Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore Project

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Appendix 5.1: EIA Regulation Requirements, Volume 1c

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

1.1.1.1 This appendix of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) presents the requirements of the EIA regulations for information for inclusion in EIARs and how these have been met for the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Offshore Project'). This appendix accompanies **Chapter 5: Approach to EIA, Volume 2** of the EIAR.

1.1.1.2 This appendix should be read in conjunction with the project description provided in **Chapter 3: Project Description, Volume 1a** and **Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context, Volume 1a**: which provides an overview of the wider policy and legislative context relevant to the Offshore Project.

1.1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.2.1 Spiorad na Mara Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') is proposing to develop the Project. The Project is an offshore wind farm (OWF) that will consist of up to 60 fixed-bottom wind turbine generators (WTGs).

1.1.2.2 The Project will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure. This Offshore EIAR supports the application for the offshore components of the Project as outlined in **Chapter 1: Introduction, Volume 1a**. The offshore components of the Project (the Offshore Project) includes all infrastructure and activities located seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) within the Array Area and Offshore Cable Area of Search (OCAS) (**Chapter 1: Introduction – Figures, Volume 1b, Figure 1.2: Offshore Project Location, Volume 1b**). Further detailed information is provided in **Chapter 3, Volume 1a**.

1.1.2.3 The Offshore Project is situated off the northwest coast of Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* and the Array Area is located approximately 5-13 km offshore and is approximately 161 km^2 in size. It will comprise WTGs, foundations, Offshore Cables, Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) (if required), and Landfall. The Array Area combined with the OCAS is defined as the Offshore Project Boundary. The water depths across the Array Area range from 37 m-67 m with the southwest corner of the Array Area reaching 72 m. The proposed WTGs and fixed foundations will be located within a Turbine Area of approximately 140 km^2, within the Array Area.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS APPENDIX

1.2.1.1 This EIAR has been prepared in accordance with the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended). Consistent with Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment (Scottish Government, 2013), the EIAR explains the

process followed, the methods used, and the measures proposed to avoid, reduce and offset significant adverse effects. The information required by the 2017 Scottish Marine Works EIA Regulations is provided throughout this EIAR, and this approach is considered to satisfy the equivalent requirements of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

1.2.1.2 **Table 1.1** outlines where the requirements of Schedule 4 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 are addressed within the Offshore EIAR, noting that similar provisions are set out in Schedule 4 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Table 1.1 EIA Regulations Requirements

Information required under Schedule 4 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	**Location in this EIAR**
1. A description of the works, including in particular: a) a description of the location of the works; b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole works, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases; c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the works (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation) and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.	**Chapter 3**, **Volume 1a** contains a detailed description of the location and physical characteristics of the Offshore Project, across the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. This chapter also presents the Maximum Design Envelope for the Offshore Project, which is interpreted in the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) applied to each of the environmental aspect assessments (**Chapters 6 to 23**, **Volume 2a**).
2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed works and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects	**Chapter 4: Consideration of Alternatives**, **Volume 1a** of the EIAR contains the development of the Offshore Project design and presents the justification for these design decisions with due consideration of alternative options.
3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (the "baseline scenario") and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the project as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.	Each of the environmental aspect assessment (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) present and consider a 'Current Baseline' and 'Future Baseline' to appropriately contextualise the assessment of effects to the natural changes within the baseline scenario.

