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Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Planning Policy Framework
MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

December 2025

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 **Volume 1, Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context** provides an overview of the relevant legislative and policy context for the Project to inform this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. This will allow the EIA Report to provide relevant assessment evidence to help demonstrate how the consenting applications for the Project comply with relevant policy tests and requirements. Building on the framework outlined in **Volume 1, Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context**, this Appendix provides a detailed summary of individual international, national, marine and local planning policies and legislation of relevance to the EIA Report, which have informed the assessment.
- 1.1.1.2 This Appendix is structured as follows:
- **Table 1.1** provides a summary of **legislation** of relevance to the Project, including key international and national laws that govern environmental impact assessments and consent approvals;
 - **Table 1.2** provides a summary of **national policies** of relevance to the Project, outlining the strategic objectives and guidelines set by the national government that must be adhered to during the project's development;
 - **Table 1.3** provides a summary of the **marine policies** of relevance to the Project, detailing regulations and policies specific to marine environments that impact the project's coastal and offshore activities; and
 - **Table 1.4** provides a summary of **local policies** of relevance to the Project, highlighting local government regulations and planning policies that influence project implementation at the local level.

Table 1.1 Relevant legislation to the Project

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010	<p>The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 provide a UK-wide framework for maintaining or achieving 'good environmental status' (GES) in the marine environment and protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend.</p> <p>The strategy enshrines the requirement to assess, monitor and implement measures to achieve or maintain GES for UK seas. The aims of the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 have been adopted and incorporated into Scotland's National Marine Plan 2015.</p> <p>The programme of measures to support progress towards GES is set out in The UK Marine Strategy Part Three, which covers the six year period up to 2027. The <i>Marine Strategy Part Three: 2025 UK programme of measures</i> was published in January 2025 and provides a snapshot of the measures that are currently in place to address the key pressures that impact our seas. In terms of offshore wind, the strategy advises that the UK government and devolved governments are considering or have under development programmes to explore and develop mechanisms to enable delivery of the government's offshore wind ambition whilst still protecting the marine environment. In Scotland, the Scottish Marine Energy Research programme identifies the evidence needs for the consenting and planning of offshore wind and specifically identifies needs relating to noise across several receptors (benthic, fish and fisheries, diadromous fish, and marine mammals) and facilitates strategic research for the highest priority areas.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; • Chapter 9: Electromagnetic Fields; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p>

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5.5: Marine Strategy Framework Directive Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; • Outline Piling Strategy; • Outline Cable Plan; • Outline Scour Protection Management Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement; and • Nature Positive Plan.
Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD))	<p>Directive 2008/56/EC has the overall aim of protecting the marine environment across Europe.</p> <p>The Directive sets out that marine strategies shall be developed and implemented in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and preserve the marine environment, prevent its deterioration or, where practicable, restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected; and • prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution as defined in Article 3(8), so as to ensure that there are no significant 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; • Chapter 9: Electromagnetic Fields; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5.5: Marine Strategy Framework Directive Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; • Outline Piling Strategy; • Outline Cable Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement; and • Nature Positive Plan.
Convention on Wetland of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the 'Ramsar Convention')	<p>The Ramsar Convention commits Contracting Parties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites; 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions; and • international cooperation with other countries to further the wise use of wetlands and their resources. <p>Parties agree to work towards the wise use of wetlands by designating suitable wetlands for the Wetlands of International Importance and ensuring their effective management. International cooperation on transboundary wetlands is also encouraged alongside a consideration of the potential effects on wetland birds and their habitats protected under the Ramsar Convention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5.5: Marine Strategy Framework Directive Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan.
International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) (International Maritime Organisation (IMO), 1972/1977)	<p>The COLREGS include 41 rules divided in six Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A – General; • Part B – Steering and Sailing; • Part C – Lights and Shapes; • Part D – Sound and Light Signals; 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; • Chapter 9: Electromagnetic Fields; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part E – Exemptions; and • Part F – Verification of compliance with the provision of the Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 15.1 Navigational Risk Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Piling Strategy; • Outline Cable Plan; • Outline Vessel Management and Safety Plan; and • Outline Lighting and Marking Plan.
Control of Pollution Act 1974	<p>The Act provides the basis for defining codes of practice. It applies the BS 5228: 2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites. Part 1: Noise and Part 2: Vibration are of relevance to this assessment.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 21: Air Quality; • Chapter 25: Onshore Noise and Vibration; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Piling Strategy; and • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
International Regulations for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) (IMO, 1974)	<i>"The SOLAS Convention is regarded the most important of all international treaties concerning the safety of the merchant ships" (IMO, 1974).</i>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 15.1 Navigational Risk Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Piling Strategy; • Outline Cable Plan; and • Outline Vessel Management and Safety Plan.
Ancient Monuments of Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Provides statutory designation for certain archaeological sites and features identified as being of national importance, prohibits unauthorised works and sets out a consent regime to authorise necessary works.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Onshore).
The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention') 1979	The principal aims of the Convention are to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats (listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention), to	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	increase co-operation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of migratory species listed in Appendix III.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	There are 30 species of cetacean listed under Annex II of the Bern Convention (strictly protected fauna), including harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>), Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>), white-beaked dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>) and minke whale (<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>). All other cetacean species, as well as both grey and harbour seals, are listed under Annex III of the Bern Convention (protected fauna).	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was enacted to implement the Birds Directive and the Bern Convention in Great Britain. The Act gives protection to specific birds, animals and plants, and applies to Great Britain including Scotland.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	The Act prohibits the intentional or reckless disturbance or harassment of any cetacean under section 9(4A).	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	The Act provides protection to all birds, with increased protection afforded to those listed under Schedule 1 of the Act. All Birds Directive Annex 1 species are listed under Schedule 1 of the Act.	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	In relation to protected species of animal, licences can be issued under Section 16(3) of the 1981 Act to permit, for specific purposes, certain actions that would otherwise be against the law.	EIA Report, Volume1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
Civil Aviation 1982 The Rules of the Air Regulations 2015 Air Navigation Order 2016	<p>The Civil Aviation Act 1982 currently governs air flight in the UK and defines the powers of the UK Civil Aviation Authority.</p> <p>The Air Navigation Order 2016 forms the legal foundation for almost all areas of civil aviation that are still regulated at national level.</p> <p>The Rules of the Air Regulations 2015 are the provision of the code of regulations governing matters of air traffic such as requirements for collision avoidance and requirements relating to visual flight and instrument flight rules.</p>	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 31: Civil and Military Aviation; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence and Commercial Aviation Strategy.
United Nations Law of the Sea 1982	Article 60 (7) <i>"Artificial islands, installations and structures and the safety zones around them may not be established where interference may be caused to the use of recognized sea lanes essential to international navigation"</i> .	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 15.1: Navigational Risk Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Piling Strategy; • Outline Cable Plan; and • Outline Vessel Management and Safety Plan. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Zone Statement.
The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the ‘Bonn Convention’) 1983	Requirements to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for endangered migratory species (Appendix I of the Convention) and lists migratory species that would benefit from multilateral agreements for conservation and management (Appendix II of the Convention).	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; and • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	Provides protection for the wreckage of military aircraft and certain military wrecks. Designations can be either as a Controlled Site or Protected Place where access may be permitted but any operations that may disturb the site are illegal unless licenced by the Ministry of Defence. All military aircraft are automatically protected under this legislation; however, vessels must be designated individually.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; and • Chapter 31: Civil and Military Aviation. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Piling Strategy; • Outline Cable Plan; and • Written Scheme of Investigation (Offshore).
Electricity Act 1989	<p>Scottish Ministers are responsible for determining applications under s.36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for offshore generating stations with an installed capacity exceeding 1 megawatt (MW) in Scottish territorial waters, and over 50MW in the Scottish Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Such applications are processed by MD-LOT on behalf of Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act outlines duties with respect to flora, fauna, fish and fisheries as well as sites, buildings and objects of historic or archaeological interest. The Act sets out a duty in respect of Scotland, to preserve natural beauty, conserve flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features or special interests, and protect sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest.</p> <p>The Act states that any effects on natural beauty of the countryside or on flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings and</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	objects should be mitigated and injury to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters should be avoided. Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 relates to both onshore and offshore electricity generation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	Paragraph 3(3) states that, <i>“without prejudice to sub-paragraphs (1) and (2), in exercising any relevant functions each of the following, namely, a licence holder, a person authorised by an exemption to generate or supply electricity and the Secretary of State shall avoid, so far as possible, causing injuries to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters”</i> .	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 22: Land Use; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Part 2A of the Act provides a system for the identification of land posing an unacceptable risk to human health or the wider environment, and for securing remediation as appropriate. The legislation is aimed at legacy land contamination arising from historical waste disposal or industrial activities.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; • Chapter 22: Land Use; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	The overall objectives of Part 2A are to identify and address unacceptable risks to receptors, to bring contaminated land/brownfield sites back into beneficial use, preferably by encouraging voluntary remediation, and to ensure that the costs associated with remediation of contaminated land are proportionate to the level of risk associated with the contamination.	EIA Report, Volume 4 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) 1992	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention) will be implemented through OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030. Contained within the OSPAR Convention are a series of Annexes that deal with the following specific areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex I: Prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources; Annex II: Prevention and elimination of pollution from dumping or incineration; Annex III: Prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources; Annex IV: Assessment of the quality of the marine environment; and Annex V: On the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area. 	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; Chapter 21: Air Quality; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. EIA Report, Volume 4 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; and • Outline Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Management, Mitigation and Coexistence Strategy.
	<p>The OSPAR Strategy for the Protection and Conservation for Ecosystems and Biological Diversity foresees that the OSPAR Commission will identify species and habitats in need of protection. The OSPAR list of threatened and / or declining species and habitats has been developed to meet this commitment.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; and • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; and • Outline Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Management, Mitigation and Coexistence Strategy.
Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	<p>Identifies a compiled list of Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats, in which subsequent action plans sought to ensure that priority species or habitats are conserved or enhanced.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan.
<p>European Commission (EC) Directive (92/43/EEC) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p> <p>The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994</p> <p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</p> <p>Conservation of Offshore and Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</p>	<p>Defines the species, habitats and types of sites that receive legal protection and describes the protection that is afforded.</p> <p>The four-stage process of determining the absence of adverse effects on European sites under the Habitats Directives/Regulations is known as a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	Part II of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 sets out conservation objectives for listed Annex I habitats.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1: Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan.
	All cetaceans in Northern European waters are listed under Annex IV of the EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>Directive) as European Protected Species (EPS) of community interest and in need of strict protection. The harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>), bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>), harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>), and grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) also have protection under Annex II as species of community interest, whose conservation requires the designation of Special Area of Conservation (SACs).</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations make it an offence to kill, injure or disturb any EPS. Disturbance occurs where an act is likely to have an ecologically significant adverse effect on a significant number of animals, affecting the local distribution or abundance of the species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals.; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan.
	<p>Among other things, the Directive stipulates the procedures for the protection of Special Protection Areas (SPA) and sets out the steps that must be taken in order to assess the impact of any proposed development. The Directive is implemented in Scotland by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Offshore and Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<p>Animals and plants listed on Schedules 2 and 4 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Conservation of Offshore and Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, respectively, are protected as EPS. Animals</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>listed on Schedule 3 of the Regulations are protected against certain methods of capture or killing.</p> <p>In relation to protected species of animal, licences can be issued under Regulation 44 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 to permit, for specific purposes, certain actions that would otherwise be against the law. NatureScot is responsible for all EPS licensing under the Habitats Regulations, with the exception of some areas of licensing for whales and dolphins, for which the Marine Directorate is responsible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Scotland Order 1992	Requires that planning authorities should consult with the Secretary of State where development may affect a historic garden or designed landscape, a scheduled monument or its setting or a category A listed building or its setting.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.
Merchant Shipping Act 1995	The Receiver of Wreck is responsible for processing incoming reports of wreck and cargo. The Project has the potential to impact items associated with wrecks, which fall within the definition of 'wreck'.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Method Statement (Offshore); and • Outline In-Principle Monitoring Plan.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) 1997	Provides statutory protection for certain historic buildings and other structures and their settings, and for the character of designated conservation areas. The relative importance of the different categories of listed buildings is set out in policy and guidance that will be followed during the assessment.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol 1997	<p>The Kyoto Protocol commits industrialised countries and economies to transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets. The UK agreed to ensure that emissions of greenhouse gases were at least 12.5% lower than base year levels, on average, over the period 2008 to 2012.</p> <p>The Convention itself asks countries to adopt policies and measures on mitigation, and to report periodically.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
<p>The Environment (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019: Part 2 Amendments to legislation concerning the water environment.</p> <p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003</p>	<p>Sets out arrangements for the protection of the water environment in Scotland. The amendments ensure that the Act continues to function effectively post-Brexit by updating references to EU legislation and adapting provisions to fit the new legal context.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Drainage Management Strategy.
The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000	<p>The Regulations outline an air quality objective of 40 microgram per metre (µgm)-3 for annual mean concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and 18µgm-3 for annual mean concentrations of</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 21: Air Quality;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016	particulate matter of aerodynamic diameter ≤ 10 micrometres (μm)(PM_{10}). There is an EU limit of $25\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the annual mean concentration of particulate matter of aerodynamic diameter $\leq 2.5\mu\text{m}$ ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	<p>This Act sets out a framework of public access rights to most land and inland water, with obligations both on the access users and on the managers of the land.</p> <p>Guidance on these responsibilities is set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Land Use; • Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport; • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Core Path Management Plan.
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003	<p>This Act consolidated the vast majority of the Scottish salmon and freshwater fisheries law into a single Act. The 2003 Act is the key governing legislation for Scotland's district salmon fishery boards, and it sets out the provisions for the constitution, composition and financing of the boards and general powers relating to enforcement of salmon and freshwater fisheries law.</p> <p>It sets out good practice for fishing the species and gives protection to juvenile and spawning salmon.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; and • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Management, Mitigation and Coexistence Strategy.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, public bodies in Scotland have a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. Fulfilling the biodiversity duty will allow wider outcomes to be addressed, such as:	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“helping Scotland halt biodiversity loss and address the climate emergency and contributing to a green recovery and a net zero future.</i> • <i>ensuring compliance with the legislation and helping Scotland to meet its national and international biodiversity targets.</i> • <i>contributing to sustainable development and the quality of life in Scotland.</i> • <i>demonstrating you are working in a socially responsible and ethical way, by safeguarding biodiversity and environmental assets for future generations.”</i> (NatureScot, 2023) <p>It is of note that this guidance is being updated to align with the 2045 Biodiversity Strategy and National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).</p> <p>This Act protects all cetaceans and basking sharks under the EU Habitats Directive, it strengthens the enforcement of wildlife protection laws and increases penalties for offenses. This Act led to the creation of the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code and requires NatureScot to review and revise this code periodically.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<p>This Act builds upon the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by further improving protection of cetaceans from intentional disturbance. This further protection incorporates risk from reckless disturbance.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	The Act offers protection to nature conservation sites, species and habitats which will be identified for consideration within Ecological Impact Assessment and biodiversity will be preserved and promoted through the application of the mitigation hierarchy.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers and their setts. It has been amended by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Licences can be issued under Section 10 of the 1992 Act to permit, for specific purposes, certain actions that would otherwise be against the law.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.
Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006	<p>The Regulations require regular noise mapping and the production of Noise Action Plans for the management of noise. The study area includes data from road noise, which may be referenced for the purposes of a construction noise baseline should this be required by the assessment (for instance (i.e.) predicted noise levels at receptor locations above the threshold value within BS 5228).</p> <p>These Regulations also provide the legal means by which the following are defined and protected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quiet areas; and • noise important areas. <p>Both of the above will be considered as resources for the assessment, if they are identified to be within the study area.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 25: Onshore Noise and Vibration; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
<p>EC Directive (2006/7/EC) concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC</p> <p>Bathing Waters (Scotland) Regulations 2008, which implement the requirements of the former EU Bathing Water Directive.</p>	<p>Sets water quality standards for designated bathing waters and requires Members States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two bacterial parameters. In addition, they must inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles, which provide information to bathers on the risks to bathers' health. These requirements are implemented in Scotland through the Bathing Waters (Scotland) Regulations 2008, which reflect the principles of the former EU Bathing Water Directive.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
<p>The European Landscape Convention (ELC) 2006</p>	<p>Provides a people-centred and forward-looking way to reconcile management of the environment with the social and economic challenges of the future, and aims to help people reconnect with place.</p> <p>The ELC covers land and water (inland and seas), and natural, rural, urban and peri-urban landscapes. Significantly, it includes every-day or degraded landscapes as well as those that might be considered outstanding.</p> <p>The ELC sets out commitments to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, alongside the protection, management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy.
<p>Climate Change Act 2008</p>	<p>Sets out the reporting requirements of the UK Government to produce a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). The Third CCRA (HM Government, 2022) was published in January 2022 and draws from the latest evidence prepared by the Adaptation Committee presented in the Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk 2021 (Climate Change Committee, 2021).</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
EC Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010	<p>The Directive sets legally binding limit values (for the protection of human health) and critical levels (for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems) for selected pollutants that are to be achieved by specific dates.</p> <p>Regulated pollutants include sulphur dioxide, NO₂, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, lead, benzene and carbon monoxide (CO).</p> <p>Air quality standards are set under the Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010, which implement the requirements of the former EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 21: Air Quality; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.
EC Directive (2008/56/EC) establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy (MSFD) Marine Environment (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018	<p>Sets out the objectives of reaching GES in the marine environment and defines 11 descriptors for use in determining GES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptor 1: Marine diversity; and • Descriptor 2: Non-indigenous species. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; and • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptor 3: Commercial fish and shellfish. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; and • Outline Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Management, Mitigation and Coexistence Strategy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptor 4: Food webs. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; and • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptor 5: Eutrophication. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptor 6: Seabed integrity. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; and Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptor 7: Hydrographical conditions. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; and Chapter 13: Fish Ecology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptor 8: Contaminants; and Descriptor 9: Contaminants in sea food. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptor 10: Marine litter. 	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; and Chapter 13: Fish Ecology. EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptor 11: Energy including underwater noise. 	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; and Chapter 11: Marine Mammals.
EC Directive (2009/147/EC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the 'Birds Directive')	The Birds Directive aims to protect all of the wild bird species naturally occurring in the European Union (EU) and stipulates that Member States must designate SPAs for the survival of species listed under Annex 1 of the Directive and all migratory bird species.	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		EIA Report, Volume 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	This Act sets out the Scottish Parliament's objectives in relation to climate change adaptation. Progress towards these objectives includes the integration of climate change adaptation and infrastructure resilience in the NPF4.	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 28: Climate Resilience. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
	Section 57 sets out objectives relating to sustainable land use, proposals and policies to achieve the objectives, and timescales for the proposals and policies taking effect.	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 22: Land Use. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	<p>Outlines a framework for coordination and cooperation between all relevant organisations including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Water and local authorities.</p> <p>Requires a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for developments that fall within a flood zone.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides a statutory framework for sustainable management of the UK seas beyond 12nm, including around Scotland. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 applies to offshore waters, beyond 12 nautical miles (nm). It sets out requirements for a UK Marine Policy Statement, a marine licensing regime, powers to designate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), a duty to contribute to a UK network of marine sites, and associated enforcement powers.	EIA Report, Volume 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area Assessment; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
The Carbon Budgets Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Carbon Budget Order 2009 • The Carbon Budget Order 2011 • The Carbon Budget Order 2016 • The Carbon Budget Order 2021 	<p>This legislation implements the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act (2008). The carbon budgets of relevance to this assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • third carbon budget, 2018 to 2022, 2,544 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) representing 37% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020; • fourth carbon budget, 2023 to 2027, 1,950MtCO₂e representing 51% reduction below 1990 levels by 2025; • fifth carbon budget, 2028 to 2032, 1,725MtCO₂e representing 57% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030; and 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sixth carbon budget, 2033 to 2037, 965MtCO₂e representing 78% reduction below 1990 levels by 2035. <p>In early 2025 the Climate Change Committee will advise the UK on the level of its Seventh Carbon Budget, the legal limit for UK net emissions of greenhouse gases over the years 2038 to 2042.</p>	
<p>EU Directive (2010/75/EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) later referred to as the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010</p> <p>Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended)</p>	<p>Outlines an integrated approach to controlling pollution to air, water and land, alongside setting industry standards for the polluting industries. It aims to prevent and reduce harmful industrial emissions, while promoting the use of techniques to reduce emissions to air, water and land.</p> <p>Industrial emissions are regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended), which implement the requirements of the former EU Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU).</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; Chapter 21: Air Quality; Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010	<p>Provides a framework to balance competing demands on Scotland's marine environment. While protecting Scotland's seas, it also promotes economic investment and growth in sectors such as marine renewable energy. The Act introduces a duty to protect and enhance the marine environment and includes measures to improve marine nature and historic</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 13: Fish Ecology;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	conservation with new powers to protect and manage areas of importance for marine wildlife and habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.
	A network of nature conservation MPAs has been designated under the Act, protecting habitats and species.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area Assessment.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	The Act also provides improved protection for seals from intentional or reckless harassment, where certain haul-out sites have been designated as SACs.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
	Provides the designated of Historic Marine Protected Areas in respect of historically significant areas within the marine zone, including wrecks formerly protected under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973).	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
The Air Quality (Scotland) Standards Regulations 2010	The Regulations define ambient air as outdoor air and explicitly exclude workplaces and other places to which members of the public do not have regular access.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 21: Air Quality; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.
Historic Environment (Amendment) Act Scotland 2011	Provides statutory designation for certain designed landscapes identified as being of national importance.	EIA Report, Volume 1:

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	<p>The Act enables Scotland to adopt a Code of Practice on Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting a precautionary approach and not carrying out operations which might lead to the spread of INNS until there is a clear understanding of the situation; • carrying out risk assessments to understand the risk of spreading an INNS; • seeking advice and following good practice; and • reporting the presence of INNS. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment.
	<p>This Act amends existing legislation in relation the protection of wildlife, biodiversity and nature conservation. Following its introduction, NatureScot is now responsible for all wildlife licensing in Scotland. This is with the exception of licensing for seals and some areas of licensing for whales and dolphins, for which the Marine Directorate is responsible.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.
The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012	<p>The Regulations apply an integrated environmental approach to the regulation of certain industrial activities and aim to prevent harm to the quality of the environment.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; and • Chapter 21: Air Quality. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p>

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Marine Pollution Contingency Plan.
Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014	Established Historic Environment Scotland and defines its role as a consultee in respect of designated heritage assets.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; and Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Established community rights in relation to land, enabled certain bodies to buy abandoned, neglected or detrimental land, and makes provision for registers of common good property and disposal and use of such property.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 22: Land Use.
UNFCCC Paris Agreement 2015	The UNFCCC is one of the major international bodies responsible for managing climate change and carbon emissions. In 2015, it adopted the Paris Agreement, which aims to increase the ability to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; and Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
	The Agreement sets targets for the UK's greenhouse emissions. It is of note that the treaty is not legally binding but provides opportunities for updates (protocols) that can be used to set legally binding emissions limits.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
The Non-Road Mobile Machinery (Type-Approval and Emission of Gaseous and Particulate Pollutants) Regulations 2018	Introduces emission limits for gaseous and particulate pollutants, as well as type approval for internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 21: Air Quality.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
Climate Change (Emission Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	<p>The Act increased the ambition of Scotland's emissions reduction targets to net zero by 2045, with greenhouse gas emissions required to be 100% below 1990 levels. The Act also revised interim targets for emissions reductions and sets annual targets up to 2045. The following interim targets are of relevance to this assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 is at least 56% lower than the baseline; • 2030 is at least 75% lower than the baseline; and • 2040 is at least 90% lower than the baseline. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	<p>The Act (as amended in 2019) commits the UK government by law to reducing its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% below 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. It requires the UK Government to establish carbon budgets and produce a UK CCRA every five years.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	<p>Introduced a number of amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 including duration of planning permission. Planning authorities have greater power to set their own timeframe, though the default of three years remains in place in many cases. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 also gave planning authorities more power for setting time periods as conditions in Approval of Matters in Specified Conditions.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Land Use. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
The Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020	<p>The United Nations' (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity, including the 'Aichi' biodiversity targets, has five strategic goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; • Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; and

