# Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm

# Wind Farm Development Area

## Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Volume II

## Chapter 1: Introduction

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## Glossary of Terminology

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Applicant | Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, the legal entity submitting Section 36 Consent and Marine Licence applications for the Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area. |
| Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm ( or the Bellrock Project) | An offshore wind farm capable of exporting around 1.8 GW of renewable energy to the National Electricity Transmission System.<br>The Wind Farm Development Area is located 120 km east of Stonehaven and will connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at the SSEN Transmission proposed Hurlie substation, west of Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire. The Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm comprises of the following Development Areas:<br>▪ Wind Farm Development Area;<br>▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and<br>▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area. |
| Cable protection | Protective measure to minimise the effects of scour and hazards along the inter-array cables, and protecting these cables at infrastructure crossing points. |
| Commercial Operation Date | The date that the site is fully transferred to the operations team which is likely to be the date of the taking over certificate of the last wind turbine generator to be installed. |
| Design life | The period during which a component is expected by its designers to operate within its specified parameters. |
| Development Area | For consenting purposes, the area for which separate consents and/or Marine Licences will be sought by the Applicant, comprising:<br>▪ Wind Farm Development Area;<br>▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and<br>▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area. |
| Floating offshore unit | The combined wind turbine generator and floating substructure. |
| Floating substructure | A floating structure which provides buoyancy and, in conjunction with the station keeping system, supports a superstructure (e.g. wind turbine generator or offshore substation), and maintaining its position within the structure's excursion limit. |
| Inter-array cable | Armoured cable containing electrical and fibre optic cores, which link the wind turbine generators to each other and to the subsea cable hubs and/or the offshore substations and include dynamic inter-array cable and static inter-array cable sections. |
| National Electrical Transmission System | The high-voltage electricity power transmission network serving Great Britain which receives electricity from generators (such as offshore wind farms) and transmits that electricity to anywhere on the National Electricity Transmission System to satisfy demand. |
| Offshore Transmission Development Area | The boundary within which the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned (and includes the whole of the Wind Farm Development Area). |
| Offshore Transmission Infrastructure | Infrastructure located within the Offshore Transmission Development Area including fixed bottom and/or floating offshore substation(s) and associated scour protection; interconnector cables and associated cable protection; and offshore |

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| | export cable(s) and associated cable protection (including activities associated with the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). |
| Offshore Transmission Infrastructure | Infrastructure located within the Offshore Transmission Development Area including fixed bottom and/or floating offshore substations, offshore reactive compensation station(s) and associated scour protection; interconnector cables and associated cable protection; and offshore export cables and associated cable protection (including activities associated with the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). |
| Onshore Transmission Development Area | The boundary within which the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained and decommissioned. |
| Operational life | The expected operational life of the Wind Farm Infrastructure from the Commercial Operation Date to the first floating offshore unit being decommissioned. |
| Project design envelope | Includes all relevant technical, spatial and temporal elements of the Wind Farm Infrastructure, and the proposed methodology to be employed for construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning. |
| ScotWind | A Crown Estate Scotland leasing round for offshore wind projects in which the process enabled developers to apply for seabed rights to plan and build wind farms in Scottish waters. |
| Scour protection | Protective material positioned around anchors to avoid sediment being eroded as a result of the flow of water. |
| SSEN Transmission Hurlie substation | The onshore substation to be developed by SSEN Transmission, which will receive renewable electricity from the Bellrock Project onshore substation and allow supply of renewable electricity from the wind farm to the National Electricity Transmission System. |
| Station keeping system | The system (including mooring lines and anchors) used to hold a floating offshore unit within its excursion limit and maintain the intended orientation of the floating offshore unit. |
| Subsea cable hub | A subsea device, with a gravel pad foundation, which allows the connection of multiple inter-array cables. |
| Wind Farm Development Area | The boundary within which the Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned. |
| Wind Farm Infrastructure | Infrastructure located within the Wind Farm Development Area including wind turbine generators; floating substructures, station keeping systems and associated scour protection; inter-array cables and associated cable protection; subsea cable hubs; and ancillary infrastructure including buoys (including activities associated with the Wind Farm Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). |
| Wind turbine generator | A wind turbine generator converts wind energy into electrical energy. The main components include rotor assembly (composed of three blades and a hub); nacelle (containing the generator, shaft and gearbox, power electronic converter and transformer); and a tower (containing lifting equipment and switchgear). |

