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THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

Application for a Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) licence for one of the following purposes

- Preserving public health or public safety
- Preventing the spread of disease
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.
- Social, economic or environmental purpose

Important: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

Please complete all relevant sections of the form.

Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays.

The completed application should be sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot.

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you supply any necessary supporting information e.g. detailed method statements, risk assessments etc.

MD-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application.

If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact MD-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect Basking sharks in the inshore marine area (0 – 12 nautical miles).

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact NatureScot, email licensing@nature.scot, Telephone 01463 725364 or visit the [NatureScot website](#) for a licence application for these purposes.

Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

Part A

Section 1 Personal details

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Failure to carry out the work proposed in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose the licensee to criminal liability.

Section 2 Previous applications

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

Part B

Section 3

Location

Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the proposed project. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84. In a few cases, (e.g. laying of long pipelines) it may only be practicable to supply co-ordinates for the start and end points.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

Section 4 Consideration of designated sites

Please provide details of any designated sites affected by your proposals. You are advised to consult Scottish Natural Heritage, or other appropriate regulator, if the work you propose to do affects a European site, an MPA or a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Section 5 Activities to be licensed

Please indicate the activities you intend to undertake that would otherwise be unlawful. Provide details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the activities. The licence start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained may constitute an offence resulting in appropriate legal action.

It is the licensee's responsibility to apply for any further licences or an extension prior to the expiry of the initial licence.

Section 6 Purpose of the licence application

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application as described in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Part 1, Section 16 (3).

Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include the other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), or alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternative dates / timings. The 'do nothing' alternative must also be considered.

In relation to each alternative considered, please provide an explanation of why you consider it to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In respect of any alternative sites please provide the location(s) and details of the alternative site(s), or your views on how the activity/proposal might have been achieved differently, and any other helpful information; e.g., pros and cons of alternative sites, or whether there is likely to be demand for all suitable sites to be used to meet an identified need. Please explain how this conclusion was reached.

Section 8 Summary of the planning / licensing position

Detail all consents and licences required for the proposed project and indicate those that you have applied for or received.

Section 9 Noise Monitoring

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is now a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. This includes use of seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices. This monitoring requires completion of a form at the application stage (giving details of the proposed work) as well as completion of a 'close-out' form (giving details of the actual dates and locations where the activities occurred). The close-out form should be returned within 12 weeks of completing the 'noisy' activity or, in the case of prolonged activities such as piling for harbour construction or wind farms, at quarterly intervals or after each phase of foundation installation. These forms are available on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Section 10 Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It also sets out a number of minimum requirements all of which have been addressed in this plan. In doing so, and in accordance with article 5(3) of the Directive, the Marine Directorate has considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and have determined how these different objectives are reflected and weighted in the marine plan. Land-sea interactions have also been taken into account as part of the marine planning process. Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. A copy of Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Indicate whether you have considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan and provide details of considerations made with reference to the policies, including but not limited to General Policy 13 (GEN 13), that have been considered. If you have not considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan please provide an explanation.

Section 11 Privacy notice

This section briefly describes the Scottish Ministers' responsibilities in relation to Data Protection based on the requirements the data protection laws and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Part D

Section 12 Declaration and warning

It is important to read the Declaration and Warning sections before signing the application form.

Site visits and compliance checks

It is possible that the licensing authority may undertake a site visit prior to the issue of a licence. The majority of site visits will be arranged several days in advance and will be conducted in the presence of the licensee (or applicant) however there may be occasions when a site visit will be made at short notice.

Licensees should be aware that they may receive a request for a site visit by the licensing authority, or a person authorised by the licensing authority, to assess site conditions against the conditions of the licence. It is essential that if any of the agreed mitigation measures contained in the method statement are changed for any reason, the licensing authority is informed as soon as possible.

The Licensing authority will monitor compliance with licences issued based on the information included in licence returns.

Where to seek further information

Further information can be obtained from Licensing Operations Team at the address below.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9 DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

Part A. The Applicant: Personal details

These questions relate to the person who will be the named licensee. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Under the The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability.

1. Name of applicant

[Redacted]

Title:

Company Name:

Business Title (if Appropriate):

Address:

Tel no. (incl dialling code):

[Redacted]

Email address:

[Redacted]

2. The Applicant: Previous applications:

Have you previously held a wildlife licence issued in the UK? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes No (If yes, please complete below, if no, please go to Part B)

Who issued the licence?

Licence number (most recent licence)

Year in which the licence was issued.

What species were covered by the licence?

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure?

Part B. The Application

3 Species

(a) How many individuals will be affected by licensed work? This must be the maximum number of animals that could be affected prior to any mitigation measures being applied.

Injury= 0
 Disturbance: It is estimated that the total number of individuals disturbed will be minimal due to the transient nature of the animals and brief nature of the survey activities.

 Please refer to Section 3.5 of Xodus Document Reference: A-101033-S00-A-REPT-001: LT374 Shetland 2 - Marine HVDC Link EPS Risk Assessment.

(b) Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

There is no potential for injury and very limited potential for disturbance to basking sharks in the vicinity of the survey activities.

 For detailed methodology please refer to Section 3 of Xodus Document Reference: A-101033-S00-A-REPT-001: LT374 Shetland 2 - Marine HVDC Link EPS Risk Assessment.

(c) **Location of proposed licensed action**

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the project. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Latitude								Longitude							
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information
Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – Transmission (SSEN Transmission) intend to carry out geophysical, benthic and geotechnical surveys off the coast of mainland Shetland and the Moray coast to facilitate the development of subsea cables that will enable transmission of electricity in Scotland. The survey works will be undertaken between 23rd February 2026 and 31st December 2030 across multiple survey campaigns. Further information on the schedule is included in Section 2.2 of Xodus Document Reference: A-101033-S00-A-REPT-001: LT374 Shetland 2 - Marine HVDC Link Marine Surveys EPS Risk Assessment.

