socio-economic effects:** The wider and knock-on socio-economic effects including potential structural economic change, loss, or disruption to traditional or established local industries. For example, key relevant industries are likely to include agriculture, tourism, and commercial fisheries. The impacts on tourism and commercial fisheries are specifically mentioned in the Scoping Responses and are considered in the assessment.
- **Socio-cultural effects:** The potential for socio-economic impacts and other environmental impacts (e.g. traffic, air quality) to create socio-cultural effects. For example, changes to local demographics and way of life caused by an influx of new workers, additional demand on local social infrastructure. Alternatively a knock-on effect of structural economic change on community identity, community structures, access to recreational resources and assets, and way of life are raised in the Scoping Responses and are considered in the assessment.
- **Tourism and recreation effects:** The effects on the tourism economy as a receptor is considered under wider socio-economic effects, noted above. However, local recreation receptors are an asset for both communities and visitors. Therefore, the assessment considers effects on recreation receptors, considering their role in both community recreation activity and wider tourism.

19.5.1.3 Impacts will be assessed during construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of Salamander Project. The decommissioning phase will be assessed qualitatively because there is uncertainty and limited information regarding the decommissioning phase at this time.

## 19.5.2 Socio-economics Study Area

- 19.5.2.1 The significance of impacts and effects noted above will vary across different spatial scales, which therefore determines the Study Areas. A ‘dual geography’ approach is used to assess socio-economic impacts and effects at multiple spatial scales as relevant to the impact, for example, national, local and neighbourhood levels against their respective baselines (where data exists). Definitions of national, local and neighbourhood Study Areas are explained in 19.5.2.6 below.
- 19.5.2.2 **Socio-economic impacts:** The renewables sector (including offshore wind) is a driver for economic growth, recognised in both Scottish and UK Government policies noted above. Growth in this sector also supports the Just Transition agenda in Scotland. Socio-economic impacts are likely to be realised at national and UK levels. Socio-economic impacts may also occur at a local level, linked to the Onshore and Offshore Development Areas and associated infrastructure, including potential use of ports such as Aberdeen, and the supply of services required for the Salamander Project. Socio-economic impacts may be realised at a small area level, such as neighbourhoods near to the Onshore and Offshore Development Areas, where jobs are filled by residents, or opportunities are secured by businesses located in the neighbourhood. However, impacts at the neighbourhood level are not highlighted as a concern in the Scoping Opinion or feedback from consultation. Therefore the national and local Study Areas are most relevant for socio-economic impacts in this assessment.
- 19.5.2.3 **Wider socio-economic effects:** These may occur at a local level, for example, where there is structural economic change or labour supply issues and depends on the local economy’s ability to absorb any potential significant change. This may be influenced further by the Salamander Project’s proposed supply chain activity and labour supply interventions. Wider socio-economic effects may also occur at a small area level, where there are established industries, for example, tourism and fishing. Wider potential socio-economic effects on local industries are also recognised in the Scoping Opinion. Socio-economic effects at a national level are likely to be diluted, and more greatly influenced by wider economic, social and political forces than the Salamander Project itself. Therefore, the local and neighbourhood Study Areas are most relevant to the assessment of wider socio-economic effects in this assessment.
- 19.5.2.4 **Socio-cultural effects:** Feedback from the Scoping Opinion raises concerns about socio-cultural impacts. That is, those ‘effects’ resulting from socio-economic and other environmental ‘impacts’ of the Salamander Project, for example, population change or change to traditional industries which effect communities way of life. Socio-cultural effects may be observed at the local level and may be more acute at the small area or neighbourhood level where the Salamander Project is physically located, effects could be more concentrated, and receptors may be more sensitive. Therefore, the local and neighbourhood Study Areas are most relevant to the assessment of socio-cultural effects in this assessment.
- 19.5.2.5 **Tourism and recreation effects:** Tourism and recreation receptors at the neighbourhood level could be more affected, i.e. areas surrounding the Salamander Project where the proposed project will be physically located, effects could be more concentrated and receptors may be more sensitive. Therefore, the receptors in the neighbourhood Study Area are most relevant to the assessment of tourism and recreation effects.
- 19.5.2.6 Defining national, local and neighbourhood areas for the purpose of this assessment:
- The national Study Area includes two national Study Areas, both Scotland and the UK.
  - The local Study Area refers to Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire based on the location of the Salamander Project and associated infrastructure, including construction ports, operational ports, both ports of Peterhead and Aberdeen, and the supply of services required for the Project. This definition of ‘local’ was also included in the Scoping Report.



- The neighbourhood Study Area refers to the communities, places and receptors within the vicinity of the Salamander Project, which may be more sensitive to wider socio-economic effects and socio-cultural effects. For this assessment, Buchan and key towns within it, such as Peterhead and Fraserburgh, is used as the neighbourhood Study Area. Buchan is one of six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire and where the Onshore Development is proposed to be located. Further, the Study Area for offshore recreational marine receptors is the coastal area in the North East Scottish Marine Region (NE SMR), where the Offshore Development is proposed to be located.

19.5.2.7 **Table 19-3** below summarises the Study Area definitions considered most relevant for each type of impact and effect and which are used throughout this assessment.

19.5.2.8 **Figure 19-1** below illustrates the defined Study Areas in relation to the Salamander Project.

**Table 19-3 Relevance of Study Area to impact and effect type**

	<b>Neighbourhood</b> <b>Buchan (and NE SMR)</b>	<b>Local</b> <b>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire</b>	<b>National</b> <b>UK and Scotland</b>
<b>Socio-economic impacts</b>		ü	ü
<b>Wider socio-economic effects</b>	ü	ü	
<b>Socio-cultural effects</b>	ü	ü	
<b>Recreation and tourism</b>	ü		

19.5.2.9 Baseline data for this socio-economics impact assessment is available at different spatial levels and data does not always neatly align with the Study Areas defined above. This is explained in more detail in the baseline section below.



## 19.6 Methodology to Inform Baseline

### 19.6.1 Site Specific Surveys

19.6.1.1 The Salamander Project sought data from multiple interest groups via a questionnaire, which requested views on socio-cultural and distributional issues. The questionnaire and list of consultees is included in **Appendix A – Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation Questionnaire**. No responses were received from consultees.

### 19.6.2 Data Sources

19.6.2.1 The baseline information describes the socio-economic, socio-cultural, tourism and recreational conditions within the respective Study Areas. Latest available data is used. As noted earlier, baseline data is available at different spatial levels and does not always correlate neatly with the Study Areas, and, it is not always available at the desired spatial level for this baseline description. Data is more commonly available at the local authority area level. This is explained throughout.

19.6.2.2 The data sources that have been used to inform this Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation chapter of EIAR are presented in **Table 19-4**.

**Table 19-4 Summary of key publicly available datasets for Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation**

Source	Year	Spatial Coverage	Summary
<i>Demographics</i>			
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Spatial coverage</i>	<i>Datasets</i>
Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey	2022 / 2023	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland UK	Population estimates Population estimates by age Ethnicity Religion
Scotland's Census- Next release spring 2024	2011	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland	Ethnicity Religion
Scottish Government Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)	2020	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland	Deprivation
Internet User Classification Dataset	2018	UK	Internet usage
<i>Economy and employment</i>			
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Spatial coverage</i>	<i>Datasets</i>
Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey	2022 / 2023	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland UK	Economic activity Occupations Qualifications Industry/sectors
ONS Annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE)	2022	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland	Average weekly gross earnings

Source	Year	Spatial Coverage	Summary
		UK	
ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)	2022	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland UK	Information on sectoral / industry employment
ONS Job Density	2022	Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen Scotland UK	Job density is to understand how many jobs exist relative to the working age population within a geographical area.
Aberdeenshire Council Economic Profile	2022	Aberdeenshire	Economic activity. Key sectors.
Buchan Neighbourhood Profile, Aberdeenshire Council	2023	Buchan	Population. Key sectors.
<i>Tourism and Recreation</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Spatial coverage</i>	<i>Datasets</i>
Visit Scotland	2019	The Grampian (Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray)	Data on the number of visits and tourism spending; visitor attractions; and the tourism economy.
Google Maps	2023	Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City	Mapping the tourism and recreation receptors within the neighbourhood Study Area.

## 19.7 Baseline Environment

### 19.7.1 Existing Baseline (Socio-economics)

#### Demographics

19.7.1.1 Demographic baseline data prioritises neighbourhood and local Study Areas as referenced in **Table 19-3** above.

#### Population

19.7.1.2 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire are the most populated areas in northeast Scotland and Aberdeenshire is experiencing more rapid population growth than the national average. In 2022, Aberdeen City's population was 227,430 and Aberdeenshire's was 262,198 people (Office for National Statistics, 2023). Aberdeenshire experienced a population increase of 0.7% between 2020 and 2021 compared to the 0.3% increase for Scotland over the same period. Over a 20 year period between 2001 and 2021, Aberdeenshire's population increased by 15.8% compared to 8.2% for Scotland.

19.7.1.3 Moving forwards, the projected population increase for Aberdeenshire between 2018 and 2028 is a further 2.5% against Scotland's projection of 1.8%. This increase is expected to be fuelled by in-migration as natural population change will be associated with a decrease in population of 0.3%. Net migration will increase the population by 2.8% accounting for the overall increase of 2.5%. Over this period (2018-2028), the average age of the population is projected to increase, with the 0-5 age group seeing the largest decrease (-5.3%).

19.7.1.4 Aberdeen City had a larger proportion of residents (50%) aged between 16 and 49 years old compared to Aberdeenshire (39%), Scotland and the UK (both 43%, respectively). Whereas, Aberdeenshire had an older

population compared to Aberdeen City (16%) with 20% of its population aged 65+. This was similar to Scottish (20%) and UK (19%) levels.

- 19.7.1.5 At the neighbourhood level, the population for Buchan is 42,505 in 2021, that is 16% of the Aberdeenshire population. Peterhead (19,060) is by far the area's largest settlement and is the largest town in Aberdeenshire. The age profile in Buchan is broadly similar to that of Aberdeenshire. (National Records for Scotland 2021, Buchan Neighbourhood Profile, 2023).

#### Ethnicity and Religion

- 19.7.1.6 According to the latest release of the Scotland's Census 2011, Aberdeen City (10%) had a higher proportion of ethnic minorities compared to Aberdeenshire (3%) and Scotland (6%), however, it was still below the UK level at 13%.
- 19.7.1.7 Reflecting on the religious demographics, people identifying as Christian accounted for 41% and 49% of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire's populations, respectively (National Records of Scotland, 2011). In terms of Christian dominations, 36% of Aberdeenshire's population reported being members of the Church of Scotland which was proportionally higher compared to Aberdeen City (26%) and Scotland (32%).
- 19.7.1.8 More residents in Aberdeen City (55%) and Aberdeenshire (51%) reported as not religious or religion not stated compared to Christians (Aberdeen City - 41% and Aberdeenshire – 49%).

#### Deprivation

- 19.7.1.9 The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is used to identify areas of deprivation across Scotland. The SIMD produces statistics at the smallest area level, known as data zones and at the local authority area level. The SIMD ranks measures of deprivation across 6,976 data zones, from most deprived (ranked '1') to least deprived (ranked '6,976'). Ranks are then grouped into deciles, from the most deprived 10% data zones, to the least deprived 10%. The SIMD assesses overall deprivation scores based on seven different domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.
- 19.7.1.10 Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived areas across Scotland – ranking the 4th least deprived out of 32 Scottish areas. Approximately, 29% of Aberdeenshire's data zones fall into the 20% least deprived in Scotland.
- 19.7.1.11 Aberdeen City is ranked the 18th most deprived area out of the 32 Scottish areas, meaning that it has more deprivation than Aberdeenshire.
- 19.7.1.12 As noted above, SIMD is also available for data zones. There are crudely estimated to be 60 data zones in Buchan. The following three data zones are located in Buchan and map most closely to the receptors closest to the Onshore and Offshore Development Areas in the neighbourhood Study Area:
- Longside and Rattray 04 (S01007098);
  - Longside and Rattray 05 (S01007099); and,
  - Longside and Rattray 08 (S01007102).
- 19.7.1.13 **Table 19-5** shows the 2020 SIMD deprivation deciles and ranks for the neighbourhood Study Area:
- Deciles: Where 1 is the 10% most deprived decile and 10 is least deprived decile in Scotland; and
  - Ranks: Where 1 is the most deprived data zone and 6,976 is the least deprived in Scotland.



**Table 19-5 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data on the neighbourhood Study Area**

SIMD Domain	Longside and Rattray 04		Longside and Rattray 05		Longside and Rattray 08	
	SIMD Decile	SIMD Rank	SIMD Decile	SIMD Rank	SIMD Decile	SIMD Rank
Overall Rank	7	4,920	7	4,925	6	3,452
Income	8	5,849	8	5,557	6	4,875
Employment	8	5,619	8	5,372	6	4,713
Health	9	6,429	8	5,694	7	5,600
Education	5	3,688	6	4,335	5	2,021
Access to services	1	452	1	690	1	125
Crime	7	4,590	6	4,221	8	5,668
Housing	9	6,483	7	4,779	8	4,735

Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2020)

19.7.1.14 Overall the data zones referenced above experience relatively low levels of deprivation, except against the ‘access to services’ domain which is the 10% most deprived in Scotland. The ‘access’ domain considers accessibility to community facilities such as:

- Drive time to community, healthcare and educational facilities;
- Public transport to community, healthcare and educational facilities; and,
- Percentage of premises that do not have access to superfast broadband.

19.7.1.15 In addition, there are also pockets of overall deprivation observed in data zones surrounding the towns of Peterhead and Fraserburgh, where nine data zones are amongst the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD 2020).

**Internet User Classification**

19.7.1.16 The 2018 Internet User Classification (IUC) datasets identify 10 unique classes of Internet Users and Engagement. This dataset is reported at data zone geographical area.

19.7.1.17 As mentioned previously, the three data zones in Buchan (closest to the Onshore Development area) are: Longside and Rattray 04/ 05/ 08. All three data zones are dominated by residents who are reported to be “e-Rational Utilitarians” internet users which is a common group in rural areas. These internet users are typically: *“more prevalently use the Internet for service applications such as e-banking and online shopping, rather than entertainment and communication. This may be as a result of these areas having constrained Internet speeds which limits use of those websites or services requiring faster connections”* (Consumer Data Research Centre, 2018).



