




## **Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme**

### **Environmental Statement – Volume 2**

#### **Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement**

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
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	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	Rev: A01
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## Contents

<b>4. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
4.2. PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER .....	6
4.3. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT .....	6
4.4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT .....	8
4.5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT .....	26
4.6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS .....	26
4.7. REFERENCES .....	28


## Tables

TABLE 4.1 SUMMARY OF THE EIA DIRECTIVE AND REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT .....	7
TABLE 4.2 BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS APPROACHED DURING CONSULTATION FOR THE MARINE SCHEME .....	9
TABLE 4.3 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT WITH CONSULTEES AND WHERE CONSIDERED IN THE MARINE SCHEME ES .....	10

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	Rev: A01
Status: Final		

## Acronyms


Acronym	Description
BBWF	Berwick Bank Wind Farm
BBWFL	Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited
BMML	Brown and May Marine Ltd
CDA	Compass Deviation Assessment
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
CFWG	Commercial Fisheries Working Groups
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EGL1	Eastern Green Link 1
ES	Environmental Statement
FIR	Fishing Industry Representatives
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
HE	Historic England
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal / Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MD-LOT	Marine Scotland Licensing and Operations Team
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLA	Marine Licence application(s)
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MoD	Ministry of Defence
NCC	Northumberland County Council
NE	Natural England
NIFCA	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Acronym	Description
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
NtMs	Notice to Mariners
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RYA	Royal Yachting Association
SEM	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
SFF	Scottish Fishermen’s Federations
SSER	SSE Renewables
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
TCE	The Crown Estate

## Units

Acronym	Description
NM	Nautical miles

	<p align="center"><b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b></p> <p align="center"><b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b></p>	<p>Doc No:</p> <p>A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003</p>
<p>Classification: Final</p>		<p>Rev: A01</p>
<p>Status: Final</p>		

## 4. Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

### 4.1. Introduction


1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents an overview of the stakeholder engagement and consultation carried out during the pre-application stage for the Marine Scheme (as defined) aspects of the Cambois Connection (hereafter referred to as ‘the Project’).
2. Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (BBWFL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Renewables (SSER) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’). The Applicant is proposing to develop the Project, comprising the development of Offshore Export Cables, Onshore Export Cables, an onshore Converter Station and associated grid connection at Blyth substation in Northumberland, comprising two distinct proposals, the Marine Scheme<sup>1</sup> and the Onshore Scheme<sup>2</sup>.
3. Due to the integrated nature of the Marine Scheme and the Onshore Scheme, and physical overlap in the intertidal zone, much of the consultation and engagement undertaken for the Project encompassed information on the Cambois Connection as a whole. This chapter therefore covers those consultations applicable to the Project as a whole, whilst also considering the specific engagement and consultation activity which the Applicant has carried out for the Marine Scheme. By following this approach, stakeholders have been given the opportunity to meaningfully engage with the complete suite of proposals across the Marine Scheme and the Onshore Scheme, supporting a holistic appreciation of all potential impacts. In particular, this approach has facilitated engagement and consultation of the impact assessments covering the intertidal area in both the Onshore Scheme and the Marine Scheme, offering a streamlined approach for consultees for the purposes of the overlapping assessments in the intertidal zone.
4. As outlined in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction, the purpose of the Project is to facilitate the export of a portion of the green energy from the generation assets associated with the Berwick Bank Wind Farm (BBWF), located in the outer Firth of Forth. Whilst BBWF is subject to a separate consenting process<sup>3</sup>, there is considerable overlap in terms of the consultation and engagement undertaken for both projects due to their inherent link. This chapter summarises all consultation and engagement related to the Marine Scheme of the Project and also, where relevant and appropriate, consultation and engagement undertaken for BBWF specifically that relates to the Project<sup>4</sup>. Where there are instances of this, it will be clearly stated.
5. The Marine Scheme requires a Marine Licence from both the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in Scottish and English waters respectively. Under The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (‘the PAC Regulations’), there are statutory requirements for pre-application consultation activity for marine licence applications submitted under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. However, as the two Marine Licences required for the Marine Scheme are being submitted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the ‘2009 Act’), the requirements of the PAC

<sup>1</sup> The offshore components of the Project seaward of mean high water springs (MHWS).

<sup>2</sup> The onshore components of the Project down to the seaward extent of the Landfall at mean low water springs (MLWS). The consultation and engagement activities required and carried out in support of this aspect of the Project are distinct and are reported within the EIA in support of the Onshore Scheme; this is discussed further in paragraph 3, and further details are available within Volume 1, Non-Technical Summary of the Marine Scheme application.

<sup>3</sup> An application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) was submitted to MD-LOT and accepted in December 2022, and is currently being determined.

<sup>4</sup> The boundary of the Marine Scheme encompasses the BBWF array area in Scottish waters only, as shown on Volume 3, Figure 1.1.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

Regulations do not apply, and there is no comparable requirement for pre-application consultation for 2009 Act applications; this is discussed further in section 4.3.1.