SSEN Transmission is seeking an EPS and Basking Shark licence to enable them to carry out the following survey activities:
Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL) positioning system, Sub Bottom Profiler (SBP), Ultra High Resolution Seismic (UHRS) system, Cable Tracker, Magnetometer, Side-Scan Sonar (SSS), Multibeam Echosounder (MBES) benthic grab sampling and vibrocore / Piezocone Penetration Testing (PCPT).

Acoustic energy emitted from vessels is strongest at frequencies < 1 kHz. The acoustic source levels from vessels typically increase with size:

- 160 – 175 dB re 1 µPa (rms) from a small vessel (<50 m length); and
- 165 – 185 dB re 1 µPa (rms) for a medium sized vessel (50 m - 100 m length).

The source levels and associated frequency for the equipment use during geophysical surveys are:

- USBL: source level will be maximum of 207 dB re 1 µPa (peak), with a source frequency between 19.5 - 33.5 kHz;
- SSS: source level will range between 190 and 230 dB re 1 µPa (peak), with a source frequency > 200 kHz;
- MBES: source level ranging between 180 and 240 dB re 1 µPa (peak), with a source frequency >200 kHz;
- SBP: source level of 200 to 235 dB re 1 µPa (peak), with a source frequency of between 0.5 kHz to 100 kHz; and
- UHRS: source level of 216 - 250 dB re 1 µPa (peak), with a source frequency of between 0.1 kHz to 6 kHz.

The only potential survey activity with the potential to result in injury or disturbance to basking sharks is vessel presence, and this therefore requires a basking shark derogation licence. See Sections 1 through 3 of Xodus Document Reference: A-101033-S00-A-REPT-01: LT374 Shetland 2 - Marine HVDC Link Marine Surveys EPS Risk Assessment.

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on Basking shark.
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information.

All survey vessels will adhere to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code, and Basking Shark Code of Conduct.

There will be MMO coverage for the duration of the marine activities, with adequately trained and experienced MMO(s) working standard 12-hour shifts. As a precaution, the MMO will also monitor for the presence of basking shark, and apply equivalent mitigation as provided for marine mammals. Should any basking sharks be detected within 500 m of the vessel prior to the commencement of SBP or UHRS surveys (or after breaks in geophysical survey activity of more than 10 minutes), operations will be delayed until their passage, or the transit of the vessel, results in the animals being out-with the mitigation zone. The mitigation zone for basking sharks may be reduced from 500 m to 200 m in the event of a need to avoid critical delay to the project subject to agreement with MD-LOT. In all cases, there will be a 20-minute delay from the time of the last sighting within the mitigation zone to the commencement/recommencement of the operations.

See Section 5 of the Xodus Document Reference: A-101033-S00-A-REPT-01: LT374 Shetland 2 - Marine HVDC Link Marine Surveys EPS Risk Assessment.

4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on [NatureScot's website](#).

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg SSSI, SAC, MPA?

Yes No

- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted. Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

The area of interest overlaps with or is in close proximity to numerous designated sites, including:

- 1 NCMPAs;
- 4 SACs; and
- 4 SPAs.

A protected sites impact assessment has been carried out as part of this EPS Licence Application. For full details of the protected sites assessment, including the names of the sites, qualifying features and assessments of potential effects, please refer to Section 4 of Xodus Document Reference: A-101033-S00-A-REPT-01: LT374 Shetland 2 - Marine HVDC Link Marine Surveys EPS Risk Assessment.

Due to the proximity of the designated sites to the proposed AoI, SSEN Transmission acknowledge there is potential for or the proposed survey activities to result in adverse impacts on the qualifying and interest features associated with these sites. However, the assessment (as presented in Section 4 of the EPS Risk Assessment) found that there is no potential for injury or significant disturbance to the qualifying features of these sites, including cetaceans or other protected species in the vicinity of the proposed survey activities, particularly in light of the mitigation measures committed to (as presented in Section 5 of the EPS Risk Assessment). As such, it is considered that there is no potential for Adverse Effects on Site Integrity (AeSI) on European Sites and NCMPAs will not be adversely affected, other than insignificantly.

5. Activities to be Licenced

Proposed Methods

(a) Please complete all relevant columns in the table below to indicate the methods you propose to use, the activity involved and the time period in which you propose to use each method. This information will be used when preparing the licence to cover activities that would otherwise be unlawful, and failure to give full details may result in an inappropriate licence being issued.

Disturb	Kill	Take / trap	Damage or destroy place of shelter / protection	Method	From	To
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel Presence	23/02/2026	31/12/2030
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works. The options shown are taken from The Wildlife and Contryside Act 1981.

(a) Preserving public health or public safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) (Section 16 (3) (f))

Complete Annex A

(b) Preventing the spread of disease (Section 16 (3) (g))

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.(Section 16 (3) (h))

Complete Annex C

(d) Social, economic or environmental purpose (Section 16 (3) (i))

Complete Annex D

7. Satisfactory alternatives

Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to carrying out the proposed work affecting the species. You must describe all possible alternatives which were considered and why they were considered unsuitable. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work. It is not acceptable to state that 'there is no alternative'.

SSEN Transmission considered 2 options in relation to the use of survey equipment within the Survey Area.

Option 1: Do not undertake the surveys. This would result in SSEN Transmission being unable to develop the design for transmission cable routes between the Scottish mainland and Shetland or conduct the environmental assessments necessary to support the consent applications. These surveys are therefore fundamental to SSEN Transmission fulfilling their statutory role to provide an economic and efficient system for the transmission of energy within the north of Scotland, and without them, development would be prevented. SSEN Transmission do not consider this to be an appropriate or responsible option. The risk of not progressing the development of transmission cable routes could hamper the transmission of renewable energy and potentially reduce the ability for the UK to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Option 2: Undertake the surveys, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation. This would enable SSEN Transmission to identify subsea conditions to allow project design specification to be finalised, to ascertain a suitable cable route, and collect data to inform the environmental assessments, whilst minimising environmental impacts. This will facilitate the continued development of transmission links between mainland Scotland and Shetland, and hence contribute to the UK's ambition to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

SSEN Transmission intend to pursue Option 2.