19.7.1.18 This coincides with the SIMD datasets highlighting that the neighbourhood is typically rural and face difficulties accessing reliable broadband coverage.

### Housing

19.7.1.19 Baseline data on housing prioritises neighbourhood and local Study Areas as referenced in **Table 19-3** above.

19.7.1.20 Households in Aberdeenshire were more likely to be homeowners (73% of households) compared to Aberdeen City (57%) and Scotland (62%). Conversely, fewer households were socially and privately rented in Aberdeenshire (24%) than in Aberdeen City (39%) and Scotland (35%) (Scottish Government, 2022).

19.7.1.21 The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan outlines the housing supply target between 2016 and 2040. The development plan identified a need for approximately 5,120 new homes over the 24 years to 2040. The neighbourhood Study Area sits within the Council's defined 'Rural Housing Market Area', where there are plans to deliver 11,414 homes across Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City – which is equivalent to around 21% of the total housing supply target (Aberdeen City Council / Aberdeenshire Council, 2020).

19.7.1.22 A Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) was conducted for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City in 2017. Between 2006 and 2016, the number of dwellings in Aberdeenshire increased by 11.7% while Aberdeen City saw a 5.9% increase during the same period compared to 6.6% for Scotland. Housing stock pressures have been noted concerning overcrowding in Aberdeen City and under-occupied households in Aberdeenshire (Aberdeen City Council / Aberdeenshire Council, 2017).

19.7.1.23 Based on existing household projections, Aberdeenshire is projected to have the 8th-highest percentage change in household numbers out of the 32 areas in Scotland. The minimum affordable housing need for Aberdeenshire is 1,368 dwellings per annum over 20 years (National Records of Scotland, 2023).

19.7.1.24 864 new homes are projected to be built between 2022 and 2026 in Buchan, which is around 14% of Aberdeenshire's total. Housing completion projections for Peterhead (located in Buchan) show that the rate of dwellings being built will decrease over the next few years.

### Health

19.7.1.25 Health baseline data prioritises neighbourhood and local Study Areas as referenced in **Table 19-3** above and focuses on local healthcare supply (rather than health outcomes).

19.7.1.26 NHS Grampian has developed a Plan for the Future: Healthier Together 2022-2028 centred around enabling community wellness and responding effectively to illness. Healthcare services in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire are provided by NHS Grampian which is one of the 14 regional health boards in Scotland. NHS Grampian provides hospitals in the region with the nearest hospitals to Salamander Project being Ugie Hospital and Peterhead Community Hospital. The nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) hospital to the Salamander Project is Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, which is approximately 30 miles away.

19.7.1.27 There are five GP surgeries located within Buchan, which include (see **Table 19-6**):

- Peterhead Health Centre;
- Cruden Medical Group;
- Aden Health Centre;
- Crimond Medical Centre; and
- Central Buchan Medical Practice.

**Table 19-6 Healthcare facilities within the Buchan community area**

Healthcare facility	Number of GPs	Number of patients	GP-to-patient ratio
Peterhead Health Centre	13	23,053	1:1,773
Cruden Medical Group	3	3,742	1:1,247
Aden Health Centre	1	4,184	1:4,184
Crimond Medical Centre	3	3,525	1:1,175
Central Buchan Medical Practice	4	6,463	1:1,616
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45,150</b>	<b>1:1,806</b>

Source: Public Health Scotland (2023)

19.7.1.28 Across the five GP surgeries, there is a total of 25 FTE GPs and 45,150 registered patients resulting in a GP-to-patient ratio of 1:1,806 (Public Health Scotland, 2023). This is higher than GP to patient ratios in the local Study Area (1:1,202) and Scotland (1:1,132). All five surgeries are currently accepting new patients.

### Education

19.7.1.29 Education baseline data prioritises neighbourhood and local Study Areas as referenced in Table 19-3 above and focuses on local education supply (rather than education outcomes).

19.7.1.30 There are several school clusters in Aberdeenshire which include secondary schools and the associated primary schools. The Buchan area includes 23 primary schools and two secondary schools/academies (Peterhead and Mintlaw).

19.7.1.31 In terms of primary schools within Buchan, none of the 23 primary schools exceed capacity. Only four of the 23 primary schools have a current capacity of 90% and over – which includes St Fergus Primary School (92%) which is the nearest school to Salamander Project. However, it is anticipated by 2027, St Fergus Primary School’s capacity will drop to around 68% (Aberdeenshire Council, 2023).

19.7.1.32 Mintlaw Academy is currently at full capacity (99%) and likely to be at a similar level in 2027. Whereas Peterhead Academy is currently at 72% capacity and will remain at a similar level (75%) in 2027. Currently, schools in three academies within the council have enrolments that exceed their capacity (Alford, Kenmay and Meldrum) which sit outside of the Buchan Area. School enrolment forecasts provided by Aberdeenshire Council show that by 2027 schools within Banchory, Ellon, Fraserburgh and Portlethen academies will also be exceeding capacity. Foveran School in Ellon Academy has a projected enrolment of 182% capacity by 2027. Conversely, some schools in the council are anticipated to have enrolments of less than 20% of their capacity by 2027 (within Mearns, Mintlaw, and Mackie academies).

### Community Facilities

19.7.1.33 In Peterhead there are a range of community and leisure facilities within driving distance of the Onshore Development via the A90 road. Within the neighbourhood Study Area, there are a variety of community and leisure facilities nearby which include (but are not limited to):

- Peterhead Community Centre;
- Peterhead Library; and
- Peterhead Sports Hall.

### Transport Links

19.7.1.34 Key transportation routes include the A90, which forms the western boundary of the Onshore Development Area. The A90 is a major north-to-south road in eastern Scotland, running from Edinburgh to Fraserburgh, through Dundee and Aberdeen. The A90 forms part of the “North East 250” tourist route which is Scotland’s circular touring route dubbed ‘The Ultimate Road Trip to the Heart of Scotland’ (North East 250, 2021). The neighbourhood is not serviced by rail with the main form of public transportation being buses. The 83 bus route connects Peterhead with Aberdeen while the 69 bus route connects Fraserburgh with Peterhead via St Fergus.

### Summary of Demographic Baseline

19.7.1.35 At a neighbourhood level, evidence shows there is available capacity for healthcare and education services. According to Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire is likely to experience an ageing population which is projected to increase by 28% by 2030. This represents one of the most significant increases in comparison to other regions in Scotland. An increase in an ageing population could result in longer life expectancies and increased healthcare demands, whereas future declines in younger residents in Aberdeenshire could lead to a decrease in demand for educational services.

19.7.1.36 In terms of housing needs, it is anticipated that there is likely to be an above-average population and household growth locally in comparison to Scotland. Furthermore, it appears healthcare services (based on GP-to-patient ratios) are slightly lower in Buchan compared to the local and national levels.

### Economy and Employment

19.7.1.37 Economy and employment baseline data prioritises the local Study Areas as referenced in **Table 19-3** above and compared against national benchmarks where appropriate.

19.7.1.38 Economic activity is a measure of the working-age population who are active participants in the labour market. ONS latest economic activity rates in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire were 63.9% and 65.5%, respectively. These rates were higher compared to the Scottish (60.8%) and UK (62.9%) levels (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

19.7.1.39 According to the latest Annual Population Survey (APS), the socio-economic classification of residents aged 16 to 74 in Aberdeen City reveals that there were a higher proportion of residents employed in professional occupations (31%) compared to Scotland and the UK (both 26%).

19.7.1.40 Whereas, Aberdeenshire had a lower proportion of residents working in professional occupations (22%) compared to Scotland and the UK. For example, a higher proportion of residents (27%) reported working within administrative, secretarial and skilled trade occupations compared to Aberdeen City (15%), Scotland and the UK, both at 19% (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

- 19.7.1.41 In 2022, the average weekly gross earnings for Aberdeen City (£637.90) were slightly lower than Scotland and the UK at £640.30 and £640.00, respectively. Whereas, Aberdeenshire had a significantly higher gross weekly earning (£709.40) compared to Scotland and the UK (Office for National Statistics, 2022). In Peterhead the median annual household income in 2022 was £29,032 which is significantly lower than the average for Aberdeenshire (£40,007).
- 19.7.1.42 Unemployment rates in Aberdeenshire (2.1%) are significantly lower than the Scottish (3.2%) and Great Britain<sup>2</sup> (3.8%) levels. However, unemployment levels are higher amongst residents in Aberdeen City (3.8%) compared to Aberdeenshire and Scotland, albeit similar to Great Britain.
- 19.7.1.43 As shown in **Table 19-7**, the proportion of Aberdeen City’s population (54%) with the highest level of qualification (NVQ4+ / Level 4) was higher than Aberdeenshire (50%), Scottish (50%) and UK (44%) levels. Furthermore, the proportion of Aberdeen City’s residents (5%) that had no qualifications was lower than Aberdeenshire (7%), Scottish (8%) and UK (7%) levels (Office for National Statistics, 2023).

**Table 19-7 Qualifications Levels (January 2021 to December 2021)**

Qualification levels	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Scotland	UK
No qualifications	7%	5%	8%	7%
Other qualifications	3%	7%	6%	6%
Level 1	90%	88%	86%	87%
Level 2	83%	82%	80%	78%
Level 3	63%	68%	65%	61%
Level 4 and above	50%	54%	50%	44%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey (2022)

- 19.7.1.44 According to the ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (Office for National Statistics, 2022), Aberdeenshire had a significant proportion of residents (15%) working in the ‘wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ sector. This was similar to other comparator areas – Scotland and Great Britain (14%) but higher than Aberdeen City (11%). Furthermore, Aberdeenshire had 13% of jobs working in the manufacturing sector which was substantially higher than other comparator areas – Aberdeen City (6%), Scotland (7%) and Great Britain (8%).
- 19.7.1.45 A key sector for Aberdeen City is human health and social work, accounting for 17% of employment. Aberdeen City also had a higher proportion of residents working in the ‘mining and quarrying’ sector with 11% of the workforce which was higher than other comparator areas – Aberdeenshire (3%) Scotland (1%), and the UK (>1%) level. This sector includes those who work in the Oil and Gas industry. This is a key sector for the energy transition where a focus is required on skills transfer to low-carbon energy projects.

<sup>2</sup> Where Great Britain is stated, this excludes data from Northern Ireland.

- 19.7.1.46 Another sector which is more strongly represented in Aberdeen City compared to the national and UK averages is professional, scientific, and technical activities at 13% compared to 6% and 9% respectively. Aberdeen City has significantly fewer people working in wholesale and retail trade (11%) compared to Aberdeenshire (15%), Scotland (14%), and the UK (14%). These differences are outlined in **Table 19-8**.
- 19.7.1.47 At the neighbourhood level, the key employment sectors in Peterhead include manufacturing (20%), wholesale and retail trade (12%), human health and social work (8%), and public administration and defence (8%). The manufacturing sector is significantly more prominent in Peterhead than at the Aberdeenshire level.

**Table 19-8 Proportion of Employment by Sector**

Sector	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Scotland	UK
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6%	0%	2%	1%
B: Mining and quarrying	3%	11%	1%	0%
C: Manufacturing	13%	6%	7%	8%
D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1%	0%	1%	0%
E: Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1%	0%	1%	1%
F: Construction	9%	4%	6%	5%
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	15%	11%	14%	14%
H: Transportation and storage	4%	4%	4%	5%
I: Accommodation and food service activities	6%	8%	8%	8%
J: Information and communication	2%	2%	3%	4%
K: Financial and insurance activities	1%	1%	3%	4%
L: Real estate activities	1%	1%	2%	2%
M: Professional, scientific and technical activities	10%	13%	6%	9%
N: Administrative and support service activities	5%	7%	8%	9%
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3%	4%	7%	5%
P: Education	9%	6%	9%	9%

Sector	Aberdeenshire	Aberdeen City	Scotland	UK
Q: Human health and social work activities	10%	17%	16%	14%
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	2%	2%	2%	2%
S: Other service activities	2%	1%	2%	2%
T: Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities of households for own use	0%	0%	0%	0%
U: Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2022

### Supply Chain

- 19.7.1.48 The procurement of products and services for the delivery of renewable energy projects requires a substantial supply chain. Scotland has a growing local supply chain. A supply chain survey conducted in 2021 showed that Scotland had a diverse supply chain profile available to support offshore wind projects (Scottish Renewables, 2021). As an Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) project, the Salamander Project has an integral focus on the further development of the offshore wind supply chain. The North East region (inclusive of Aberdeenshire) has a notable offshore wind supply chain that is currently exporting to offshore wind clients overseas. The offshore wind supply chain will account for an increasing number of jobs in Scotland as the sector develops.
- 19.7.1.49 Supply chain representation can be deduced by analysing ONS employment datasets in relevant sectors based on Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) categories. **Table 19-9** outlines 2022 employment numbers in the sub-sectors that are considered important to the supply chain for offshore renewable developments. **Table 19-9** analyses the Location Quotient (LQ) for each sub-sector compared to Great Britain levels. LQ is used as an indicator to show which sub-sectors are more prevalent in the local Study Area compared to the Scottish and Great Britain levels. A sub-sector with an LQ greater than 1 has an above-average level of representation compared to the comparison area (Great Britain). A LQ below 1 means there is below average representation in that sector.

**Table 19-9 Supply chain employment in relevant sectors for offshore windfarm developments**

Sector (SIC)	Aberdeenshire		Aberdeen City		Scotland	
	Number	LQ	Number	LQ	Number	LQ
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (25)	150	1.7	20	1.2	1,250	0.9

Sector (SIC)	Aberdeenshire		Aberdeen City		Scotland	
	Number	IQ	Number	IQ	Number	IQ
Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers and electricity distribution and control apparatus (27.1)	175	0.0	0.0	1.0	1,000	0.0
Manufacture of wiring and wiring devices (27.3)	300	N/A	225	N/A	4,000	N/A
Manufacture of general-purpose machinery (28.1)	350	1.0	600	1.0	17,000	1.0
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution (35.1)	400	2.0	5	0.7	1,500	2.3
Construction of utility projects (42.2)	2,000	N/A	1,750	N/A	41,000	N/A
Electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities (43.2)	800	1.2	800	0.9	16,000	1.1
Other specialised construction activities n.e.c. (43.9)	1,500	2.0	900	1.3	19,000	1.5
Accommodation services (55)	1,750	1.5	1,500	0.9	19,000	1.5
Food and beverage service activities (56)	2,250	0.7	2,250	1.1	58,000	0.9
Management consultancy (70.2)	11,000	0.5	4,500	0.5	152,000	0.5
Architectural and engineering (71)s	12,000	3.8	7,000	4.2	65,000	1.4
Other professional, scientific and technical activities (74)	900	1.5	900	1.0	15,000	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,575</b>		<b>20,450</b>		<b>4,783,000</b>	

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), 2023

19.7.1.50 As outlined in **Table 19-9**, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have above average representation in architectural and engineering, fabricated metal manufacturing and specialised construction activities.

