



TotalEnergies E&P North Sea UK Ltd

Culzean - Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Pilot Project Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Chapter 5 - Stakeholder Engagement

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GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
Culzean Floating Offshore Wind Pilot Project (the 'Project')	The entire Development including all offshore components and all project phases from pre-construction to decommissioning.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The procedure to predict, minimise, measure and, if necessary, correct and compensate the impacts produced by any human action.
EIA Regulations	The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 requires that certain types of projects with the potential to significantly affect the environment have an environmental impact assessment before a marine licence decision is made.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	Under the Habitats Regulations, all competent authorities must consider whether any plan or project could affect a European site before it can be authorised or carried out. This includes considering whether it will have a 'Likely Significant Effect' (LSE) on a European site, and if so, they must carry out an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA). This process is known as Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)
Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG)	<p>The Initial Plan Framework (IPF) Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for INTOG encompasses spatial opportunities and a strategic framework for future offshore wind developments within sustainable and suitable locations that will help deliver the wider United Kingdom (UK) and Scottish Government Net Zero targets.</p> <p>The 'IN' component of INTOG consists of small-scale innovative projects of 100 Megawatts (MW) or less. The aim of the 'TOG' component is to supplying renewable electricity directly to oil and gas infrastructure. The Culzean Floating Wind Pilot Project falls under the TOG component of INTOG.</p>
Marine Licence Application ('the Application')	A Marine Licence is granted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for projects between 12-200 Nautical Miles (nm) from shore, or the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for projects between Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS) out to 12 nm from shore. The application includes HRA-supporting documentation (where required), an application letter, Marine Licence application form and this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
Maximum Design Parameters	The maximum range of design parameters of all infrastructure.
Net Zero	Refers to a government commitment to ensure the UK reduces its greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050 and in Scotland, the same target is set for 2045. If met, this would mean the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the UK would be equal to or less than the emissions removed by the UK from the environment.
Project Design Envelope	The maximum range of design parameters of all infrastructure assessed as part of the EIA.
Study Area	Receptor specific area used to characterise the baseline.
Project Area	The extent of the immediate area surrounding the floating Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) and cable route as characterised by the extent of the seabed environmental and habitat surveys. Also referred to as the Survey Area where specifically relating to survey activities.
Survey Area	The area surveyed during site-specific surveys.
Floating Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)	Device that converts the kinetic energy of wind into electrical energy. Can be functionally divided into four parts: wind turbine, tower and transition piece, floating foundation, and mooring system.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
AIS	Automatic Identification System
BP	British Petroleum
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
CNSE	Central North Sea Electrification
CPF	Central Production Facility
DAS	Digital Aerial Survey
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
eDNA	Environmental Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
ERCoP	Emergency Response Cooperation Plan
ERRV	Emergency Rescue and Response Vessel
FAME	Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities
IN	Innovation (component of INTOG)
INTOG	Innovation (IN) and Targeted Oil & Gas (TOG)
km	kilometre
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MASTS	Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland
MAU	Marine Analytical Unit
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MW	Megawatt
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
PDE	Project Design Envelope
R&D	Research and Development
RIAA	Report to Inform the Appropriate Assessment

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEDD	Science Evidence, Data and Digital
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
STAR	Seabird Tracking and Research
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
TEPNSUK	TotalEnergies Exploration and Production North Sea UK Limited
TOG	Targeted Oil and Gas (component of INTOG)
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UK	United Kingdom
UKCS	United Kingdom Continental Shelf
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
VTS	Vessel Traffic Survey
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

5.1 Introduction

Engagement with stakeholders is an important part of the development of any project; early and ongoing consultation throughout the lifecycle of the Culzean Floating Offshore Wind Pilot Project (the 'Project') is important in allowing integration of stakeholder feedback and data into the decision-making and design processes and for the Developer to communicate progress.