8. Other licences / consents

Please detail below all licences / consents you have applied for or received. Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg marine licence).

Type of licence / consent (e.g. marine licence, local planing authority, local works licence)	Date applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of consent
Offshore EPS Licence Application	Same as Basking Shark Licence Application	Pending	Pending
Inshore EPS Licence Application	Same as Basking Shark Licence Application	Pending	Pending

9. Noise Monitoring

Please indicate if any of the following noise generating activities will be taking place during the operations:

Use of explosives Piling Use of acoustic deterrent devices
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a proposed activity form on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Please note the form must only be completed once for each activity. If you have already completed a form for this activity (eg through the marine licensing process) please give details.

JNCC Marine Noise Registry Activity Numbers: 3938

Licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

10. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Provide details of considerations made with reference to the relevant policies that have been considered.

Scottish National Marine Plan (2015) - GEN 9 section of the Plan refers to Natural Heritage and provides that "development and use of the marine environment must:

- Comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species;
- Not result in significant impacts on the national status of Priority Marine Features; and
- Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area"

The Plan also references the prohibition of deliberate or reckless disturbance of EPS through the Habitats Regulations, and that Marine Directorate's guidance on Protection of Marine European Protected Species from Injury or Disturbance must be followed.

Paragraph 4.47 of the Plan refers to MPAs and provides that "the Marine Acts place a duty on all regulators to ensure that there is no significant risk of hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives of an MPA before giving consent to an activity. Where an ongoing

11. Privacy notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) has a range of statutory responsibilities including determining applications for licences to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

MD-LOT will, where necessary, process personal information including: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers to determine a licence application. Personal information will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record.

A full privacy notice can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#). If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MD-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Have you remembered to enclose supporting information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Completed application form | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Completed annex | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Map / chart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correct co-ordinates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting information / risk assessment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Part C. Declarations

12. I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.

I authorise employees or representatives of the Scottish Ministers to enter the site which is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works.

Warning

Under the THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended) failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence.

The Scottish Ministers can modify or revoke a licence at any time, provided there are good reasons. Any licence that may be issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information was provided and resulted in the issue of a licence.

Under the **THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended)**, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000), or to both imprisonment and a fine.

Note: Previous convictions for wildlife offences will be taken into account and in some cases may mean that the Scottish Ministers do not consider it appropriate to grant a licence.

[Redacted]

Signature of the
Applicant

Date **09/12/2025**

(The person named at part 1)

Name in block letters [Redacted]

Note – If signing on behalf of a company, please append your signature with “on behalf of company name”.

The completed application should be signed and sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

Annex A

Only to be completed if you selected for preserving public health or public safety in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

How has the risk been identified? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk?

Annex B

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing the spread of disease in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What disease(s) is / are at risk of being spread if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.

Annex C

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries in question 6 of the application form.

Please complete all questions

What serious damage has occurred or will occur if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.

Annex D

Only to be completed if you selected for a social, economic or environmental purpose in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What benefits will be provided by the proposed activity? Give details and indicate if they are social, economic or environmental. Please indicate if the benefits are short or long term.

The proposed geophysical surveys are required to determine seabed conditions and to characterise the benthic environment (including identifying protected features or habitats) within the Area of Interest (AoI). These surveys will facilitate the transmission of energy between mainland Scotland and Shetland. The transmission of renewable energy will contribute to national and international targets to significantly reduce carbon emissions. Therefore, the benefits are considered long-term.

What public interest will be served? Who will benefit from the proposed activity? Does the proposed activity address a need?

The surveys are required to determine the seabed conditions of the AoI and to inform associated environmental assessments to support consent applications. Without this information, SSEN Transmission cannot progress this project. As such the proposed surveys will have a direct national and international environmental benefit by facilitating the transmission of renewable energy, therefore significantly contributing to the reduction in carbon emissions to the atmosphere compared to other sources of non-renewable energy generation.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

Geophysical surveys are essential to inform the project design specifications and to inform environmental assessment for reasons including but not limited to:

- Avoidance of challenging seabed features or sediments which would impede installation;
- Identification of any protected benthic habitats and/or species to ensure correct mitigations are in place;
- To allow for the design development to avoid environmental constraints identified, such as reefs; and
- Informing cable burial and protection requirements in order to provide a reliable transmission system, whilst ensuring the safety of other legitimate users of the sea.

Does the proposed activity support any local regional or national policies? Please give details. Are you fulfilling a statutory role?

SSEN Transmission holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989, for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland.

SSEN Transmission has a duty to provide an economic and efficient system for the transmission of energy, and to ensure that its assets are installed and maintained to enable a safe, secure and reliable transmission of power.