19.7.1.51 Job density is the number of jobs per head of population in a given area. It is a measure of the concentration of employment in an area and is calculated by dividing the total number of jobs in an area by the resident



population aged 16 to 64 years old. The reason for measuring job density is to understand how many jobs are available relative to the number of people and to help understand the local economy and labour market.

- 19.7.1.52 Both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire have strong commuting links to several local authorities across the northeast of Scotland and other nearby areas (Office for National Statistics, 2021). According to the ONS, Aberdeenshire had a lower job density (0.74) compared with Scotland (0.81) and the UK (0.85). However, Aberdeen City's job density was considerably higher (1.12) than that of the comparative areas – this was largely due to Aberdeen City being a key economic centre in the northeast of Scotland.

#### Economic Productivity

- 19.7.1.53 The contribution of individual companies, specific industries, and sub-national areas to national economic productivity is measured by GVA. The contribution of the Salamander Project to GVA is a key metric of the potential contribution of the Salamander Project to economic growth that is assessed later in this chapter.
- 19.7.1.54 According to the most recent data published by the ONS, Scotland contributed £141 billion in GVA to the UK economy in 2021, with the UK being worth £2 trillion.
- 19.7.1.55 ONS also provides GVA data at a local authority level. According to the most recent data, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City contributed £15.6 billion in GVA in 2021, accounting for 11.1% of Scotland's total.
- 19.7.1.56 In 2021, GVA per capita in the local Study Area was around 20% and 9% higher than the Scottish and UK averages, respectively. This suggests that the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City areas host a higher proportion of high-value-added business activity than is the case across Scotland as a whole.

#### **Summary of Socio-economics Baseline**

- 19.7.1.57 Both local and national policy prioritises job creation especially across the renewable energy sectors. There are slightly different economic circumstances in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. Aberdeenshire has lower unemployment rates and higher earning levels compared to Scotland and the UK. By comparison, Aberdeen City has higher unemployment rates compared to Scotland and lower earnings levels. The evidence suggests the local economy is already showing signs of adapting to renewable energy. There is also potential for Aberdeen City to benefit from new employment creation, based on the slightly higher unemployment.

### **19.7.2 Existing Baseline (Tourism and Recreation)**

- 19.7.2.1 The tourism and recreation baseline prioritises the neighbourhood and local Study Area level as per **Table 19-3** above. This includes receptors in the neighbourhood, and tourism accommodation at the local level. National tourism data is also provided for context.

#### **Scottish Tourism**

- 19.7.2.2 Tourism is a key element of the socio-economic, environmental, and cultural context of Scotland. In 2019, around 17.5 million overnight trips were taken in Scotland (UK and international visitors) with visitor expenditure totalling around £5.9 billion (VisitScotland, 2020). These figures represent substantial increases on 2018 figures, which saw around 15.5 million overnight trips taken in Scotland and visitor expenditure totalling around £5.1 billion (VisitScotland, 2020). In 2021, VisitScotland found that the top reasons for visiting Scotland were (Visit Scotland, 2021):

- To get away and have a change of environment (53%);
- To connect with nature and be outdoors (51%);
- To revisit somewhere that had provided good experiences in the past (38%); and



- Not being too far overseas after the pandemic (38%).

### **Local Tourism and Recreation**

19.7.2.3 Tourism and recreational data have been provided in the context of the Grampian region (Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray) (VisitScotland, 2020). Data from VisitScotland shows that between 2017 and 2019, Grampian saw an annual average of 14.6 million (14,603,000) day visitors and 1.3 million (1,323,000) overnight visits, which had decreased by 6% from the previous period (2016-2018). Day tourism during this period brought in an average expenditure of £539 million per year, while overnight tourism expenditure accounted for £317 million per year. This average expenditure had increased by 18% from the previous period. The most popular activities undertaken by domestic day visitors in Grampian were:

- Going for a meal (2.5 million);
- Visiting family for leisure (1.7 million);
- Sightseeing on foot (1.5 million); and
- Visiting a beach (1.4 million).

19.7.2.4 In 2018, the tourism sector accounted for just under 11,000 jobs in Aberdeen City and 7,500 in Aberdeenshire. In Aberdeen City, the tourism sector supported 690 individual businesses and contributed £234.4 million to GVA in 2018. For Aberdeenshire, there were a total of 729 tourism-related businesses contributing to £148.7 million in GVA in 2018 (VisitScotland, 2020).

19.7.2.5 The neighbourhood Study Area is a rural setting with recreation opportunities based around the natural environment such as coastal walking, golf, and fishing. As such, there are several tourist and recreational facilities in the neighbourhood Study Area (both onshore and offshore).

19.7.2.6 The Offshore Development Area forms part of the North East Scottish Marine Region (SMR) and is used by recreational marine users. According to the Scottish Government Marine Tourism Assessment (2020), marine tourism contributed £594 million GVA and employment for 28,300 people in 2017. Marine tourism covers a wider range of activities such as sailing, swimming, wildlife tourism, beach activities, diving, kayaking, angling, surfing, visitor attractions, cruise ship visits. Total GVA for marine tourism in the North East SMR was £47 million in 2017 with the sector supporting over 2,000 jobs. The region is popular for scuba diving and sailing. Marine recreation assets in the neighbourhood Study Area (but not limited to) include:

- Peterhead Bay Marina;
- Peterhead Sailing Club;
- Rattray Head Lighthouse; and
- Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head.

19.7.2.7 The onshore neighbourhood Study Area is mainly composed of farmland and includes the Formartine and Buchan Way. The Formartine and Buchan Way is one of Scotland's Great Trails and runs approximately 64 km between Dyce to Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The branch of the route which leads to Peterhead runs to the south of the Onshore Development Area in a broadly east-west orientation. The route follows the former railway line which served Peterhead.

19.7.2.8 Aberdeenshire Council's '*Aberdeenshire Visitor Management Plan 2023*' identifies some of the key tourist destinations across Buchan. These are:

- Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head, St Fergus;

- Marina Aden Country Park, Mintlaw;
- New Aberdour Beach, New Aberdour; and
- Millshore and Cullykhan Beaches, Pennan.

19.7.2.9 Other nearby tourism receptors in relation to neighbourhood Study Area are listed in **Table 19-10**.

**Table 19-10 Tourism and recreational sites (near the Onshore / Offshore Development Areas)**

<b>Tourist/ Recreation Site</b>	<b>Distance from Onshore or Offshore Development Area</b>	<b>Description</b>
Aberdeenshire Coastal Path (core path)	0 km (within the Onshore Development Area)	Recreational pathway
Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head	0 km (within the Onshore Development Area)	Public beach
Rora Moss Circular	0.3 km	Cycle route
Waterside Hotel Peterhead	0.9 km	Private hotel accommodation
River Ugie	1 km	Recreational fishing area
Craigewan Links / Peterhead Golf Course	1.9 km	Golf course
Ravenscraig Castle	2.0 km	Historical landmark
Formartine & Buchan Way	2.3 km	Recreational pathway
Peterhead Bay Marina	4 km	Yacht marina
Peterhead Sailing Club	4.1 km	Marine recreation club
Rattray Head Lighthouse	7.2 km	Visitor attraction

Source: Distances taken from Google Maps

### **Accommodation**

19.7.2.10 There are numerous tourist providers that range from hotels, self-catered, Bed and Breakfast (B&B) and hostel accommodation providers. The latest Scottish Accommodation Occupancy Survey 2022<sup>3</sup>, which provided datasets on occupancy rates for a variety of tourist accommodation types is outlined in **Table 19-11** below. The survey results are taken from February 2022 which came after the Scottish Government announced the continued easing of the Covid-19 restrictions in the previous month (January 2022).

19.7.2.11 As of 2022, it appears that most accommodation providers across Grampian started to recover from the

<sup>3</sup> Glasgow Caledonian University (2022), Scottish Accommodation Occupancy Survey 2022. Available at <https://www.visitscotland.org/research-insights/about-our-industry/accommodation> Accessed at 02/01/2024

COVID-19 restrictions and experienced an increase in occupancy rates (except for touring accommodation providers). **Table 19-11** shows that there was still accommodation capacity across the region despite significant increases compared to the previous year. Except for hotels, the other tourism accommodation types across Grampian had occupancy rates of less than 50% in 2022.

**Table 19-11 Grampian and Scottish occupancy rates<sup>4</sup>**

Accommodation type	Grampian (Aberdeen City / Aberdeenshire / Moray)			Scotland		
	2021	2022	% difference	2021	2022	% difference
Hotels (room occupancy)	49.8%	61.0%	+11.2%	45.5%	61.0%	+15.5%
Self-catering accommodation (unit occupancy)	32.6%	41.4%	+8.8%	28.1%	40.5%	+12.4%
Touring accommodation (pitch occupancy)	34.0%	23.0%	-11.0%	47.4%	31.2%	-16.2%
Hostel accommodation (bed occupancy)	20.6%	42.0%	+21.4%	35.0%	53.7%	+18.6%

Source: Scottish Accommodation Occupancy Survey (2022)

19.7.2.12 According to Visit Aberdeenshire, there are around 18,855 bed spaces across Aberdeenshire<sup>5</sup>, which consist of:

- Serviced – 23% of bed spaces;
- Non-serviced – 35% of bed spaces; and,
- Holiday/touring park – 41% of bed spaces.

19.7.2.13 Around 9% of Aberdeenshire’s bed spaces are located within Buchan, which is currently dominated by fully serviced accommodation.

<sup>4</sup> Latest data is used (2022) and 2021 is included for comparison. Increases in occupancy will include ‘bounce-back’ following Covid 19, although it is not clear yet if these changes will be sustained – or if 2019 data pre-covid is a fair reflection of a usual occupancy, given the wider trend for UK staycations. The survey data is not available before 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Visit Aberdeenshire (2023). Aberdeenshire Accommodation Audit 2023. Available online at: <https://www.visitabdn.com/assets/Aberdeenshire-Accommodation-Audit/Aberdeenshire-Accommodation-Audit-Presentation.pdf>. Accessed at 19/01/2024

### Summary of Tourism Baseline

19.7.2.14 Tourism plays a significant role in Aberdeenshire's rural areas. There are several key onshore and marine-based recreational activities across the areas in the neighbourhood Study Area. Evidence shows that the tourism sectors in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City are recovering from the COVID-19 slump. The current tourism baseline also demonstrated an increased demand for accommodation occupancy across Grampian (Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen City / Moray).

#### 19.7.3 Future Baseline

19.7.3.1 It is challenging to provide a future baseline scenario for Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation receptors, particularly in quantitative terms. This is largely because of the significant uncertainties which exist in projecting future economic conditions in local areas.

19.7.3.2 However, it is anticipated that further energy developments also taking place within the identified Study Areas will induce change in the future baseline. Future baseline changes linked to climate change may potentially affect the tourism and recreation sector. Climate change could affect the existing seasonal nature of outdoor recreational activities and associated visitor accommodation bookings in the summer months.

#### 19.7.4 Future Baseline (Local Employment and Supply Chain Opportunities associated with the Salamander Project)

19.7.4.1 As noted above, being an INTOG project, Salamander Project aims to be a stepping-stone for future commercial scale floating wind projects in Scotland. As such, it is committed to developing the supply chain and has undertaken a number of initiatives to date including:

- Call to (primarily) Scottish suppliers for innovative solutions to five key technical areas, November 2021. 92 suppliers submitted responses of which 10 were selected to work further with the Salamander Project. This will be repeated after key future engineering phases;
- Contribution to an Offshore Wind Opportunities panel at Peterhead Port Authority event 'Embracing the Energy Transition Opportunity', April 2023;
- Sponsorship of Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) monthly bulletin; and
- Presentation on AREG Energy Futures supply chain webinar, July 2023.

19.7.4.2 The Salamander Project has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements with just under 60 local suppliers and ports and issued Letters of Support for key local supply chain initiatives. The Salamander Project also engages directly with local suppliers through Scottish Enterprise to ensure local businesses are aware of supply chain opportunities and requirements. The Project will also provide support to education initiatives to develop the next generation of workforce to resource suppliers within the offshore wind supply chain.

19.7.4.3 Local initiatives started in 2023 as part of the Salamander Project aiming to enhance socio-economic impacts include:

- Sponsorship of TechFest's STEMNext essay competition to support school leavers' early CV development;
- Involvement of students from North East Scotland College and Peterhead Academy at each series of public consultation events;
- Delivery of knowledge-sharing initiatives through the project's Innovation Pathway;

- £50,000 in funding contributed to the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF); and
- Plans are underway to enter into Knowledge Partnerships with Peterhead Academy and Fraserburgh Academy and provide support to the Scottish Maritime Academy.

## **19.8 Limitations and Assumptions**

### **19.8.1.1 The following limitations and assumptions have been identified for Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation:**

- There is no legislation governing how socio-economic and tourism effects are assessed. Therefore, technical guidance, industry best practices and professional judgment are used throughout.
- The impact assessment is based on planned construction and operation and maintenance periods, based on programme information for the Salamander Project available at the time of this assessment.
- The distribution of effects is assessed by assuming the geographical distribution of the Salamander Project CAPEX and OPEX between local and national areas, see **Table 19-12** below. These assumptions were derived through discussions between the Salamander Project Team and the supply chain. Due to the early phase of the Salamander Project and its supply chain engagement at the time of assessment, a level of uncertainty is associated with both the expenditure estimates and final supply chain decisions. Assumptions are informed by current industry evidence<sup>6</sup>. Assumptions underpinning this assessment are:

**Table 19-12 Geographical distribution of the Salamander Project CAPEX and OPEX**

<b>Area</b>	<b>CAPEX (%)</b>	<b>OPEX (%)</b>
Local	3%	4%
Scotland	21%	23%
UK	9%	25%
Outside of UK	67%	28%

Source: Applicant (2023)

- Distribution between different socio-economic or socio-cultural groups is not assessed because there is not sufficient data to inform a robust assessment.
- The assessment is based on the realistic worst-case project design envelope, i.e. the maximum design envelope and the lower-case project cost information.
- Jobs and GVA are estimated over estimated project periods. For the Salamander Project, the construction phase, inclusive of onshore and offshore components, is assumed for three years and the operation and maintenance phase is up to 35 years.