TotalEnergies Exploration and Production North Sea United Kingdom (UK) Limited (TEPNSUK) TEPNSUK are committed to a robust and effective stakeholder engagement process with respect to the Project. As such, TEPNSUK have undertaken stakeholder engagement since the early stages of the Project and continued this engagement throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Consultations with technical stakeholders have occurred predominantly on a topic specific basis, and TEPNSUK have sought advice from key stakeholders. Consultation meetings have been held to discuss survey methods, interim results, assessment methods and EIA outputs for specific topic areas. Consultation responses for each receptor topic are presented and discussed in the relevant topic-specific chapters within this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (Chapters 7 to 16). Broader engagement on the offshore Project has also occurred via quarterly update meetings with Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT). In addition to consultation meetings, written requests for advice were submitted to MD-LOT and key consultees to clarify specific aspects of the EIA scope and as requested in the Scoping Opinion (see below). Broader engagement on the Project has also occurred via correspondence with NatureScot on how to address potential impacts on receptors (e.g. Ornithology).

This chapter describes the stakeholder engagement undertaken by TEPNSUK to determine the scope of this EIAR.

5.2 Engagement Strategy Overview

TEPNSUK have aimed to work with all statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (organisations, individuals, and communities) that have an interest in the Project, whether because of their activities or their location. This will enable the Project to benefit from stakeholders' experience and expertise and to progress with the involvement of the stakeholders. An overview of the stakeholder engagement process prior to Scoping, during Scoping and during Project EIA is presented in Figure 5-1.