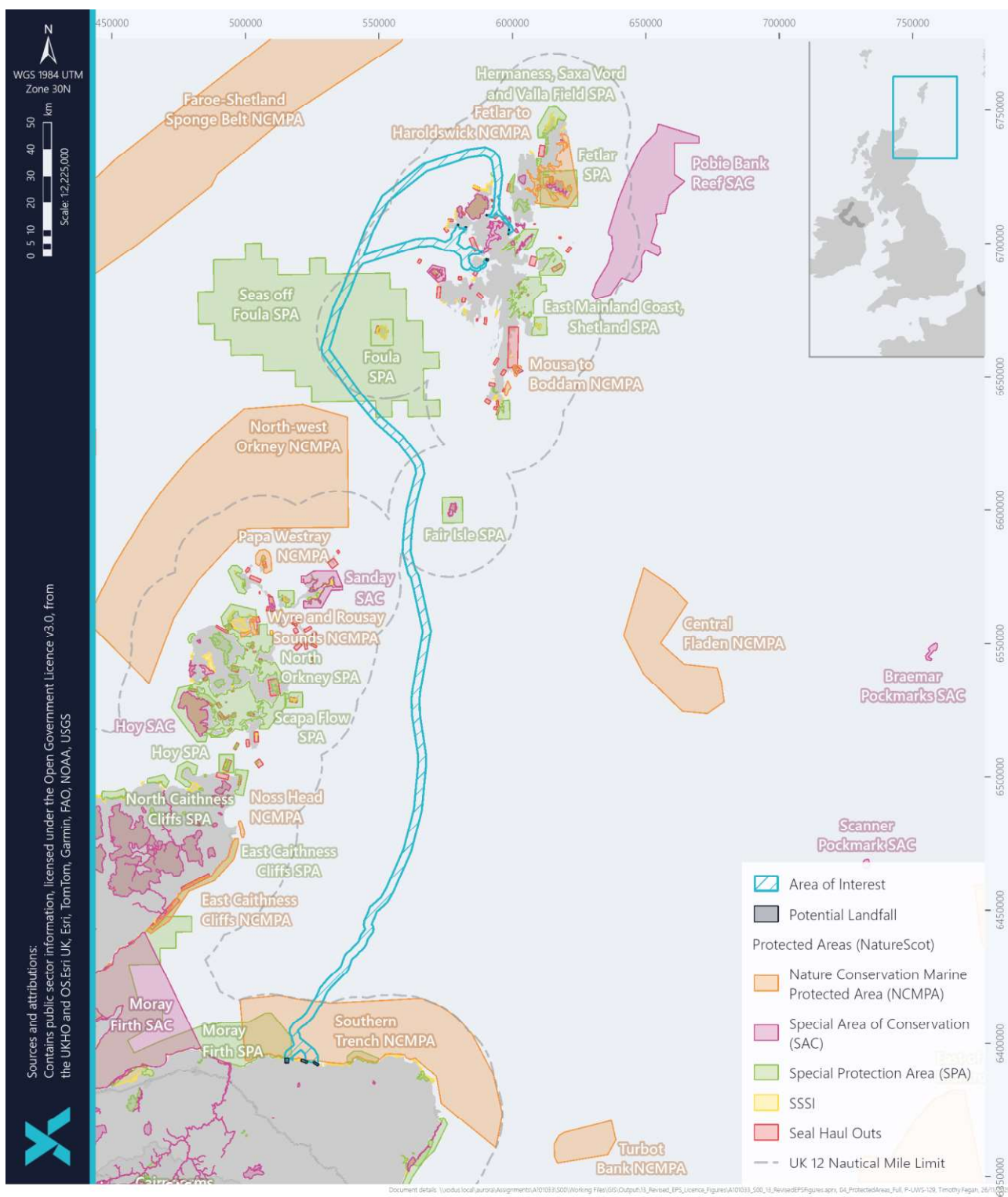


Figure 2 Protected Sites Overview

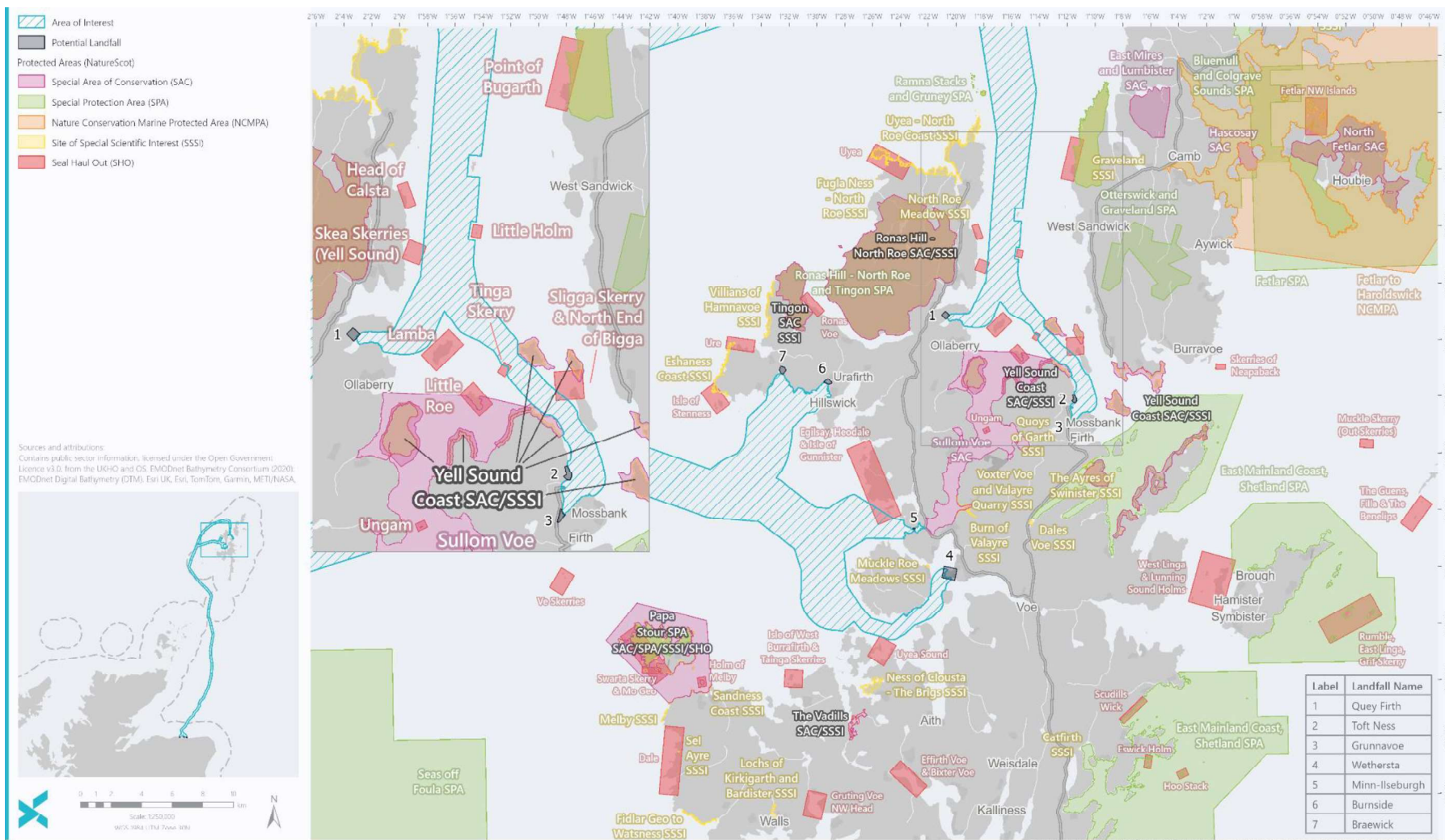


Figure 3 Protected Sites within the Vicinity of the Shetland Indicative Landfall Areas