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.
The European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, 2020	<p>Contains specific actions and commitments, such as transforming at least 30% of Europe's land and sea into effectively managed protected areas.</p> <p>The actions include restoring marine ecosystems and international ocean governance along with strict protection of existing Natura 2000 areas.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; and Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.
UNFCCC Glasgow Climate Pact 2021	<p>The Glasgow Pact emphasised the urgency of the scaling up of action and support to strengthen resilience.</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties (COP26) resulted in almost 200 countries agreeing on the acceleration of action on mitigation, adaptation, financing and collaboration in the aim of reaching long-term goal to limit global warming to 1.5°Cel above pre-industrial levels.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; and Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022	<p>The UN Biodiversity Conference 2022 (COP15) convened governments from around the world to agree to a new set of goals for nature over the next decade through the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020 framework process. This led to the international agreement to protect 30% of land and oceans by 2030, and the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>Biodiversity Framework. The Framework sets out the 2050 goals with 2030 milestones, which aim to reduce threats to biodiversity by 2030.</p> <p>Eight targets were outlined which focus on reducing threats to biodiversity. These targets include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 1: ensuring that all land and sea areas globally are integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change; • Target 2: ensuring that at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems under restoration, focusing on priority ecosystems; • Target 3: ensuring that at least 30% globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity, are conserved through effectively and equitably manage, and integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes; • Target 4: ensuring active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species; • Target 6: managing the pathways for the introduction of INNS, preventing or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment by at least 50%, and control or eradicate INNS to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites; • Target 7: reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste; and • Target 8: minimising the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approach, contributing at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; and • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>least 10 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide per year to global mitigation effects, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.</p>	
	<p>Targets were also outlined that focus on meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing. These targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target 9: ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities; • Target 10: ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems; • Target 11: Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people; and • Target 12: Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; • Chapter 21: Air Quality; • Chapter 22: Land Use; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economic Action Plan.
United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) 2023	<p>The 28th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) was hosted in Dubai in 2023. The COP28 summit convened governments from around the world to agree the "<i>beginning of the end</i>" of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, just, and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	In a demonstration of global solidarity, negotiators from nearly 200 Parties came together with a decision on the world's first 'global stocktake' to ratchet up climate action before the end of the decade. This is considered the central outcome of COP28 – as it contains every element that was under negotiation and can now be used by countries to develop stronger climate action plans due by 2025. The stocktake recognises the science that indicates global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43% by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to keep the global temperature limit of 1.5°C within reach.	Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
29th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29), 2024	<p>The 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.</p> <p>A key outcome was agreement on a global carbon market under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, enabling new forms of international cooperation. While progress was made on climate finance, commitments fell short of the \$1.3 trillion requested by developing nations. Countries were urged to submit stronger national climate plans by 2025, building on the global stocktake from COP28 and aiming to cut emissions 43% by 2030 to keep 1.5°C within reach.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018	Establishes a unified framework for environmental authorisations in Scotland, replacing and consolidating previous permitting regimes for activities such as waste management, water discharge, and pollution control.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5.4: Water Framework Directive Assessment.
Energy Act 2004	<p>Sections 105 to 114 of the Energy Act 2004 contain statutory requirements in relation to the decommissioning of offshore renewable energy installations (OREI) and their related electricity lines. Under the terms of the Energy Act, Scottish Ministers may require a person who is responsible for these installations or lines in Scottish Waters or in a Scottish part of an REZ to prepare (and carry out) a costed decommissioning programme for submission to and approval by Scottish Ministers (Scottish Government, 2022c).</p> <p>Responsibilities and powers associated with decommissioning for OREI within Scottish Waters transferred from the Secretary of State to Scottish Ministers in 2017. Before this the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context; and • Chapter 4: Project Description. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>was responsible for requiring decommissioning programmes (BEIS, 2019). Marine Directorate are seeking to establish robust policies and procedures covering decommissioning, the Guidance Note for Decommissioning of Offshore Renewable Energy Installation in Scottish Waters or in the Scottish Part of the REZ under the Energy Act 2004 (Scottish Government, 2022c) was finalised in August 2022.</p> <p>Scottish Ministers have the power to determine specific approaches to decommissioning, including stipulating the form, timing and size of financial securities are required. The expected content of a decommissioning programme includes decommissioning standards, financial security, residual liability and industrial cooperation and collaboration.</p> <p>Section 5 of the draft Guidance Note states that <i>"an indication of the decommissioning proposals should be included as part of the statutory consenting or licensing process so that the feasibility of removing the infrastructure can be assessed as part of the application process"</i> (Scottish Government, 2022c).</p> <p>The decommissioning requirements in Scotland relate to the area between the mean low water springs mark and the seaward limits of the territorial waters, including coastal water and the Scottish part of the REZ. The Energy Act 2004 does not cover intertidal waters.</p>	
The Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	<p>The Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ensures that private water supplies in Scotland are safe for human consumption.</p> <p>The Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 sets out a number of key rules which are:</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> local authorities must carry out risk assessments every five years; sets chemical, microbiological, and indicator parameters that water must meet; sampling and testing of water is required to be done regularly; and if standards are not met, then the local authority must investigate and implement solutions. 	
Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968	<p>The Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968 controls the provision and management of sewage services in Scotland. The aim of the act was to establish a public sewage system, ensure accessibility and regulate trade effluent.</p> <p>The act is divided into three main parts which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> general provisions; trade effluents; and miscellaneous and general. <p>The act originally placed the responsibilities on to the local authority, but this has now been transferred to Scottish Water.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk.
The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010	<p>The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 is the legal framework which protects trees in Scotland through Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and regulations for trees in conservation areas.</p> <p>TPOs must be made by local planning authorities to protect trees, groups of trees, or woodlands that have value or cultural / historic significance. Trees in conservation areas are automatically protected even if they do not have a TPO.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 23.10: Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	It is an offence to cause any damage to a protected tree and can incur a penalty of up to £20,000 on summary conviction.	
The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002	<p>The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 aims to protect workers and others from the health risk that are associated with hazardous substances used in the workplace. COSHH applies to a number of substances.</p> <p>Below are the responsibilities for employers under COSHH which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk assessment; • prevent or control exposure; • use and maintenance of controls; • monitoring exposure; • health surveillance; • information and training; and • emergency arrangements. <p>It should be noted that COSHH does not cover asbestos, lead, or radioactive substances.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Environmental Management Plan.
<p>Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships</p> <p>Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and MARPOL Annex VI</p>	<p>The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2008 (as amended), which implement MARPOL Annex VI, aim to reduce air pollutants from ship exhausts, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping. Key measures include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ships must use marine fuels with a maximum sulphur content of 0.5%; • ships over 400 gross tonnes must have an International Energy Efficiency Certificate and Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan; and • ships must monitor and report carbon intensity. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Environmental Management Plan.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009	<p>The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 controls the safe transport of dangerous goods by road and rail, and the use of pressure equipment in Great Britain.</p> <p>The aim of the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 is to implement international agreements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADR – Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road; • RID – Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail; and • ADN – European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways. <p>There are a number of key provisions also which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dangerous goods must be carried in accordance with ADR or RID; • requires radiation emergency preparedness plans for the transport of Class 7 (radioactive) goods; and • security requirements for high risk goods including access control and special placarding. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport.
Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024	<p>The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2024 is a major update by introducing a new system of carbon budgeting and a greater accountability for emission reductions. The aim is to replace annual and interim targets with multiyear carbon budgets and ensure that the Scottish Ministers are legally bound to meet these targets.</p> <p>Some of the key features of the act are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each budget should last a period of five years; 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement; and • Onshore Planning Statement.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Ministers must set budgets that will cover every year from 2026 to the net zero year; a new climate change plan must follow the setting of each budget; and annual progress reports are required. 	
Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998	<p>The Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998 is a legal framework for the maximum authorised weights of motor vehicles and trailers. This framework applies to vehicles in categories M2, M3, N2, N3, O3, and O4. However, it does not apply to vehicle combinations used in combined transport operations.</p> <p>The key provisions of the in categories The Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the maximum authorised weights are defined in schedule 1 to 3 which covers: individual vehicles, vehicle combinations and axle weights; higher weight limits may be allowed for vehicles with road friendly suspension; and vehicles must carry manufacturers plates that show the permitted maximum weight limit and if over this it is a legal offence. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 26.2: Abnormal Load Route Assessment.
Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003	<p>The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003 allows certain vehicles to be able to operate on public roads even if they do not comply with standard construction and use or weight regulations. There are nine categories of vehicles that can be authorised under the Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order 2003.</p> <p>Each of the nine vehicle categories must meet authorisation requirements which could include:</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 26.2: Abnormal Load Route Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction and equipment standards; • speed limits; • axle and gross weight limits; • marking of projections and signage; and • route planning and risk assessments. 	
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986	<p>The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 control the design, construction, equipment, and use of motor vehicles and trailers on public roads. The purpose is to ensure that vehicles on public roads meet safety, environmental and operational standards.</p> <p>The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 is divided into four main parts which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preliminary; • construction, equipment and maintenance; • plates, markings, testing; and • conditions of use. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.
The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016	<p>The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 controls the design, placement, and use of traffic signs, road markings, and signals on public roads. The purpose is to set out legal design and conditions of use for traffic signs, signals, and road markings. This ensures consistency and clarity for road users.</p> <p>The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 is split into two main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 covers things such as: prescribed signs, design standards and parking restrictions; and • Part 2 covers things such as: placement and removal of signs, temporary signs and vehicle mounted signs. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.

Legislation	Summary	Relevant aspect
The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) (Scotland) Order 2015	The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) (Scotland) Order 2015 was made to ensure that marine habitats and species are protected. This was done by restricting certain fishing activities and methods within designated inshore areas. Many of the designated areas are Special Areas of Conservation or MPAs.	EIA Report, Volume 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 14.1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Report