Information required under Schedule 4 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Location in this EIAR
4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(3) likely to be significantly affected by the works: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.	The Offshore EIAR environmental assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) characterise the relevant factors identified in regulation 5(3) and appropriately assess the effects of the Offshore Project on these receptors.
5. A description of the likely significant effects of the works on the environment resulting from, inter alia: a) the construction and existence of the works, including, where relevant, demolition works; b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste; d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters); e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved works, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources; f) the impact of the works on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the works to climate change; g) the technologies and the substances used.	The Offshore EIAR environmental assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) assess the likely significant effects of the Offshore Project on these receptors. This information is summarised in **Chapter 24: Likely Significant Residual Effects**, **Volume 2a**.
6. The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(3) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and	The Offshore EIAR environmental assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) assess the likely significant effects of the Offshore Project on

Information required under Schedule 4 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Location in this EIAR
negative effects of the works. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives in assimilated law or under the law of any part of the United Kingdom which are relevant to the works.	these receptors, reporting on the basis of these different types of effects. This information is summarised in **Chapter 24**, **Volume 2a**. The assessment of combined effects between Offshore Project environmental aspects is presented in **Chapter 23: Combined Effects Assessment**, **Volume 2a**.
7. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	The Offshore EIAR environmental assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) each present a description of the assessment methodology relevant to the collection of data and assessment of likely significant effects. Each chapter also considers the data limitations and assumptions that apply.
8. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operation phases.	The Offshore EIAR environmental assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) each present relevant embedded environmental measures which are applied to the assessment of likely significant effects on individual receptors to prevent or reduce the adverse significance of an effect. These effects are then reported as residual effects in each of the environmental aspect chapters and are summarised in **Chapter 24, Volume 2a**.
9. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the works on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the works to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information	As proposed at the EIA Scoping Stage and agreed with Scottish Ministers, major accidents and disasters are considered inherently within a number of

Information required under Schedule 4 of the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Location in this EIAR
available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to assimilated law such as any law that implemented Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations or relevant assessments carried out pursuant to national legislation may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of any law that implemented the Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies	environmental aspect chapters and presented in **Chapters 6 to 23**, **Volume 2a**. This approach is summarised in **Chapter 5**, **Volume 1a**.
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A **Non-Technical Summary, Volume 1a** is included in the Offshore EIAR.
11. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the EIA report.	The Offshore EIAR environmental assessment chapters (**Chapters 6 to Chapter 23**, **Volume 2a**) each present relevant references used within the chapter.

2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

2.1.1.1 A list of key terms and acronyms used in this Appendix are provided in **Table 2.1** and **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.1 Acronyms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
OCAS	Offshore Cable Area of Search
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
PAN	Planning Advice Note
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

Table 2.2 Glossary

Term	Meaning
the Applicant	Spiorad na Mara Limited (the Project owner)
Effect	Term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) prepared to assess the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment.
Embedded or 'Designed-in' Mitigation	Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce environmental effects that are directly incorporated into the preferred design for the Project. This can include standard practice in accordance with or without guidance. Embedded Mitigation is considered as part of the impact assessment, before effect significance is identified
Offshore Application	The application for a marine licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (between 0 and 12nm) and a Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989.
Offshore Cables	Electrical and communication cables located within the Array Area and Offshore Cable Area of Search. The Offshore Cables consist of Array Cables, Array Cables to Landfall, and Export Cables.
Offshore Cable Area of Search (OCAS)	The area within which the offshore cable infrastructure between the Array Area and Landfall up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) will be located.
Offshore Project	The offshore components of the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm (the Project) located seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).
Offshore Project Boundary	The 'red line boundary' encompassing the Offshore Project.

Term	Meaning
Onshore Transmission Works (OTW) / Onshore Project	The onshore components of the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm (the Project) located landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS). The Applicant will seek consent for the OTW Project through a separate application and so does not form part of this application.
Project	The Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm development. This term describes the whole development, including all offshore and onshore components.
Project Design Envelope	A description of the range of possible components that make up the Project design options under consideration when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known.

3 REFERENCES

Scottish Government, 2017. Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2013 Environmental Impact Assessment. Available: at: Revision 1.0 - Planning Advice Note 1/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment. [Accessed 20 February 2026].

UK Government, 2017. The Marine Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/115/contents [Accessed 20 February 2026].

UK Government, 2017. The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/101/contents [Accessed 20 February 2026].