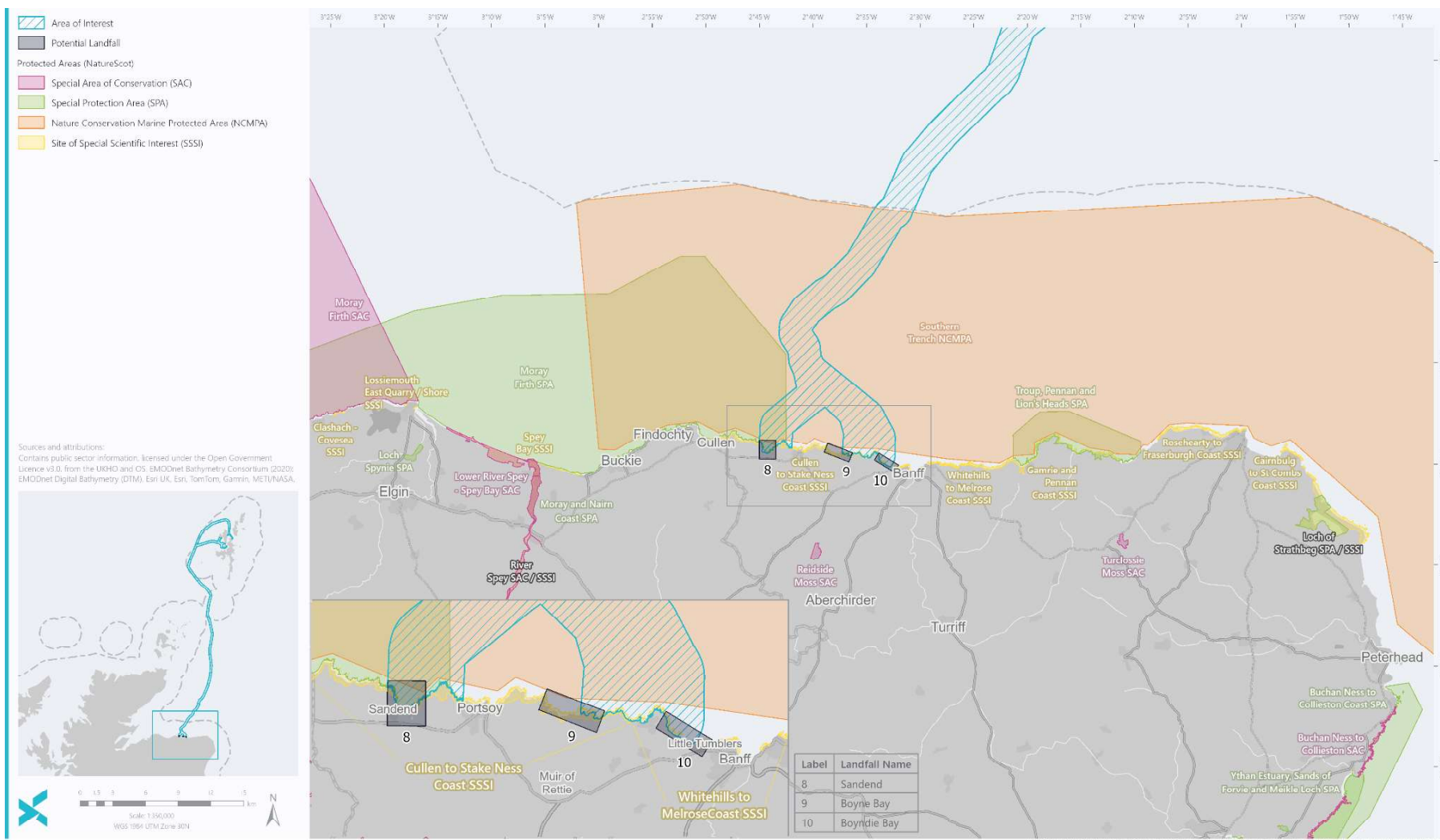


Figure 4 Protected Sites within the Vicinity of the Mainland Scotland Indicative Landfall Areas



Figure 5 Simplified Corridor Areas (Inshore and Offshore) in the Area of Interest