6. Consent for the Onshore Scheme will be sought via an application for planning permission to Northumberland County Council (NCC) as the local planning authority (LPA) under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Applicant will adhere to all statutory consultation requirements for consultation for the Onshore Scheme, including where that will involve seeking views from marine-related stakeholders. Further details will be provided as part of the Onshore Scheme application.
7. Early and ongoing engagement with stakeholders is an important part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) best practice and the development of any project. It allows the integration of public and stakeholder concerns, opinions and data to inform decisions about the proposed development. The Applicant is committed to ongoing and targeted dialogue and engagement with stakeholders, regulators, and communities under a robust programme of meaningful stakeholder engagement and consultation activity to inform decision making and Project design.
8. All feedback gained through pre-application engagement has been recorded and reviewed as part of the iterative EIA process, to ensure that all feedback is considered as part of the ongoing Project development and used to meaningfully inform the final EIA design.
9. Whilst the Applicant has carried out a significant suite of consultation and engagement activity to date, the content of the Marine Licence Applications (MLAs) and supporting ES will form the basis of statutory consultation undertaken by MD-LOT and the MMO under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
10. Beyond this, consultation and engagement activity will continue throughout the development of the Marine Scheme and indeed a number of commitments within the ES and MLAs reflect this. This is discussed further within Volume 3, Appendix 16.1: Commitments Register.

## 4.2. Purpose of this Chapter

11. The purpose of this ES chapter is to provide a record of the stakeholder and public engagement that has been undertaken in the pre-application stage for the Project. This chapter summarises:
  - The policy and legislative context against which consultation and engagement for the Marine Scheme has been undertaken;
  - The approach which has been used to structure the pre-application consultation process;
  - The informal and formal stakeholder engagement undertaken;
  - Key feedback received during pre-application; and
  - How this engagement has been applied during the pre-application stage of the Project.

## 4.3. Policy and Legislative Context

12. The requirements of the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC codified by EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and then amended by EU Directive 2014/52/EU) are enacted by the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) ('the EIA Regulations') in Scottish offshore waters, and English inshore and offshore waters. Policy and legislation under the EIA Directive, specific to stakeholder consultation and engagement throughout the EIA process are summarised in Table 4.1.
13. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was adopted on 25 June 1998 and entered into force on 30 October 2001 (Aarhus, 2001). The Aarhus Convention is created to empower the role of citizens and civil society organisations in environmental matters and is founded on the principles of participative democracy. There are three primary provisions under the Aarhus convention:


	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status: Final		Rev: A01

- **Access to environmental information:** The right of the citizens to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities;
  - **Public participation in environmental decision making:** The right of the citizens to participate in preparing plans, programmes, policies, and legislation that may affect the environment; and
  - **Access to justice:** The right of the citizens to have access to review procedures when their rights with respect to access to information or public participation have been violated.
14. The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide (Aarhus, 2014) provides guidance on how proponents of major infrastructure projects may engage meaningfully with citizens and society and on the extent of environmental information which should, as a best practice, be provided to the public.
15. The Applicant is committed to engaging meaningfully with the public. The Marine Scheme ES will be made accessible digitally at [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com), and hard copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations will be agreed with MD-LOT and the MMO prior to consultation on the MLAs and included in the publication notices. Consultation has been undertaken throughout the pre-application phase as detailed in this chapter of the Marine Scheme ES.
16. Policy and legislation relevant to climate change commitments, renewable energy (including transmission infrastructure) legislation and policy, and consenting legislation is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Policy and Legislative Context.

**Table 4.1 Summary of the EIA Directive and Regulations relevant to stakeholder consultation and engagement**

Summary of EIA Regulations	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
<p>Part 3, Regulation 13 of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, Scoping Opinions</p> <p>The applicant may request a scoping opinion from the appropriate authority, in accordance with the procedures set out in Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations.</p>	<p>In November 2022, the Applicant submitted a request for Scoping Opinion (BBWFL, 2022a) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the Marine Scheme to the regulatory bodies in Scotland (MD-LOT) and England (the MMO). A Scoping Opinion was received from MD-LOT on 23 February 2023 (MD-LOT, 2023) and from the MMO on 14 March 2023 (MMO, 2023a). Where the approach in the Marine Scheme ES differs to that requested in the Scoping Opinions, the Applicant has provided detailed reasoning and justification of the approach taken in the relevant technical chapter of the ES (Volume 2, Chapters 7 to 15), as applicable.</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant has submitted an ES that is based on the Scoping Opinions.</p>
<p>Part 3 of the EIA Regulations contains provisions regarding consultation, publication and notification as follows; Regulation 16 (Publicity); Regulation 17 (Consultation on proposed regulated activity); Regulation 21 (Consideration of representations from the public); Regulation 22 / 23 (EIA Consent Decision and associated notification / publicity); and Regulation 24ZA (Notification and publication of regulatory decisions)</p>	<p>Regulation 17 requires consultation on the proposed regulated activity by the appropriate authority following submission of the application. This chapter of the Marine Scheme ES outlines the consultation and engagement that has been undertaken by the Applicant prior to the submission of the application with regards to the Project and the Marine Scheme.</p> <p>A number of the consultation, publication and notification requirements of the EIA Regulations primarily place obligations on MD-LOT and the MMO however the Applicant has fully supported this process and the requirements are presented here for completeness.</p> <p>The Marine Scheme ES will be made accessible digitally on the Applicant's website at <a href="http://www.berwickbank.com">www.berwickbank.com</a>.</p>



	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b>	Doc No:
	<b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		
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## Summary of EIA Regulations

## How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES

On validation by the relevant licensing authorities, the MLA and supporting ES will be available on the MD-LOT and MMO public registers.