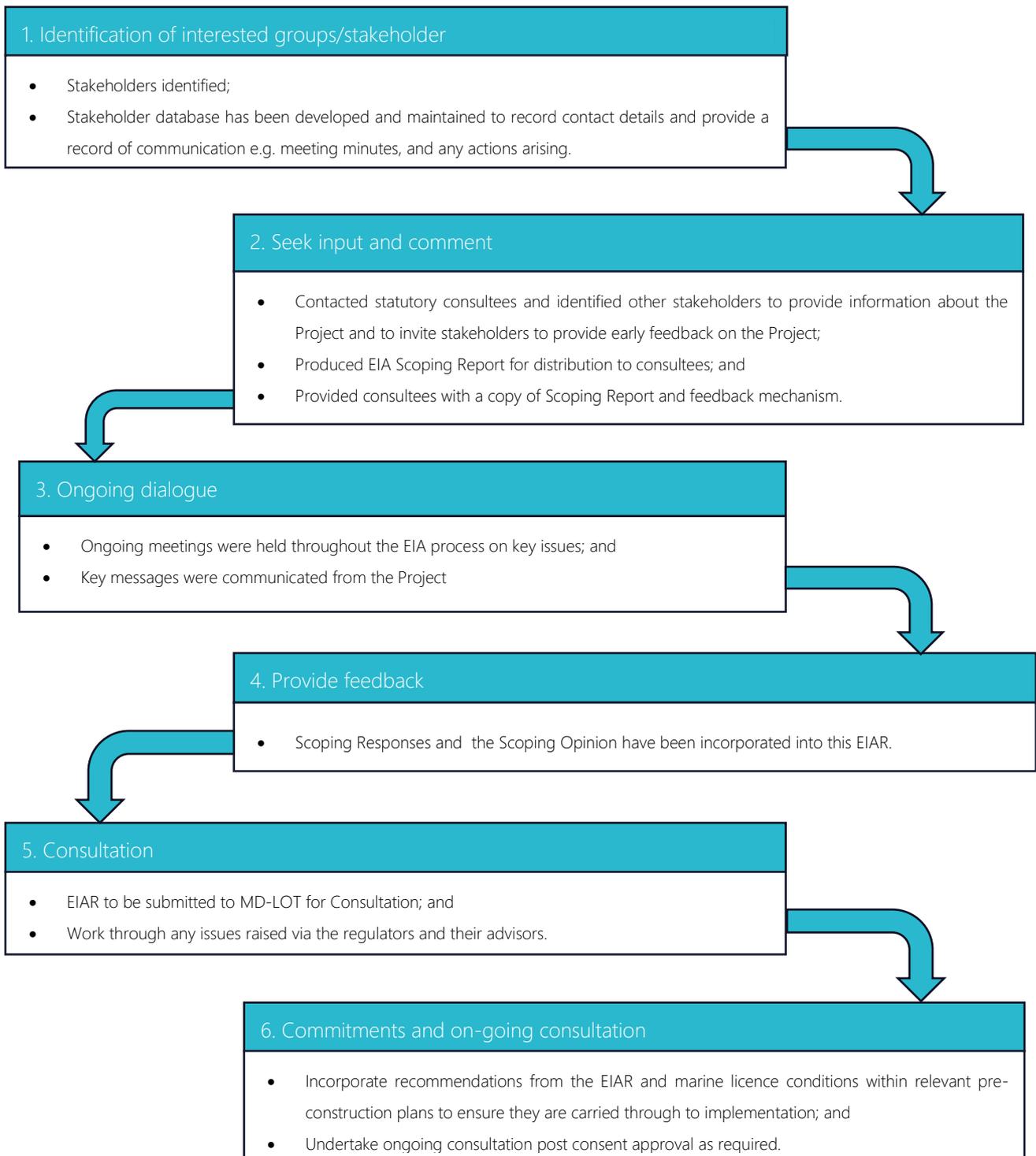


Figure 5-1 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

5.3 Pre-application Advice

TEPNSUK undertook three early engagement meetings prior to the submission of the Scoping Report to introduce the key stakeholders to the Project. The meeting outcomes are detailed in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Early stakeholder engagement summary

CONSULTEES	DATE	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	ACTIONS TAKEN
MD-LOT and NatureScot	22 nd June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One year bird survey data is adequate; Outline proposal of bird survey method was provided to NatureScot for their comment / input; Typically would review survey data after each season, however NatureScot have reviewed proposed bird survey assessment and provided comment as to any reviews required; NatureScot keen to have discussions on use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) as part of bird monitoring proposal; UAV could be used to gather data as part of monthly aerial survey requirements; Key receptors were suggested to be birds, predator / prey relationships and potentially noise; Other areas NatureScot expressed interest (from earlier discussions) are; kittiwake nesting and lighting; The nature of this Project has the potential for precedent setting, NatureScot advice is to be very clear about process, decision making and justifications behind the decisions taken; NatureScot expressed interest in Environmental Deoxyribonucleic Acid (eDNA) sampling; Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) confirmed as floating however if fixed then would require noise modelling and monitoring; NatureScot / MD-LOT asked to be kept up to date on final decision on location; MD-LOT provided the following advice on the Scoping Report; Include as much information as possible; Ensure provide sufficient evidence to scope out receptors; and Scoping Opinions are valid for 12 months, if beyond 12 months must contact MD-LOT to determine whether remains valid or requires updating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird survey methodology prepared for comment by NatureScot / MD-LOT; Contractor engaged to carry out monthly bird surveys; Nesting surveys (Culzean platform) undertaken to assess the extent of nesting birds (specifically kittiwakes) on the Culzean platform(s); Benthic survey company engaged to include eDNA sampling within survey scope; WTG confirmed as floating. Location of the WTG confirmed with NatureScot / MD-LOT; Engaged relevant contractors to kick off Scoping Report; and Scoping Report was submitted to Scottish Ministers (Via MD-LOT), on 14th April 2023, which included detail on all potential receptors and the evidence required to scope them out of consideration (where relevant). MD-LOT then circulated the Scoping Report to relevant consultees. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently received from MD-LOT in July 2023 which detailed a summary of the key issues raised by Scottish Ministers and consultees on the proposed scope of the EIA (Section 5.4).