## Glossary of Abbreviations

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| ASTI | Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment |
| BESS | Battery energy storage systems |
| CBF | Community benefit fund |
| CCUS | Carbon capture, usage and storage |
| CEA | Cumulative effects assessment |
| CES | Crown Estate Scotland |
| CSR | Corporate social responsibility |
| EEZ | Exclusive economic zone |
| EIA | Environmental impact assessment |
| FOU | Floating offshore unit |
| FSS | Floating substructure |
| GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| GIS | Geographic Information Systems |
| GW | Gigawatt |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Appraisal |
| HSE | Health and Safety Executive |
| IAC | Inter-array cable |
| ISEP | Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals |
| INTOG | Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas |
| ISEP | Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals |
| MCAA | Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 |
| MD-LOT | Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team |
| MHWS | Mean high water springs |
| MLWS | Mean low water springs |
| MW | Megawatt |
| nm | Nautical miles |
| NRA | Navigational Risk Assessment |

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| OfTDA | Offshore Transmission Development Area |
| OnTDA | Onshore Transmission Development Area |
| RSPB | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| SIM | Strategic Investment Model |
| SKS | Station keeping system |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| US | United States |
| UXO | Unexploded ordnance |
| WFDA | Wind Farm Development Area |
| WTG | Wind turbine generator |

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

1. In 2021, Crown Estate Scotland (CES) launched the ScotWind[1] leasing round which released areas of seabed in Scottish waters for new commercial scale offshore wind developments to help Scotland achieve its net-zero emissions target by 2045. In January 2022, Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) was successfully awarded development rights for an area of seabed, to develop the Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area (WFDA), which forms part of the Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm (the **Bellrock Project**).

2. The Bellrock Project is a proposed floating offshore Wind Farm, which will generate and transmit renewable electricity and connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at Scottish and Southern Energy Transmission's (SSEN Transmission) proposed Hurlie substation in Aberdeenshire, Scotland[2]. The Bellrock WFDA is located 120 km east of Stonehaven (116 km southeast of Peterhead), Aberdeenshire and covers an area of 280 km$^2$. The location of the Bellrock WFDA is shown in **Figure 1.1 (Volume III)**. The Bellrock Project comprises the following three Development Areas for which separate consents and/or licences will be sought by the Applicant:

   - The Bellrock WFDA within which the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned;
   - The Bellrock Offshore Transmission Development Area (OfTDA) within which the Bellrock Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned; and
   - The Bellrock Onshore Transmission Development Area (OnTDA), within which the Bellrock Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned.

3. This environmental impact assessment (EIA) Report accompanies a Section 36 Consent (s.36) application[3] and a Marine Licence application[4] submitted to Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) on behalf of Scottish Ministers, for the construction and operation of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure located within the Bellrock WFDA.

[1] The ScotWind leasing round was initiated based on the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020a), which identified a number of sustainable areas for future commercial-scale offshore wind development, and provided the spatial strategy to support CES's ScotWind leasing round. The updated Sectoral Marine Plan is expected to be published summer 2026.

[2] In April 2025, National Electricity System Operator (NESO) imposed a change to the Bellrock Project, requiring the Bellrock Project to connect to the Hurlie substation in Aberdeenshire.

[3] Submitted under the Electricity Act 1989.

[4] Submitted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

4. The Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure comprises wind turbine generators (WTGs); floating substructures (FSSs), station keeping systems (SKSs) and associated scour protection; inter-array cables (IACs) and associated cable protection; subsea cable hubs; and ancillary infrastructure including buoys. Further details on the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure is provided in **Chapter 4: Project Description (Volume II)**.

5. A separate Marine Licence application for the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure located within the Bellrock OfTDA and a separate planning application for the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure located within the Bellrock OnTDA will be submitted by the Applicant in due course. See **Section 1.4** for further details on the consent strategy for the Bellrock Project.

6. The Bellrock Project will deliver significant supply chain expenditure within Scotland, has the potential to power the equivalent energy needs of over 1.7 million homes[5] with renewable energy and will help achieve Scotland's net zero targets whilst improving energy security.