Hard copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations will be agreed prior to publicity of the Application and included in the publication notices.

### 4.3.1. Details of Regulatory Requirements relating to Pre-application Consultation

#### 4.3.1.1. SCOTTISH WATERS


17. In Scottish waters, the Marine Scheme is located entirely within the offshore marine region (beyond the 12 nautical mile (nm) limit). Accordingly, a Marine Licence for the Scottish Marine Scheme is being sought under the 2009 Act and in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
18. As mentioned above at section 4.1 there is no equivalent of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (the 'PAC Regulations') applicable to the 2009 Act. On this basis, there is no mandatory requirement for statutory Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) in Scottish Waters. However, as outlined within this chapter, the Applicant has undertaken extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders including consultation carried out pre-application.

#### 4.3.1.2. ENGLISH WATERS

19. As mentioned above in section 4.1, there are no requirements comparable to the PAC Regulations in English offshore and inshore waters under the 2009 Act.
20. However, the EIA for the Marine Scheme is subject to the range of publicity, consultation and notification requirements under the EIA Regulations, as detailed in Table 4.1 above.

## 4.4. Stakeholder Engagement

21. Whilst there are no statutory PAC and engagement requirements from either or the MMO as part of the Marine Licensing process for the Marine Scheme, relevant guidance on best-practice and consultation has been used to inform consultation and engagement to date.
22. In Scottish waters, the PAC guidance encourages Applicant's to confirm the scope of any consultation and engagement activity in their MLA, including any advertising or consultation with the general public and consultation with conservation bodies. In English waters, the MMO has not published any direct guidance on consultation and engagement however they do 'strongly encourage' prospective applicants to engage with the MMO before submission, signposting their own enquiry service (MMO, 2023b). The vast majority of the MMO's information regarding consultation is focused on their own regulator-led consultation once a MLA has been submitted (MMO, 2018) however the Applicant has been cognisant of this and has ensured that the Marine Scheme fully supports the fulfilment of this onward activity in an efficient way.
23. The Applicant is committed to proactive engagement with all key stakeholders and the public, and as such has undertaken a significant volume of engagement since the inception of the Project which has continued throughout the EIA process. This has included a range of virtual and in-person meetings, email correspondence, document reviews and provision of digital documentation.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	Rev: A01
Status: Final		

#### 4.4.1. Technical Engagement and Pre-application Advice

24. Technical engagement has been carried out, and will continue to be carried out, with a range of relevant stakeholders in relation to the Marine Scheme (and where appropriate, the Project as a whole). The list of bodies and organisation that were approached and/or consulted during pre-application is presented in Table 4.2:

**Table 4.2 Bodies and Organisations approached during consultation for the Marine Scheme**


Stakeholders Consulted in Relation to the Marine Scheme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset Owners;</li> <li>• Blyth Harbour Authority;</li> <li>• Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas);</li> <li>• The Crown Estate (TCE);</li> <li>• Crown Estate Scotland (CES);</li> <li>• Environment Agency;</li> <li>• Historic Environment Scotland (HES);</li> <li>• Historic England;</li> <li>• Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC);</li> <li>• Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA);</li> <li>• MMO;</li> <li>• MD-LOT;</li> <li>• National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations (NFFO);</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England;</li> <li>• NatureScot;</li> <li>• North-East Fishing Association (NEFA)</li> <li>• Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (NIFCA)</li> <li>• Northumberland County Council (NCC)</li> <li>• Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB);</li> <li>• Royal Yachting Association (RYA);</li> <li>• RYA Scotland;</li> <li>• Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF)</li> <li>• Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA);</li> <li>• Trinity House; and</li> <li>• UK Chamber of Shipping.</li> </ul>

25. Consultation has included both pre-application advice from regulatory bodies and technical engagement. Feedback received relating to the Marine Scheme technical chapters has been addressed in topic chapters and appendices as outlined in Table 4.3 and is also summarised within the technical chapters.

26. As noted in section 4.1 above, whilst BBWF is subject to a separate consenting process, there is considerable overlap in terms of the consultation and engagement undertaken for both projects due to their inherent link. On this basis, MD-LOT and NatureScot have been kept informed and consulted on the Cambois Connection and progress with associated activities, e.g. surveys, in bi-weekly calls for BBWF. The findings from the consultation and engagement process have been used to help refine the Marine Scheme, thereby seeking to aid MD-LOT and their consultees for projects located in Scottish waters.