<sup>6</sup> Guide to a Floating Offshore Wind Farm, BVG Associates (2023)

- Key healthcare, education and tourism and recreation facilities in the neighbourhood Study Area are identified and referenced in the assessment. However, the assessment considers effects on resources and services as a whole, rather than each individual receptor. The assessment provided is robust and applicable to all receptors within the neighbourhood Study Area.
- Questionnaires were distributed to key stakeholders for feedback relating to various topics including socio-economics but no responses were received.
- Other technical assessments in this EIAR have been used to inform the socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment within this chapter. These include:
  - § **Volume ERA.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries.**
  - § **Volume ERA.3, Chapter 16: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity.**
  - § **Volume ERA.3, Chapter 17: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.**
  - § **Volume ERA.3, Chapter 18: Other Users of the Marine Environment.**

## 19.8.2 Impacts Scoped out of the EIAR

19.8.2.1 The Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment covers potential impacts and effects identified during scoping, as well as any further potential impacts that have been highlighted as the EIA has progressed as outlined in **Section 19.4**

19.8.2.2 However, following consideration of the baseline environment, the project description outlined in **Volume ERA.2, Chapter 4: Project Description** and in line with the Scoping Opinion, the impact not considered in detail within this EIAR is illustrated in **Table 19-13**.

**Table 19-13 Impacts excluded from the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment**

Potential Impact	Project Aspect	Project Phase	Justification
Commercial fisheries	Offshore Development	Construction, Operation and Maintenance, Decommissioning	<p>Socio-economic effects related to commercial fisheries are not included in this assessment. It is acknowledged that there is the potential for the loss of earnings to commercial fisheries for receptors within the Offshore Development Area. This would be largely due to loss of access to fishing grounds, displacement, impediment of vessel trips and other security/safety issues.</p> <p>However, <b>Volume ERA.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries</b> assessed these impacts and concluded that commercial fisheries are not expected to be significantly impacted. Therefore, no further assessment of commercial fisheries is included in this chapter.</p>

## 19.8.3 Embedded Mitigation

19.8.3.1 The embedded mitigation measures relevant to the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment are presented in **Table 19-14**.

**Table 19-14 Embedded mitigation for the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment**

Potential Impact and Effect	Mitigation ID	Mitigation	Project Aspect	Project Phase
<i>Tertiary</i>				
Local Employment Initiative	Co57	Best efforts to employ local workforce for the suitable scopes of Salamander Project's contracting construction and operation and maintenance activities.	Offshore and Onshore Development	Construction, Operation and Maintenance
Supply Chain Engagement	Co49	To support the local supply chain to make ready for large-scale opportunities predicted from the commercial ScotWind process, the Salamander Project, upon receiving consent, has committed to advertise all relevant opportunities to pertinent Scottish companies, especially small to medium-sized enterprises. The Salamander Project will hold 'Meet the buyer days' to encourage local-based companies to tender for supply chain opportunities.	Offshore and Onshore Development	Construction, Operation and Maintenance
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)	Co50	The CLO will aim to build a connection between the Salamander Project and the local community. A key role of the CLO will be to monitor and report any concerns raised by key stakeholders and the local community.	Offshore and Onshore Development	Construction, Operation and Maintenance

## 19.9 Project Design Envelope Parameters

19.9.1.1 Given that the realistic worst-case scenario is based on the design option (or combination of options) that represents the greatest potential for change, as set out in **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 4: Project Description**, confidence can be taken that the development of any alternative options within the project design envelope will give rise to no effects greater or worse than those assessed in this impact assessment. The Project Design Envelope parameters relevant to the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment are outlined in **Table 19-15**.

**Table 19-15 Project Design Envelope Parameters for socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment**

Potential Impact and Effect	Project Design Envelope Parameters
<i>Construction</i>	
Socio-economic impacts	Construction expenditures are based on up to seven WTGs (generating up to 100 MW), floating substructures and associated moorings and anchors, inter-array cables, offshore export cable(s), and

Potential Impact and Effect	Project Design Envelope Parameters
Wider socio-economic effects	onshore infrastructure (including an onshore substation and EBI) as detailed in Chapter 4: Project Description.
Socio-cultural effects	CAPEX including development, manufacturing/fabrication and installation is the key parameter informing the socio-economics impact assessment.
Tourism and recreation effects	The maximum total construction duration (onshore and offshore) is three years (36 months), and the maximum total duration anticipated for offshore construction (including cable landfall works) is 18 months.

*Operation and Maintenance (O&M)*

Socio-economic impacts	OPEX expenditure of up to seven WTGs, floating substructures and associated moorings and anchors, inter-array cables, offshore export cable(s), and onshore infrastructure (including an onshore substation and EBI) as detailed in <b>Volume ERA.2, Chapter 4: Project Description</b> .
Wider socio-economic effects	OPEX is the key parameter informing the socio-economics impact assessment. Up to 35-year operational life.
Socio-cultural effects	
Tourism and recreation effects	

*Decommissioning*

Socio-economic impacts	At this stage, the worst-case scenario envelope during decommissioning is considered equal to (or less than) the worst-case scenario during construction, with the exception of vessel movements, where more detailed information is available for the construction phase. Noting this, it is assumed that the worst-case scenario will involve full removal of all infrastructure placed on the seabed (where technically feasible) during the construction phase. This assumption is subject to best practice methods and technology appropriate at the time of decommissioning.
Wider socio-economic effects	
Socio-cultural effects	
Tourism and recreation effects	

**19.10 Assessment Methodology**

- 19.10.1.1 **Volume ERA.2, Chapter 6: EIA Methodology** sets out the general approach to the assessment of the potential for significant effects that may arise from the Salamander Project.
- 19.10.1.2 Whilst **Volume ERA.2, Chapter 6: EIA Methodology** provides a general framework for identifying impacts and assessing the significance of their effects, in practice the approaches and criteria applied across different topics vary.
- 19.10.1.3 The approach to the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment that has been addressed in the EIA is outlined below.



## 19.10.2 Potential Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation Impacts and Effects

19.10.2.1 The potential impacts of the Salamander Project on Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation receptors have been summarised in **Table 19-16**. This table identifies potential impacts during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Salamander Project.

**Table 19-16 Potential Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation impacts and effects**

Potential impact	Project aspect	Project phase	Description
<i>Socio-Economic Impacts</i>			
Employment from the Salamander Project and in the supply chain	Offshore Array, Offshore ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation, EBI	Construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning	There is the potential for the Salamander Project to support employment within local and national companies directly engaged in providing services to the Salamander Project. There is also the potential to indirectly support jobs through supply chain activity.
GVA from the Salamander Project and in the supply chain	Offshore Array, Offshore ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation, EBI	Construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning	There is the potential to generate GVA through the Salamander Project with local and national companies directly engaged in providing services to the Salamander Project. There is also the potential to indirectly generate GVA through supply chain activity.
<i>Wider Socio-economic Effects</i>			
Effects on established local industries	Offshore Array, Offshore ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation, EBI	Construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning	Effects on commercial fisheries is not assessed as noted above. Effects on the local tourism economy is considered below.
<i>Socio-cultural Effects</i>			
Population changes and demand for housing and local services	Offshore Array, Offshore ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation, EBI	Construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning	There is the potential for direct, indirect and induced employment related to the Salamander Project which could generate population changes and demand for local housing and services such as GPs and schools.
<i>Tourism and Recreation Effects</i>			

Potential impact	Project aspect	Project phase	Description
Effects on tourism and recreation activities and availability of tourism accommodation	Offshore Array, Offshore ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation, EBI	Construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning	The Salamander Project has the potential to impact local tourism and recreation activities and accommodation, and therefore availability of existing supply.

### 19.10.3 Assessment Methodology for Socio-economic Impacts

19.10.3.1 The method for assessing socio-economic impacts is described below:

- CAPEX and OPEX data for the Salamander Project provided by the Applicant is used to generate employment and GVA estimates.
- As noted earlier in **Section 19.7**, CAPEX and OPEX data is broken down by geography including Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, Scotland, and the UK. This assumed breakdown is used to determine the distribution of socio-economic impacts between local and national Study Areas.
- Employment and GVA Type I and Type II effects and multipliers are taken from the Scottish Government’s Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables. These effects and multipliers are applied to the CAPEX and OPEX to estimate the Salamander Project’s direct, indirect and induced employment and GVA estimates.
- Gross employment and GVA figures are adjusted to reflect the following factors in line with MAU guidance on SEIA:
  - § Leakage – the level of impacts lost outside of the Study Area, in this case outside the UK, has been considered by removing potential international spend from the assessment.
  - § Deadweight – the level of impacts that would occur without the intervention. In this case, assuming none of the impacts will be achieved without the Salamander Project.
  - § Displacement – the level of benefits that are displaced from one market to another. In this case displacement is expected to be low. The Salamander Project is not likely to displace market activity from another wind farm but may displace some construction employment from other projects. Wider market factors, such as labour supply are also being addressed by other policy interventions. Displacement of 25% is applied to construction jobs.
  - § Substitution – where a firm substitutes one activity for another, for example, to take advantage of public assistance. No substitution effects are identified in this assessment.
- This approach estimates employment as ‘person years of employment’. A conventional approach is to divide the person years of employment by the assumed employment period, to estimate the number of FTE jobs on average per year of construction or operation and maintenance phase. As noted in **Section 19.7**, for the Salamander Project, the construction phase, inclusive of onshore and offshore components, is assumed for three years and the operation and maintenance phase is 35 years.
- A discount rate of 3.5% reduced to 3% after 30 years has also been applied to monetised GVA figures to derive the present values, based on 2023 prices. Applying a discount rate accounts for future risk and uncertainty when estimating the value of benefits. This aligns with HMT Green Book guidance.

19.10.3.2 A sensitivity test has not been conducted and instead the assessment is based on the realistic worst-case scenario (i.e. maximum Project Design Envelope). To provide a conservative estimate of spend by the

Salamander Project within Scotland, the lower end of CAPEX and OPEX for the maximum Project Design Envelope used throughout the EIAR has been used for the SEIA.

19.10.3.3 Optimism bias is not included in this assessment. As per the Green Book guidance, optimism bias is applied to project costs to derive net present social cost, which is then compared against present value benefits to derive a benefit cost ratio. The guidance recommends optimism bias is added to project costs to account for risk and uncertainty in public expenditure – it does not impact the assessment of benefits. This approach is specific to publicly funded projects where the results of the assessment are used to compare the social and economic costs and benefits of public expenditure. The Salamander Project is privately financed and therefore optimism bias is not applied to project costs and it will not affect the estimation of benefits used in this assessment.

#### **19.10.4 Assessment Methodology for Wider Socio-economic Effects**

19.10.4.1 Assessment of wider socio-economic effects considers the knock-on effects to other local industries, leading to structural economic change. The assessment uses existing available evidence on the relationship between offshore wind and relevant local industries, most notably, commercial fishing, agriculture, and tourism, to make qualitative judgements on wider socio-economic effects.

#### **19.10.5 Assessment Methodology for Socio-cultural Effects**

19.10.5.1 Assessment of socio-cultural effects will follow from the economic impact assessment and the implications of the employment supported during each phase. The potential change in population arising from employment opportunities will be put into the context of an annual population change typical for the Study Areas. This will be used to determine the magnitude of the effect.

19.10.5.2 The capacity of the Study Areas to absorb and adapt to this change in population will be determined by the relative sensitivity of social infrastructure in each of the Study Areas, for example:

- Housing – the availability within the neighbourhood and local housing market will be determined by the potential scarcity of supply and ability to increase the supply of housing;
- Healthcare – the capacity of healthcare provision within the neighbourhood Study Area to accommodate changes in population will be determined by metrics such as the ratio of patients per GP in each area; and
- Education – the relative capacity of education provision within the neighbourhood Study Area to accommodate population changes will be determined by metrics such as the availability of school places in primary and secondary schools.

#### **19.10.6 Assessment Methodology for Tourism and Recreation**

19.10.6.1 Tourism and recreation receptors have the potential to be affected by a proposed development that may lead to changes in tourist or recreational habits or activities. Factors which might lead to a change in recreational behaviour include:

- Loss, closure, or diversion of routes;
- Obstructing access routes or enhancing access;
- Reduction or enhancement of amenity value;
- Lack of accommodation providers; and
- Changes in the setting and context of the recreational resource.

19.10.6.2 A qualitative, desk-based assessment has been undertaken to assess the potential change in user experience, based on the availability, accessibility and amenity of tourist and recreational receptors for each phase of the Salamander Project. Additionally, questionnaires regarding the effects on tourism and recreational receptors were sent to key groups and organisations for feedback. However, no responses were received. For this assessment, amenity refers to a visual amenity experienced by the users of tourist attractions, recreational facilities, and accommodation. By utilising **Table 19-17** and **Table 19-18**, the significance of effect is determined in EIA terms. This will largely depend on:

- The status of the receptor;
- Any disruptions which impact on user experience; and
- Any anticipated change to the visitor numbers or economic income generated from tourist/recreational facilities.

19.10.6.3 Impacts on accommodation providers are assessed by exploring the potential demand for bedspaces by the construction workforce against capacity in the supply in neighbourhood and local Study Areas.

### 19.10.7 Defining Significance

19.10.7.1 The Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation impact assessment determines:

- Sensitivity of receptors;
- Magnitude of impacts; and
- Significance of effects.

19.10.7.2 There is no legislation relevant to the assessment of socio-economic impacts. The methodology for assessing socio-economic impacts has been developed based on good practice, guidance and professional judgement.