7. This Bellrock WFDA EIA Report has been prepared by Haskoning, on behalf of the Applicant, in accordance with the Electricity Works (environmental impact assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and Marine Works (environmental impact assessment) Regulations 2007 (the EIA Regulations) (see **Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context (Volume II)**).

8. This Chapter provides an overview of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure, summarises the consents strategy and outlines the content of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report.

## 1.2 Development Areas and Infrastructure

9. **Table 1.1** sets out key terminology related to the Bellrock Project which will assist readers of this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report. The three Bellrock Development Areas are shown schematically in **Plate 1.1**. As set out in **Section 1.1**, this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report relates to the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure.

**Table 1.1: Key Terminology Related to the Description of the Bellrock Project**

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm | An offshore wind farm capable of exporting up to 1.8 GW of renewable energy to the National Electricity Transmission System.<br>The Wind Farm Development Area is located 120 km east of Stonehaven (116 km southeast of Peterhead), and will connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at SSEN Transmission's proposed Hurlie substation, west of Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire. The Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm comprises of the following Development Areas:<br>▪ Wind Farm Development Area;<br>▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and<br>▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area. |

[5] See www.bellrockwind.co.uk for further details.

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| Development Area | The area for which separate consents and/or Marine Licences will be sought by the Applicant, comprising the:<br>▪ Wind Farm Development Area;<br>▪ Offshore Transmission Development Area; and<br>▪ Onshore Transmission Development Area. |
| Offshore Transmission Development Area | The boundary within which the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned (and includes the whole of the Wind Farm Development Area). |
| Offshore Transmission Infrastructure | Infrastructure located within the Offshore Transmission Development Area including fixed bottom and/or floating offshore substations, offshore reactive compensation station(s) and associated scour protection; interconnector cables and associated cable protection; and offshore export cables and associated cable protection (including activities associated with the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). |
| Onshore Transmission Development Area | The boundary within which the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned. |
| Onshore Transmission Infrastructure | Infrastructure located within the Onshore Transmission Development Area including transition bay(s); onshore export cables; onshore substation; temporary construction compounds; temporary working areas; environmental mitigation areas; drainage/irrigation infrastructure; access works; and any other associated infrastructure (including activities associated with the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). |
| Wind Farm Development Area | The boundary within which the Wind Farm Infrastructure will be constructed, operated and maintained, and decommissioned. |
| Wind Farm Infrastructure | Infrastructure located within the Wind Farm Development Area including wind turbine generators; floating substructures, station keeping systems and associated scour protection; inter-array cables and associated cable protection; subsea cable hubs; and ancillary infrastructure including buoys (including activities associated with the Wind Farm Infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning). |

