Eastern Green Link 2 - Marine Scheme

Environmental Appraisal Report Volume 2

Chapter 17 - Schedule of Mitigation

nationalgrid

Electricity Networks

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ii

Table of Contents

17.	Sche	dule of Mitigation and Commitments	17-1
	17.1	Introduction	17-1

Tables

Table 17-1: Topic specific management plans	. 17-	-1
Table 17-2: Summary of Mitigation	. 17-	-3

17. Schedule of Mitigation and Commitments

17.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) summarises the embedded mitigation, the project specific mitigation and monitoring measures that have been committed to as part of any licences and consents issued for the Marine Scheme.

The Schedule of Mitigation and Commitments presented in Table 17-2 presents the mitigation and monitoring measures reported in Chapter 2, and in Chapters 7 to 15, of this EAR.

To help streamline regulation for both marine regulators (Marine Scotland and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)), the Transmission Owners (TOs) are keen to work collaboratively with both bodies to ensure maximum efficiency in the development of licence conditions; this is a measure considered to benefit all parties.

These measures will be carried forward into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and topic specific management plans. It is anticipated the topic-specific management plans will be conditioned as part of the marine licences¹ and supporting documentation which are sought for the Marine Scheme.

The CEMP will be prepared by the appointed Contractor post-consent and will form the basis of the approach to mitigating the effects of the Marine Scheme on the natural and human environment, and the local community. The CEMP will be supported by a number of additional documents (see Table 17-1) and will address any additional requirements and conditions identified during the marine licensing process.

Topic specific management plan	Purpose of the plan
Emergency Spill Response Plan	This plan will assess the risk of spills and provide a step guide which is to be followed in the event of a spill during the installation phase of the Marine Scheme.
Waste Management Plan	This plan will outline how waste created by the Marine Scheme will be managed and dealt with, taking into consideration the waste hierarchy, including estimates of waste type, volume and management method.
Marine Mammal Protection Plan	This plan focuses on potential impacts to marine mammals associated with the Marine Scheme, incorporating management actions and strategies associated with installation activities.
Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan ²	This plan will document communication commitments to co-existing with the commercial fishing industry in the areas of the Marine Scheme during installation and operation.
Marine Non-Native Species (MNNS) Plan	This plan will provide an overview of the roles and responsibilities in regard to marine non-natives and detail the requirements for risk assessments and management of marine non-native including necessary mitigation measures.

Table 17-1: Topic specific management plans

In addition, a Cable Burial and Protection Plan will be provided which will include detailed microrouteing, trenching methods and external protection measures for the final design of the Marine Scheme prior to commencement of Installation Phase activities. The Cable Burial and Protection Plan will be provided which will be based upon detailed information on the cable installation and will be developed

¹ A Marine Licence Application has been made to both the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (or 'MS-LOT') and the Marine Licensing Team within the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

² Note that this will be a single document that will perform the role of other fisheries liaison plans, for instance, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy.

by the appointed Contractor. It will be informed by detailed engineering but will not exceed the design envelope as described in Chapter 2: Project Description.

The CEMP (including additional topic specific management plans) and the Cable Burial and Protection Plan will both be submitted to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) and the MMO post-consent.

Table 17-2: Summary of Mitigation

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
General	Pre-Installation	Pre-Installation Ecological mitigation	Given the potential for injury from the use of Sub-Bottom Profiler (SBP), mitigation measures recommended in the JNCC 2017 guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from geophysical surveys (JNCC, 2017) will be adopted during SBP operations; and All vessels will comply with the following codes to protect ecological receptors: • The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (SMWWC) (available from: <u>https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-06/Publication%202017%20- %20The%20Scottish%20Marine%20Wildlife%20Watching%20Code%20SMWWC%20- %20Part%201%20-%20April%202017%20%28A2263518%29.pdf); and • The Basking Shark Code of Conduct (available from: <u>https://www.sharktrust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=6137b1a1-8518-4327-9922- 7b280acb8336</u>).</u>	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Section 9.6 Chapter 10 Marine Mammals Section 10.6 Chapter 11 Ornithology Section 11.6
		Notifications	 Notifications of the Marine Scheme will be made; this shall include: Notice(s) to Mariners (including Kingfisher Bulletins), Radio Navigational Warnings, NAVTEX and/or broadcast warnings will be issued prior to the commencement of installation works, to include the following as a minimum: Notifications to the Northern Lighthouse Board, Trinity House, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and relevant harbour and port authorities; Regular vessel operators (e.g., ferry operators); The Ministry of Defence (MoD) will be notified prior to commencement of Installation Phase activities within Military Practice and Exercise Areas; Other marine energy infrastructure operators to confirm operation dates and otherwise rationalise activity schedules, as required; and Regular consultation will be made with third-party infrastructure asset owners to notify them of any activities associated with the Marine Scheme and avoid spatial and temporal interactions between vessels. 	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 7 Physical Environment Section 7.6 Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6 Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section 14.6 Chapter 15 Other Sea Users Section 15.6