Table 1 Area of Interest Coordinates

REGION	AREA	LATITUDE (DMS)	LONGITUDE (DMS)	LATITUDE (DDM)	LONGITUDE (DDM)	LATITUDE (DD)	LONGITUDE (DD)
<i>The Aoi has been simplified to reduce the number of coordinates. For the avoidance of doubt, in the indicative landfall areas the landward boundary of the Aoi is defined by MHWS.</i>							
Inshore	A	60° 34' 55.27 N	2° 0' 13.54 W	60° 34.921' N	2° 0.226' W	60.58202033	-2.003760827
Inshore	A	60° 37' 32.96 N	1° 58' 36.95 W	60° 37.549' N	1° 58.616' W	60.62582088	-1.976931055
Inshore	A	60° 41' 55.93 N	1° 46' 48.93 W	60° 41.932' N	1° 46.816' W	60.69887021	-1.780258526
Inshore	A	60° 44' 36.37 N	1° 29' 4.7 W	60° 44.606' N	1° 29.078' W	60.74343713	-1.484638875
Inshore	A	60° 45' 0.49 N	1° 20' 51.41 W	60° 45.008' N	1° 20.857' W	60.75013705	-1.347614555
Inshore	A	60° 44' 8.95 N	1° 17' 23.77 W	60° 44.149' N	1° 17.396' W	60.73581997	-1.28993523
Inshore	A	60° 42' 44.13 N	1° 15' 19.66 W	60° 42.736' N	1° 15.328' W	60.71225873	-1.255461701
Inshore	A	60° 39' 9.15 N	1° 14' 22.05 W	60° 39.153' N	1° 14.367' W	60.65254173	-1.239457269
Inshore	A	60° 33' 17.72 N	1° 16' 14.61 W	60° 33.295' N	1° 16.244' W	60.55492259	-1.270725899
Inshore	A	60° 32' 8.77 N	1° 15' 49.88 W	60° 32.146' N	1° 15.831' W	60.53577047	-1.263856136
Inshore	A	60° 29' 39.39 N	1° 11' 49.93 W	60° 29.657' N	1° 11.832' W	60.49427502	-1.197202357
Inshore	A	60° 28' 4.36 N	1° 10' 39.76 W	60° 28.073' N	1° 10.663' W	60.46787894	-1.177712179
Inshore	A	60° 27' 22.98 N	1° 12' 29.6 W	60° 27.383' N	1° 12.493' W	60.45638389	-1.20822135
Inshore	A	60° 29' 26.47 N	1° 12' 38.47 W	60° 29.441' N	1° 12.641' W	60.4906863	-1.210687361
Inshore	A	60° 31' 47.77 N	1° 17' 19.95 W	60° 31.796' N	1° 17.333' W	60.5299371	-1.288875963
Inshore	A	60° 30' 56.33 N	1° 18' 32.48 W	60° 30.939' N	1° 18.541' W	60.51564587	-1.309021111
Inshore	A	60° 31' 12.51 N	1° 21' 6.34 W	60° 31.209' N	1° 21.106' W	60.52014276	-1.351761235



REGION	AREA	LATITUDE (DMS)	LONGITUDE (DMS)	LATITUDE (DDM)	LONGITUDE (DDM)	LATITUDE (DD)	LONGITUDE (DD)
Inshore	A	60° 31' 24.06 N	1° 19' 35.46 W	60° 31.401' N	1° 19.591' W	60.5233487	-1.326515365
Inshore	A	60° 32' 33.19 N	1° 18' 18.63 W	60° 32.553' N	1° 18.311' W	60.54255183	-1.305176046
Inshore	A	60° 37' 38.39 N	1° 17' 15.5 W	60° 37.64' N	1° 17.258' W	60.62732987	-1.287639602
Inshore	A	60° 42' 12.36 N	1° 18' 29.79 W	60° 42.206' N	1° 18.497' W	60.70343414	-1.308276129
Inshore	A	60° 43' 24.46 N	1° 21' 39.86 W	60° 43.408' N	1° 21.664' W	60.7234615	-1.361072983
Inshore	A	60° 43' 2.07 N	1° 28' 18.69 W	60° 43.034' N	1° 28.311' W	60.71724121	-1.471858303
Inshore	A	60° 40' 29.41 N	1° 45' 16.73 W	60° 40.49' N	1° 45.279' W	60.6748375	-1.754647432
Inshore	A	60° 34' 55.27 N	2° 0' 13.54 W	60° 34.921' N	2° 0.226' W	60.58202033	-2.003760827
Inshore	C	60° 20' 54.12 N	2° 13' 49.94 W	60° 20.902' N	2° 13.832' W	60.34836703	-2.23053904
Inshore	C	60° 23' 59.44 N	2° 13' 39.39 W	60° 23.991' N	2° 13.656' W	60.3998435	-2.2276074
Inshore	C	60° 26' 54.74 N	2° 11' 55.94 W	60° 26.912' N	2° 11.932' W	60.4485384	-2.1988725
Inshore	C	60° 29' 55.78 N	2° 8' 20.43 W	60° 29.93' N	2° 8.34' W	60.4988281	-2.139007
Inshore	C	60° 32' 7.89 N	2° 3' 55.48 W	60° 32.132' N	2° 3.925' W	60.53552588	-2.065411006
Inshore	C	60° 23' 43.15 N	2° 11' 42.69 W	60° 23.719' N	2° 11.712' W	60.395319	-2.195192564
Inshore	C	60° 26' 50.76 N	1° 50' 9.4 W	60° 26.846' N	1° 50.157' W	60.44743404	-1.835945409
Inshore	C	60° 26' 59.56 N	1° 43' 11.79 W	60° 26.993' N	1° 43.196' W	60.44987883	-1.719940451
Inshore	C	60° 26' 6.65 N	1° 38' 19.85 W	60° 26.111' N	1° 38.331' W	60.43518038	-1.63884831
Inshore	C	60° 26' 54.74 N	1° 35' 57.57 W	60° 26.912' N	1° 35.96' W	60.44853835	-1.599325854
Inshore	C	60° 27' 54.47 N	1° 35' 34.85 W	60° 27.908' N	1° 35.581' W	60.46513131	-1.593013768
Inshore	C	60° 29' 26.66 N	1° 33' 10.92 W	60° 29.444' N	1° 33.182' W	60.490738	-1.553032133