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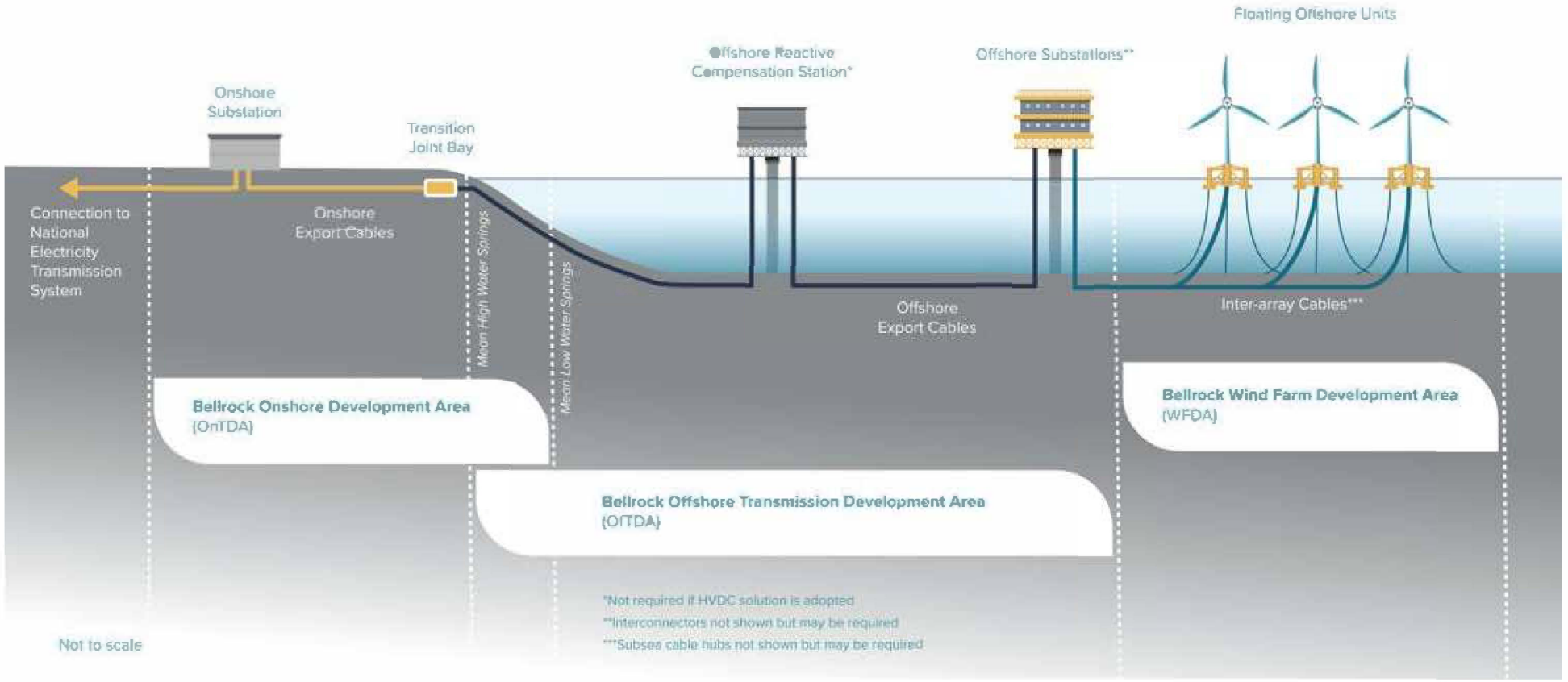
**Plate 1.1: Overview of the Bellrock Project Development Areas**



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# 1.3 Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area

10. The Bellrock WFDA is shown in **Figure 1.1 (Volume III)**. The Bellrock WFDA will comprise the following Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure:

- Up to 132 WTGs with FSSs (together 'floating offshore units' (FOUs));
- SKSs for each FSS, including mooring lines, anchoring systems and ancillary elements (up to nine mooring lines and anchors for each FOU);
- Scour protection for FSS anchoring points where required;
- Approximately 300 km of IACs comprising static and dynamic sections of IACs linking the individual FOUs to subsea cable hub(s) or to the offshore substations[6];
- Associated cable protection as required;
- Up to 18 subsea cable hubs; and
- Ancillary infrastructure including buoys.

11. The Applicant will hold a seabed lease for the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure for up to 60 years, with the Wind Farm Infrastructure having an operational life of up to 35 years. Commencement of construction is expected in 2031, first power export is expected in 2032 and the Commercial Operation Date is expected in 2037. It is noted that whilst commencement of construction is expected to occur within five years of consent being granted, a seven year s.36 Consent validity date is being sought to provide necessary flexibility in light of uncertainties over the Contract for Difference process and supply chain capacity.

12. Details of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure are provided in **Chapter 4: Project Description (Volume II)**. A parameter-based design envelope approach has been adopted for this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report. The design envelope sets out a minimum and maximum design scenario for each design parameter, which enables the identification of the worst-case assessment scenario for each impact assessed in the technical chapters. These parameters enable the technical specialists to accurately assess the impacts of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure whilst retaining sufficient flexibility to accommodate further refinement during the detailed design stage post-consent.

[6] Offshore substations will be consented as part of the OfTDA and will be assessed as part of the Bellrock OfTDA EIA Report. The OfTDA is also considered within the Bellrock WFDA EIA's cumulative effects assessments.

# 1.4 Consent Strategy

13. The Applicant is seeking the following consents from Scottish Ministers for the construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure:

- s.36 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989; and
- Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009[7].