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
		Marine Scheme vessel requirements	 All vessels will follow the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (COLREGS) and International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS); 	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
			 All vessels will be in compliance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) regulations and will therefore be equipped with waste disposal facilities onboard. The discharging of contaminants is not permitted within 12 nm from the coast to preserve bathing waters; 	Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology 8.6 Chapter 7 Physical Environment
			 Control measures and shipboard oil pollution emergency plans (SOPEP) will be in place and adhered to under MARPOL Annex I requirements for all vessels; 	Section 7.6 Chapter 11
			 Ballast water discharges from all vessels will be managed under International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention); 	Ornithology Section 11.6 Chapter 13
			 All vessels will adhere to the IMO guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines) (resolution MEPC.207(62); 	Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6
			 Where possible, vessels will operate with dynamic positioning which will minimise anchor disturbance on the seabed; 	Chapter 14 Commercial
			All vessels will display appropriate lights and day shapes;	Fisheries Section
			 All applicable vessels will broadcast their status on Automatic Identification System (AIS) at all times; 	Chapter 15 Other
			All vessels will follow Port bylaws and General Directions;	15.6
			 Guard vessels will use RADAR with Automatic RADAR Plotting Aid (ARPA) to monitor vessel activity and predict possible interactions, will be employed to work alongside the installation vessel(s) during installation and maintenance work (which will also minimise anchor disturbance on the seabed); 	
			 A temporary 500 m Recommended Clearance Zone will be established around all vessels associated with the works; 	
			Piloting of large vessels when entering or leaving Peterhead Harbour Area;	
			 Limits to wave height / wind speed conditions for operations / activities will be followed by all vessels; and 	
			 Lighting on-board the vessels will be kept to the minimum level required to ensure safe operations and directed towards working areas. 	

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
		Recommendations to third-party vessels	 It is advised that third-party vessel operators follow the longstanding maritime guidance regarding the avoidance of demersal trawling and anchoring in the vicinity of submarine cables. This guidance includes: The Mariner's Handbook (P100) 12th Edition (UKHO, 2020); All Admiralty charts; and The recent Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 661 published by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). 	Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6 Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section 14.6 Chapter 15 Other Sea Users Section 15.6
	Installation	Route selection	The Marine Installation Corridor has been selected to optimise the balance of environmental, technical, commercial and financial considerations, such as avoiding designated sites, known archaeological sites, recreational activities, key fishing grounds and third-party infrastructure as far as possible.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 8: Benthic Ecology Section 8.6 Chapter 11 Ornithology Section 11.6 Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6 Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section 14.6 Chapter 15 Other Sea Users Section 15.6