REGION	AREA	LATITUDE (DMS)	LONGITUDE (DMS)	LATITUDE (DDM)	LONGITUDE (DDM)	LATITUDE (DD)	LONGITUDE (DD)
Inshore	C	60° 28' 45.69 N	1° 32' 15.11 W	60° 28.761' N	1° 32.252' W	60.47935738	-1.537529686
Inshore	C	60° 29' 5.06 N	1° 30' 0.35 W	60° 29.084' N	1° 30.006' W	60.48473952	-1.500097284
Inshore	C	60° 28' 37.54 N	1° 29' 36.06 W	60° 28.626' N	1° 29.601' W	60.47709392	-1.493349403
Inshore	C	60° 27' 30.56 N	1° 32' 24.06 W	60° 27.509' N	1° 32.401' W	60.45848803	-1.540016892
Inshore	C	60° 25' 45.27 N	1° 33' 38.8 W	60° 25.755' N	1° 33.647' W	60.4292422	-1.560776516
Inshore	C	60° 24' 43.02 N	1° 30' 54.88 W	60° 24.717' N	1° 30.915' W	60.41195124	-1.515243641
Inshore	C	60° 25' 7.81 N	1° 28' 5.17 W	60° 25.13' N	1° 28.086' W	60.41883493	-1.468103425
Inshore	C	60° 23' 51.92 N	1° 23' 7.53 W	60° 23.865' N	1° 23.126' W	60.39775438	-1.385425931
Inshore	C	60° 23' 6.03 N	1° 28' 55.06 W	60° 23.101' N	1° 28.918' W	60.38500951	-1.481961015
Inshore	C	60° 21' 9.86 N	1° 27' 49.27 W	60° 21.164' N	1° 27.821' W	60.35273848	-1.463685064
Inshore	C	60° 20' 30.87 N	1° 25' 38.4 W	60° 20.514' N	1° 25.64' W	60.34190812	-1.427333995
Inshore	C	60° 21' 20.45 N	1° 23' 0.3 W	60° 21.341' N	1° 23.005' W	60.35568021	-1.383416551
Inshore	C	60° 22' 21.59 N	1° 22' 14.66 W	60° 22.36' N	1° 22.244' W	60.37266408	-1.370740197
Inshore	C	60° 22' 7.27 N	1° 21' 19.73 W	60° 22.121' N	1° 21.329' W	60.36868474	-1.355479579
Inshore	C	60° 20' 59.05 N	1° 22' 11.13 W	60° 20.984' N	1° 22.186' W	60.34973587	-1.369758556
Inshore	C	60° 19' 59.57 N	1° 25' 21.69 W	60° 19.993' N	1° 25.362' W	60.33321314	-1.422691993
Inshore	C	60° 20' 38.65 N	1° 28' 19.72 W	60° 20.644' N	1° 28.329' W	60.34407039	-1.472143118
Inshore	C	60° 20' 22.87 N	1° 30' 9.11 W	60° 20.381' N	1° 30.152' W	60.33968705	-1.50253184
Inshore	C	60° 21' 8.19 N	1° 31' 55.16 W	60° 21.136' N	1° 31.919' W	60.35227407	-1.531988674
Inshore	C	60° 23' 15.71 N	1° 32' 27.55 W	60° 23.262' N	1° 32.459' W	60.38769824	-1.540985385



REGION	AREA	LATITUDE (DMS)	LONGITUDE (DMS)	LATITUDE (DDM)	LONGITUDE (DDM)	LATITUDE (DD)	LONGITUDE (DD)
Inshore	C	60° 24' 14.37 N	1° 34' 57.62 W	60° 24.24' N	1° 34.96' W	60.40399185	-1.582672432
Inshore	C	60° 24' 26.54 N	1° 38' 39.11 W	60° 24.442' N	1° 38.652' W	60.40737327	-1.64419851
Inshore	C	60° 25' 22.63 N	1° 43' 39.07 W	60° 25.377' N	1° 43.651' W	60.42295224	-1.727520656
Inshore	C	60° 25' 14.73 N	1° 49' 41.21 W	60° 25.245' N	1° 49.687' W	60.42075814	-1.828112916
Inshore	C	60° 21' 57.46 N	2° 12' 10.96 W	60° 21.958' N	2° 12.183' W	60.3659617	-2.203044995
Inshore	C	60° 20' 54.12 N	2° 13' 49.94 W	60° 20.902' N	2° 13.832' W	60.34836703	-2.23053904
Inshore	D	59° 55' 31.93 N	2° 13' 13.04 W	59° 55.532' N	2° 13.217' W	59.925536	-2.220289195
Inshore	D	59° 58' 0.65 N	2° 20' 41.89 W	59° 58.011' N	2° 20.698' W	59.96684691	-2.344970481
Inshore	D	60° 3' 45.17 N	2° 28' 51.98 W	60° 3.753' N	2° 28.866' W	60.06254634	-2.481106582
Inshore	D	60° 5' 2.04 N	2° 29' 15.43 W	60° 5.034' N	2° 29.257' W	60.08389964	-2.487619802
Inshore	D	60° 13' 7.99 N	2° 24' 22.35 W	60° 13.133' N	2° 24.373' W	60.21888515	-2.406209076
Inshore	D	60° 19' 23.39 N	2° 18' 41.21 W	60° 19.39' N	2° 18.687' W	60.32316412	-2.311447482
Inshore	D	60° 20' 34.6 N	2° 14' 13.9 W	60° 20.577' N	2° 14.232' W	60.34294415	-2.237193113
Inshore	D	60° 12' 32.7 N	2° 21' 20.17 W	60° 12.545' N	2° 21.336' W	60.20908471	-2.355602065
Inshore	D	60° 5' 0.64 N	2° 26' 0.52 W	60° 5.011' N	2° 26.009' W	60.08351138	-2.43347903
Inshore	D	59° 55' 31.93 N	2° 13' 13.04 W	59° 55.532' N	2° 13.217' W	59.925536	-2.220289195
Inshore	F	59° 20' 51.78 N	1° 53' 16.77 W	59° 20.863' N	1° 53.28' W	59.34771707	-1.88799181
Inshore	F	59° 22' 52.09 N	1° 57' 21.62 W	59° 22.868' N	1° 57.36' W	59.3811359	-1.956005299
Inshore	F	59° 23' 42.64 N	1° 57' 47.81 W	59° 23.711' N	1° 57.797' W	59.39517662	-1.963279518
Inshore	F	59° 32' 19.36 N	1° 55' 53.5 W	59° 32.323' N	1° 55.892' W	59.5387105	-1.931529135