Table 1.2 Relevant national policies to the Project

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) 2023		<p>NPF4 sets out the Scottish Government’s national planning policies and how these should be applied. NPF4 was adopted on 13 February 2023. NPF4 provides the spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045 and takes account of the target of net zero emissions by 2045 set by the Scottish Government. It forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the determination of planning applications, with a statutory requirement for it to be taken into account by planning authorities when preparing Local Development Plans (LDP).</p> <p>NPF4 includes a specific policy on the climate and nature crisis to ensure that they are appropriately recognised as priorities in all plans and decisions. It also sets out a range of policy tests, requirements and expectations for all developments.</p> <p>NPF4 provides a strong framework for the deployment of renewable energy developments and identifies the need for strategic scale renewable energy developments, including offshore wind farms. The Project is classified as a National Development within NPF4 as ‘Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure’.</p> <p>In addition to NPF4, the Scottish Government is in the process of publishing a range of planning guidance to aid with the policy implementation. This will include guidance such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity guidance; • socioeconomic; and • briefing notes. <p>Draft planning guidance relating to Biodiversity was published on 30 November 2023, which sets out the Scottish Ministers’ expectations for implementing NPF4 policies that support the cross-cutting NPF4 outcome ‘improving biodiversity’. The guidance is designed to be a ‘living document’ and will be updated as practice beds in across Planning Authorities. To date, the November 2023 update reflects the latest position and sets out that, regardless of the assessment approach taken, all proposals should demonstrate how they have met criteria set within the guidance. It is of note that a Scottish biodiversity metric is under development (expected 2026).</p>	
	<p>Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crises; and 	<p>Policy 1 states simply that “<i>when considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.</i>”</p>	<p>All EIA Report Chapters.</p> <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 2: Climate mitigation and adaptation. 	LDPs must also address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.	<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
		Policy 2 requires development proposals to be sited and designed to “ <i>minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible</i> ” and to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; and Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Energy transitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Spatial Strategy: North East; Spatial Planning Priorities: North – Sustainable Places; Spatial Planning Priorities: North – Productive Places; 	The National Spatial Strategy includes specific elements for the North and North East areas, including noting that parts of this coastline will be vulnerable to future climate impacts. It identifies that the North East area of Scotland will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. The National Spatial Strategy sets out relevant aims for the North East Area including the following:	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; Chapter 4: Project Description; Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Developments: 3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure; and Policy 11: Energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity; and support continued economic diversification and innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 22: Land Use; Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-Economic Action Plan; Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
		<p>To help implement the National Spatial Strategy, the North Sustainable Places Spatial Planning Priorities Section notes that land and sea assets will play an internationally significant role in renewable energy generation and carbon sequestration. It further states that renewable energy development should capitalise on the area's significant natural energy resources, and there is potential to significantly increase offshore wind energy capacity.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; Chapter 4: Project Description; Chapter 22: Land Use; Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and Chapter 30: Socio-Economics.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
		<p>The North Productive Places Spatial Planning Priorities Section recognises the Northern area of coastline, including that adjacent to the North East area, as providing “<i>significant opportunities for marine energy arising from Scotwind</i>”.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; • Chapter 4: Project Description; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
		<p>The NPF4 identifies 18 National Developments as “<i>significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver our spatial strategy</i>”. This firmly establishes the national need for such developments to help implement the national spatial strategy. Annex B of the NPF4 sets out Statements of Need for each National Development and confirms that their “<i>designation means that the principle of the development does not need to be agreed in later consenting processes</i>”.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives • Chapter 4: Project Description; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.
		National Development 3 supports strategic scale onshore and offshore renewable electricity generation, repowering, and expansion of the electricity grid. It states that an increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; • Chapter 4: Project Description; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
		Policy 11 seeks and provides strong support to encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development, both onshore and offshore, and associated enabling works including grid infrastructure. <i>"Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact..."</i> . Proposals should also apply the mitigation hierarchy to demonstrate through design and mitigation how relevant impacts and issues, as listed in Policy 11, are addressed. Impacts should then be considered in the context of <i>"...significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets"</i> . The policy further states that Grid capacity	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 22: Land Use; • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		should not constrain renewable energy development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Cities, regions and built environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 9: Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings; Policy 10: Coastal Development; Policy 12: Zero Waste; Policy 13: Sustainable Transport; Policy 14: Design, quality and place; Policy 18: Infrastructure First; Policy 23: Health and Safety; Policy 20: Blue and Green Infrastructure; Policy 25: Community Wealth Building; Policy 26: Business and industry; and Policy 29: Rural development. 	<p>Policy 9 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for greenfield development. It seeks to ensure that the contribution of brownfield land to nature recovery is recognised.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 22: Land Use; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; and Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 10 seeks to protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change. Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
		Policy 12 encourages, promotes and facilitates development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; and • Chapter 22: Land Use. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
		Policy 13 seeks to encourage and support developments with inclusive active, sustainable travel opportunities and be demonstrated that the transport requirements generated have been considered in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 14 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate well designed development that creates successful places by taking a design-led approach and applying the Place Principle. The Policy defines the six qualities of successful places.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; • Chapter 4: Project Description; and • Chapter 22: Land Use. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 18 encourages, promotes and facilitates an infrastructure first approach to land use planning, which puts infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking. The impacts of development proposals on infrastructure should be mitigated, and where infrastructure proposals are in line with that identified as necessary in LDPs they will be supported.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; • Chapter 4: Project Description; and • Chapter 22: Land Use. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p>

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 20 seeks to protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks. Development proposals that include new or enhanced blue and / or green infrastructure are to provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Project Description; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic, and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; Chapter 22: Land Use; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport; and Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Positive Plan; and Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 22 seeks to strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance of flood risk areas as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding. The policy sets out the requirements for</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		proposed development, such as the use of plans which take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and making use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. The policy also sets out that developments should not: increase the risk of surface water to others, or itself be at risk, manage all rain and surface water from Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), and should seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy.
		Policy 23 seeks to protect health and wellbeing, including by setting out amenity related criteria to ensure air and noise pollution impacts are addressed and taken into account. The policy also provides relevant criteria to manage risks from hazardous forms of development.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; • Chapter 21: Air Quality; • Chapter 25: Onshore Noise and Vibration; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economic Action Plan; • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Policy 25 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels. Development proposals linked to community ownership and management of land will be supported.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Land Use; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
		Policy 26 seeks to encourage, promote and facilitate business and industry uses in appropriate locations.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Land Use; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
		Policy 29 seeks to encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area and the service function of small towns, natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Soils and Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 3: Biodiversity; • Policy 4: Natural Places; • Policy 5: Soils; and • Policy 6: Forestry, woodland and trees. 	<p>Policy 3 seeks to protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks. <i>“Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an EIA will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity...”</i>.</p> <p>Development proposals are to leave biodiversity in a <i>“demonstrably better state than without intervention... following... significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation. This should include nature networks, linking to and strengthening habitat connectivity within and beyond the development, secured within a reasonable timescale and with reasonable certainty”</i>. The Policy seeks that future management and monitoring arrangements are included in proposals where appropriate.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment; and • Appendix 23.11: Arboricultural Impact Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p>

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 4 states development proposals that would have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment will not be supported. The policy implements the protections afforded to European Sites through the Habitats Regulations and therefore requires any development proposals likely to have a significant effect on an existing or proposed European site (SAC or SPAs) to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. Development proposals that will affect: National Park; National Scenic Area; Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); National Nature Reserve; Ramsar sites; local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP; on species protected by legislation; or NatureScot Wild Land Areas will only be supported where they meet specific requirements.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; Chapter 22: Land Use; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; and Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.
		<p>Policy 5 seeks to protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development. <i>“Development proposals on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use, as identified by the LDP, will only be supported where it is for... the generation of energy from renewable sources...”</i>. Where development on peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat is proposed, a detailed site-specific assessment and a peat management plan will be required.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; and Chapter 22: Land Use. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Policy 6 seeks to protect and expand forests, woodland and trees. Development proposals should not be supported where they have any loss, adverse impacts, fragmenting or severing of woodland habitats, are identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy, or conflict with Restocking Direction, Remedial Notice or Registered Notice to Comply issued by Scottish Forestry. <i>“Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered”</i> . Development proposals on sites that include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 22: Land Use; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; and • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 23.11: Arboricultural Impact Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Flood risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 22: Flood risk and water management. 	Policy 22 seeks to strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding. It details that the protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk. Where flood risk is managed at site, the Policy provides criteria to be met.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p>

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Development proposals are not to increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk, and manage all rain and surface water through SuDS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Operational Drainage Management Strategy. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Onshore Planning Statement.
	Historic Environment and landscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Policy 7: Historic assets and places.	Policy 7 seeks to protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places. <i>“Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment...”</i> . Where there is potential for non-designated archaeological remains to exist, <i>“...developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage...”</i> .	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 22: Land Use;Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; andChapter 30: Socio-Economics. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Onshore Planning Statement.
The Climate Change Plan, Third Report on Proposals and Policies (2018-2032), Updated 2020	This Climate Change Plan is the Scottish Government’s third report on proposals and policies for meeting its climate change targets (Scottish Government, 2020b). It sets out how Scotland can deliver its target of 66% emissions reductions, relative to the baseline for the period 2018 to 2032. Part 1 of the plan shows the emissions reductions pathway to 2032, and states that <i>“by 2032, Scotland’s electricity system, already largely decarbonised, will be increasingly important as a power source for heat and transport.”</i> This is still in force as the statutory plan to 2032 but will be replaced by the next Climate Change Plan (2026 to 2040) due in draft after new carbon budgets are set under the 2024 Act.		EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; andChapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Onshore Planning Statement; andOffshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
Offshore Wind Policy Statement 2020		<p>The Offshore Wind Policy Statement sets out ambitions for the future of offshore wind in Scotland and is the context for Marine Directorate’s Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind. The Statement, which was prepared in line with the 2017 Energy Strategy and pre-dates the announcement of ScotWind leasing results (where 24.7GW of capacity was awarded), confirms the Scottish Government’s support for offshore wind deployment and set an ambition for 11GW deployment by 2030.</p> <p>The Statement (Scottish Government, 2020) sets out further ambitions to capitalise on offshore wind development and the role this technology could play in meeting the commitment of net zero by 2045.</p>	<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Onshore Planning Statement; and• Offshore Planning Statement.
Updated Offshore Wind Ambition Consultation 2025		<p>The 2025 Updated Offshore Wind Ambition Consultation proposes a significant increase in ambition, with the Scottish Government seeking to deploy at least 40GW of new offshore wind capacity by 2035 to 2040 (above the 2025 operational baseline). The 11GW by 2030 ambition remains in place as an interim milestone, however the 40GW ambition by 2040 highlights the importance of offshore wind in Scotland’s move towards net-zero. This consultation is recognised as particularly important to the Project given the mid-2030 target deployment date.</p>	<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Onshore Planning Statement; and• Offshore Planning Statement.
UK Climate Change Strategy 2021-2024		<p>The Climate Change Strategy 2021-2024, through implementation of the five strategic pillars, aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The five strategic pillars include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>“increasing our support to clean growth and climate adaptation;</i>• <i>reducing our portfolio for greenhouse gas emissions;</i>• <i>understanding and mitigating our climate-related financial risks;</i>• <i>transparency and disclosure; and</i>• <i>providing international leadership on climate change amongst export credit agencies and relevant financial institutions.”</i> (UK Export Finance, 2021).	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; and• Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Onshore Planning Statement; and• Offshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023)	<p>The Carbon Budget Delivery Plan replaced the previous Net Zero Strategy and set out the Government's strategy to achieve net zero and to deliver energy security, whilst at the same time increasing the UK's international economic competitiveness.</p> <p>A judicial review challenge was also submitted in relation to this delivery plan. In May 2024, the High Court found that this plan was also unlawful and required the Secretary of State to produce a new plan within 12 months. We note that the Government has until the end of October to produce a new Carbon Budget Delivery Plan.</p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; and • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan 2025	<p>The Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan 2025 is the latest carbon budget plan that seeks to deliver clean energy and continue to reduce the UK's carbon emission contributions. The UK Government acknowledges within this plan that clean energy industries and their growth are important to the UK economy and ensuring the UK meets its energy needs in a secure and clean fashion. The plan also highlights that investment in clean energy can help to reduce energy costs within the UK, and the UK Government has identified a further £63 billion in government capital funding to help drive the growth of the clean energy industry within the UK.</p> <p>The UK Government identifies that the UK is a leader in offshore wind and is seeking to continue this by encouraging further offshore wind development.</p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
UK Modern Industrial Strategy 2025	<p>The UK Modern Industrial Strategy 2025 is a ten year plan that was launched by the UK Government to look at boosting business investment, drive innovation and grow future industries. The UK Governments aim is to make investment easier while also ensuring long-term certainty to enable the UK to be a global leader in key sectors. The strategy has set a target of reaching £30 billion per year by 2035 for clean energy investment.</p>		<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Offshore wind is considered a core sector within the Clean Energy Industries focus of the strategy. The UK Government sees the importance to ensure both economic growth and achieving net zero. This is why major investments are planned for ports, manufacturing and grid infrastructure to ensure the support is there for the expansion of offshore wind.	
Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) 2020		<p>The OTNR was launched in July 2020 to ensure that transmission connections for offshore wind generation can be delivered to support the UK Government's ambitions to increase offshore wind power to 40GW by 2030 and to deliver on its Net Zero ambitions by 2050.</p> <p>The review brought together key stakeholders involved in the timing, siting, design and delivery of offshore wind. The outcomes were published in a summary report in July 2023, which set out the core outputs of the offshore transmission network review and the future vision. Some of the OTNR's outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Holistic Network Design – delivered by the Energy Systems Operator in July 2022;• recommendations for a future framework to support our delivery of net zero through offshore wind generation, summer 2023;• ground-breaking work on new technologies such as multi-purpose interconnection• significant changes to existing codes, standards and processes to put transmission delivery on the front foot whilst also protecting communities, environment and consumer costs;• Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment decisions through Ofgem;• delivering retrospective co-ordination among well advanced projects;• enabling regulatory change to standardise co-ordination for transmission infrastructure;• launching a consultation on community benefits for network infrastructure.	All EIA Report Chapters.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
Programme for Government 2025-26: Building The Best Future For Scotland	<p>The 2025 to 2026 Programme for Government (Scottish Government, 2025) sets out a delivery-focused agenda that links climate action with economic opportunity. It highlights planning reform as key to accelerating renewable energy deployment, particularly offshore wind. Updates to National Planning Framework 4 and consenting processes aim to streamline delivery and attract investment.</p> <p>The Programme also emphasises Scotland's ambition to lead globally in offshore wind, with up to £500 million committed over five years to develop supply chain clusters and boost local job opportunities – £150 million of which is allocated for 2025 to 26. This investment supports a just transition and reinforces Scotland's position as a hub for green industrial growth.</p>	<p>The 2025 to 2026 Programme for Government (Scottish Government, 2025) sets out a delivery-focused agenda that links climate action with economic opportunity. It highlights planning reform as key to accelerating renewable energy deployment, particularly offshore wind. Updates to National Planning Framework 4 and consenting processes aim to streamline delivery and attract investment.</p> <p>The Programme also emphasises Scotland's ambition to lead globally in offshore wind, with up to £500 million committed over five years to develop supply chain clusters and boost local job opportunities – £150 million of which is allocated for 2025 to 26. This investment supports a just transition and reinforces Scotland's position as a hub for green industrial growth.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency	<p>The Scottish Government published the Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency – draft on the 13 December 2022. The strategy was then updated in September 2023, and again in November 2024. The final updated biodiversity strategy (Scottish Government, 2024a) sets out a clear ambition for Scotland to be Nature Positive by 2030, and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045. To deliver the Vision, the biodiversity strategy contains A detailed set of Outcomes, which will be achieved through actions set out in Delivery Plans. These actions will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accelerate restoration and regeneration; • protect nature on land and at sea, across and beyond protected areas; • embed nature-positive farming, fishing and forestry; • protect and support the recovery of vulnerable and important species and habitats; • invest in nature; and • take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. 	<p>The Scottish Government published the Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency – draft on the 13 December 2022. The strategy was then updated in September 2023, and again in November 2024. The final updated biodiversity strategy (Scottish Government, 2024a) sets out a clear ambition for Scotland to be Nature Positive by 2030, and to have restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045. To deliver the Vision, the biodiversity strategy contains A detailed set of Outcomes, which will be achieved through actions set out in Delivery Plans. These actions will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accelerate restoration and regeneration; • protect nature on land and at sea, across and beyond protected areas; • embed nature-positive farming, fishing and forestry; • protect and support the recovery of vulnerable and important species and habitats; • invest in nature; and • take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; and • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan; and • Onshore Planning Statement.
Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity	<p>The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan sets out how the government will work with the clean power sector, including industry, trade unions, investors, policy makers and others to achieve the delivery of clean power by 2030.</p> <p>Table 1 of the Connections Reform Annex within the Plan sets out ‘Clean Power Capacity Ranges’ per technology for 2030 and 2035. For 2030 regarding offshore wind the target is 43GW to 50GW and for 2035 regarding offshore wind the target is 72GW to 89GW.</p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Powering up Britain (2023)	<p>The Powering up Britain paper sets out how the government proposes to enhance Britain’s energy security, seize the economic opportunities of the transition and deliver on net zero commitments.</p> <p>In terms of offshore wind, the paper states that <i>“the goal is to develop up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030 and to quintuple our solar power by 2035.”</i></p>		<p>All EIA Report Chapters.</p> <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 - Towards a Better Place for Everyone	Cleaner Air for Scotland is Scotland’s national air quality strategy. The strategy was launched in 2021 to guide improvements in air quality through to 2026.		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>The goal of Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 is for Scotland to have the cleanest air in Europe. Since the launch of Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 there have been a number of achievements these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low Emission Zones introduced in Glasgow, Dundee, Edinburgh and Aberdeen;• Air Quality Management Areas have been reduced from 43 to 19; and• Nature based solutions have been promoted through collaboration with NatureScot. <p>A final delivery report is expected to be published in 2026.</p>	
Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland (2003) Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland v3 (2009)	<p>The Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland was updated by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in 2009 to strengthen measures for safeguarding Scotland’s groundwater resources. The policy aims to protect groundwater quality, manage groundwater quantity, and support sustainable and legitimate uses, while ensuring compliance with European directives and Scottish legislation.</p> <p>The policy is divided into ten sections which address activities that may impact groundwater:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• overarching policy;• planning system;• waste management;• agricultural activities;• groundwater abstractions;• chemical storage;• discharges;• construction and excavation;• contaminated land; and• cemetery development. <p>The Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland wants to ensure that environmental protection is balanced with economic growth.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk	