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
		Pre-installation surveys	 Pre-installation surveys will inform detailed engineering and cable installation planning. They will focus on collection of detailed information within the preferred route for each of the cables, all within the Marine Installation Corridor. They will confirm the absence or presence of any new obstructions or significant changes to seabed conditions and bathymetry, and also help to inform detailed unexploded ordnance (UXO) assessment. Survey methods may include: Geophysical survey including multibeam and single beam echo sounders, side scan sonar (SSS), and sub-bottom profiler (SBP); Magnetometer/gradiometer to identify magnetic anomalies and metallic targets; Visual methods including drop down video or remotely operated vehicle (ROV); and 	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
			Geotechnical investigations such as vibrocore and cone penetration test (CPT).	
		Micro-routeing / detailed design post- consent	 Detailed route development and micro-routeing will be undertaken within the Marine Installation Corridor, informed by pre-installation evaluation of site-specific survey data to avoid or minimise localised engineering and environmental constraints. This will include: Navigational features such as charted or known anchorages, maintained channel depths and prohibited regions will be avoided; Changes to the sedimentary and metocean environments will be minimised by careful route selection and the use of appropriate burial techniques and cable protection methods such as fall pipes for the laying of rock placement; Cable configuration will be optimised to minimise EMF during detailed design; Reduction in charted water depth to LAT will be limited to less than 5% where possible; and A Cable Burial and Protection Plan will be submitted to include detailed engineering for the final design of the Marine Scheme prior to commencement of Installation Phase activities. 	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 7 Physical Environment Section 7.6 Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology Section 8.6 Chapter 11 Ornithology Section 11.6 Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6 Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
		Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	Prior to cable installation activities commencing, a CEMP, including an Emergency Spill Response Plan (ESRP), Waste Management Plan, Marine Mammal Management Plan, Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan will be developed and agreed with relevant stakeholders in accordance with the coastal and marine environment site guide; and	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 7 Physical Environment Section 7.6 Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology Section 8.6 Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology Section 9.6 Chapter 11 Ornithology Section 11.6 Chapter 15 Other Sea Users Section 15.6
		Commercial fisheries mitigation	A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) will be appointed for the Installation Phase. Good practice guidance on the approach to fisheries liaison and mitigation (e.g., UK Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW), 2014; 2015), as relevant to cable projects, shall be implemented as far as possible; and A procedure for the claim of loss of/or damage to fishing gear will be developed.	Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6 Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section 14.6
		Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries	A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) will be in place for any archaeological discoveries. This will include any recommended Archaeological Exclusion Zones and a PAD for reporting and investigating unexpected archaeological discoveries encountered during installation activities, with a Retained Archaeologist providing guidance and advising industry staff on the implementation of the PAD. The PAD provides a mechanism to comply with the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, including notification of the Receiver of Wreck, and accords with the Code of Practice for Seabed Developers (JNAPC, 2006). The PAD also makes provision for the implementation of temporary exclusion zones around areas of possible archaeological interest, for prompt archaeological advice, and, if necessary, for archaeological inspection of important features prior to further activities in the vicinity.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 12 Marine Archaeology Section 12.6

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
		24-hour cable installation	Installation will be a 24-hour operation where viable to minimise overall installation time, maximise use of fair-weather windows, and take advantage of vessel and equipment availability.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
		Securing of Out of Service cables	The ends of any out of service (OOS) cables cut will be secured to the seabed or reburied, in accordance with International Cable Protection Committee recommendations.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
		Landfall installation	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be used at both landfalls for the installation of the cables in the transition zone between the Onshore Schemes and the Marine Scheme which avoids any works in the intertidal environment; and	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
			• This will keep sediment disturbance to a minimum, minimising the use of cable protection measures inshore of the 11 m depth contour at Sandford Bay and the 5 m depth contour at Fraisthorpe Sands. This avoids direct impacts on sensitive coastal and	Chapter 7 Physical Environment Section 7.6
			intertidal habitats and features.	Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology Section 8.6
				Chapter 11 Ornithology Section 11.6
				Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section 14.6
				Chapter 15 Other Sea Users Section 15.6
		Drilling fluids	Drilling fluids for HDD operations will be biologically inert and selected from the OSPAR List of Substances/Preparations Used and Discharged Offshore which are Considered to Pose Little or No Risk to the Environment (PLONOR);	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
			• During drilling, drilling fluids will be recycled, treated, and reused as far as possible, and any waste drilling fluid will be transported offsite for treatment and disposal; and	Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology Section 8.6
			 Losses of drilling fluids are unavoidable; however, they will be minimised insofar as practicable through the implementation of industry best practice for example, clearing runs or reducing the volume of drilling fluids in the borehole prior to breakout to the marine environment. 	Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology Section 9.6