CONSULTEES	DATE	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	ACTIONS TAKEN
MD-LOT and NatureScot	28 th July 2022	<p>Bird Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot agreed that a year’s monitoring was sufficient considering the Project comprises a single WTG; NatureScot expressed a preference for the survey to run from September to September to cover non-breeding and breeding populations; Requires a monthly Digital Aerial Survey (DAS); Methodology approval not required however suggested that TEPNSUK submit for comment to both NatureScot and MD-LOT; and Post construction monitoring to be agreed following initial monitoring. <p>Seabed Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot advised that if TEPNSUK are conducting an additional survey in the summer TEPNSUK should try to include eDNA as well as benthic. <p>EIA / Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NS agreed that a ‘light touch’ EIA would be enough and suggest TEPNSUK go back to MD-LOT to formally agree this; EIA Scoping / screening document to focus on Birds (density, distribution, displacement and collision) and predator / prey relationships; EIAR to comment on potential kittiwake nesting; and EIAR to define other installations in the area, and lighting on these installations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland engaged with for input into bird survey methodology proposal; Contractor engaged to carry out monthly bird surveys between September 2022 and September 2023; Benthic survey company engaged to include eDNA sampling within survey scope; TEPNSUK have presented a proportionate EIAR on a scale relative to other similar projects on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS); Nesting bird surveys (Culzean platform) undertaken to assess the extent of nesting birds (specifically kittiwakes) on the Culzean platform(s). The results of this survey are discussed in Chapter 11: Ornithology; and Information on the Culzean Platforms and their lighting is included in Chapter 4: Project Description.
RSPB Scotland	9 th August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSPB Scotland may request to extend survey into next breeding season (look to review after first year); Main concerns: avoidance behaviour, collision, transiting (looking to demonstrate there is no avoidance behaviour; and Suggested use of Future of the Atlantic Marine Environment (FAME) and Seabird Tracking and Research (STAR) databases and Seabird Trial (tagging studies) - Look at tracking data which is already available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns around avoidance behaviour, collision, transiting and use of databases such as FAME, STAR and existing tracking data has been assessed in Chapter 11: Ornithology.

5.4 EIA Scoping

The scope of the EIAR has been informed by a formal Scoping exercise. Scoping is a key phase of the EIA process. Among other things, it provides an opportunity for the developer and decision makers to identify the potentially significant environmental effects that should be considered for further assessment in an EIAR. A developer may request a Scoping Opinion from Scottish Ministers (supported by a Scoping Report) on the information to be supplied in the EIA. This provision provides clarity on what Scottish Ministers are likely to consider as the potentially significant effects of a development and the topics on which an EIAR should focus.

The Scoping Report was submitted to Scottish Ministers (Via MD-LOT), on 14th April 2023, who then circulated the report to relevant consultees. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently received in July 2023 which detailed a summary of the key issues raised by Scottish Ministers and consultees on the proposed scope of the EIA. A full list of the statutory and non-statutory consultees and advisors to MD-LOT that were sent a copy of the EIA Scoping Report by MD-LOT are presented in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2 List of bodies consulted on the Scoping Report

CONSULTEE INVOLVEMENT	ORGANISATION	RESPONSE?
Statutory Consultees	Historic Environment Scotland	✓
	Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	✓
	NatureScot	✓
	Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)	✓
	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	✓
Non-Statutory Consultees	Aberdeen International Airport	✓
	Aberdeen Fishery Office	
	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Now Department for Energy Security and Net Zero)	
	British Petroleum (BP) PLC	
	British Telecom	✓
	Central North Sea Electrification (CNSE)	
	Cenos Floating Offshore Windfarm	
	Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	
	Chamber of Shipping	
	Crown Estate Scotland (CES)	



CONSULTEE INVOLVEMENT	ORGANISATION	RESPONSE?
	Cruising Association	✓
	Edinburgh Airport	✓
	Joint Radio Company	
	Ministry of Defence (Defence Infrastructure Organisation)	✓
	Marine Planning and Policy	
	Marine Safety Forum	
	National Grid	
	National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Safeguarding	✓
	Oil & Gas UK (Now Offshore Energies UK)	
	Peterhead Fisheries Office (Marine Scotland Compliance)	
	RSPB Scotland	✓
	Royal Yachting Association (RYA)	✓
	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks	
	Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation	
	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	✓
	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation	
	Scottish Wildlife Trust	
	Shell Energy	
	Statnett	
	Tampnet	✓
	Visit Scotland	
	Whale and Dolphin Conservation	
MD-LOT Advisory bodies	Marine Scotland Science (Now Marine Directorate (Science Evidence, Data and Digital (SEDD))	✓
	Marine Directorate (Marine Analytical Unit (MAU))	
	Transport Scotland	✓
	Ports and Harbours (Transport Scotland)	