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
Climate Change Monitoring Report 2024	<p>The 2024 Climate Change Monitoring Report provides a detailed overview of Scotland’s progress toward its legally binding climate targets which includes net zero by 2045. The Report use a three-part framework to assess the progress.</p> <p>The 2024 Climate Change Monitoring Report highlighted some key updates which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• new build heat standard;• agricultural reform route map;• heat in buildings bill;• investment in active travel and public transport infrastructure; and• increased tree planting and peatland restoration. <p>The 2024 Climate Change Monitoring Report shows that progress is being made but the report also sets out that rapid action is needed especially in areas like transport and agricultural to stay on track to meet net zero by 2045.</p>	<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offshore Planning Statement; and• Onshore Planning Statement.	
The Environment Strategy for Scotland: Driving the Transition to a Nature Positive Economy - A Synthesis of Policy Levers for Governments (2024)	<p>The purpose of the Environment Strategy for Scotland: Driving the Transition to a Nature Positive Economy - A Synthesis of Policy Levers for Governments has been published to provide a synthesis of policy levers that governments can use to support the transition to a nature positive economy. This was developed as part of a research project which was titled ‘<i>Delivering the Environment Strategy Outcome on Scotland’s Economy: Evidence Base and Policy Levers</i>’</p> <p>The Environment Strategy for Scotland: Driving the Transition to a Nature Positive Economy - A Synthesis of Policy Levers for Governments provides some recommendations that governments should implement. They should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• embed nature positive goals into economic planning and decision making;• use fiscal incentives;• look to strengthen regulation and enforcement in order to protect ecosystems;• invest in green infrastructure; and• provide support for innovation and skill development for green jobs.	<p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offshore Planning Statement; and• Onshore Planning Statement.	

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland	<p>Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland is a guidance document developed by the Scottish Government which looks to promote inclusive, people-focused street design. The document promotes a design led approach which prioritises walking, wheeling, and cycling over motor traffic and also responds to concerns about the barriers that face disabled people.</p> <p>Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland is split into two parts. The first part focuses on inclusive engagement for street design, and the second part looks at how practical design elements can support accessibility.</p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 26.1: Transport Assessment.
National Roads Development Guide	<p>The National Roads Development Guide is produced by Transport Scotland to support the planning, design, and delivery of roads infrastructure in Scotland. The aim is to ensure that roads throughout Scotland are safe and accessible, supportive of sustainable travel, integrated land use planning and designed for long term maintenance and resilience.</p> <p>Some of the key themes from the National Roads Development Guide are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • priority for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport over private vehicles; • inclusive design, climate resilience, and active travel infrastructure; • low speed environments; and • early engagement with Transport Scotland for developments near trunk roads. 		<p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 26.1: Transport Assessment.
Green Industrial Strategy (2024)	<p>The Green Industrial Strategy is a key document for the UK and Scottish Governments plan to transition to a net zero economy. The vision of the Green Industrial Strategy is to put Scotland into a position where they are a global leader in the net zero economy by using its natural resources, skilled workforce and innovation ecosystem.</p> <p>The Green Industrial Strategy has 5 priority areas which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximising Scotland's wind economy; • growing the hydrogen sector; • developing carbon capture, utilisation and storage; 		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement; and • Onshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">supporting green economy professional and financial services; andattracting clean energy-intensive industries. <p>The Green Industrial Strategy has some key initiatives such as investing £500 million into the offshore wind supply chain over five years, hosting the Global Offshore Wind Investment Forum and looking to target net zero by 2045 which would be five years ahead of the UK target.</p>		
Delivering Economic Prosperity: Delivery Plans (2022)	<p>The Delivering Economic Prosperity: Delivery Plans is part of Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation. The Delivering Economic Prosperity: Delivery Plans sets out how it will be implemented over the next decade by focusing on building a fairer, wealthier and greener economy.</p> <p>Delivering Economic Prosperity: Delivery Plans has six strategic programmes of action which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">entrepreneurial people and culture;new market opportunities;productive businesses and regions;skilled workforce;a fairer and more equal society; anda culture of delivery. <p>To measure success the Delivering Economic Prosperity: Delivery Plans has set out key performance indicators that will be used and these are aligned with the Wellbeing Economy Monitor and the National Performance Framework.</p> <p>The Delivering Economic Prosperity: Delivery Plans sets out a phased delivery approach which is structure into four phases. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">delivered;in delivery;delivery pending andin development.	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Offshore Planning Statement; andOnshore Planning Statement.	

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
NPS EN-1 2023 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy	<p>Energy transitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 2.1.3: Introduction; Paragraph 2.3.6: Transition to a low carbon economy; Paragraph 3.3.20: The role of wind and solar; and Paragraph 3.3.15: The need for new electricity generating capacity. 	<p>Paragraph 2.1.3 states that <i>“To produce the energy required for the UK and ensure it can be transported to where it is needed, a significant amount of infrastructure is needed at both local and national scale. High quality infrastructure is crucial for economic growth, boosting productivity and competitiveness”</i>.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.3.6 states that to transform the energy system and tackle emissions while continuing to ensure secure and reliable supply and affordable bills, we need to increase our supply of clean energy from renewables.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.20 states that wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, which help to reduce costs and provide a clean and secure source of electricity supply. It goes on to advise that analysis shows <i>“a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar.”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.57 to 3.3.63 sets out the urgent need for offshore wind and other generating technologies given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Climate change: Paragraph 4.10.8: Climate change adaptation.</p>	<p>Paragraph 4.10.8 states that new energy infrastructure will typically need to remain operational over many decades, in the face of a changing climate. Consequently, applicants must consider the direct and indirect impacts of climate change when planning the location,</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; and Chapter 28: Climate Resilience.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of new energy infrastructure.	Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
NPS EN-3 2023 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure	Energy transitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 2.5.2: Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure. 	Paragraph 2.5.2 states proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence / co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 25: Onshore Noise and Vibration; and • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	Climate Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 2.4.8 Climate change. 	Paragraph 2.4.8 states that offshore wind farms should demonstrate that any necessary land-side infrastructure will be appropriately resilient to climate-change induced weather phenomena. Applications should particularly set out how the proposal would be resilient to storms.	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Site Selection and Alternatives; Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; and Chapter 28: Climate Resilience. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.
NPS EN-5 2023 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure	Energy transitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 1.1.1: Background. 	Paragraph 1.1.1 recognises that <i>"The security and reliability of the UK's current and future energy supply is highly dependent on having an electricity network which will enable the new electricity generation, storage, and interconnection infrastructure that our country needs to meet the rapid increase in electricity demand required to transition to net zero, while maintaining energy security."</i>	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Project Description. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onshore Planning Statement; and Offshore Planning Statement.