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
		Third-party cable crossings	Each cable crossing will be designed in detail in accordance with the International Cable Protection Committee recommendations;	Chapter 2 Project Description Section
			 Proximity and Crossing Agreements will be agreed with third-party infrastructure owners as appropriate; 	2.8 Chapter 15 Other
			• The Crossing Agreement describes the rights and responsibilities of the parties and also the design of the crossing. Crossing design will be in line with industry standards, using procedures and techniques agreed with the cable and pipeline owners; and	Sea Users Section 15.6
			 Proximity agreements describe the approach to works close to, but not crossing third party assets, to ensure safety and manage interactions between the two projects. 	
		Cable protection	Cables will be trenched to a minimum depth of lowering (DoL) of approximately 0.6 m, with a target DoL of approximately 1.5 m; and The use of external protection will be limited to areas where cables cannot be trenched to the minimum DoL, at crossings with third-party infrastructure, at joints and in some limited areas at both landfalls (as required).	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology Section 8.6 Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology Section 9.6
		Rock placement	 Berms will be designed to reduce snagging risk in so far as is practicable, with 1:3 slopes and flat crests in line with industry guidance; Rock utilised in berms will be igneous, clean with low fines; and A vessel able to undertake a targeted placement method will be used, such as one fitted with a flexible fall pipe. 	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8 Chapter 7 Physical Environment Section 7.6
				Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries Section 14.6
		Interim and as-built surveys and reporting	Undertaking of interim and as-built surveys to confirm the trenching status of the cables, identify potential seabed hazards associated with installation, and, where appropriate and practicable, undertaking of rectification works;	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
			 As-built locations of cables and associated external protection will be supplied to United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and Kingfisher for inclusion in Admiralty and Kingfisher Information Service – Offshore Renewable & Cable Awareness project (KIS-ORCA) charts, respectively; and 	Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation Section 13.6
			• As built details, including the locations, nature and extent of rock berms shall also be shared with relevant fisheries stakeholders.	

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
	Operation and Maintenance	Monitoring Surveys	Routine surveys and inspections of the subsea cables and associated protection measures will be conducted through the lifetime of the project, to ensure they remain in good condition, and adequately protected.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
		No planned routine maintenance work	Following installation, the cable system is designed to minimise maintenance requirements, and no routine maintenance work is planned on the cables or their infrastructure during the lifetime of the Marine Scheme.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
		Submarine cable repairs	In the event that cable exposures are identified during the operational phase of the Marine Scheme, the location of these will be shared with fisheries stakeholders and where appropriate, additional temporary measures put in place (e.g., marker buoys, use of guard vessels, etc.), until a repair or remediation can be implemented.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
	Decommissioning	Options for decommissioning	Options for decommissioning will be evaluated in both environmental and economic assessments, taking account of the regulations, best practices and available technology at the time of decommissioning.	Chapter 2 Project Description Section 2.8
Physical Environment	All Stages	No project specific mi	tigation measures or monitoring have been recommended as a result of the impact appraisal.	
Benthic Ecology	All Stages	No project specific mi	tigation measures or monitoring have been recommended as a result of the impact appraisal.	
Fish and Shellfish	All Stages	No project specific mi	tigation measures or monitoring have been recommended as a result of the impact appraisal.	
Marine Mammals	All Stages	No project specific mi	tigation measures or monitoring have been recommended as a result of the impact appraisal.	
Ornithology	All Stages	No project specific mi	tigation measures or monitoring have been recommended as a result of the impact appraisal.	