14. As noted above, a separate Marine Licence application (under the MCAA 2009 and Marine (Scotland) Act 2010) will be submitted for the Bellrock OfTDA (in consideration of the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure), in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations. Additionally, an application for the Bellrock OnTDA will be made (in consideration of the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure) for Planning Permission in Principle under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the 1997 Act).

15. In March 2024, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Report for the Bellrock WFDA (see **Appendix 1.1: Bellrock WFDA Scoping Report (Volume IV)**). A Scoping Opinion was issued by MD-LOT on behalf of Scottish Ministers in August 2024 (**Appendix 1.2: Bellrock WFDA Scoping Opinion (Volume IV)**). This Bellrock WFDA EIA Report is based on the Scoping Opinion, and presents any changes to the scope and assessment methodology adopted subsequent to the Scoping Opinion being received (see **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Volume II)**).

16. As outlined in **Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives (Volume II),** the National Energy System Operator (NESO) changed the Bellrock Project's grid connection from an offshore coordinated hub to an onshore radial connection resulting in the requirement for Onshore Transmission Infrastructure. Consequently, the approach to specific assessments were revised from those presented within the Bellrock WFDA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1.1: Bellrock WFDA Scoping Report (Volume IV)**). As presented in this EIA Report, the approach to the Cumulative Effects Assessment includes the OnTDA in addition to the OfTDA (**Section 5.13 in Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology (Volume II)**). To ensure 'whole project' assessments, the greenhouse gas assessment and socioeconomics assessment include the OnTDA, in addition to the OfTDA (refer to **Chapter 17: Greenhouse Gas Assessment** and **Chapter 16: Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation (Volume II)** and associated appendices respectively). The Applicant has consulted with MD-LOT, NatureScot and Aberdeenshire Council regarding the revised approach to the greenhouse gas assessment, and the Marine Analytical Unit and Aberdeenshire Council regarding the revised approach to the socioeconomics assessment. No stakeholders have raised any concerns with regards to these changes in approach.

17. This Bellrock WFDA EIA Report will consider the Bellrock OfTDA and Bellrock OnTDA (as applicable) as 'Tier 1' projects for the purposes of the WFDA cumulative effects assessment. Further details are provided in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology (Volume II)**.

[7] Applicable in Scottish offshore waters between 12 nautical miles and 200 nautical miles.

# 1.5 Purpose of this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report

18. This Bellrock WFDA EIA Report has been prepared to support the applications for a s.36 Consent and Marine Licence required for the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure, in line with the EIA Regulations (see **Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context (Volume II)**).

19. This Bellrock WFDA EIA Report:

- Provides stakeholders with information on the infrastructure and activities associated with the Bellrock WFDA (**Chapter 4: Project Description (Volume II)**);
- Provides a description of the WFDA site selection process and alternatives considered for the design of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure (**Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives (Volume II)**);
- Presents stakeholders with an account of all consultation undertaken prior to consent application (**Appendix 5.2: Pre-application Consultation Report (Volume IV)**);
- Presents a detailed overview of the existing environment (i.e. the baseline environment) (**Chapters 6** to **19 (Volume II)**), and recognises and outlines limitations in the data used to establish the existing environment;
- Describes the approach and methodology used to assess potential impacts and consequently the significance of effect associated with the construction, O&M and decommissioning of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure (**Chapters 6** to **19 (Volume II)**);
- Informs stakeholders of any potential significant effects (adverse or beneficial) expected to result from the construction, O&M, and decommissioning[8] of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure (**Chapters 6** to **19 (Volume II)**); and
- Proposes and considers mitigation measures to avoid and/or reduce adverse effects to environmental receptors (**Chapters 6** to **19 (Volume II)**).

20. A **Non-technical Summary (Volume I)** is also submitted, which presents an overview of the findings of this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report in non-technical language.

# 1.6 Scope of the Assessment

21. The scope of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report is informed by the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1.2: Bellrock WFDA Scoping Opinion (Volume IV)**) and stakeholder engagement.

22. Offshore air quality and seascape, landscape and visual impact considerations were scoped out of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report at the Scoping stage as agreed by MD-LOT in the Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 1.2: Bellrock WFDA Scoping Opinion (Volume IV)**) and are discussed further in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology (Volume II)**.

[8] For completeness, decommissioning of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure is assessed within this EIA Report, although consent is not sought for decommissioning activities at this stage.