Table 1.3 Relevant marine planning policies to the Project

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
UK Marine Policy Statement 2011	<p>Economic growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving a sustainable marine economy. 	<p>Requirements for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) infrastructure to be in place to support and promote safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses; (2) the marine environment and its resources are used to maximise sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, now and in the future; (3) marine businesses are to take long-term strategic decisions and manage risks effectively; and (4) marine businesses act in a way which respects environmental limits and is socially responsible. 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; and Chapter 31: Civil and Military Aviation. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. 	<p>Requirements for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the use of the marine environment benefits society as a whole, contributing to resilient and cohesive communities that can adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk, as well as contributing to physical and mental wellbeing; (B) the coast, seas, oceans and their resources are safe to use; (C) the marine environment to play an important role in mitigating climate change; (D) equitable access for those who want to use and enjoy the coast, seas and their wide range of resources and assets and recognition; and 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; Chapter 28: Climate Resilience;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		(E) the use of the marine environment will recognise, and integrated with, defence priorities, including the strengthening of international peace and stability and the defence of the UK and its interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; • Chapter 31: Civil and Military Aviation; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Agriculture and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits. 	<p>Requirements for:</p> <p>Part 1 biodiversity to be protected, conserved and where appropriate recovered and loss halted; and</p> <p>Part 2 healthy marine and coastal habitats can occur across their natural range and are able to support strong, biodiverse biological communities and the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems; and the oceans to have viable populations of representative, rare, vulnerable and valued species.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; and • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; and

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Planning Statement.
	Historic environment and landscape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting good governance. 	Requirements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> marine businesses to be subject to clear, timely, proportionate and, where appropriate, plan-led regulation; and the use of the marine environment is spatially planned where appropriate and based on an ecosystems approach that takes account of climate change and recognises the protection and management needs of marine cultural heritage according to its significance. 	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context; Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; and Chapter 28: Climate Resilience. EIA Report, Volume 4 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore Planning Statement.
Scottish National Marine Plan (NMP) 2015	In November 2024 consultation opened on a Planning Position Statement (Scottish Government, 2024b) summarising all the work carried out to date on the development of National Marine Plan 2 (NMP2). Within the document,		

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>stakeholder feedback was consolidated, and information was set out about the latest in the development of high-level objectives and policy ideas for NMP2. Consultation closed in January 2025.</p> <p>At the time of writing, the programme for NMP2 has extended, and it is anticipated that the draft NMP2 will be published in 2026.</p> <p>The following relevant policies from the Scottish National Marine Plan 2015 are listed below.</p>		
	<p>Economic growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN 1 General planning principle; • GEN2 Economic benefit; • GEN 3 Social benefit; • GEN 4 Co-existence; • GEN 17 Fairness; • GEN 18 Engagement; and • GEN 21 Cumulative impacts. 	<p>Sustainable developments that provide economic benefit to Scottish communities and social benefits will be favoured.</p> <p>Proposals should enable coexistence with other development sectors and activities and require for cumulative impacts affect the ecosystem to be addressed.</p> <p>Requirement for all marine interest to be treated with fairness and in a transparent manner when decisions are being made in the marine environment. Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders.</p>	<p>All EIA Report Chapters.</p> <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement; and • Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report.
	<p>Climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN 5 Climate change. 	<p>Requirement to act in the way best calculated to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; and • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p>

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Historic environment and landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN 6 Historic Environment; • GEN 7 Landscape / seascape; and • CABLES 1. 	<p>Requirement for development and use of the marine environment to protect, and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a manner proportionate to their significance. Developments should take account of seascape, landscape and visual impacts.</p> <p>Requirement for cable and network owners to engage with decision makers and provide evidence that the development minimise impacts on the marine historical environment and assets.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; and • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; and • Outline Offshore Transmission Owner Implementation Plan. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>Physical environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding; • GEN 12 Water quality and resources; • GEN 13 Noise; and • GEN 14 Air quality. 	<p>Requirement for developments and activities to be resilient to coast change and flooding and not have unacceptable adverse impact on coastal processes or contribute to coastal flooding.</p> <p>Developments and activities should not result in a deterioration of the quality of waters to which the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive or other related Directives apply.</p> <p>Requirement for development to avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects.</p> <p>Requirement for development to not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; and • Chapter 21: Air Quality. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 5.4: Water Framework Directive. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Offshore Operational Maintenance Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Monitoring Programme.</p> <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area Assessment • Offshore Planning Statement.
	<p>Agriculture and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN 9 Natural heritage; • GEN 10 Invasive non-native species; • WILD FISH 1; • REC & TOURISM 6; • CABLES 1; and • REC & TOURISM 5. 	<p>Requirement for development to comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species; not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features; and protect (where appropriate) enhance the health of the marine area.</p> <p>Opportunities to reduce the introduction of INNS to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made. Codes of practice for INNS should be complied with.</p> <p>Requirements to assess impact of development on diadromous fish species and where evidence of impacts on salmon and other diadromous species is inconclusive, it states that mitigation should be adopted where possible and information on the impact on diadromous species from monitoring should be used.</p> <p>Requirement for cable and network owners to provide evidence that the development and activity minimise impacts, where possible, on the environment and appropriate and proportionate environmental consideration and risk assessments should be provided, which may include cable protection measures and mitigation plans.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 9: Electromagnetic Fields; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		Requirement to support enhancement to the aesthetic qualities, coastal character and wildlife experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; and • Outline Offshore Transmission Owner Implementation Plan. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area Assessment

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.
	Commercial fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FISHERIES 1; • FISHERIES 2; and • FISHERIES 3. 	Requirements to take account of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and MSFD. Developments and activities should take account of the potential impacts on: <p>Article I. fish and shellfish stocks and resultant fishing opportunities;</p> <p>Article II. fishing grounds, commercially fished grounds; and</p> <p>Article III. displacement of fish stocks, the socio-economic costs to fishers and their communities and other marine users.</p>	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; and • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics. EIA Report, Volume 4 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Management, Mitigation and Coexistence Strategy. Wider Consent Application documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economic Action Plan.
	Energy transitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RENWABLES 4; 	Requirement for applications for marine licences and consents relating to offshore wind and marine renewable energy should be made in accordance with the Marine	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RENEWABLES 5; RENEWABLES 6; RENEWABLES 7; and RENEWABLES 8. 	<p>Scotland Guidance. Compliance with EIA and HRA requirements for the development.</p> <p>Requirement for decision makers to ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose now and in future. Consideration should be given to the potential for climate change impacts on coast vulnerable to erosion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5: Approach to EIA; and Chapter 28: Climate Resilience. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment.
	<p>Shipping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRANSPORT 1 TRANSPORT 2 TRANSPORT 4 TRANSPORT 6 	<p>Requirement for navigational safety in relevant areas used by shipping now and in the future will be protected, adhering to the rights of innocent passage and freedom of navigation contained in UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.</p> <p>Requirement for marine development not to be permitted where it will restrict access to, or future expansion of, major commercial ports or existing or proposed ports and harbours, for example (e.g.) Peterhead.</p> <p>Requires maintenance, repair and sustainable development of port and harbour facilities in support of other sectors should be supported.</p> <p>Displacement of shipping to be avoided and where possible mitigate to avoid increased journey lengths.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Project Description; Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users; and Chapter 30: Socio-Economics.
	<p>Cities, regions and built environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CABLES 2; and CABLES 4. 	<p>Requirement for the following to be taken into account when reaching decision regarding cable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cables should be suitably routed to provide sufficient requirements for installation and cable protection; new cables should implement methods to minimise impacts on the environment, seabed and other users; 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Project Description; Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cables should be buried to maximise protection where there are safety or seabed stability risks and to reduce conflict with other marine users and to protect the assets and infrastructure; where burial is demonstrated not to be feasible, cables may be suitably protected; and consideration of the need to reinstate the seabed, undertake post-lay surveys and monitoring and carry out remedial action where required. <p>When selecting locations for landfall of power and telecommunications equipment and cabling, developers and decision makers should consider the policies pertaining to flooding and coastal protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; Chapter 9: Electromagnetic Fields; Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; and Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine Users. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Cable Plan.
	<p>Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFENCE 1; and DEFENCE 3. 	<p>Requirement to maintain operational effectiveness in Scottish waters used by the armed services, development and use will be managed in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> firing danger areas; and 	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> communications. <p>Code of conduct for managing fishing and military activities in the documents 'Fishing Vessels Operating in Submarine Exercise Areas' and 'Fishing Vessel Avoidance: The UK Code of Practice Fishing Vessel Avoidance' will be adhered to.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; Chapter 18: Infrastructure and other Marine Users; and Chapter 31: Civil and Military Aviation. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence and Commercial Aviation Strategy.
Draft National Marine Plan 2		<p>The Scottish Government are currently working on Scotland's NMP2. The purpose of NMP2 is to provide a full review and update of the 2015 National Marine Plan, which reflects new challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and technology advances.</p> <p>NMP2 aims to balance economic growth (such as energy) with environmental protection. This is to ensure that Scotland's seas are managed sustainably for the future. NMP2 will set out policies and objectives for all marine activities which will include offshore wind.</p> <p>One of the key features of the NMP2 will be to look at addressing key issues that are emerging which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> climate and nature crisis; rapid expansion of offshore wind (ScotWind and INTOG leasing rounds); and just transition to net zero. <p>It is anticipated that the Draft NMP2 will not be published until 2026.</p>	
Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy 2020		<p>In October 2020, the Scottish Government published the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020c). The Plan identified 15 Plan Options around Scotland's marine zone. Within these Options, the Sustainability Appraisal assessed a potential impact of up to 10GW.</p> <p>In April 2022, the Marine Directorate commenced a formal Iterative Plan Review of the Sectoral Marine Plan, followed by a Call for Evidence from ScotWind Developers in September 2022. ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited</p>	

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>responded regarding all of their ScotWind developments, including the Project. At the time of writing, a draft Sectoral Marine Plan is expected to be ready for Autumn 2025 and consultation for the Sectoral Marine Plan is likely May 2025. Final plan adoption is expected after 2025.</p>	
	Vision	<p>This plan seeks to contribute to the achievement of Scottish and UK energy and climate change policy objectives and targets, through provision of a spatial strategy to inform the seabed leasing process for commercial offshore wind energy in Scottish waters, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimises the potential adverse effect on other marine users, economic sectors and the environment resulting from further commercial-scale offshore wind development; and • maximises opportunities for economic development, investment and employment in Scotland, by identifying new opportunities for commercial scale offshore wind development, including deeper water wind technologies. <p>The Sectoral Marine Plan was published in line with the Offshore Wind Policy Statement 2020.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes; • Chapter 7: Marine Water and Sediment Quality; • Chapter 8: Underwater Noise; • Chapter 9: Electromagnetic Fields; • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 13: Fish Ecology; • Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries; • Chapter 15: Shipping and Navigation; • Chapter 16: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18: Infrastructure and Other Marine User; • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; • Chapter 31: Civil and Military Aviation.; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement.
	NE7 Plan Option.	<p>In relation to Plan Option NE7, the sectoral plan notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Plan Option has the potential for significant socio-economic cost impacts associated with the loss of fishing ground arising from potential offshore windfarm development in NE7. 2. Consultation will be required with the Ministry of Defence regarding potential radar interference from turbines. 3. There is potential to affect bird species. The distance offshore reduces the potential risk to birds foraging in this area, however there may be species that transit through these offshore areas as part of migration routes. 	<p>All EIA Report Chapters</p> <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; and • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Planning Statement; and

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>4. It lists a range of potential negative impacts identified through plan-level Strategic Environmental Assessment, HRA and Strategic EIA, which require further consideration through project level assessments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ loss of / damage to marine and coastal habitats; ▶ effects from pollution releases on species and habitats; ▶ effects on subsea geology, sediments and coastal processes arising from changes in hydrodynamics and existing wave regimes; ▶ issues relating to navigational safety, aviation and collision risk; ▶ effects on marine and coastal recreation and access; ▶ effects on landscape and coastal characters and visual receptors; ▶ contribution to supporting a diverse and decarbonised energy sector; ▶ effects from the introduction and spread of INNS; ▶ effects on residential amenity; ▶ loss of / damage to historic environment features and their settings; ▶ effects arising from noise, vibration, light, dust and shadow flicker; ▶ effects on water quality; and ▶ effects on ecological status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-Economic Action Plan.
Draft Updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy 2025	<p>The Scottish Government's draft updated Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy sets out an integrated spatial planning framework for delivering projects from the ScotWind and Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) leasing rounds, while also considering additional capacity for test and demonstration projects. The consultation opened on 30 May 2025 and closed on 22 August 2025.</p> <p>The Draft Updated SMP is accompanied by a package of plan-level assessments that provide a high-level, strategic</p>		

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>evaluation of potential effects across the defined Option Areas (OAs) (including NE7) and, where relevant, cumulative or in-combination effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Environmental Assessment – identifies likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Draft Plan and reasonable alternatives; • Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Appropriate Assessment Information Report – considers potential effects on European / Ramsar sites and features from Plan implementation; • Social and Economic Impact Assessment – assesses potential economic and social effects site-by-site at OA level and at regional / national cumulative scales (including shipping, fisheries, ports / harbours, tourism / recreation, etc.); • Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) Assessment – considers effects on NCMPAs as part of the sustainability appraisal package; and • Islands Communities Impact Assessment and Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment – consider island community implications and business / regulatory impacts, respectively, at plan level. <p>These assessments provide high level evaluations of potential environmental, social, and economic effects for each OA, including NE7, and inform plan level mitigation and evidence priorities to be carried forward at project level. Relevant findings have been considered by the Applicant in this EIA and in relation to the Project accordingly.</p> <p>At plan level, the impact assessments for the Draft Updated SMP identify potential likely significant effects for the NE7 OA, including: loss or damage of burrowed mud, offshore subtidal sands and gravels, and offshore deep sea mud; potential morality / injury, displacement or barrier effects on marine mammals, birds and bats; and effects on navigational safety associated with shipping. These plan level findings have been taken into account and where relevant addressed within the project level impact assessments presented in this EIA.</p> <p>Within the Draft Updated SMP's assessment of cumulative effects by region, potential impacts are identified for the North East. Impacts identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resident seabirds and migratory bird species intersecting OAs, with the development of areas across all OAs increasing the potential to cause a greater barrier effect to species movement, leading to increased collision risk or increased energetic requirements for bird species to divert around developments; • cumulative effects on foraging birds from breeding colonies in the North; • potential for significant impacts upon marine mammals with concurrent construction within the OAs in the region to either cause physical injury or more likely displace marine mammals from these areas which could cause a barrier effect preventing their movement; and 	