REGION	AREA	LATITUDE (DMS)	LONGITUDE (DMS)	LATITUDE (DDM)	LONGITUDE (DDM)	LATITUDE (DD)	LONGITUDE (DD)
Inshore	F	59° 39' 30.51 N	1° 51' 52.57 W	59° 39.508' N	1° 51.876' W	59.65847365	-1.864601986
Inshore	F	59° 41' 4.62 N	1° 52' 24.33 W	59° 41.077' N	1° 52.406' W	59.68461759	-1.8734256
Inshore	F	59° 42' 15.03 N	1° 53' 50.24 W	59° 42.251' N	1° 53.837' W	59.70417532	-1.897287702
Inshore	F	59° 43' 14.02 N	1° 51' 14.06 W	59° 43.234' N	1° 51.234' W	59.72056048	-1.853904769
Inshore	F	59° 41' 29.12 N	1° 49' 14.26 W	59° 41.485' N	1° 49.238' W	59.69142235	-1.820628174
Inshore	F	59° 39' 23.22 N	1° 48' 38.43 W	59° 39.387' N	1° 48.64' W	59.65645102	-1.81067427
Inshore	F	59° 32' 2.21 N	1° 52' 45.55 W	59° 32.037' N	1° 52.759' W	59.53394798	-1.879318501
Inshore	F	59° 28' 49.64 N	1° 53' 44.51 W	59° 28.827' N	1° 53.742' W	59.48045434	-1.895696553
Inshore	F	59° 23' 40.34 N	1° 54' 37.51 W	59° 23.672' N	1° 54.625' W	59.39453863	-1.910420654
Inshore	F	59° 20' 51.78 N	1° 53' 16.77 W	59° 20.863' N	1° 53.28' W	59.34771707	-1.88799181
Inshore	H	57° 52' 56.42 N	2° 30' 40.93 W	57° 52.94' N	2° 30.682' W	57.88233834	-2.511369657
Inshore	H	57° 49' 43.44 N	2° 34' 34.51 W	57° 49.724' N	2° 34.575' W	57.82873462	-2.576251589
Inshore	H	57° 46' 59.42 N	2° 40' 12.36 W	57° 46.99' N	2° 40.206' W	57.78317242	-2.670099312
Inshore	H	57° 45' 31.99 N	2° 39' 13.74 W	57° 45.533' N	2° 39.229' W	57.75888639	-2.653815422
Inshore	H	57° 43' 4.55 N	2° 33' 45.18 W	57° 43.076' N	2° 33.753' W	57.71793034	-2.562549887
Inshore	H	57° 41' 49.29 N	2° 32' 36.93 W	57° 41.822' N	2° 32.616' W	57.69702615	-2.54359174
Inshore	H	57° 40' 20.33 N	2° 32' 51.08 W	57° 40.339' N	2° 32.851' W	57.67231504	-2.547522747
Inshore	H	57° 40' 57.8 N	2° 34' 28.52 W	57° 40.963' N	2° 34.475' W	57.68272186	-2.574588022
Inshore	H	57° 40' 39.08 N	2° 35' 1.48 W	57° 40.651' N	2° 35.025' W	57.67752325	-2.583743453
Inshore	H	57° 40' 50.83 N	2° 37' 29.36 W	57° 40.847' N	2° 37.489' W	57.68078527	-2.624823362



REGION	AREA	LATITUDE (DMS)	LONGITUDE (DMS)	LATITUDE (DDM)	LONGITUDE (DDM)	LATITUDE (DD)	LONGITUDE (DD)
Inshore	H	57° 42' 28.43 N	2° 37' 40.43 W	57° 42.474' N	2° 37.674' W	57.70789703	-2.627896128
Inshore	H	57° 43' 11.63 N	2° 39' 4.51 W	57° 43.194' N	2° 39.075' W	57.71989779	-2.651253202
Inshore	H	57° 41' 55.76 N	2° 42' 4.6 W	57° 41.929' N	2° 42.077' W	57.69882152	-2.701277896
Inshore	H	57° 41' 8.64 N	2° 42' 10.22 W	57° 41.144' N	2° 42.17' W	57.68573204	-2.702839594
Inshore	H	57° 41' 33.61 N	2° 42' 51.5 W	57° 41.56' N	2° 42.858' W	57.69266836	-2.714306303
Inshore	H	57° 40' 57.47 N	2° 44' 51.05 W	57° 40.958' N	2° 44.851' W	57.68262995	-2.747514535
Inshore	H	57° 41' 27.29 N	2° 45' 6.35 W	57° 41.455' N	2° 45.106' W	57.69091349	-2.751764808
Inshore	H	57° 42' 42.46 N	2° 44' 50.49 W	57° 42.708' N	2° 44.842' W	57.71179579	-2.747359142
Inshore	H	57° 44' 9.38 N	2° 41' 41.1 W	57° 44.156' N	2° 41.685' W	57.73593824	-2.694748886
Inshore	H	57° 46' 38.37 N	2° 43' 14.13 W	57° 46.64' N	2° 43.235' W	57.77732605	-2.720590673
Inshore	H	57° 47' 44.08 N	2° 42' 56.37 W	57° 47.735' N	2° 42.939' W	57.79557896	-2.715657334
Inshore	H	57° 50' 46.18 N	2° 36' 53.57 W	57° 50.77' N	2° 36.893' W	57.84616045	-2.614880292
Inshore	H	57° 53' 5.67 N	2° 34' 16.79 W	57° 53.094' N	2° 34.28' W	57.88490697	-2.571331913
Inshore	H	57° 52' 56.42 N	2° 30' 40.93 W	57° 52.94' N	2° 30.682' W	57.88233834	-2.511369657