23. Throughout the EIA process, the Applicant has undertaken consultation with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and actively engaged with members of the public at consultation events. Details of the consultation undertaken for the Bellrock WFDA is set out in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology (Volume II)** and **Appendix 5.2: Pre-application Consultation Report (Volume IV)**. Consultation relevant to each technical chapter is also set out in the relevant chapters (**Chapters 6 to 19 (Volume II)**).

24. The steps set out above delineate the scope of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report for which the structure is detailed in **Section 1.7** (see **Table 1.2**, below).

# 1.7 The Applicant and Environmental Impact Assessment Project Team

## 1.7.1 The Applicant

25. The Bellrock Project is being developed by Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited (Nadara), a leading UK-based renewables company and one of the largest non-utility independent power producers in Europe.

26. Nadara aims to contribute to a world leading floating offshore wind industry in the United Kingdom (UK), combining innovative technology with a plan to attract and grow a skilled Scottish workforce and stimulate a thriving local supply chain and is well placed to deliver world class floating offshore projects.

27. In support of this aim, Nadara is also developing the 900 megawatt (MW) Broadshore Offshore Wind Farm[9], the 100 MW Sinclair Offshore Wind Farm[10], the 100 MW Scaraben Offshore Wind Farm[11] (collectively referred to as the Broadshore Hub) and the 1.5 GW Stromar Offshore Wind Farm[12], all of which are located in the northern North Sea.

## 1.7.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Project Team

28. Haskoning has been appointed by the Applicant to lead (through their Edinburgh office) the EIA for the Bellrock WFDA.

29. Pursuant to the EIA Regulations, the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report has been prepared by competent experts and as per the requirements of the EIA Regulations, a statement outlining their relevant experience and qualifications is set out in **Appendix 1.3: Qualifications of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Project Team (Volume IV)**.

[9] Development is being undertaken through Broadshore Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited.

[10] Development is being undertaken through Sinclair Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited.

[11] Development is being undertaken through Scaraben Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited.

[12] Development is being undertaken through Stromar Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nadara Limited.

30. Haskoning is registered with the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) and its EIA Quality Mark scheme. The scheme allows organisations that lead the co-ordination of EIAs in the UK to make a commitment to excellence in their EIA activities and have this commitment independently reviewed.

31. A number of specialist consultancies have also provided expert input into this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report, as presented in **Appendix 1.3: Qualifications of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Project Team (Volume IV).** Details on the individual consultancies are provided below:

- **Chapter 8: Commercial Fisheries (Volume II)** - NiMa Consultants Limited, Scotland based marine environmental consultants specialising in commercial fisheries impact assessment;
- **Chapter 12: Shipping and Navigation (Volume II)**, and **Navigational Risk Assessment (Appendix 12.1 (Volume IV))** - Anatec Limited, Scotland based offshore marine consultants with over 25 years of experience in assessing and managing offshore marine risk. This includes undertaking Navigational Risk Assessments and shipping and navigation impact assessments for the majority of previous offshore wind farm projects in the UK and are currently working on multiple ScotWind projects;
- **Chapter 13: Aviation and Radar (Volume II)** - Cyrrus Limited has provided expert advice to many airports, aviation authorities, and onshore; and offshore wind developers since 1999. Working with airports and wind energy developers in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Cyrrus has extensive experience working on EIAs for offshore wind farm developers;
- **Chapter 16: Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation (Volume II)** - BiGGAR Economics Limited is an economic development consultancy based in Edinburgh, that has assessed the socioeconomic impact of over two hundred renewable energy projects across the UK and Ireland;
- Underwater noise modelling has been undertaken by Subacoustech to inform **Chapter 8: Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Volume II)** and **Chapter 9: Marine Mammals (Volume II).** Subacoustech has worked since 2008 assessing the environmental effects of underwater noise from offshore renewables projects alongside other marine construction projects. Since then, Subacoustech has contributed to baseline underwater noise monitoring and predictive modelling assessments of EIAs for the majority of offshore wind farms in the UK; and
- Specialist advice on predator control and biosecurity, one of the short-listed compensation measures for the **Bellrock WFDA Shadow Derogation Case (Volume VI)** has been provided by Habitat Assessment & Restoration (HAR). HAR provides expert ecological consultancy to support renewable energy developers, conservation bodies, and communities, ensuring regulatory compliance, fostering biodiversity, and promoting lasting environmental impact through community collaboration. Habitat restoration and seabird enhancement projects are being explored and progressed by HAR at locations which spread length and breadth of the UK.