### 19.10.8 Sensitivity of Receptors

19.10.8.1 For socio-economic impacts, the availability of labour and skills is critical in accommodating the demands, needs and requirements of the Salamander Project. Adequate capacity, i.e. a sufficient labour supply in an area, results in a low sensitivity; while limited capacity results in a high sensitivity. Examples of factors which determine sensitivity are defined in **Table 19-17**.

**Table 19-17 Sensitivity of receptors**

Sensitivity	Description
<b>High</b>	<p>There is no or low availability of labour and skills in the local workforce, for example, as a result of very low unemployment rates. The Proposed Development would lead to labour market pressure and distortions (i.e. skills and capacity shortages, import of labour, wage inflation).</p> <p>The receptor is solely used by sensitive groups such as older people, children, and people of poor health.</p> <p>The asset is of high socio-economic, tourism, recreation or land use value. It is of importance at a national or international level and has little capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character.</p> <p>For example, it is a destination in its own right which will attract a high number of visitors.</p> <p>The receptor possesses priority in Scottish / UK socio-economic or tourism strategy/policy.</p>

Sensitivity	Description
<b>Medium</b>	<p>The area has a constrained supply of labour and skills. The Proposed Development may lead to labour market pressure and distortions.</p> <p>The receptor may be used by sensitive groups such as older people, children, and people of poor health.</p> <p>The asset is of moderate socio-economic, tourism, recreation or land use value. It is of importance at a national level and has some capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character.</p> <p>For example, it is a destination in its own right that will attract a moderate number of visitors.</p> <p>The receptor possesses priority in local socio-economic or tourism strategy/policy.</p>
<b>Low</b>	<p>The area has a sufficient supply of labour and skills. The Proposed Development will not likely lead to labour market pressure and distortions.</p> <p>The receptor is not widely used by sensitive groups such as older people, children, and people of poor health.</p> <p>The asset is of moderate socio-economic, tourism, recreation or land use value. It is of importance at a national/ local level and can absorb change without fundamentally altering its present character.</p> <p>For example, it is an incidental destination for current visitors which attracts a small number of visitors.</p> <p>The receptor is not identified as a priority in local socio-economic or tourism strategy/policy.</p>
<b>Negligible</b>	<p>The receptor is resistant to change and is of little socio-economic, tourism, recreation or land use value.</p> <p>The receptor is not identified as a priority in local socio-economic or tourism strategy/policy.</p>

### 19.10.9 Magnitude of Impacts

19.10.9.1 The magnitude of impacts is determined by the extent of the change and the scale of the impact. A level of impact magnitude (see **Table 19-18**) will be assigned taking into consideration the following:

- Extent of change – taking account of the number of people affected and the size of the area impacted; and
- Scale of the impact – whether permanent during operation and maintenance or temporary/short-term during construction.

**Table 19-18 Magnitude of Impacts**

Magnitude	Description
<b>High</b>	Total loss or major alteration (positive or negative) of the socio-economic, tourism, or recreation assets/receptors.

Magnitude	Description
Medium	Loss of, or alteration to (positive or negative), one or more key elements of the socio-economic, tourism, or recreation asset's baseline value.
Low	Slight alteration (positive or negative) of the socio-economic, tourism, or recreation asset/receptors.
Negligible	Barely perceptible alteration (positive or negative) of the socio-economic, tourism, or recreation asset/receptors.

### 19.10.10 Significance of Effect

19.10.10.1 The sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact will be used as a guide, in addition to professional judgement, to predict the significance of the potential effects (see **Table 19-19**).

**Table 19-19 Significance of effects matrix**

Significance of effect		Receptor Sensitivity			
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Magnitude of impact	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Minor
	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Moderate
	High	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major

19.10.10.2 It is common practice to define major and moderate effects as 'significant'. As such all effects deemed major or moderate will be considered significant. Effects can be beneficial, adverse and negligible; these are specified where applicable in **Section 19.10**.

19.10.10.3 The significance of effects will be assessed relative to the baseline. The effects are defined as being:

- Beneficial – advantageous or beneficial on an impact area / defined receptors;
- Negligible – imperceptible/no effect on an impact area / defined receptors; and
- Adverse – disadvantageous or negative effect on an impact area / defined receptors.

## 19.11 Impact Assessment

### 19.11.1 Construction

#### Socio-economic Impacts (Construction)

##### Employment

19.11.1.1 **Table 19-20** shows the estimated employment impacts on the local, national and UK economy. The project CAPEX value and assumed geographical breakdown of expenditure provided by the Applicant is used to

approximate the amount of construction employment that could be created by the Salamander Project. The employment figures include direct, indirect and induced jobs, which are defined as:

- Direct jobs - people employed by the main contractors responsible for the Salamander Project;
- Indirect jobs – people indirectly linked to the Salamander Project through the supply chain or employed by sub-contractors; and
- Induced jobs – additional jobs created, for example, when direct and indirect employees spend their incomes on consumer goods and services.

**Table 19-20 Estimated employment opportunities through construction (per annum) (for three years)**

	Estimated direct FTE Jobs (per annum)	Estimated Indirect FTE Jobs (per annum)	Estimated Induced FTE Jobs (per annum)	Total
Aberdeen City / Aberdeenshire	28	12	8	48
Rest of Scotland	182	80	51	313
Rest of UK	76	33	21	130

Source: ERM Analysis (2023)

- 19.11.1.2 The Salamander Project could generate around 48 FTE jobs locally which would lead to a temporary increase in current jobs in relevant supply chain industries (as outlined in **Table 19-9**). There is no data to accurately determine how many of these jobs will be taken by residents from the neighbourhood Study Area. However, given the small number of jobs anticipated, the magnitude of impact for construction jobs is likely to be **Negligible** at both the neighbourhood and local levels. The sensitivity of receptor is judged to be **Low** because baseline data suggests there is skilled workforce available in the local economy.
- 19.11.1.3 The Salamander Project is estimated to generate 313 FTE jobs in Scotland which would represent a temporary increase of less than 0.1% of current jobs across the relevant supply chain industries. Therefore, the magnitude of impact for the construction phase employment is concluded to be **Negligible**. The sensitivity of receptor is judged to be **Low** because baseline data suggests there is skilled workforce available in the Scotland economy and there are policy drivers supporting growth in this sector.
- 19.11.1.4 The Salamander Project is expected to generate around 130 annual FTE jobs in the UK which would result in a fractional increase in current jobs across the relevant supply chain industries. Therefore, the magnitude of impact for the construction phase employment is concluded to be **Negligible**. The sensitivity of receptor is

judged to be **Low** because baseline data suggests there is skilled workforce available in the UK economy and UK policy drivers supporting growth in this sector.

19.11.1.5 **Low** sensitivity of neighbourhood, local and national receptors combined with the **Negligible** magnitude of effect in neighbourhood, local and national Study Areas, it is predicted that the Salamander Project’s employment during the construction phase would be **Negligible positive** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

**Economic Productivity**

19.11.1.6 Gross Value Added (GVA) is a commonly used metric to measure economic productivity. As noted earlier, GVA is assessed by applying GVA Type I and II effects and multipliers taken from the Scottish Government’s ‘Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables’. These GVA effects and multipliers were applied to CAPEX data provided by the Applicant.

19.11.1.7 It is estimated that the Salamander Project could deliver an additional £110.5 million of direct, indirect and induced GVA per annum across the local Study Area, the rest of Scotland and the UK (see **Table 19-21**).

**Table 19-21 Estimated total Gross Value Added per annum (over the three-year construction period)**

	<b>Estimated Direct GVA per annum</b>	<b>Estimated Indirect GVA per annum</b>	<b>Estimated Induced GVA per annum</b>	<b>Estimated Total GVA per annum</b>
Aberdeen City / Aberdeenshire	£6,348,935	£2,770,380	£2,162,181	£11,281,497
Rest of Scotland	£41,593,130	£18,149,307	£14,164,878	£73,907,314
Rest of UK	£11,777,257	£7,578,980	£5,915,119	£25,271,356
<b>Total</b>				<b>£110,460,167</b>

Source: ERM Analysis (2023)

19.11.1.8 The Salamander Project is estimated to contribute £11.3 million of GVA in the local Study Area during the construction phase (per annum over three years). The baseline shows GVA in the local Study Area was £15.6 billion in 2021 (inclusive of the neighbourhood Study Area). The additional GVA impact of Salamander Project would represent a fractional contribution to the local baseline position. The magnitude of impact on GVA for the construction phase is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** for both the neighbourhood and local Study Areas.

19.11.1.9 Salamander Project is estimated to contribute £73.9 million GVA to the Scotland Study Area during the construction phase (per annum over three years). The baseline shows GVA in Scotland was £141bn in 2021. The additional GVA impact of Salamander Project would represent a fractional contribution to the Scotland baseline position. The magnitude of impact for construction phase GVA is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** for Scotland.

19.11.1.10 Salamander Project is estimated to contribute £25.3 million GVA to the UK Study Area during the construction phase (per annum over three years). The baseline shows GVA in the UK was £2tn in 2021. The additional GVA impact of Salamander Project would represent a fractional contribution to the UK baseline



position. The magnitude of impact for construction phase GVA is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** for the UK.

- 19.11.1.11 All Study Areas are considered to have **Low** sensitivity in terms of their ability to absorb additional GVA. When considering the **Low** sensitivity of socio-economic receptors, it is predicted that the Salamander Project's additional GVA during the construction phase would have a **Negligible positive** effect across all Study Areas which is **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

#### **Wider Socio-economic Effects (Construction)**

- 19.11.1.12 Wider socio-economic effects considers the potential structural economic change, loss, or disruption to traditional or established local industries. Key relevant industries are likely to include agriculture, tourism, and commercial fisheries. Each sector is considered below.

#### Commercial Fisheries

- 19.11.1.13 It is acknowledged that there is the potential for the loss of earnings to commercial fisheries for receptors within the Offshore Development Area. This would be largely due to loss of access to fishing grounds, displacement, impediment of vessel trips and other security/safety issues. However, **Volume ER.A.3, Chapter 13: Commercial Fisheries** assessed these impacts and concluded that commercial fisheries are not expected to be significantly impacted. No further assessment is undertaken on commercial fisheries in this Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation chapter.

#### Agriculture

- 19.11.1.14 There is potential for the agricultural sector to be impacted by the Onshore Development Area, where there is a temporary loss of agricultural land during construction, a loss of access to agricultural land or the Project creates other effects which impact the sector, such as labour market distortions.
- 19.11.1.15 The baseline shows that there is above average employment in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector in Aberdeenshire demonstrating it is an important sector to the local economy, compared to the rest of Scotland and UK. Therefore, the sensitivity is assessed as **Medium** for the neighbourhood and local Study Areas and **Low** for the national Study Area. Magnitude of effect is assessed as **Negligible** across neighbourhood, local, and national Study Areas, because there is no loss of agricultural land or loss of access to agricultural land during construction phase. Baseline data also suggest there are strengths in local labour supply in the sectors relevant to construction of Salamander Project, (see **Table 19-20** above).
- 19.11.1.16 The assessment concludes the agriculture sector as having **Low** sensitivity for the national Study Areas and **Medium** sensitivity for the local Study Area. And a **Negligible** magnitude of effect across all Study Areas resulting in a **Negligible** effect and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

#### Tourism

- 19.11.1.17 A previous study, *The Impacts of Windfarms on Scottish Tourism*, (the Moffat Centre, 2008), concluded that existing and proposed wind farm developments have little overall economic effect on tourism in Scotland. Whilst this is a relevant study to this assessment, it is relatively dated.
- 19.11.1.18 A more recent study<sup>7</sup> of 11 offshore windfarms in England also found the construction of an offshore wind farm does not impact the local tourism economy. No further evidence on the relationship between offshore

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<sup>7</sup> Tourism Impact Review – East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two, Biggar Economics (2020)

wind and tourism in Scotland is identified and therefore assessed as having **Low** sensitivity and **Negligible** magnitude resulting in a **Negligible** effect and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.1.19 Whilst there may not be a significant effect on tourism in the national Study Area, it is acknowledged that there is a lack of evidence. There may be more localised effects occurring at the local and neighbourhood Study Area levels. Therefore, effects on tourism are considered further by assessing the potential impacts on tourism and recreation assets, as described in **Section 19.11.4** below.

#### **Socio-cultural Effects (Construction)**

19.11.1.20 This section considers the socio-cultural effects that could be created as a resulting effect from the socio-economic impacts outlined above. It focusses on the neighbourhood and local Study Areas as outlined in **Table 19-3** in this chapter.

#### **Population**

19.11.1.21 As noted above, the construction phase is expected to create approximately 48 construction jobs in the local Study Area over the three-year period. The baseline populations in the local Study Area are 227,430 in Aberdeen City and 262,198 in Aberdeenshire. The assessment concludes that potential population changes as a result of these jobs are not likely to create socio-cultural effects in the local Study Area considering the small numbers of potential employees relative to the baseline population.

19.11.1.22 The baseline also suggests the local economy has higher location quotients in the relevant supply chain sectors, suggesting that a suitably skilled workforce already exists in the local Study Area. Therefore, it is likely that jobs will be taken by the existing workforce, rather than inward migration.

19.11.1.23 That said, small changes can have a bigger effect at the smaller area level, i.e. the neighbourhood Study Area, where the population is smaller and effects are more noticeable. The population of Buchan is 42,505. It is possible that some of the 48 construction workers could relocate temporarily or permanently to the neighbourhood. Some jobs may also be taken by existing residents of Buchan. There is not sufficient data to make a robust assessment of where jobs will be located and where employees will reside at the small area level. Considering the estimated number of jobs, resulting potential population changes and compared against baseline population and employment numbers, population change is not expected to occur to an extent where it will noticeably change socio-cultural factors such as family structures, community identity and way of life. As a result of the limited nature of population changes and other effects, we consider that there would be little if any scope for discernible impacts upon those socio-cultural factors.