27. In addition, third party infrastructure assets, such as other cables, have been considered for the Marine Scheme and the Applicant is in discussions with the owners of third-party assets to minimise disruption and agree crossing and proximity agreements, as needed. Please refer to Volume 2, Chapter 15: Other Sea Users for further details and associated impact assessment.

28. Those other organisations consulted through Scoping for the Marine Scheme, as well as joint consultation of the MMO and MD-LOT, are detailed in Table 4.3.


	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final	Status: Final	

**Table 4.3 Summary of Engagement with Consultees and where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES**


Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
13 January 2022	NCC	<p>A meeting was held to introduce the Project to the Local Planning Authority for the Onshore Scheme. Owing to the requirement for a landfall along the Cambois coastline, the approach to the consent application process for this area was discussed, including in terms of any potential overlap in environmental assessments for the Marine Scheme and the Onshore Scheme between MHWS and MLWS, and how NCC may work with the MMO. Confirmation was received that NCC is not a signatory to the Coastal Concordat (MMO, 2021), however the Applicant confirmed their intention to adopt these principles where practicable to help guide the EIA process.</p>	<p>Advice from NCC was used to inform the Landfall selection process.</p> <p>Following the discussions with NCC regarding the coastal concordat, an aligned approach to the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment has been followed.</p> <p>In practice, this means that the MMO will carry out (“lead”) the MCZ Assessment for the Marine Scheme. Furthermore, the RIAA carried out by the Applicant which will support the MMO’s Habitats Regulation Appraisal / Assessment (HRA) will help to inform the NCC HRA, as required. This is considered technically appropriate, given the marine focus of the relevant designated sites, and represents a meaningful efficiency during the consenting process.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives.</i></p>
16 March 2022	MMO and MD-LOT	<p>A meeting was held to introduce the Project to the relevant marine regulators for the Marine Scheme. The approach to the MLAs was presented, as well as the intended approach regarding MLA submissions in both Scotland and England.</p> <p>The Applicant also presented on the key constraints of the broad Offshore Export Cable Corridor and how they would be considered going forward.</p> <p>A summary of the intended scope of and approach to surveys was provided (benthic and geophysical for the Marine Scheme, and</p>	<p>Whilst constraints for a broad Offshore Export Cable Corridor identified at this time between BBWF and Cambois, encompassing two narrower corridor options, were presented with the intent to take the broad corridor forward for Scoping, both MMO and MD-LOT did not raise any concerns regarding identified environmental constraints or potential consenting risks. As noted during the meeting, the Applicant sought further advice from Natural England on the broad Offshore Export Cable Corridor for further refinement of the corridor route.</p>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		
Status Final	Rev: A01	


Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
		Phase 1 Habitats and Species surveys for the Onshore Scheme which were presented for completeness).	<p>As part of this workshop, the Applicant discussed the need for coordination between authorities and how this may aid the consenting process for the Marine Scheme and Onshore Scheme. To this end, the Applicant also discussed the adoption of the coastal concordat principles with the MMO.</p> <p>Both MD-LOT and MMO were briefed regarding the intended timeframes of and approach to EIA Scoping.</p> <p>The MMO's advice to engage with Natural England regarding the scope of and approach to surveys was followed.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives.</i></p>
24 April 2022	Natural England	A meeting was held to introduce the Project and to discuss a range of topics of relevance to ecology and nature conservation, as well as the intended approach and scope of the ensuing EIA and HRA. The intended approach to the impact assessment for ornithology was discussed.	<p>Following presentation of the two Offshore Export Cable Corridor options identified at this stage within a broad Offshore Export Cable Corridor, Natural England recommended avoiding the Farnes East MCZ where possible and advised that if avoidance was not possible then further considerations would be needed. The Applicant noted that the corridor is very wide at this stage and that they will explore opportunities for avoiding the Farnes East MCZ.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 8: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology</i></p>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status Final		Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
			<p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology</i></p> <p><i>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</i></p> <p><i>MPA and MCZ Assessment</i></p>
19 May 2022	<p>Forth and Tay Commercial Fisheries Working Group</p> <p>Fishing Industry Representatives (FIRs)</p> <p>Individual fishermen</p> <p>National organisations</p>	<p>The Applicant carried out consultation with various fisheries stakeholders, seeking feedback on their fishing activities between the Landfall at Cambois and the southern boundary of the BBWF array area, as well as their preferred Offshore Export Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>Advice from fisheries engagement was used to inform the Offshore Export Cable Corridor selection process. Queries and potential concerns relating to the Marine Scheme were recorded by the Applicant.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
6 July 2022	Natural England	<p>The Applicant held a further meeting with Natural England to discuss the scope of and approach to a suite of surveys planned for 2022, including offshore geophysical and benthic surveys.</p> <p>Interactions of the Marine Scheme with relevant designated sites were discussed, as was the Applicant's position with regards to non-breeding (overwintering) birds, including the proposed scope of the assessment, use of existing data and the need for supporting surveys. Based on the wealth of existing ornithological data in the area, the Applicant did not propose non-breeding (overwintering) bird surveys; Natural England were accepting of this but explained that a potential overwintering condition (interpreted to restrict licensable activities between 01 November and 31 March) would likely negate the need for further non-breeding (overwintering) surveys. However, noting that if flexibility or work within this period may be required, Natural England explained that the Applicant should consider survey requirements further.</p>	<p>Advice from Natural England associated with a number of designated sites was used to inform the selection of a preferred Offshore Export Cable Corridor, in particular advice on avoiding the Farnes East MCZ.</p> <p>To ensure the required level of seasonal flexibility for the likely Landfall locations along the Cambois coastline, the Applicant commissioned a programme of non-breeding (overwintering) bird surveys. Natural England were consulted on the scope of and approach to surveys; they were completed in winter 2022/23.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status Final		Rev: A01


Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
			<p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 8: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology</i></p> <p><i>MPA and MCZ Assessment</i></p> <p><i>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</i></p>
8 July 2022	TCE and CES	A Project update was provided with specific discussion on survey progress.	N/A
21 July 2022	<p>Blyth Harbour Authority</p> <p>Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (NIFCA)</p> <p>FIR</p>	The Applicant introduced the Project and provided information about the intended surveys which would be undertaken and how Notice to Mariners (NtMs) would be distributed. Preferred cable route selection was discussed as was correspondence already received from commercial fishers through the Project Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) with the help from FIR.	<p>Advice from fisheries engagement was used to inform the route selection process, and the landfall selection. Queries and potential concerns relating to the Marine Scheme were recorded by the Applicant.</p> <p>Engagement with commercial fisheries has continued throughout the refinement of the route options, the EIA and as the Project has progressed.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
3 August 2022	NCC	The Applicant provided an update on the Project. NCC confirmed that the Project was classified as an EIA development both in the meeting and in follow up correspondence.	Subsequent to the confirmation of requirement for an EIA, a request for Scoping Opinion together with an EIA Scoping Report for the Onshore Scheme was submitted to NCC in November 2022 to define the scope of the Onshore Scheme ES (refer to section 4.4.2 for further information on scoping).

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status Final		Rev: A01


Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
			<i>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</i>
			<i>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement (this ES chapter)</i>
			<i>Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Scoping Report</i>
4 August 2022	TCE and CES	A general Project update was provided. Discussions regarding surveys were undertaken.	N/A
31 August 2022	MMO and MD-LOT	The Applicant held a further joint-MMO/MD-LOT workshop to discuss the approach to EIA; specifically, this included a confirmation of the intended approach to Screening by Agreement and conducting a voluntary EIA.	Subsequent to the confirmation of requirement for an EIA, the Applicant submitted a request for Scoping Opinion together with an EIA Scoping Report for the Marine Scheme to the MMO and in November 2022 to define the scope of this ES (refer to section 4.4.2 for further information on scoping).
			<i>Volume 2, Chapter 1: Introduction</i>
			<i>Volume 2, Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement (this ES chapter)</i>
			<i>Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Scoping Report</i>
1 September 2022	TCE and CES	A general Project update was provided. Discussions regarding surveys were undertaken.	N/A
15 September 2022	MMO Cefas JNCC	The Applicant along with their benthic survey contractor (Natural Power), held a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the approach to the benthic survey and sampling plan for the Marine Scheme. The Applicant presented the proposed survey design, methodology, sampling locations and approach to reporting. Stakeholders followed up in writing to confirm their agreement on the approach presented. Whilst MD-LOT and NatureScot were invited to the meeting they were unable to attend, however, both stakeholders also confirmed in writing their agreement on the approach.	Benthic surveys and sampling for the Marine Scheme commenced in September/October 2022 following methodology agreed with stakeholders.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 8: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology</i>
			<i>Volume 3, Appendix 8.1: Benthic Survey Report – Phase 1 and 2</i>
7 October 2022	TCE and CES	The Applicant provided a general Project update, including on ongoing and planned surveys.	N/A