A total of 18 responses were received in total; 15 responses were received from the consultees and two responses from the MD-LOT advisory bodies. The Scoping process is further detailed in Chapter 6: EIA Methodology. The comments that have been received and are applicable to specific receptors are further detailed in the relevant chapters within this EIAR (Chapters 7 through to 16).

To follow up on the Scoping Response, TEPNSUK distributed a summary of the Scoping Opinion via email to all consultees (with whom conversations weren't ongoing) and to find out if any further clarity was required. Follow-up emails have since been received and meetings have since been held with consultees invited to discuss a range of offshore topics including, but not limited to, offshore ornithology, fisheries and shipping and navigation, a summary of which are presented in Table 5-3. Additionally, TEPNSUK also hosted a Hazard Identification workshop for Appendix I: Navigational Risk Assessment, as required by MCA guidance. The objective of the Hazard Workshop was to identify and review potential hazards associated with the development of the Project.

TEPNSUK will continue to engage with relevant consultees throughout the determination and post-consent stages.

Table 5-3 Post-Scoping consultation, meetings, events and communications.

EVENT	CONSULTEE(S)	DATE	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	ACTIONS TAKEN
Vessel Transport Survey (VTS) options discussion	MCA	13 th July, 2023	Meeting held to present two VTS options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One year of Automatic Identification System (AIS) data (June 2022-June 2023). Undertake site specific season vessel traffic surveys. 	MCA happy for the VTS to use AIS data rather than undertake seasonal vessel surveys.
Post-Scoping Opinion meeting	MD-LOT	26 th July, 2023	Post-Scoping updates for MD-LOT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piling is no longer included in the Project Design Envelope (PDE) and drag anchors are to be used. Therefore there will be no requirement for underwater noise assessment; Changes to the Project timeline to push the installations out to Q1, 2025; Post-Scoping Response queries for MD-LOT; and An overview of the Habitats Regulations Screening (to date) was also presented to MD-LOT to highlight any receptors with a Likely Significant Effect (LSE). It was agreed that further information was required from ornithological surveys to assess the LSE fully. 	TEPNSUK to abide by final Scoping Opinion following clarifications. MD-LOT also asked (in line with NatureScot's advice) that the full set of bird survey data is required to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening.
CES post-scoping email	CES	29 th August 2023	Confirmation that CES do not provide comment during the EIA consultation process as they are not a statutory consultee.	No further action required
Fisheries update meeting with TEPNSUK Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)	SFF and Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)	13 th September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General agreement that this is a small project and therefore not significant in terms of impact on Fisheries; Noted and agreed that lease depends on consents and should align with Sectoral Marine Plan; Query as to why the project sits under Targeted Oil and Gas (TOG) and not Innovation (IN), given the innovative approach; Query as to why the WTG is located 2 kilometre (km) from the Culzean platform; Cable burial to prevent snagging confirmed by TEPNSUK; Cenos project may push fishing closer to the Culzean Project; 	Following the meeting, TEPNSUK confirmed the following with the consultees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of the WTG (2 km from the Culzean Platform) is driven by CAA requirements which are in place with regards to helicopter clearance for landing on the platform; The Culzean Facilities are located in an Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) area that was specifically designed for TOG projects; The objective of the project is two-fold; to qualify new floater technology and to hybridise the