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">cumulative effects on key navigational routes causing traffic to divert to concentrate into smaller areas, increasing navigational risk.	
The Scottish Energy Strategy 2017	<p>The Scottish Energy Strategy: The Future of Energy in Scotland (Scottish Government, 2017) sets out the Scottish Government’s vision for the future energy system, focusing on a vision for Scotland by the year 2050.</p> <p>The Strategy states that “a diverse, well-balanced energy supply portfolio or ‘energy mix’ will remain essential as we continue to decarbonise our heat, transport and electricity systems – providing the basis for secure and affordable heat, mobility and power in future decades.”</p> <p>The Strategy sets two new targets for the Scottish energy system by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">“the equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland’s heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources; andan increase by 30% in the productivity of energy use across the Scottish economy.”	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Onshore Planning Statement; andOffshore Planning Statement.	
The Environment Strategy for Scotland 2020, and Progress Report 2024	<p>This Strategy has a 2045 vision, whereby, restoring nature and ending Scotland’s contribution to climate change, Scotland will be transformed for the better, therefore helping to secure the wellbeing of Scottish people and the planet.</p> <p>The contribution of the Environment Strategy vision and outcomes will contribute to National Outcomes and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The outcomes that are relevant to the Project, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">“We play our full role in tackling the global climate emergency and limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C;Scotland’s nature is protected and restored with flourishing biodiversity and clean and healthy air, water seas and soils; andour thriving sustainable economy conserves and grows our natural assets” (Scottish Government, 2020d).	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology;Chapter 11: Marine Mammals;Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology;Chapter 13: Fish Ecology;Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk;Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology;	

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>In March 2024, the third annual progress report to Parliament on the development of the environmental policy strategy, which Scottish Ministers are required to publish under Section 47 of the Continuity Act, was provided.</p> <p>It's of note that a new consultation draft Environment Strategy (2025) was published in July 2025. Once, adopted this will replace the 2020 vision / outcomes once finalised.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; and • Chapter 30: Socio-economics. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Offshore Planning Statement.
Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan 2023	<p>The Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan have a vision that by 2045 Scotland will have a flourishing, climate friendly energy system that delivers affordable, resilient and clean energy supplies for Scotland's households, communities and business. This will deliver maximum benefit for Scotland, enabling Scotland to achieve wider climate and environmental ambitions, drive the development of a wellbeing economy and deliver a just transition for workers, businesses, communities and regions.</p> <p>The Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan sets out that they "<i>are setting an ambition for more than 20GW of additional low-cost renewable electricity generation capacity by 2030, including 12GW of onshore wind, and we are consulting on setting a further offshore deployment ambition, and a new ambition for solar, wave and tidal deployment. Scotland already has 13.4GW of renewable electricity generation capacity. An additional 20GW of renewable generation will more than double our</i></p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<i>existing renewable generation capacity by 2030 generating enough power each year to power the equivalent of every home Scotland for over 7 years. That is the equivalent of 48% of Scotland's current total energy demand."</i>	

Table 1.4 Relevant local planning policies to the Project

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
Aberdeenshire LDP 2023	<p>The Aberdeenshire LDP 2023 was adopted by Aberdeenshire Council on 13 January 2023. It is acknowledged that Supplementary Guidance is actively integrated into the Aberdeenshire LDP 2023, rather than acting as standalone documentation. The LDP 2023 has been written to be consistent with the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020.</p> <p>As the LDP was adopted in 2023 it was prepared using the existing planning legislation which at the time was Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework 3. As the LDP was adopted before NPF4 the policies will still be relevant, however the policies of NPF4 should be considered first before the policies of the LDP because LDP's are expected to be developed in accordance with NPF4. The next LDP will be prepared on a timetable that will see its adoption in early 2029.</p>		
	<p>Agriculture and Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E1 – Natural Heritage. 	<p>Policy E1 States that new development will not be allowed where it may have an unacceptable adverse effect on a nature conservation site designated for its biodiversity, species, habitat or geodiversity importance, except in a limited number of circumstances as outlined in the policy. E1.2 applies to existing or proposed SPAs or existing, proposed or candidate SACs or Ramsar site. E1.3 applies to development that affects SSSIs, National Nature Reserves or the Cairngorms National Park. E1.4 applies to other recognised nature conservation sites.</p> <p>E1.4 advises that there will be a strong presumption against removing ancient semi-natural woodland or Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites.</p> <p>E1.6 requires development to avoid any unacceptable detrimental impact on protected species. It states that a Protected Species Survey will be required where there is reason to believe protected species may existing on or adjacent to the site. A Species Protection Plan may be required.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p>

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>E1.6 states that development affecting protected species will only be permitted where it can be justified in accordance with the relevant protected species legalisation. It goes on to provide a number of scenarios where development may be approved that affects species listed in schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.</p> <p>E1.7 requires a baseline or geological survey to be prepared for all developments where there is evidence to suggest that a habitat, geological feature or species of importance may exist on or adjacent to the site.</p> <p>E1.8 provides a number of requirements for development proposals in relation to the biodiversity impacts of a development.</p> <p>E1.9 does not allow development where it fragments habitats or is not designed to minimise adverse impacts on the site's environmental quality, ecological status or viability.</p> <p>E1.10 requires developments to identify measures to enhance biodiversity, preferably on site. Off-site contributions may be required where this is not possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Onshore); and • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan; • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Design and Access Statement.
	<p>Historic Environment and Landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1 – Special Rural Areas; • R2 – Development Rural Proposals Elsewhere in the Countryside; • P1 – Layout, Siting and Design; 	<p>Policy R1 states that development opportunities within the green belt and coastal zone will be restricted and subject to considerations set out in paragraphs R1.2 to R1.5. R1.2 sets out the developments permitted in the green belt. R1.3 states that, in the coastal zone, development must require a coastal location or there must be clear benefits arising. In either case there must be no coalescence of coastal developments or adverse impacts on natural coastal processes or habitats.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 22: Land Use;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P2 – Open Space and Access in New Development; • E2 – Landscape; • E3 – Forestry and Woodland; • HE1 – Protected Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites (including other historic buildings); and • HE2 – Protecting Historic, Cultural and Conservation Areas. 	<p>Policy R2 looks at the siting and design of any new development and identifies that it will be a primary consideration as well as compliance with other relevant policies. The reuse of brownfield land will always be preferred over greenfield land.</p> <p>Policy P1 advises the instances in which development will be required to participate in a Design Review Process. It states that development (other than major residential development) may be required to participate at the discretion of the Planning and Economy Service. Part P1.5 requires development designs to demonstrate the six qualities of successful place. P1.7 requires measures to be identified to enhance biodiversity. This should be done within a development site except in very rare circumstances when it is not practical. In these instances, off-site contributions may be required towards biodiversity enhancement within the settlement or near to the site, which may be controlled by conditions.</p> <p>Policy P2 requires all new development to be accompanied by adequate public open space appropriate to the standards shown in the Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. It advises that, generally, 40% of each major development site should be devoted to good quality open space. However, this will be dependent on the location, function and characteristics of the development proposal and site; the function of the open space proposed; and, where appropriate, the function and characteristics of existing open space in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 27: Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 23.11: Arboricultural Impact Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development Specification and Layout Plan; • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>Policy E2 states that development will be refused where it causes unacceptable effects through its scale, location or design on key characteristics, natural landscape elements, features or the composition or quality of the landscape character as defined in the Landscape Character Assessments produced by Nature Scot. It advises that a Landscape and Visual Assessment may be required, and that appropriate mitigation should be identified.</p> <p>E2.2 advises that development which has a significant adverse impact on the qualifying interests of a Special Landscape Area will not be permitted where the effects are clearly outweighed by benefits of at least local importance.</p> <p>Policy E3 seeks to promote the role of the forestry industry whilst strongly protecting and enhancing trees and woodland in the planning and construction of built development. In order to do so, it includes a presumption against the removal of safe and healthy trees, non-commercial woodlands and hedgerows.</p> <p>Policy HE1 advises that development will be resisted where it would have an adverse impact on the character, integrity or setting of listed buildings, scheduled monuments or other archaeological sites. Where an adverse impact is unavoidable, impacts should be minimised and justified.</p> <p>Policy HE2 states that development will be resisted which would fail to enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. This applies to development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Onshore); and • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan; • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Design and Access Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		within the conservation area and proposals outwith that would affect its character and appearance.	
	Physical Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P4 – Hazardous and Potentially Polluting Developments and Contaminated Land; • PR1 – Protecting Important Resources; and • PR2 – Reserving and Protecting Important Development Sites. 	<p>Policy P4 states that development will be refused where there is a risk that it could cause significant pollution, create a significant nuisance or present an unacceptable danger to the public or the environment.</p> <p>P4.2 states that applicants should check whether their development is within the consultation zone of a major hazard site or hazard pipeline. If it is, further advice should be sought from the Health and Safety Executive.</p> <p>P4.3 requires development in close proximity to existing hazardous developments to provide sufficient information to demonstrate the impacts or where the impacts are unclear or unknown, otherwise planning permission will be refused.</p> <p>P4.4 requires appropriate site investigations to be undertaken on land that is known or suspected to be contaminated.</p> <p>P4.5 requires proposals to provide appropriate mitigation measures where an Air Quality Assessment or Noise Impact Assessment indicates a potentially significant detrimental impact on air quality or noise levels.</p> <p>Policy PR1 states that development will not be approved that has a negative effect on important environmental resources associated with air quality, the water environment, important mineral deposits, prime agricultural land, peat and other carbon rich soils, open space and important trees and woodland.</p>	EIA Report, Volume 1 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 19: Ground Conditions and Contamination; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; • Chapter 21: Air Quality; • Chapter 22: Land Use; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 25: Onshore Noise and Vibration; • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>Policy PR2 seeks to protect sites that may be reasonably needed in the future for important development listed in the policy including the following of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generating and providing energy; and • sites to support the national developments identified in the National Planning Framework. <p>PR2.2 also states that “<i>National developments that directly affect the area covered by the Plan include proposals for contribution to capturing and storing carbon and making use of heat generation... High-voltage electricity transmission infrastructure, including cabling, substations, and convertor stations, will be at a range of locations but are expected to include sites associated with the electricity substation south of Peterhead</i>”.</p>	<p>Effects Assessment.</p> <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 23.11: Arboricultural Impact Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan; • Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Onshore); and • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Positive Plan; • Onshore Planning Statement; and • Design and Access Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1 – Using Resources in Buildings; • C2 – Renewable Energy; and • C3 – Carbon Sinks and Stores. 	<p>Policy C1 requires all developments to be designed to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and reduce the use of energy. For all development, the target is to meet the current Scottish building regulations Target Emissions Rate and achieve the sustainability rating 'Gold' level for carbon dioxide reduction and energy efficiency.</p> <p>C1.2 requires water efficiency alongside energy efficiency and states that a water safety and management plan is required to establish potential hazards associated with a private water supply from the source to point of use. For water efficiency, a BREEAM rating of 'excellent' for non-domestic buildings would apply. All proposals must at least meet the standards established through the current Building Regulations.</p> <p>C1.3 requires the master-planning process for major new development to consider compliance with the standard in part through district heating schemes.</p> <p>C1.4 states that an Energy Statement should be submitted at the planning application stage demonstrating compliance with this policy.</p> <p>Policy C2 supports renewable energy developments, including solar, wind, biomass and hydro-electricity developments that are in appropriate sites and of the appropriate design. C2.1 sets out the effects that will be taken account of when assessing the acceptability of such development.</p> <p>C2.8 requires steps to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts on occupiers of affected properties.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Project Description; • Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology; • Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; • Chapter 29: Greenhouse Gases; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 23.11: Arboricultural Impact Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Development