32. The Bellrock WFDA Planning Statement has been prepared as a supporting document to the application by Shepherd and Wedderburn, solicitors.

# 1.8 Structure of the Bellrock WFDA Consent Applications

33. The Bellrock WFDA consent applications are divided into seven volumes[13]:

- Volume I: Non-technical Summary;
- Volume II: EIA Chapters;
- Volume III: EIA Figures;
- Volume IV: EIA Appendices;
- Volume V: Management Plans;
- Volume VI: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (Shadow HRA) (comprising the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment ((RIAA)) and Shadow HRA Derogation Case); and
- Volume VII: Report to Inform Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area Assessment.

34. **Table 1.2** sets out a breakdown of the contents of each volume of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report.

**Table 1.2: Structure and Content of the Bellrock WFDA Consent Applications**

| Number | Document | Author |
|---|---|---|
| **Volume I: Non-technical Summary** | | |
| - | Non-technical Summary | Haskoning |
| **Volume II: EIA Chapters** | | |
| 1 | Introduction | Haskoning |
| 2 | Policy and Legislative Context | Haskoning |
| 3 | Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives | Haskoning |
| 4 | Project Description | Haskoning |
| 5 | Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology | Haskoning |
| 6 | Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes | Haskoning |
| 7 | Benthic Ecology | Haskoning |
| 8 | Fish and Shellfish Ecology | Haskoning |
| 9 | Marine Mammals | Haskoning |
| 10 | Offshore Ornithology | Haskoning |

[13] Supplementary information has also been submitted in the form of a s.36 Consent and Marine Licence application cover letter, a Marine Licence application form and a Bellrock WFDA Planning Statement.

| Number | Document | Author |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | Commercial Fisheries | NiMa Consultants |
| 12 | Shipping and Navigation | Anatec |
| 13 | Aviation and Radar | Cyrrus |
| 14 | Marine Infrastructure and Other Users | Haskoning |
| 15 | Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | Haskoning |
| 16 | Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation | BiGGAR Economics |
| 17 | Greenhouse Gas Assessment | Haskoning |
| 18 | Climate Change Risk | Haskoning |
| 19 | Major Accidents and Disasters | Haskoning |
| 20 | Summary | Haskoning |
| **Volume III: EIA Figures** | | |
| - | Figures[1] | Haskoning |
| **Volume IV: EIA Appendices** | | |
| 1.1 | Bellrock WFDA Scoping Report | Haskoning |
| 1.2 | Bellrock WFDA Scoping Opinion | MD-LOT (on behalf of Scottish Ministers) |
| 1.3 | Qualifications and Experience of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Project Team | Haskoning |
| 4.1 | Consultations Undertaken Relating to the Bellrock WFDA Project Description | Haskoning |
| 5.1 | Mitigation and Monitoring Register | Haskoning |
| 5.2 | Pre-application Consultation Report | Haskoning |
| 5.3 | Cumulative Effects Assessment Long List of Projects | Haskoning |
| 6.1 | Bellrock WFDA Stratification Baseline | Scottish Association of Marine Science |
| 6.1 | Stratification Analysis Report | Haskoning |
| 7.1 | Benthic Ecology Baseline Report | Haskoning |
| 7.2 | Bellrock WFDA Environmental Baseline Survey 2023 Report | Ocean Ecology |
| 7.3 | Bellrock WFDA Benthic Characterisation Survey 2023 Report | Ocean Ecology |
| 8.1 | Electromagnetic Fields Assessment Report | Arcadis |