EVENT	CONSULTEE(S)	DATE	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	ACTIONS TAKEN
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around the carbon impact of the project and the CO2 balance for powering the platform; • Query as to how Scoping Responses will be addressed; and • Query around the re-purposed components of the WTG. 	<p>Culzean facilities. The three Megawatt (MW) WTG is a refurbished Vestas unit that is available now and fits TEPNSUK’s schedule of installation (2025). The 3 MW WTG is expected to generate around a quarter of the Culzean’s electricity consumption;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon assessment included in Appendix A: Carbon Assessment; • Scoping Responses to be included in the relevant EIAR chapter and in line with Marine Directorate viewpoints following Scoping Opinion discussions; and • TEPNSUK confirmed the following: The WTG will be a refurbished Vestas V112. There will be a newly built tower, designed for the Culzean metocean conditions.
BP response	email BP	29 th September 2023	Response to thank TEPNSUK for the further detail surrounding the Project and confirmation of no comments with regards to ETAP Central Production Facility (CPF).	No further action required
Hazard Identification workshop	MCA, NLB, RYA Scotland UK Chamber of Shipping, SWFPA	17 th October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatec outlined the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) methodology, as well as plans for future case scenarios. This was followed by a summary of potential hazards scoped into the NRA and examples of embedded mitigation measures. They also presented the existing baseline including navigational features, historical incident data, and vessel traffic data; • RYA noted that recently there have been delays in the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) charts being updated but agreed that other forms of mitigation including Notice to Mariners and Kingfisher should raise awareness; • MCA raised potential for loss of the WTG during towing operations to / from site; 	<p>During the meeting, TEPNSUK and Anatec confirmed the following with the consultees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEPNSUK note the delay to the UKHO chart updates and will ensure that navigational notices are submitted via Notice to Mariners and Kingfisher; • WTG tow is expected to take place from Aberdeen with one main tug and another supporting in the event of an issue arising, and confirmed that it is planned to pre-install the mooring lines on site. TEPNSUK also note the

EVENT	CONSULTEE(S)	DATE	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	ACTIONS TAKEN
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that NLB have the responsibility to retrieve wrecks in areas of navigation, noting that should the floater sink (whilst on site or under tow) then it may present a navigational risk. Protocol for wreck response should be considered for the Emergency Response Cooperation Plan (ERCoP) as well as in a risk assessment of the towing operation; Query from SWFPA regarding the mooring chains left on the seabed, and whether they would have an associated guard vessel until they were hooked up; MCA stated that routeing by commercial vessels (cargo, tanker) clearly avoid the existing infrastructure at the Culzean Field and therefore there are no concerns. NLB and UK Chamber of Shipping agreed and acknowledged that the routeing is unlikely to change in the future; For commercial fishing the SWFPA noted that AIS does not capture all activity but will capture the majority this far offshore. The area is generally quiet for fishing vessels with movements predominantly transits close to existing infrastructure. Therefore there are no concerns. They also asked if there were international fishing vessels in the dataset; RYA Scotland noted that recreational routeing between Peterhead and the Baltic may be expected but given the presence of existing infrastructure the additional presence of the WTG does not increase concerns. If an issue were to arise it would most likely be in bad weather; NLB confirmed that no buoyage is required given the short nature of the installation campaign, presence of the ERRV for the Culzean Field, and coverage from the nearby platform. Additionally any recovery buoys on mooring lines can be covered by notifications to mariners and Kingfisher; and NLB requested that for lighting and marking purposes the WTG is treated as an isolated structure following International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Guidelines. 	<p>need to incorporate wreck response in the ERCoP and relevant risk assessments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no guard vessel planned, as the existing Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel (ERRV) associated with the Culzean platform can fulfil this role given the distance to the WTG; Anatec acknowledged that Vroon (as the leading vessel operator in the area) were invited to the Hazard Workshop and will be given further opportunity to provide feedback; and Anatec stated that international fishing vessels would be researched and analysis will be provided in the NRA.