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
21 October 2022	MMO	A general Project update was provided.	N/A
7 November 2022	Advance Northumberland	A general Project update was provided in person at Advance Northumberland HQ, Ashington, Northumberland. Meeting focused on land access and potential economic benefits associated with the Project.	Issues raised focused on maximising local benefits (economic, skills, education) that could be associated with the Project. These are addressed in the Onshore Scheme ES.
15 December 2022	MMO	A general Project update was provided.	N/A
19 December 2022	East Bedlington Parish Council	A Project introduction was held in person at the East Bedlington Community Centre. East Bedlington Parish Council encompasses the Cambois region.	Issues raised focused on maximising local benefits (economic, skills, education) that could be associated with the Project. These are addressed in the Onshore Scheme ES.
16 January 2023	Natural England	<p>BBWFL provided a general Project update, including on the selected Offshore Export Cable Corridor which avoids the Farness East MCZ. Natural England was satisfied and pleased with the final Offshore Export Cable Corridor selected.</p> <p>The proposed approach to develop a single HRA Stage 1 Screening Report to cover both the Marine Scheme and the Onshore Scheme was discussed, including the advantages to this approach. Natural England confirmed agreement with this approach for the HRA Screening Report and subsequent RIAA.</p> <p>Natural England provided advice on specific ornithological and ecological sensitivities and designated sites that will require consideration in the EIA and RIAA.</p>	<p>The HRA Stage 1 Screening Report (BBWFL, 2023) and RIAA have been undertaken on this approach.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology</i></p> <p><i>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment, including the HRA Stage 1 Screening Report (Document reference: A-100796-S01-A-REPT-014)</i></p>
24 January 2023	HES	<p>A Project update was provided. HES' response to Scoping for the Marine Scheme was discussed, including specific points on the approach to the Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. It was acknowledged that the approach outlined by the Applicant in Scoping may be updated in light of Historic England's comments, and it was confirmed that HES would be informed of any future changes.</p> <p>A discussion regarding the proposed approach to impact assessment for the historic environment was undertaken.</p>	<p>HES was contacted to confirm the use of geophysical survey data to inform the Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage baseline (see row regarding consultation with Historic England below).</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 14: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 14.1: Marine Archaeology Technical Baseline Report</i></p>




	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status Final		Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
30 January 2023	MMO	A general Project update was provided.	N/A
1 February 2023	Ian Levy MP	A Project introduction was provided to Ian Levy MP	Issues raised focused on maximising local benefits (economic, skills, education) that could be associated with the Project. These are addressed in the Onshore Scheme ES
3 February 2023	Historic England	A Project update was provided. Historic England's response to the Scoping Report for the Marine Scheme was discussed, including specific points on the approach to the Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. Historic England provided specific recommendations with regards to the impact assessment and baseline compilation which have been considered by the Applicant.	<p>Advice from Historic England was taken into consideration and the approach to the Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment was revised in line with comments. Specifically, this included incorporation of archaeological review of geophysical data undertaken across the Offshore Export Cable Corridor to build the Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage baseline (specifically for unknown assets) and to inform the impact assessment.</p> <p>Subsequent to this meeting, further engagement meetings were undertaken with Historic England to provide pre-application updates on the progression of the impact assessment, to allow further advice from Historic England to be considered and actioned.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 14: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 14.1: Marine Archaeology Technical Baseline Report</i></p>
7 February 2023	NCC	A meeting was held to discuss specific Landfall options at Cambois and environmental sensitivities associated with this location.	<p>Advice from NCC was used to inform the onshore route selection process and the Landfall selection.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p>
10 February 2023	Public	The Applicant attended the Cramlington Apprenticeship Fair arranged by Ian Levy MP.	N/A


	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	Rev: A01
Status Final		

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
13 February 2023	MCA  Trinity House  NLB  RYA	A Project update was provided. Anatec presented information on the Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) baseline and proposed approach to the Shipping and Navigation Impact Assessment. The meeting was an opportunity for the Applicant to respond to queries and clarifications raised by stakeholders at Scoping, including on the requirement for a Compass Deviation Assessment (CDA).	Clarification was provided by agreement of the MCA that a CDA would only be undertaken post-consent and pre-construction to assess expected impact on ships' magnetic compass if it cannot be demonstrated that MCA deviation requirements can be met. Other queries raised were also clarified and confirmed via meeting minutes.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Shipping and Navigation</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 13.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</i>
15 February 2023	Councillor Richard Wearmouth Deputy Leader Northumberland County Council Portfolio lead on Clean Energy & Connectivity	A general Project introduction was provided.	Issues raised focused on maximising local benefits (economic, skills, education) that could be associated with the Project. These are addressed in the onshore EIA.
16 February 2023	UK Chamber of Shipping  Port of Blyth	A Project update was provided. Anatec presented information on the NRA baseline and proposed approach to the Shipping and Navigation Impact Assessment. The meeting was an opportunity for the Applicant to respond to queries and clarifications raised by stakeholders at the scoping stage.  Anatec responded to specific queries from stakeholders on baseline compilation and data sources.	Queries raised were clarified in the consultation meeting and confirmed via meeting minutes.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 13: Shipping and Navigation</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 13.1: Navigational Risk Assessment</i>
17 February 2023	Ian Lavery MP	A general Project introduction and update was provided.	Issues raised focused on maximising local benefits (economic, skills, education) that could be associated with the Project. These are addressed in the Onshore Scheme ES.
22 February 2023	North Shields Fish Quay Manager and local fishermen based in Blyth	Face to face meeting held by the Applicant's FIR at which the Project was reintroduced, focussing on the Marine Scheme, and an update on upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys was provided.	Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i>


Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
3 March 2023	TCE and CES	A general Project update was provided. Discussions regarding surveys and route refinement were undertaken.	N/A
10 March 2023	Cambois Primary School	A Project introduction was held to discuss potential onshore cable routes associated with the Project.	Potential onshore cable routes are addressed in the Onshore Scheme ES.
13 March 2023	Local fishermen based in Blyth and Seaham	Face to face meeting held by the Applicant's FIR at which the Project was reintroduced, focussing on the Marine Scheme, and an update on upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys was provided.	Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i>
22 March 2023	Local fishermen based in Holy Island, Seahouses and Amble	Face to face meeting held by the Applicant's FIR at which the Project was reintroduced, focussing on the Marine Scheme and an update on upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys was provided.	Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i>
14 April 2023	National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations (NFFO)	The Applicant provided an update on the Marine Scheme as well as on upcoming surveys. The meeting was held together with the Applicant's FLO.	N/A
18 April 2023	Local fishermen based in Seahouses	A drop-in consultation meeting was undertaken to provide general information on the Project, outlining Project timescales and the nature and scope of upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys. This discussion was held together with a FLO (BMM).	Information provided by fishermen on the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and on their fishing activities has informed survey preparations, and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i>
18 April 2023	MMO	An update on the Project and survey programme was provided and further clarification requested on the MMO Scoping Opinion. Agreement was sought from the MMO on specific topics and impact pathways to be scoped out of the Marine Scheme ES.	The MMO agreed with the Applicant's proposed topics and impact pathways to be scoped out of the ES.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status Final		Rev: A01


Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
19 April 2023	Local fishermen based in Amble	A drop-in consultation meeting was undertaken to provide general information on the Project, outlining Project timescales and the nature and scope of upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys. This discussion was held together with a FLO (BMM).	<p>Information provided by fishermen on the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and on their fishing activities has informed survey preparations, and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
20 April 2023	Local fishermen based in Blyth  NIFCA	A drop-in consultation meeting was undertaken to provide general information on the Project, outlining Project timescales and the nature and scope of upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys. This discussion was held together with a FLO (BMM).	<p>Information provided by fishermen on the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and on their fishing activities has informed survey preparations, and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
20 April 2023	SFF	A general introduction to the Project was provided, including an update on programme and proposed surveys. It was explained that the offshore converter station platform locations are currently unknown, hence why the entire BBWF array area boundary is currently included within the Marine Scheme ES.	<p>The Applicant has spoken to fishermen including the SFF and SWFPA, as well as other stakeholders, and the feedback received was to avoid potential inshore route options. It was outlined during the meeting that of the two potential route options within the optioneering corridor, fishers showed preference for the western corridor, however as a result of feedback from Natural England (and the MMO) due to the Farnes East MCZ the Applicant has proceeded with the Eastern corridor.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
27 April 2023	Local fishermen based in Eyemouth  Local fishermen based in Holy Island	Drop-in consultation meetings were undertaken to provide general information on the Project, outlining Project timescales and the nature and scope of upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys.	<p>Information provided by fishermen on the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and on their fishing activities has informed survey preparations, and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.</p>

 Classification: Final	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Status Final	Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
			<p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
28 April 2023	Historic England	A general update on the Project was provided including an update on the progress of the archaeological assessment and the approach to the ES.	N/A
2 May 2023	Ministry of Defence (MoD)	A general update on the Project was presented including further consultation on PEXAs associated with the Marine Scheme. A request was made for advice on the approach to the Onshore Scheme.	Feedback from the MoD clarifying the use of military sites within the vicinity of the Marine Scheme has been noted and considered within the Other Sea Users assessment.
5 May 2023	NatureScot	<p>NatureScot provided a HRA Screening Response to the HRA Stage 1 Screening Report submitted by BBWFL.</p> <p>The response provided advise on the LSE to be considered as part of the RIAA. NatureScot are content with screening out LSE to Annex I habitats and marine mammal interests in Scottish waters.</p> <p>NatureScot advise that they are not able to provide comment on the assessment of LSE for diadromous fish species due to the uncertainty about where these species are and in the absence of robust population data.</p> <p>NatureScot are broadly content with the European sites screened in for the ornithological assessment, however they request that more information be provided to screen out LSE from disturbance and displacement and suggest that the following sites be screened in for the assessment of LSE from in-combination effects from vessel disturbance and displacement and changes to prey availability across the Marine Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA,</li> <li>• Forth Islands SPA, and</li> </ul>	<p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 15: Other Sea Users</i></p> <p>The information and comment provided by NatureScot in their HRA Screening Response has been considered within the Marine Scheme RIAA.</p> <p><i>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (Document reference: A-100796-S01-A-REPT-014)</i></p>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final	Status Final	