19.11.1.24 In conclusion, population changes are determined as:

- **Medium** sensitivity at the neighbourhood and local levels with **Low** magnitude of impact against the baseline position and therefore a **Minor** effect and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.
- **Low** sensitivity at the UK and Scotland levels, with a **Low** magnitude against the baseline position resulting in a **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.1.25 Whilst population change is concluded as **Not Significant** in EIA terms, further potential socio-cultural effects are considered by assuming the non-local construction employees relocate temporarily and occupy tourism accommodation. There are estimated to be 313 construction workers located in the rest of Scotland and 130 workers located in the rest of the UK. There may also be international workers (which are not assessed here) who may need to travel to the Salamander Project site. There is no reliable data to determine how many workers will need to travel to the site, the frequency or duration of their visit. Assuming the total workforce (i.e. the 313 workers in Scotland and 130 workers in the UK) are required to travel to site at various points

in the construction programme, their impact on tourism accommodation is assessed in the tourism and recreation effects below.

### Housing

19.11.1.26 As noted above, the assessment does not anticipate significant relocation of construction workers to the neighbourhood or local Study Area due to the presence of existing supply in the Local labour market described in the baseline. Workers may relocate temporarily, and take-up tourism accommodation which is assessed below. It is therefore anticipated that the Salamander Project would not have a significant impact on the local housing market. Any impacts on housing due to construction workers created by the Salamander Project would be temporary and of **Low** magnitude resulting in a **Minor** effect for the neighbourhood and local Study Area, which is **Not Significant** in EIA terms. In terms of UK and Scotland, the magnitude of impact on housing demand during the construction phase is concluded to be **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms for Scotland and the UK.

### Healthcare

19.11.1.27 As noted above, the assessment concludes that construction workers are unlikely to relocate to the area, creating population change, or additional pressure on housing markets. Workers with the specialist skills necessary for various aspects of the construction phase of the Salamander Project may move into the area temporarily and are most likely to have their primary health care needs provided by services close to their registered permanent home address. There are five GPs located in Buchan, all practices are accepting new patients. As such, any impacts on healthcare due to the increase in construction workers associated with the Salamander Project would be temporary and of **Negligible** magnitude which is **Not Significant** in EIA terms in the neighbourhood and local Study Areas. The assessment also concludes effects are **Not Significant** in EIA terms at Scotland and UK levels.

### Education

19.11.1.28 As noted above, the scenario where construction workers relocate with their families or start a family and create additional demand for education services in Buchan is not likely to be significant. The 22 primary schools and both secondary schools within Buchan have capacity to absorb current/future demand for school places. Therefore, even if workers moved to the area with their families, there is unlikely to be significant impacts on local schools. As such, impacts on education provision due to the increase in construction workers at the neighbourhood and local Study Areas would be temporary and **Negligible** magnitude which is **Not Significant** in EIA terms. The assessment concludes effects are **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms at Scotland and UK levels.

### **Tourism and Recreation (Construction)**

19.11.1.29 As noted earlier, employment created by the Salamander Project is not likely to create structural economic change to an extent that it would impact the tourism economy overall in Scotland. During the construction phase, there is potential for the Salamander Project to impact tourism and recreation in the following ways:

- Impact on the visitor perception, accessibility, and experience of the neighbourhood Study Area as a destination for outdoor and marine recreation; and
- The influx of workers increases the demand for local tourism accommodation.

19.11.1.30 Both potential effects are assessed below.

### Impact on tourism and recreation activity

- 19.11.1.31 It is anticipated that the Salamander Project will not significantly deter outdoor recreational or tourism activities in the local or neighbourhood Study Areas. However, several recreational receptors located within the neighbourhood may be more sensitive and experience a higher magnitude of effect, especially during the construction phase.
- 19.11.1.32 One tourism receptor, Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head, has the potential to be impacted by the construction activities of the Salamander Project as it is the location of Landfall of the offshore export cable(s). As a result of the project decision to make landfall using a trenchless method rather than trenched landfall, underneath the foredunes and beach area, impacts to access to Kirkton beach and Scotstown head will be minimised. Should temporary closure be required of any paths within the sand dunes during landfall works, the Salamander Project will provide a suitable temporary diversion to allow continued beach access.
- 19.11.1.33 Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head is situated outside St Fergus and is part of a long beach, running down to Craigewan from Rattray Head. This beach is a key tourism location within the Aberdeenshire Coastal Core Path. This section of the beach is pristine, backed by sand dunes, despite being in proximity of the St Fergus Gas Terminal.
- 19.11.1.34 The visual impact experienced by visitors and walkers at Scotststown Beach may be impacted by construction equipment being visible from certain sections of the beach. Additionally, the noise created by construction activities may affect the experience of the beach as a recreational asset. Assessment of disturbance, i.e. noise and visual impact, from the Onshore Development will be considered in the Onshore EIAR submitted in support of the Onshore Development planning application. However, it is expected that the Salamander Project will identify mitigation for potential onshore impacts where required, to be as low as possible. Therefore, the magnitude of impact to Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head will be **Low**.
- 19.11.1.35 In terms of the neighbourhood and local Study Areas, the sensitivity of the receptor is **Medium** and the magnitude of impact is **Low**. Overall, the significance of effect on the impact on visitor accessibility and experience is temporary **Minor** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms, because access and use is not affected.

### Impact on tourism accommodation

- 19.11.1.36 The influx of 443 construction workers from Scotland (313 FTEs), the UK (130 FTEs) (and possibly overseas workers) associated with the Salamander Project could lead to a temporary increased demand for local bedspaces in tourist accommodation across the neighbourhood and local Study Areas and beyond. Effects may include:
- Potential positive effects on the tourism accommodation, generating extra demand for accommodation during the off-peak season when the tourist visit numbers are lower.
  - Potential negative impacts due to the influx of construction workers taking up accommodation, which may prevent tourist visitors from booking tourism accommodation and therefore fewer visits to attractions, restaurants and shops.
- 19.11.1.37 As mentioned in the baseline, there are currently 18,855 bedspaces across Aberdeenshire excluding bedspaces in Aberdeen City and Moray. Even at a 61% occupancy rate (the highest occupancy rate recorded across accommodation types), there would be over 7,000 surplus bedspaces available in Aberdeenshire. A small increase in demand for bedspaces may be beneficial for accommodation providers without affecting the tourism offering. There is also the potential that the presence of the temporary workforce may induce an increase in the demand for services provided by local businesses such as food and drinks (included within induced economic impacts). The presence of the workforce in off-peak seasons may also help to offset the

typical difficulties associated with the seasonality of the tourism sector. Therefore, the sensitivity of this receptor is **Low** because it has capacity to absorb change without significantly altering its character.

19.11.1.38 Assuming all 443 construction workers occupied tourism bedspaces, this accounts for less than 10% of the surplus bedspaces in Aberdeenshire. It is unlikely that all workers will travel to site at the same time, therefore the magnitude of impact is **Low**. The significance of the construction impact on tourism accommodation is **Negligible Beneficial and Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.1.39 Baseline data suggests that 9% of Aberdeenshire bedspaces are located in Buchan – this equates to 1,697 bed spaces in the neighbourhood Study Area. Assuming a 61% occupancy rate (the highest occupancy rate recorded across accommodation types), there would be 662 surplus bedspaces available in Buchan. Assuming all 443 construction workers occupied tourism bedspaces, this would account for a large proportion of the available bed spaces. Therefore, the sensitivity of receptor is **Low** because it has some capacity to absorb change.

19.11.1.40 It is unlikely that all construction workers will travel to site at the same time and during peak season, but this additional demand could create pressure on accommodation supply during peak holiday seasons. Accommodation providers in the neighbourhood Study Area could benefit from the additional demand outside of peak season but may face pressures during peak season. Therefore, the magnitude of impact, on balance is neutral **Medium**. The significance of the construction impact on tourism accommodation is **Minor Neutral and Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.1.41 It is expected that the impact of construction workers on tourism accommodation outside of the neighborhood and local Study Area is likely to be minimal. In terms of Scotland and the UK, the sensitivity of the receptor is **Medium** and the magnitude of impact is **Negligible**. Overall, the significance of effect on tourism accommodation during the construction phase is positive **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

## 19.11.2 Operation and Maintenance

### Socio-economic Impacts (Operation and Maintenance)

#### Employment

19.11.2.1 The estimated OPEX value provided by the Applicant is used to estimate operation and maintenance phase employment. **Table 19-22** below shows the estimated direct, indirect, and induced employment impacts on the local, national and UK economy through the operation and maintenance of the Salamander Project.

**Table 19-22 Annual estimated Operation and Maintenance employment opportunities**

	Estimated Direct FTE Jobs (per annum)	Estimated Indirect FTE Jobs (per annum)	Estimated Induced FTE Jobs (per annum)	Total
Aberdeen City / Aberdeenshire	1	1	0	2
Rest of Scotland	8	4	3	15
Rest of UK	9	4	3	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>

Source: ERM Analysis (2023)

- 19.11.2.2 In terms of the neighbourhood and local Study Area, the Salamander Project would generate around two annual FTE jobs. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on operation and maintenance phase jobs is concluded to be **Negligible**. For the rest of Scotland, the Salamander Project will generate an anticipated 15 annual FTE jobs which is a negligible proportion of jobs compared against the baseline. Therefore, the magnitude of impact for the operation and maintenance phase employment is concluded to be **Negligible**. The Salamander Project is expected to generate around a further 16 annual FTE jobs across the UK which is a negligible proportion of jobs compared against the baseline. Therefore, the magnitude of impact for the operation and maintenance phase employment is concluded to be **Negligible** for both neighbourhood and local Study Areas.
- 19.11.2.3 Combined with the **Moderate** sensitivity of employment at the neighbourhood and local Study Area level, it is predicted that the Salamander Project’s employment during the operation and maintenance phase would be **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.
- 19.11.2.4 Combined with the **Low** sensitivity of employment at the Scottish and UK levels, it is predicted that the Salamander Project’s employment during the operation and maintenance phase would be **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

**Economic Productivity**

- 19.11.2.5 GVA is calculated by utilising GVA Type I and II effects and multipliers taken from the Scottish Government’s ‘Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables’. These GVA effects and multipliers were applied to OPEX datasets provided by the Applicant to estimate GVA impacts from the operation and maintenance phase.
- 19.11.2.6 Based on the OPEX figures provided by the Applicant, it is anticipated that the additional economic productivity associated with the Salamander Project could be a total £60.6 million of direct, indirect, and induced GVA over 35 years (in 2023 prices) (see **Table 19-23**).



**Table 19-23 Estimated Total Operation and Maintenance Gross Added Value**

	<b>Estimated Direct GVA</b>	<b>Estimated Indirect GVA</b>	<b>Estimated Induced GVA</b>	<b>Estimated Total GVA</b>
Aberdeen City / Aberdeenshire	£2,574,325	£933,023	£614,201	£4,121,549
Rest of Scotland	£17,037,741	£6,175,055	£4,064,988	£27,277,784
Rest of UK	£18,243,383	£6,612,021	£4,352,639	£29,208,042
<b>Total</b>				<b>£60,607,376</b>

Source: ERM Analysis (2023)

19.11.2.7 The estimated value of GVA in Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen City in 2021 was £15.6 billion. The addition of £4.1 million of GVA in the Study Area over 35 years is marginal compared to the baseline position. The magnitude of impact for O&M phase GVA is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** for Buchan and Aberdeenshire / Aberdeen City. Combined with the **Moderate** sensitivity of socio-economic receptors at the neighbourhood and local Study Area level, it is predicted that the Salamander Project’s GVA impact during the operation and maintenance phase would be **positive Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.2.8 For Scotland, the Salamander Project would generate an additional £27.3 million of GVA over 35 years, which is marginal compared to the baseline total. The magnitude of impact of GVA for the O&M phase is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** for Scotland. Across the UK, the Salamander Project would generate an additional £29.2 million GVA over 35 years which would represent a marginal increase to the baseline position. The magnitude of impact of GVA for O&M phase is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** for the UK. Combined with the **Low** sensitivity of socio-economic receptors at the Scottish and UK Study Area level, it is predicted that the Salamander Project’s GVA impact during the operation and maintenance phase would be **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

**Wider Socio-Economic Effects (Operation and Maintenance)**

19.11.2.9 Wider socio-economic effects on other sectors are assessed as **Not Significant** during the construction phase above, and are likely to be lower in operation and maintenance phase due to lower socio-economic impacts in operation and maintenance than in construction.

19.11.2.10 The commercial fisheries sector is assessed as not being significantly impacted. Socio-economic impacts potential to create wider socio-economic effects on commercial fisheries are assessed as a **Negligible** magnitude of effect across all Study Areas during operation and maintenance phase resulting in a **Negligible** effect and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.2.11 The assessment concludes the agriculture sector as having **Low** sensitivity for the national Study Areas and **Medium** sensitivity for the local Study Area. And a **Negligible** magnitude of effect across all Study Areas during operation and maintenance phase resulting in a **Negligible** effect and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

19.11.2.12 The assessment concludes the tourism sector as having **Low** sensitivity for the national Study Area and **Medium** sensitivity for the local and neighbourhood Study Area and **Negligible** magnitude resulting in a **Negligible** effect and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.



## Socio-cultural Effects (Operation and Maintenance)

### Population

19.11.2.13 The socio-economics impact assessment above estimated that two jobs will be created in the local Study Area and a further 15 in the rest of Scotland, and a further 16 in the UK. The impact of these jobs on population change is negligible at neighbourhood, local and national levels and therefore socio-cultural effects are **Negligible** during the O&M phase of Salamander Project and therefore **Not Significant** in EIA terms. Despite this, and as with construction jobs above, the potential impacts on local social infrastructure are also considered below.

### Housing

19.11.2.14 Given the availability of skilled operation and maintenance workers in the local Study Area, it is expected that jobs will be taken up by workers from the existing local area or commute. This means the likely effect on the neighbourhood and local housing market due to the increase in operation and maintenance workers would be **Negligible** magnitude which is **Not Significant** in EIA terms for the local Study Area.

19.11.2.15 The same is true for both Scotland and UK Study Areas. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on housing demand during the operation and maintenance phase is concluded to be **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms for Scotland and the UK.