EVENT	CONSULTEE(S)	DATE	DISCUSSION SUMMARY	ACTIONS TAKEN
Update meeting	Scottish Government Offshore Wind Directorate	25 th October 2023	TEPNSUK provided an overview of the project and its progress to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TEPNSUK received a letter from the Scottish Government Offshore Wind Directorate recognising TEPNSUK's ambitions to contribute to NetZero.
Meeting	Nature Scot	29 th January 2024	An overview of the Habitats Regulations Screening (to date) was presented to NatureScot to discuss receptors with LSE and to discuss the HRA process in the context of the relatively small scale of the project and the timescales required to meet the Project objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was recommended that MD-LOT be engaged to reach agreement on the aspects scoped in and out of the HRA process and that the HRA Screening report be combined with a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) for submission with the Application for further consideration of the ornithological aspects (namely kittiwake species) deemed to require further evidence. MD-LOT subsequently agreed to this approach by email on 6th February 2024 and NatureScot confirmed their opinions on the details to be included in the document on the 8th February, 2024. As such the combined HRA Screening / RIAA report has been submitted in support of the Application and has been completed in line with this guidance.
Follow-up correspondence	MD-LOT (email) Nature Scot (letter via email)	6 th February 2024 8 th February 2024	<p>An overview of the HRA approach to date was provided including European Sites designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex 1 Habitats; Diadromous Fish and Associated Features; Marine Mammal Features; and Ornithological Features. <p>It was agreed that evidence is satisfactory to scope the first two areas out of further assessment due to the intervening distance to any Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for these features and no potential LSE.</p> <p>Further assessment had been undertaken and provided for Marine Mammal Features and it was agreed that (given the lack of noisy activity) that the evidence is satisfactory to scope marine mammals and other megafauna out of further assessment due to no potential LSE.</p> <p>Further evidence was provided for Ornithological Features, based on an overview of the 12 months of DAS Data, with particular focus on the breeding season. Connectivity, pathways and presence were discussed in the context of each species observed during the breeding season. NatureScot were content that all species except for kittiwake species, have no potential for LSE.</p>	



TEPNSUK will continue to engage with relevant consultees throughout the pre-application, determination, and post-consent stages.

5.5 Additional Consultation Methods

5.5.1 Project website

TEPNSUK have designed and maintain a project website which continues to provide, up to date information on the progress of the Project along with details on how the public can contact the project team. The website includes a comprehensive document library and can be accessed at <https://www.totalenergies.co.uk/culzeanwindturbine>.

5.5.2 Engagement with academia

The Project is committed to engaging with stakeholders across the education sector. As outlined in Chapter 1: Introduction, the project will utilise the pilot project to implement a scientific Research and Development (R&D) programme in conjunction with the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS). This programme will provide knowledge and experience on offshore wind turbine construction, integration, installation, operations and maintenance. It will also qualify new equipment and perform data assessment to support methodologies and processes to be used on larger offshore wind farms. Further detail on the sub-projects to be included is available in Chapter 1: Introduction. These cover the general themes of:

- eDNA-based monitoring development;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem indicators; and
- Active acoustics and optics monitoring development.

TEPNSUK are also currently investigating participation in ongoing academic projects as part of the R&D programme, with the potential to provide the Project as a test site for several further environmental monitoring projects.

5.6 Planned Engagement

5.6.1 Public Engagement

Once the Application is accepted by the relevant authorities, the public shall have the opportunity to make formal representations in accordance with the regulations applicable to the Application. The timescales and procedure for making representations will be confirmed as part of the application process.

5.6.2 Post-application consultation

Consultation will continue beyond the submission of the Application to address any comments raised during the Application determination stage and during the discharge of marine licence conditions ahead of construction (assuming a marine licence is granted).



Further consultation will also be undertaken as the Project progresses, during which it may be appropriate to consider alternative means of broader public consultation including press releases.

5.7 Summary and Conclusions

Regarding stakeholder engagement for the Project, TEPNSUK's overarching aim has been to ensure the efficient hybridisation of a floating WTG with an existing offshore platform complex, to align with TEPNSUK and National net zero targets. The engagement approach has focused on targeted consultations, supported by clear objectives, to avoid unnecessarily burdening stakeholders.

This robust consultation process has resulted in several recommendations regarding the design of the Project, which have been accounted for in the PDE (see Chapter 4: Project Description). The process also allowed TEPNSUK to provide information on specialist topics such as agreed methodologies for receptor-specific impact assessments. The feedback received has also been useful to guide the mitigation measures proposed.