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference	
Marine Archaeology	Installation	Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD)	 A Written Scheme of Investigation and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD) will be in place for the management of archaeological discoveries during the Installation Phase. The PAD will be adopted: The PAD is a system for reporting and investigating unexpected archaeological discoveries encountered during installation activities, with a Retained Archaeologist providing guidance and advising industry staff on the implementation of the PAD. The PAD also makes provision for the implementation of temporary exclusion zones around areas of possible archaeological interest, for prompt archaeological advice, and, if necessary, for archaeological inspection of important features prior to further activities in the vicinity. The PAD provides a mechanism to comply with the MSA 1995, including notification of the Receiver of Wreck, and accords with the Code of Practice for Seabed Developers (JNAPC, 2006). 	Chapter 12 Marine Archaeology, Section 12.6	
			Palaeography	Should further ground investigation work be undertaken within areas of interest of the Marine Installation Corridor, the archaeological contractor will be consulted to advise on potential samples to be acquired for archaeological purposes and other identified units of archaeological interest identified within the data. It is also recommended that any geotechnical logs from within the Marine Installation Corridor be made available for geoarchaeological assessment, such as a stage one assessment of all the core logs or sampling and dating work. This would aid in refining the interpretation and therefore help determine the archaeological potential of the area. Furthermore, any samples acquired containing material of archaeological potential, particularly those within the interpreted Holocene features, will be made available for geoarchaeological assessment.	
		Archaeological Exclusion Zones (AEZ)	AEZ's have been recommended within the Marine Installation Corridor and are presented in Table 12-7 to Table 12-10 of Chapter 12: Marine Archaeology, Section 12.7.		
		A2 Anomalies	These features are to be avoided by micro-siting.		
	Operation and Maintenance	Activities required outside of the footprint of the Installation Phase activities	Further archaeological mitigation will be implemented in line with industry best practice and that this is based on the nature and location of the Operation and Maintenance Phase activities that are outside of the footprint of Installation Phase activities. Appropriate mitigation may include the retainment of the AEZs or implementation of a PAD.	Chapter 12 Marine Archaeology, Section 12.8	

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
Shipping and Navigation	Installation	Cable laying operation procedures	 Cable laying operation procedures should include provisions which recognise and address the increase in collision risk at the most densely trafficked areas of the Marine Installation Corridor. Provisions should include: Operation procedures explicitly identifying the increased collision risk, including the particular prevalence of recreational vessels, between KP0 (Landfall) to KP60 and between KP380 to KP436 (Landfall) and be established prior to commencement of works; Guard Vessel procedures explicitly identifying the increased collision risk between KP0 (Landfall) and KP60 and between KP380 and KP436 (Landfall) established prior to commencement of works; Guard Vessel procedures explicitly identifying the increased collision risk between KP0 (Landfall) and KP60 and between KP380 and KP436 (Landfall) established prior to commencement of works; and Prior reconfirmation with crew, that the installation vessels are entering the two areas of higher density traffic. 	Chapter 13 Shipping and Navigation, Section 13.8
		Liaison with Peterhead Port Authority	Liaison with Peterhead Port Authority to agree how interactions between Project vessels and routine traffic using Peterhead Port will be managed within the statutory port limits, including scheduling, recommended Clearance Zones (RCZs) and communications between vessel masters, pilots and the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS).	
		Duration between cable laying and associated trenching	The duration between cable laying and associated trenching and protection works is minimised insofar as is practicable, in order to minimise the period when exposed cables are present on the seabed.	
		As-built survey information	It is recommended that relevant as-built survey information is disseminated to relevant fisheries organisations and other stakeholders to further increase awareness.	
		Compass deviation	Where compass deviation cannot be reduced to within acceptable limits through optimisation of the cable configuration, further consultation with MCA should be undertaken to identify additional mitigation such as magnetic compass deviation survey and reporting to UKHO for inclusion in admiralty charts.	
	Operation and Maintenance	Collison-risk	Maintenance activities should be planned, on a case-by-case basis, to take due consideration of vessel traffic density, in line with best industry practice, to minimise collision risk.	
Commercial Fisheries	Installation	Temporary loss of fishing grounds and associated displacement	Appropriate mitigation will be implemented for affected vessels following an evidence-based approach, in line with FLOWW guidance Where static gear may be required to be removed or relocated during the installation phase, appropriate mitigation will be implemented for affected vessels following an evidence-based approach, in line with FLOWW guidance, via the establishment of co-operation agreements.	Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries, Section 14.7

Environmental Topic	Project Phase	Mitigation measure / commitment topic	Summary of Mitigation Measures and Commitments	EAR Chapter Reference
Other Sea Users	All Stages	lo project specific mitigation measures or monitoring have been recommended as a result of the impact appraisal.		