### Healthcare

19.11.2.16 Currently there are five GP practices located in Buchan which are accepting new patients. The expected effect on local healthcare services will be minimal. The magnitude of impact on healthcare demand during the operation and maintenance phase is therefore concluded to be **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms for the neighbourhood and local Study Areas. The assessment concludes effects for UK and Scotland Study Areas are **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

### Education

19.11.2.17 It is estimated that Operation and Maintenance workers would not have a significant effect on local schools, as primary and secondary schools, the neighbourhood Study Area has the capacity to absorb any current/future demand for school places. As such, any effects on education provision due to the increase in operation and maintenance workers would be **Negligible** magnitude resulting in a socio-economics effect for the neighbourhood and local Study Areas. The assessment concludes effects for UK and Scotland Study Areas are **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

## Tourism and Recreational Impacts (Operation and Maintenance)

19.11.2.18 During the operation and maintenance phase, there is potential for the Salamander Project to impact the Study Areas in the following ways:

- Impact on the visitor accessibility and experience of the Study Areas as a destination for outdoor and marine recreation; and
- The influx of workers increases the demand for local tourism accommodation, which would generally be booked by visitors to the Study Areas and other parts of Scotland and the UK.

19.11.2.19 Three key tourist receptors in the neighbourhood Study Area include Kirkton beach and Scotstown Head, Northeast Aberdeenshire Coast, and Formartine and Buchan Way, which are popular with tourists using the core paths, accessible dunes, golf courses and popular beaches.

- 19.11.2.20 During the operation and maintenance phase, the tourism and recreation effects mainly relate to the impact on visual amenity of the onshore and offshore components.
- 19.11.2.21 The Onshore Development could be visible from recreational assets and has the potential to affect the visual amenity associated with these assets, as well as the visual amenity experienced by people using those assets. Assessment of disturbance, i.e. noise and visual impact, from the Onshore Development will be considered in the Onshore EIAR submitted in support of the Onshore Development consent applications. However, it is expected that the Salamander Project will identify mitigation for potential onshore impacts where required, to be as low as possible. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on visitor accessibility and experience is **Negligible**.
- 19.11.2.22 Visual impacts associated with the Offshore Development are assessed in **Volume ERA.3, Chapter 16: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity** which has assessed the potential for impacts on views from key tourist receptors arising from the Operation and Maintenance of the Offshore Array. The Offshore Development will not have a direct impact upon these receptors, amenity in this context is limited to visual amenity. This assessment concluded that all impacts would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms. Therefore, the magnitude of impact on visitor amenity, accessibility and experience is **Negligible**.
- 19.11.2.23 In terms of the neighbourhood and local Study Area, the sensitivity of the receptors is **Medium** and the magnitude of impact is **Negligible**. Overall, the significance of the effect on visitor accessibility and experience is **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.
- 19.11.2.24 During the operation and maintenance phase, workers including visiting contractors, specialists and other workers could require short-term accommodation whilst working on-site. Even when considering all workers employed as a result of the Salamander Project, i.e. 33, their potential effect on demand for bedspaces is minimal, when considering the volume of bedspaces available and capacity noted in the baseline.
- 19.11.2.25 In terms of the neighbourhood, local, Scotland and the UK Study Areas, the sensitivity of the receptor is **Medium** and the magnitude of impact is **Negligible**. Therefore, the significance of the effect of operation and maintenance impact on tourism accommodation is **Negligible** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

### 19.11.3 Decommissioning

- 19.11.3.1 At the time of writing this assessment, there is insufficient information available or certainty on the approach to decommissioning and where supply chain spend may occur. The anticipated spend required for decommissioning is less than 10% of the anticipated total CAPEX and therefore socio-economic impacts and related effects during decommissioning are predicted to be significantly less than those of the construction phase, which are assessed as **Not Significant** in EIA Terms. The assessment concludes that Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation impacts and effects of decommissioning would also be **Not Significant** in EIA Terms.

### 19.11.4 Summary of Impact Assessment

- 19.11.4.1 A summary of the impacts and effects identified for the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessments are outlined in **Table 19-24**.

**Table 19-24 Summary of impacts and effects for Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation**

<b>Salamander Project Activity and Impact</b>	<b>Study Area</b>	<b>Project Aspect</b>	<b>Embedded Mitigation</b>	<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Additional Mitigation</b>	<b>Residual Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Significance of Effect in EIA Terms</b>
<b>Construction</b>										
<b>Socio-economic impacts:</b>  <b>Employment during the construction phase</b>	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	Co57	Residents / Businesses	Low	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was <b>Not Significant</b>	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	Co57		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland	Onshore Substation	Co57		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: UK		Co57		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
<b>Socio-economic impacts:</b>  <b>Economic productivity (GVA) during the construction phase</b>	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	Co49	Residents / Businesses	Medium	Negligible	Minor Beneficial	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it	Minor Beneficial	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	Co49		Medium	Negligible	Minor Beneficial		Minor Beneficial	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		Co49		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant

Salamander Project Activity and Impact	Study Area	Project Aspect	Embedded Mitigation	Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Significance of Effect	Significance of Effect in EIA Terms
	National: UK	Onshore Substation	Co49		Low	Negligible	Negligible	was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
Wider socio-economic effects:	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	None	Businesses, economy	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
Commercial Fisheries	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	None		Negligible	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Agriculture	National: Scotland	Onshore Substation	None		Negligible	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Tourism	National: UK		None		Negligible	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Socio-cultural effects:	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	None	Residents / Salamander Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it	Negligible	Not-Significant
Population change	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	None		High	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant

Salamander Project Activity and Impact	Study Area	Project Aspect	Embedded Mitigation	Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Significance of Effect	Significance of Effect in EIA Terms
	National: UK	Onshore Substation	None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible	was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
Socio-cultural effects:  Demand for housing during the construction phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	None	Residents / Salamander Project workers	High	Low	Minor	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in Table 19-14 as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	None		High	Low	Minor		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland	Onshore Substation	None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Socio-cultural effects:  Demand for healthcare during the construction phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	None	Residents / Salamander Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in Table 19-14 as it	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	None		High	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant

Salamander Project Activity and Impact	Study Area	Project Aspect	Embedded Mitigation	Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Significance of Effect	Significance of Effect in EIA Terms
	National: UK	Onshore Substation	None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible	was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
Socio-cultural effects:  Demand for education during the construction phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC,	None	Residents / Salamander Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in Table 19-14 as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC,	None		High	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: Scotland	Onshore Substation	None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
Recreation and tourism effects:  Visitor access and experience during the construction phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan and NE SMR	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal	None	Tourists / recreational users	Medium	Low	Minor	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded	Minor	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	ECC, Onshore ECC,	None		Medium	Low	Minor		Minor	Not-Significant

Salamander Project Activity and Impact	Study Area	Project Aspect	Embedded Mitigation	Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Significance of Effect	Significance of Effect in EIA Terms
	National: Scotland	Onshore Substation	None		Low	Negligible	Negligible	mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: UK		None		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Recreation and tourism effects:  Effect on tourist accommodation during the construction phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan and NE SMR	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal  Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Tourists / recreational users / workers	Medium	Low	Minor beneficial	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Minor beneficial	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		None		Medium	Low	Minor beneficial		Minor beneficial	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
<b>Operation and Maintenance</b>										
Socio-economic impacts:	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore	None	Residents / Businesses	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation	Negligible	Not-Significant



Salamander Project Activity and Impact	Study Area	Project Aspect	Embedded Mitigation	Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Significance of Effect	Significance of Effect in EIA Terms
Employment during the operation and maintenance phase	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore Substation	None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible	measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: UK		None		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
Socio-economic impacts:  Economic productivity (GVA) during the Operation and Maintenance phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore Substation	Co49	Residents / Businesses	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		Co49		Medium	Negligible	Negligible			
	National: Scotland		Co49		Low	Negligible	Negligible			
	National: UK		Co49		Low	Negligible	Negligible			
Wider socio-economic effects:	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore	None	Businesses, economy	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation	Negligible	Not-Significant

<b>Salamander Project Activity and Impact</b>	<b>Study Area</b>	<b>Project Aspect</b>	<b>Embedded Mitigation</b>	<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Additional Mitigation</b>	<b>Residual Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Significance of Effect in EIA Terms</b>
Commercial Fisheries  Agriculture  Tourism	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation	None		Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Negligible	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: UK		None		Negligible	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Socio-cultural effects:  Population change	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Residents / Salamander Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		None		High	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Not-Significant
Socio-cultural effects:	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore	None	Residents / Salamander	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation	Negligible	Not-Significant

<b>Salamander Project Activity and Impact</b>	<b>Study Area</b>	<b>Project Aspect</b>	<b>Embedded Mitigation</b>	<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Additional Mitigation</b>	<b>Residual Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Significance of Effect in EIA Terms</b>
Demand for housing during the operation and maintenance phase	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
Socio-cultural effects:  Demand for healthcare during the operation and maintenance phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Residents / Salamander Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		None		High	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
Socio-cultural effects:	Neighbourhood : Buchan	OAA, Offshore	None	Residents / Salamander	High	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation	Negligible	Not-Significant

<b>Salamander Project Activity and Impact</b>	<b>Study Area</b>	<b>Project Aspect</b>	<b>Embedded Mitigation</b>	<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Additional Mitigation</b>	<b>Residual Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Significance of Effect in EIA Terms</b>
Demand for schools during the operation and maintenance phase	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire	ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Project workers	High	Negligible	Negligible	measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	National: Scotland		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: UK		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
Recreation and tourism effects:  Access and experience during the operation and maintenance phase	Neighbourhood : Buchan and NE SMR	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal ECC, Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Tourists / recreational users	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: Scotland		None		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: UK		None		Low	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	

<b>Salamander Project Activity and Impact</b>	<b>Study Area</b>	<b>Project Aspect</b>	<b>Embedded Mitigation</b>	<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Additional Mitigation</b>	<b>Residual Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Significance of Effect in EIA Terms</b>
<b>Recreation and tourism effects:</b>  <b>Effects on tourist accommodation during the operation and maintenance phase</b>	Neighbourhood : Buchan and NE SMR	OAA, Offshore ECC, Intertidal Onshore ECC, Onshore Substation	None	Tourists / recreational users and Salamander Project workers	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	No additional mitigation measures have been identified for this effect above and beyond embedded mitigation listed in <b>Table 19-14</b> as it was concluded that the effect was Not Significant	Negligible	Not-Significant
	Local: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		None		Medium	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	
	National: Scotland		None	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible			
	National: UK		None	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible			

## **19.12 Mitigation and Monitoring**

19.12.1.1 No additional mitigation or monitoring is required, as none of the impacts assessed alone were deemed significant in EIA terms.

## **19.13 Cumulative Effect Assessment**

19.13.1.1 Cumulative effects are defined as those effects considered together with the effects of other projects on a given receptor.

19.13.1.2 Offshore projects within the central North Sea that have the potential to overlap with the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Salamander Project have been considered in relation to socio-economic impacts. This is primarily due to competition for labour and supply chain. Cumulative effects are considered for both construction, and operation and maintenance phases below. Cumulative effects are not considered for decommissioning due to uncertainty and lack of evidence to support an assessment at this time.

19.13.1.3 In addition, onshore projects within 50 km of the Onshore Development Area have been considered for cumulative socio-economic impacts. This 50 km radius has been determined to be the onshore socio-economics Zone of Influence (ZOI). The consideration of which projects to include within the socio-economics ZOI was based on the nature and the scale of potential effects from the Salamander Project on specific socio-economic, tourism and recreational receptors, as well as expert judgement of the socio-economics specialist consultant.

19.13.1.4 On this basis, the projects considered within this cumulative effect assessment (CEA) are outlined in **Table 19-25**.

**Table 19-25 Projects considered within the cumulative effects assessment for Socio-economics, tourism and recreation**

<b>Development</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Reasons for inclusion</b>
Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm	Offshore Wind Farm	Consented	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project.
Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Consented	Located within Scottish waters of the northern North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project.
Berwick Bank Wind Farm	Offshore Wind Farm	Consent application submitted	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project.
Green Volt Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Consent Application Submitted	The Green Volt project is located within Scottish waters of the northern North Sea included as it is scheduled to be operational by 2027.
Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm	Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Scoping Submitted	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project.
MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm	Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Scoping Submitted	Located within Scottish waters of the northern North Sea.
Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm	Floating Offshore Wind Farm	Scoping Submitted	Located within Scottish waters of the northern North Sea.
Cenos Floating Offshore Wind Farm Export Cable	Offshore Wind Farm	Scoping Submitted	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project. This project is currently considering three export cable route options, one of which would also pass through the north of the Offshore Array Area and Offshore ECC.