| Number | Document | Author |
|---|---|---|
| 9.1 | Marine Mammals Technical Report | Haskoning |
| 9.2 | Underwater Noise Modelling Assessment | Subacoustech |
| 9.3 | Unexploded Ordnance Assessment | Haskoning |
| 9.4 | Marine Mammals Cumulative Effects Assessment Screening | Haskoning |
| 9.5 | Marine Mammals Information and Modelling Methods for Disturbance | Haskoning |
| 10.1 | Offshore Ornithology Digital Aerial Survey Baseline Report | Haskoning |
| 10.2 | Offshore Ornithology Collision Risk Modelling Technical Report | Haskoning |
| 10.3 | Offshore Ornithology Displacement Assessment Report | Haskoning |
| 10.4 | Offshore Ornithology Population Viability Technical Report | Haskoning |
| 10.5 | Offshore Ornithology Apportioning Technical Report | Haskoning |
| 10.6 | Bird Species List | Haskoning |
| 11.1 | Commercial Fisheries Baseline Report | NiMa Consultants |
| 12.1 | Navigational Risk Assessment | Anatec |
| 12.2 | East Region Developers Group Cumulative Baseline for Shipping and Navigation | Anatec |
| 13.1 | Airspace Analysis and Radar Modelling | Cyrrus |
| 15.1 | Archaeological Assessment of Geophysical and Hydrographic Data | MSDS Marine |
| 16.1 | Socioeconomics, Tourism and Recreation Technical Report | BiGGAR Economics |
| 16.2 | Economic Impact of the Bellrock Project | BiGGAR Economics |
| 16.3 | Socioeconomics Consultation Correspondence | The Applicant |
| 17.1 | Greenhouse Gas Assessment Methodology | Haskoning |
| 18.1 | Climate Projection Data Report | Haskoning |
| 18.2 | Climate Vulnerability Assessment | Haskoning |
| **Volume V: Management Plans** | | |
| - | Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol of Archaeological Discoveries | Haskoning |
| - | Marine Pollution and Contingency Plan | Haskoning |
| - | Invasive Non-native Species Mitigation Plan | Haskoning |

| Number | Document | Author |
|---|---|---|
| - | Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan | NiMa Consultants |
| - | Outline Lighting and Marking Plan | Anatec |
| - | Outline Vessel Management and Navigational Safety Plan | Anatec |
| - | Outline Environment Management Plan | Haskoning |
| - | Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol | Haskoning |
| **Volume VI: Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal** | | |
| - | RIAA Part 1: Introductory Chapters[2] | Haskoning |
| - | RIAA Part 2: Special Area of Conservation Assessments: Marine Mammals[2] | Haskoning |
| - | RIAA Part 3: Special Protection Area and Ramsar Assessments: Ornithology[2] | Haskoning |
| - | Bellrock Wind Farm Development Area Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal Derogation Case[2] | Haskoning |
| **Volume VII: Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area Assessment** | | |
| - | Report to Inform Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area Assessment[2] | Haskoning |
| Notes:<br>[1]Any figures referred to in **Volume IV: EIA Appendices**, are embedded within the relevant Appendix.<br>[2] Associated figures and appendices are embedded within this document. | | |

# 1.9 Opportunity to Comment on Consent Applications

35. An electronic copy of the Bellrock WFDA EIA Report will be available to view on the Bellrock Project's website (www.bellrockwind.co.uk) and MD-LOT's website (www.marine.gov.scot/marine-licence-applications).

36. Submission of the consent applications for the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure will be advertised in line with legislative requirements. The Applicant will publish a public notice on the project website (www.bellrockwind.co.uk) and in the following newspapers:

- Buchan Observer;
- The Edinburgh Gazette;
- The Herald;

- Fishing News; and
- Mearns Leader and Kincardineshire Observer.

37. The abovementioned public notice will include:

- A brief description of the Bellrock Wind Farm Infrastructure;
- Details on where and when copies of the consent application documents (including this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report) will be available to view free of charge;
- Details on how physical copies of the Non-technical Summary of this Bellrock WFDA EIA Report can be requested at no charge;
- Details on how copies of the Bellrock WFDA consent application documents and this EIA Report can be purchased from the Applicant and the associated cost; and
- Details on how and by what date, representations on the application documents for the Bellrock WFDA can be made to the Scottish Ministers.

# 1.10 References

Marine Scotland – All Marine Licence and Section 36 Applications processed by Marine Scotland. Available at: www.marine.gov.scot/marine-licence-applications.

Bellrock Offshore Wind Farm Website: Available at: www.bellrockwind.co.uk.

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www.bellrockwind.co.uk