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<p>C2.9 states that conditions, bonds or other Legal Agreements may be imposed to remove visible renewable energy structures whenever the planning permission expires, or the project ceases to operate for a period agreed with the proposal and included as a condition on the planning permission.</p> <p>Policy C3 sets out requirements to protect carbon sinks and stores, such as woodland and high-carbon peat rich soil, from disturbance or destruction. It states that development that may result in the loss of / disturbance to peat will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the development will, within its lifetime, have no net effect on CO₂. Removal of woodland will only be permitted if an equal area is replanted.</p>	<p>Specification and Layout Plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme; • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan; • Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Onshore); and • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; • Sustainability Action Plan / Framework; and • Design and Access Statement.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>Flood Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C4 – Flooding. 	<p>Policy C4 states that FRAs should be undertaken in accordance with Scottish Environment Protection Agency Technical Flood Risk Guidance. It sets out where FRAs will be required for development and advises that assessments should include an allowance for freeboard and climate change.</p> <p>The policy states that development should not increase flood risk vulnerability and should avoid areas of medium to high risk, functional floodplain or other areas where risks are assessed as heightened or unacceptable, except in a limited number of circumstances. Of particular relevance is the exception for essential infrastructure, where the location is essential for operational reasons.</p> <p>The policy goes on to provide advice for development permitted on land assessed as at a medium to high risk of flooding, and states that buffer strips should be provided for any water body.</p> <p>Part C4.6 states that development will not be approved where it may contribute to flooding issues elsewhere, and Sustainable urban Drainage Principles apply to all sites.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 20: Water Resources and Flood Risk; Chapter 28: Climate Resilience; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 20.2: Flood Risk Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy.
	<p>The Responsibilities of Developers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RD1 – Providing Suitable Services. 	<p>Policy RD1 advises that development will only be allowed where it is located and designed to take advantage of or include the services, facilities and infrastructure necessary to support it.</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Project Description; and Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p>

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Operational Drainage Management Strategy; • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy; and • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.
Aberdeenshire Council Natural Heritage Strategy 2019-2022	<p>Historic Environment and Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 1 – Protection of Natural Heritage; • Aim 2 – Enhancement of Natural Heritage; and • Aim 3 – Promotion of Natural Heritage. 	<p>Aim 1 sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1.5 – Protect trees of visual and cultural important; and • Objective 1.6 – Protect locally significant sites for nature conservation. <p>Aim 2 sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 2.1 - Use Council managed land to enhance natural heritage and engage communities; • Objective 2.2 – Implement management of invasive non-native plant species across Aberdeenshire through partnership working; • Objective 2.3 Protection and enhancement of pollinators in Aberdeenshire; and • Objective 2.4 – Creation and management of woodlands in Aberdeenshire. <p>Aim 3 sets out:</p>	<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Benthic Epibenthic and Intertidal Ecology; • Chapter 11: Marine Mammals; • Chapter 12: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology; • Chapter 17: Seascape Landscape and Visual; • Chapter 23: Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology;

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 3.1 Aberdeenshire Council engages in and promotes key natural heritage issues – Biodiversity of the following species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> common bottlenose dolphin; community tree planting; farmland birds; freshwater pearl mussel; hedgehog; inns; peatlands; pine marten; pollinators; ponds; red squirrel; wildcat; and swift. Objective 3.2 – Promote, protect and enhance natural heritage through cross-organisation partnership working; and Objective 3.4 - Promote prevention and management of INNS spread in Aberdeenshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and Chapter 33: Cumulative Effects Assessment. <p>EIA Report, Volume 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Onshore); Outline Environmental Management Plan; Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol; Outline Commercial Fisheries Monitoring, Management, Mitigation and Coexistence Strategy; Outline Construction Environmental

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Management Plan; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Landscape and Architectural Strategy. <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Protected Area Assessment; • Nature Positive Plan; • Onshore Planning Statement; • Offshore Planning Statement; and • Design and Access Statement.
Aberdeenshire Community Wealth Building Strategy and Charter for Energy Developments (2025)	<p>The Aberdeenshire Community Wealth Building Strategy and Charter for Energy Developments are a draft framework developed by Aberdeenshire Council to guide how energy projects can deliver broader socio-economic benefits for local communities. While not yet adopted as formal policy, it is being used as an advisory tool in planning processes and is expected to be finalised in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>The Strategy and Charter aim to embed community wealth building principles into energy development proposals. This includes promoting fair employment, supporting local supply chains, and ensuring that economic benefits are retained and reinvested locally. It aligns with NPF4, particularly Policy 11c (Energy) and Policy 25 (Community Wealth Building).</p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Land Use; • Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Chapter 30: Socio-Economics; • Chapter 32: Inter-Related Effects; and • Chapter 33: Cumulative

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
			<p>Effects Assessment.</p> <p>Wider Consent Application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onshore Planning Statement; • Sustainability Action Plan / Framework; and • Design and Access Statement.
Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy 2040	<p>The Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy 2040 sets out the vision and priorities for transport in the North East of Scotland up to 2024. The strategic objectives of the Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy 2040 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved accessibility; • reduced emissions; • enhanced safety; • efficient connectivity; and • inclusive design. <p>The Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy 2040 will look at supporting the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure; • Improving bus and rail services, including integration and affordability; • supporting efficient and sustainable freight movement; • using smart technologies and data to improve transport planning; and • coordination of transport with housing and economic development. 		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport. <p>EIA Report Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 26.1: Transport Assessment.
Aberdeen City and Shire Local Transport Strategy	<p>The Aberdeen City and Shire Local Transport Strategy is a collaboratively developed strategy by Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, and Aberdeenshire Council. This was developed to guide transport planning and investment across the region. The aim is to improve transport across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.</p>		<p>EIA Report, Volume 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 26: Traffic and Transport.

Plan	Theme and policy	Summary	Relevant aspect
	<p>The objectives of the Aberdeen City and Shire Local Transport Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote sustainable economic growth; • promote social inclusion and accessibility; • protect the environment; • improvements to safety; and • improvements to integration. 		<p>EIA Report Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 26.1: Transport Assessment; • Appendix 26.2: Abnormal Load Route Assessment.

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1.3 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

1.3.1 Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
µgm	microgram per metre
µm	micrometre
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COLREGS	International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
COP15	15th Conference of the Parties (to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity)
COP21	21st United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
COP26	26 th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
COP28	28 th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
COP29	29 th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELC	European Landscape Convention
EPS	European Protected Species
EU	European Union
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GES	Good Environmental Status
GW	Gigawatt
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
INTOG	Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas
LDP	Local Development Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Areas

Acronym	Definition
NCMPA	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area
NMP2	National Marine Plan 2
nm	Nautical miles
NO₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO_x	Oxides of nitrogen
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NPS	National Policy Statement
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MtCO₂e	Metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
OA	Option Area
OREI	Offshore Renewable Energy Installations
OSPAR Convention	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic
OTNR	Offshore Transmission Network Review
PM	Particulate Matter
PM₁₀	Particulate matter of less than 10 microns in diameter
PM_{2.5}	Particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SOLAS	International Regulations for the Safety of Life at Sea
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1.3.2 Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Aberdeenshire Council	One of 32 divisions of Scotland, designated as a Council area for the purposes of local government, covering Aberdeenshire.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment to determine the implications of a plan or project on relevant national site network sites in view of that site's conservation objectives. An Appropriate Assessment forms part of the HRA and is required when a plan or project (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) is likely to have a significant effect on a national site network. Where there are adverse impacts, it also includes an assessment of the potential mitigation for those impacts.
Climate change	A long-term trend in the variation of the climate resulting from changes in the global atmospheric and ocean temperatures and affecting mean sea level, wave height, period and direction, wind speed and storm occurrence.
Climate Change Act	Legislation enacted in 2008 by the UK Parliament to establish a framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas, which includes a target for the year 2050 emissions, a system of carbon budgeting, establishing the Committee on Climate Change, carbon trading schemes and other provisions.
Conservation Area	An area of built development having statutory protection under the relevant sections of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.
EIA Regulations	Terminology used in this EIA Report to refer to four sets of regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; • The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; • The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended); and • The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	The outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is reported within a document called an EIA Report.
European Commission	The European Union's (EU's) politically independent executive division. It is responsible for preparing proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.
European Protected Species	Species of plants and animals (other than birds) protected by law throughout the European Union.

Term	Definition
European site	European sites are those that are designated through the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive (via national legislation as appropriate). Within Scotland, additional sites designated through international convention are given the same protection through policy – overall all of these are referred to as European sites. European sites in Scotland are considered to be SPAs, SACs, candidate SACs and Sites of Community Importance (SCI). Potential SPAs (pSPA), possible SACs
European Union	The union of 27 European member states.
Habitats Regulation Appraisal	The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a European Site, the purpose being to consider the impacts of a project against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
Habitats Regulations	The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/ECC) and the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) were transposed into Scottish Law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 ('Habitats Regulations') (up to 12nm); by the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('Offshore Marine Regulations') (beyond 12nm); the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (of relevance to consents under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989); the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001; and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Habitats Regulations set out the stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process required to assess the potential impacts of a proposed project on European Sites (SACs, SPAs, candidate SACs and SPAs and Ramsar Sites).
Impact	The changes resulting from an action.
Marine licence	Licence required for certain activities in the marine environment and granted under either the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 or the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
Marine Policy Statement	The framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment in the UK.
Marine Protected Area	Marine sites at the national level under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. In Scotland, MPAs are areas of sea defined so as to protect habitats, wildlife, geology, undersea landforms, historic shipwrecks and to demonstrate sustainable management of the sea.
Marine Directorate	Civil service directorate for Scotland, which is responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas.
Mean Low Water Springs	The average throughout a year of the heights of two successive low waters during those periods of 24-hours (approximately once a fortnight) when the tidal range is greatest.
National Planning Framework 4	The fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) is a long term plan for Scotland looking to 2045. It guides spatial development, sets out national planning policies, designates national developments and highlights regional spatial priorities. It forms part of the statutory Development Plan.

Term	Definition
National Policy Statements	National Policy Statements are statutory documents published in accordance with the Planning Act 2008. They set out the UK government's policy on, and the national need for specific types of nationally significant infrastructure projects. NPSs relevant to energy generation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023c); • National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023b); and • National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (EN-5) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2023a).
NatureScot	Formerly known as Scottish Natural Heritage, NatureScot is a public body and government advisor responsible for Scotland's natural heritage, in particular for its natural, genetic and scenic diversity.
Offshore	Pertaining to the seaward side of mean high water springs, and typically in reference to locations some distance from the coast.
Offshore Wind Farm	An offshore wind farm is a group of wind turbines in the same location (offshore) in the sea which are used to produce electricity.
Onshore	Pertaining to the landward side of MLWS.
Plan Option	Term used for the seabed areas identified in the Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind development in the ScotWind leasing round.
Planning permission	Planning permission granted under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for all Project infrastructure located landward of the MLWS.
Receptor	This term originates as defined in Regulation 5(2) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and include population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape that may be at risk from exposure to pollutants which could potentially arise as a result of the Project. It is equivalent to the term 'factors' defined in 4(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, where factors may be subject to significant effects of the Project and include population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	A non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government, responsible for environmental regulation. This includes ensuring that the environment and human health are protected, and that Scotland's natural resources and services are used as sustainably as possible and contribute to sustainable economic growth.
Scottish Ministers	The devolved government of Scotland.
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Sites notified at the national level under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. They are a series of sites that are designated to protect the best examples of significant natural habitats and populations of species.

Term	Definition
Special Area of Conservation	International designation implemented under the Habitats Regulations for the protection of habitats and (non-bird) species. Sites designated to protect habitats and species in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive and sufficient habitat to be conserved to maintain favourable conservation status of designated features.
Special Protection Area	Sites designated under EU Directive (79/409/EEC) to protect habitats of migratory birds and certain threatened birds under the Birds Directive.
The Project	The MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm is a proposed floating offshore wind farm located in the North Sea, with a grid connection capacity of up to 3 gigawatts (GW).
United Nations	The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 to maintain global peace and security.
Water Framework Directive	A substantial piece of EU water legislation that came into force in 2000, with the overarching objective to get all water bodies in Europe to attain Good or High Ecological Status. River Basin Management Plans have been created which set out measures and potential mitigation to ensure that water bodies in England and Wales achieve 'Good Ecological Status'.

MarramWind