<b>Development</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Reasons for inclusion</b>
NorthConnect	Interconnector	Consented	Located within Scottish waters of the northern North Sea.
Neart Na Gaoithe (NNG) Offshore Wind Farm	Offshore Wind Farm	Construction	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and scheduled to be operational in 2024.
Seagreen Alpha and Bravo Offshore Wind Farms	Offshore Wind Farm	Operational; Screening Report submitted for proposed increase in height of remaining consented, but not constructed, 36 turbines.	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea.
Moray West Offshore Wind Farm	Offshore Wind Farm	Under construction	Located within Scottish waters of the northern North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project.
Central North Sea Electrification (CNSE) Project	Sub-sea cable installation for electrification of existing oil and gas infrastructure in the central North Sea	Offshore EIA Scoping Report submitted May 2023.	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project.
Eastern Green Link 2 (EGL2)	High Voltage Direct Current link through the North Sea	Consented August 2023	Located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea and identified as having potential for temporal overlap of construction timelines with the Salamander Project. It should be noted that this Project commences in Peterhead

<b>Development</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Reasons for inclusion</b>
Kirkton Solar PV Farm and Energy Storage Facility	A solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farm of approximately 50 MW capacity and a battery energy storage facility of approximately 20 MW capacity.	Consented by the Energy Consents Unit December 2022	Site located within the onshore ZOI
Peterhead - Energy Storage Facility	1 GW Battery Storage Facility	EIA Screening Opinion	Site located within the onshore ZOI
Phase 5G Greenacres Development Wester Clerkhill Peterhead AB42 3QG	Erection of 11 Dwellings	Consented July 2022	Site located within the onshore ZOI
Phase 5E Greenacres Development Wester Clerkhill Peterhead Aberdeenshire	Erection of 11 houses (Change of House Types to Planning Permission Reference APP/2016/0720 for Erection of 210 Dwellinghouses with Associated Infrastructure)	Consented May 2022	Site located within the onshore ZOI

<b>Development</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Reasons for inclusion</b>
Phase 5 Greenacres Wester Clerkhill Kinmundy Road Peterhead Aberdeenshire	Erection of 13 Dwellinghouses (Change of House Types and Plot Layout from Planning Permission Reference APP/2016/0720 for Erection of 210 Dwellinghouses with Associated Infrastructure)	Consented March 2022	Site located within the onshore ZOL
Newton Road St Fergus Aberdeenshire  AB42 3DD	Erection of 20 Dwellinghouses and Associated Infrastructure	Consented June 2020	Site located within the onshore ZOL
Land Adjacent To The St Fergus Gas Terminal St Fergus Peterhead	Erection of 2 Wind Turbines (Hub Height 78m, 119m to Blade Tip), a 5 MWp Solar Photovoltaic Farm, Battery Storage Units and Associated Infrastructure	Consented July 2021	Site located within the onshore ZOL

<b>Development</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Reasons for inclusion</b>
Land At West Road Peterhead Aberdeenshire	Erection of 20 houses and Associated Infrastructure	Consented August 2020	Site located within the onshore ZOI
Land At West Road Peterhead Aberdeenshire	Erection of 32 houses and Associated Infrastructure	Consented August 2020	Site located within the onshore ZOI
OP1 Site Newton Road St Fergus Aberdeenshire AB42 3DD	Erection of 20 houses and Associated Infrastructure	Consented June 2020	Site located within the onshore ZOI
Phase 5 Greenacres Wester Clerkhill Kinmundy Road Peterhead	Erection of 11 houses (Amendments to Planning Permission Reference APP/2016/0720)	Consented August 2019	Site located within the onshore ZOI
Inverugie Meadows Housing Development Peterhead Aberdeenshire	Erection of 29 houses (Change of House Types and Plot Layouts to Planning Permission Reference APP/2006/2149, APP/2013/3544 and APP/2015/3237 including Erection of	Consented March 2019	Site located within the onshore ZOI

<b>Development</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Reasons for inclusion</b>
	4 Additional Dwellinghouses)		
Morven Wind Farm	Offshore wind farm in the North Sea	EIA Scoping Report submitted July 2023	Project located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea with onshore development in Aberdeenshire
Peterhead Carbon Capture Power Station	Power station with carbon capture technology	EIA and Section 36 Application submitted March 2022	Project located in Peterhead (within the Onshore ZOI)
Acorn Carbon Capture and Storage Site	Carbon Capture and Storage Site	Funding awarded	Project located within Scottish waters of the central North Sea with onshore development in Aberdeenshire.
Thainstone Energy Recovery Plant	Energy recovery facility (waste to energy)	Consented by Aberdeenshire Council in June 2021	Located in Inverurie (within the Onshore ZOI)

### 19.13.2 Cumulative Effects During Construction

#### Socio-economic Impacts

- 19.13.2.1 Cumulative effects experienced during the construction phase of the Salamander Project will be determined by the extent to which the project will have to compete for resources, labour inputs and supply chain inputs. This is particularly true for other offshore wind projects and onshore wind farms. There is the potential that Aberdeenshire's ports, offshore wind supply chain, and skilled workers may not be able to support multiple projects simultaneously without competition. As a result, the Salamander Project may need to source project resources from outside the local area. This could influence the distribution of job and GVA benefits between the Study Areas described in Section 19.5.
- 19.13.2.2 It is possible that onshore projects, particularly renewable energy developments like solar and onshore wind farms in Aberdeenshire, may create competition for resources. However, the Onshore Sub Station and EBI, which are onshore components of the Salamander Project, do not make up the majority of the project's estimated capital expenditure (CAPEX). As a result, competition for construction infrastructure resources is unlikely to significantly affect the expected benefits associated with job creation and GVA during the construction phase. Therefore, the Salamander Project is not at risk of competition from onshore projects. However, local developments like housing may create competition for construction labour, which could make local recruitment and procurement more difficult. The scale of this cumulative impact is uncertain as it is unknown how much of an impact this will have on employment and GVA.
- 19.13.2.3 A beneficial cumulative effect may be realised through the stimulus of the offshore wind supply chain. A key aim of the Salamander Project as part proposed within the INTOG leasing round application is to develop the floating offshore wind supply chain in Scotland in advance of major ScotWind projects. The rationale behind the first INTOG leasing round was for smaller-scale innovation projects such as the Salamander Project to stimulate the supply chain. This is in line with Scottish and UK policy support for offshore wind projects. For instance, projects such as the Salamander Project may encourage private sector investment in local workforce recruitment, skills development and capacity building. Development of the offshore wind sector in this manner is a priority of the Scottish Government.
- 19.13.2.4 There is uncertainty when it comes to assessing the overall impact of construction projects, particularly with regard to the overlap in the timing of various construction phases. This is especially true for projects that have yet to be approved. Due to these uncertainties, it is currently difficult to accurately measure the cumulative effect of construction on socio-economic factors. Therefore, the significance of the impact on socio-economic impacts could change as a result of cumulative effects. Further, employment and GVA effects may be slightly redistributed between the Study Areas. Despite these uncertainties, the assessment concludes that the cumulative effect is expected to be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

#### Wider Socio-economic Effects and Socio-cultural Effects

- 19.13.2.5 Much of the employment associated with the Salamander Project during the construction phase will be temporary. The same is true of the other projects considered within the CEA. It was determined that the temporary nature of the influx of workers associated with the Salamander Project would not have a significant effect on the local population, housing market or local services. Given the temporary nature of socio-economic impacts, together with the assessment of wider knock on socio-economic and socio-cultural effects as not significant, cumulative effects would unlikely change the significance. The assessment therefore concludes that the cumulative effect is expected to be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

### **Tourism and Recreation**

- 19.13.2.6 The potential projects identified in the cumulative assessment may in combination have an increased impact on recreational assets. The Salamander Project alone will not have a significant effect on recreation assets. However, with a potential for construction phases of various projects to overlap this would extend the overall period in which construction in the local area takes place, as well as increase the scale of construction within the surrounding area. Sustained construction activity and vessel trips in the local area and within marine recreation areas could impact how people experience recreational assets.
- 19.13.2.7 Effects on tourism during the construction phase of the Salamander Project are associated with an increased demand for accommodation for temporarily employed workers. This effect is considered beneficial as overall occupancy rates in the Grampian area are around 50% across the year. An increase in this occupancy would be beneficial for the accommodation providers. Therefore, the Salamander Project in isolation is not expected to deter visitors or create competition for accommodation spaces. However, a more sustained and extensive construction phase as a result of multiple projects occurring together may create additional pressures on accommodation providers. There is considerable uncertainty surrounding workforce numbers and the timing of construction phases for the various cumulative projects. Given that accommodation occupancy rates are not high, the significance of effect on tourism accommodation could increase in significance because of cumulative effects. Despite these uncertainties the assessment concludes that the cumulative effect is expected to be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

### **19.13.3 Cumulative Effects During Operation and Maintenance**

#### **Socio-economic Impacts**

- 19.13.3.1 The scale of Salamander Project activity during the operation and maintenance phase will be substantially reduced compared to the construction phase. Therefore, competition between cumulative projects for labour, ports, resources and within the supply chain is much less of a concern.
- 19.13.3.2 The supply chain will have enough time to develop and support other offshore and onshore developments. If there are overlapping construction and operation and maintenance phases of various projects, it would encourage the development of the offshore wind supply chain by attracting investment and facilitating workforce development for the local and national populations. Therefore, there would be low competition for resources between the Salamander Project and others during the operation and maintenance phase. Even though there would be cumulative effects, it would not change the significance of the effect of this project phase on socio-economic impacts.

#### **Wider Socio-economics and Socio-cultural Effects**

- 19.13.3.3 The labour required during operation and maintenance is considerably lower than in the construction phase. Additionally, a high proportion would be permanent positions which may be filled by residents from within Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. It is unlikely that the demand for labour would increase because of the operation and maintenance of the Salamander Project and other offshore developments with comparatively small workforces. The cumulative effects on population, demand for housing and local services are not anticipated to be different than the effects determined for the Salamander Project in isolation.

#### **Tourism and Recreation**

- 19.13.3.4 The effect of the operation and maintenance phase of the Salamander Project on recreation assets is not considered significant. However, with numerous projects potentially being operational together, the levels of operational activity (in ports etc.) may alter the experience of recreational assets. However, many of the recreational assets identified in **Section 19.10** are located in places that will not be directly affected by the



operation and maintenance of the Salamander Project. The significance of effect on recreation receptors is not anticipated to be altered by cumulative effects.

- 19.13.3.5 Certain maintenance activities for the Salamander Project may require a temporary influx of workers who will use tourist accommodation during their contract. However, the number of temporary maintenance workers required at any given time would be **Low**. It is uncertain what the accommodation needs would be for the other developments considered within this CEA. However, visits by maintenance contractors and specialists for other developments are also expected to be **Low**. These visits would also not necessarily happen at the same time and would rather be spread throughout the year and project lifetimes across the numerous projects. It is unlikely that the sporadic requirements for tourism accommodation would create competition with tourists. The significance of effect of the operation and maintenance phase of the Salamander Project on tourism receptors will not be altered by cumulative effects.

## **19.14 Transboundary Effects**

- 19.14.1.1 Transboundary effects are defined as effects that extend into other European Economic Area (EEA) states. These may occur from the Salamander Project alone, or cumulatively with other plans or projects. The beneficial effects associated with the Salamander Project on job creation, GVA, and supply chain capacity have the potential to generate further positive effects outside of Scotland and the UK. This is also true for other countries in Europe. During the construction phase in particular, a significant proportion of CAPEX is anticipated to be spent on businesses and labour sourced from outside the UK. The WTGs, for instance, are likely to be sourced from Europe where the supply chain is already established. Positive transboundary effects on employment and GVA are expected from the Salamander Project. However, as the supply chain is already established, it is unlikely that any transboundary effects will occur for population, housing, local services, tourism and recreation receptors.

## **19.15 Inter-related Effects**

- 19.15.1.1 Inter-related effects occur when effects arise and accumulate across the three project phases (i.e. project lifetime effects) as well as the interaction of multiple effects on a receptor (i.e. receptor-led effects). The assessment in **Section 19.10** provides a complete and robust assessment of all potential impacts relevant to Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation. Therefore, no additional inter-related impacts have been identified.

## **19.16 Conclusion and Summary**

- 19.16.1.1 This chapter presents an assessment of the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation impacts and effects of the Salamander Project during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases.
- 19.16.1.2 The existing baseline environment has been presented across the national, local and neighbourhood study areas.
- 19.16.1.3 Impacts from both the Offshore Development and Onshore Development of the Salamander Project have been assessed in four categories:
- Socio-economic impacts;
  - Wider socio-economic effects;
  - Socio-cultural effects; and
  - Tourism and recreation effects.

19.16.1.4 This assessment concludes that the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation impacts and effects of the Salamander Project during the construction and operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases are **Not Significant** in EIA terms, and therefore no additional mitigation is required.

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## Appendix A – Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation Questionnaire

Dear stakeholder,

The Salamander Offshore Wind Farm is undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed project and would like to seek feedback from your organisation to help inform our socio-economic, tourism and recreation study.

The Salamander Offshore Wind Farm will consist of up to seven floating wind turbine generators, associated floating foundations, inter-array and export cables to landfall approximately 2.5 km north of Peterhead. The application(s) for onshore activities will include the installation of onshore export cables, substation, energy balancing infrastructure (including battery storage) and associated infrastructure. Further project information can be found on the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm's website:

[www.salamanderfloatingwind.com](http://www.salamanderfloatingwind.com).



We would like to invite you to submit any feedback you may have, particularly in relation to the social, cultural, economic, tourism or recreation context. If you would like to submit feedback, please send back a response via email or post to the questions in the attached, as applicable, by 15 December 2023.

Should you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards,

Charlotte Cochrane

Stakeholder & Policy Manager, Salamander Offshore Wind Farm

[Charlotte.cochrane@salamanderwind.com](mailto:Charlotte.cochrane@salamanderwind.com)

We process personal data such as your name, email address and company information in connection with this feedback. You can read more about the processing of personal data in our privacy policy ([www.salamanderfloatingwind.com/privacy-policy](http://www.salamanderfloatingwind.com/privacy-policy)).

### **Questionnaire recipients**

- **Buchan Development Partnership**
- **Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership**
- **Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Aberdeenshire**
- **Aberdeenshire North Access Panel**
- **Buchan Rural Environment Development Limited**
- **Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers**
- **Scottish Wildlife Trust (Aberdeenshire)**
- **Aberdeen Group**
- **Buchanhaven Harbour TRUST**
- **Buchanhaven Heritage Centre**
- **Visit Scotland**
- **Sport Scotland**
- **Royal Yachting Association Scotland**
- **Scottish Surfing Federation**
- **VisitAberdeenshire**
- **Peterhead Golf Club**
- **Ugie Angling Association**
- **Peterhead Canoe Club**
- **Cruden Bay Community Association**
- **Cruden Bay Harbour Trustees**
- **Peterhead Community Council**
- **Buchan East Community Council**
- **Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust**
- **Peterhead Sailing Club**
- **Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers**
- **Scottish sub-aqua club**

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## **Salamander Offshore Wind Farm**

### **Stakeholder Questionnaire**

Please respond via [info@salamanderwind.com](mailto:info@salamanderwind.com) or by post to Strathmore Business Centres, 10 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EP by **15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**.

*Stakeholder name and organisation:*

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*Stakeholder email address:*

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1. How do you believe the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm might influence the character and identity of the local community?
2. What aspects of the local culture, traditions, or heritage do you feel could be relevant positively or negatively to the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm?
3. How might the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm affect access to essential local services such as healthcare, education, and public transportation for residents in the local area?
4. Do you foresee any challenges in maintaining or improving access to community facilities and services due to the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm?
5. In your opinion, how might the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm influence the availability and quality of local tourist attractions and recreational areas?
6. How might the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm potentially enhance or detract from the overall experience for tourists visiting the local area?
7. What aspects of the local community's inclusivity and diversity do you feel could be relevant positively or negatively to the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm? Are there specific measures you would suggest to maintain or enhance cultural inclusivity?
8. Do you see opportunities within the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm to celebrate or support cultural diversity within the local area?
9. Do you have any further comments to add?