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
10 May 2023	Local mobile fishermen based in various areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA</li> </ul> The Applicant held a meeting with mobile fishermen to provide information on the Marine Scheme, associated timescales and upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys. The meeting was held together with the Applicant's FLO.	Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i>
15 May 2023	Local fishermen based in Amble	Face to face meeting held by the Applicant's FIR at which the upcoming geophysical and geotechnical survey campaigns were discussed.	Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.  <i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i>  <i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i>
18 May 2023	Natural England	The Natural England HRA Screening Response provides the following comments on the assessment of LSE within the Marine Scheme HRA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England agree with the LSE conclusions for the Onshore Scheme;</li> <li>• Natural England agree with the LSE conclusions for diadromous fish and marine mammals;</li> <li>• Natural England advise on the requirement for an addendum to the RIAA which should consider the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site and all the features of the Teesmouth and Cleveland SPA;</li> <li>• Natural England advise that long-term habitat loss associated with the proportion of the Marine Scheme within English territorial waters should be assessed; and</li> <li>• Natural England advise that Zones of Influence for LSE to benthic ecology are to be considered within the MCZ assessment</li> </ul>	The information and comment provided by Natural England in their HRA Screening Response has been considered within the Marine Scheme RIAA.  <i>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment</i>

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status Final		Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
19 May 2023	Local fishermen based in Amble and Blyth	Face to face meeting held by the Applicant's FIR at which the upcoming geophysical and geotechnical survey campaigns were discussed.	<p>Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
23 May 2023	North Shields Fishing Association	A meeting was held by the Applicant together with their FLO to discuss the upcoming geophysical survey and cooperation agreements.	<p>Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
2 June 2023	North Shields Fishing Association	A further online meeting was held by the Applicant to provide further information on the upcoming geophysical survey and cooperation agreements.	<p>Information provided by fishermen has informed survey preparations and has been taken into consideration in the Marine Scheme ES.</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Volume 3, Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Engagement Report</i></p>
21 June 2023	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	The Applicant provided a general Project update, focussing on the Marine Scheme, including Offshore Export Cable Corridor selection (avoidance of the Farnes East MCZ), surveys and consultations undertaken, and ES approach and timescales. JNCC was satisfied and pleased that the Farnes East MCZ has been avoided during optioneering of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor.	<p>The comment provided by JNCC on avoidance of the Farnes East MCZ has been considered in the ES for the Marine Scheme:</p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 6: Route Appraisal and Consideration of Alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Volume 2, Chapter 8: Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology</i></p> <p><i>MPA and MCZ Assessment</i></p>


Classification: Final

Status Final

Rev: A01

Date	Consultee / Stakeholder	Issues Discussed	How and Where Considered in the Marine Scheme ES
06 July 2023	MMO	The Applicant further discussed the approach to submitting the Onshore Scheme ES and RIAA at a later stage than the Marine Scheme ES, in compliance with the EIA Regulations and Habitats Regulations applicable to the Project. It was highlighted that the MMO will have sufficient information for the Onshore Scheme to consult on and determine the Marine Licence application for the Marine Scheme.	NCC reconfirmed that no deferral is needed.
	NCC		



	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No:
		A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		Rev: A01
Status: Final		

#### 4.4.2. Scoping

29. In November 2022, the Applicant submitted a request for Scoping Opinion (BBWFL, 2022a) and associated EIA Scoping Report for the Marine Scheme to the regulatory bodies in Scotland (MD-LOT) and England (MMO). A Scoping Opinion was received from MD-LOT on 23 February 2023 (MD-LOT, 2023) and from the MMO on 14 March 2023 (MMO, 2023a).
30. The comments that have been received and are applicable to specific receptors are further detailed in the relevant technical chapters (Volume 2, Chapters 7 to 15) of this ES, along with detail of how the comments have been considered and addressed within the EIA.

##### 4.4.2.1. MD-LOT

31. As part of the Scoping process for Scottish waters, the following organisations were approached<sup>5</sup>:

- Angus Council
- Arbroath Community Council
- British Telecom
- Broughty Ferry Community Council
- Carnoustie Community Council
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Crown Estate Scotland
- Dee District Salmon Fishery Board
- Dundee City Council
- East Lothian Council
- Esk District Salmon Fishery Board
- Eyemouth Fishery Office
- Fife Council
- Fintry Community Council
- Fisheries Management Scotland
- Forth District Salmon Fishery Board
- Forth Ports
- Health and Safety Executive
- HES
- Inshore Fishery Group
- Joint Radio Company
- Letham and District Community Council
- Long Distance Advisory Council
- Mainstream Renewable Power Limited
- Marine Safety Forum
- Marine Scotland Compliance
- MCA
- Ministry of Defence
- Monifieth Community Council
- Monikie and Newbigging Community Council
- National Air Traffic Services
- National Trust for Scotland
- **NatureScot**
- North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group
- North Sea Advisory Council
- North Sea Fishermen's Organisation
- **NLB**
- Oil and Gas UK
- Orkney Sustainable Fisheries
- Outer Hebrides
- Pelagic Advisory Council
- Prestonpans Community Council
- Red Rock Power Limited
- **River Tweed Commission**
- *Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland*
- **RYA**
- **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission**
- *Scottish Borders Council*
- Scottish Canoe Association
- Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
- **Scottish Environment Protection Agency**
- **Scottish Fishermen's Federation**
- Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
- Scottish Government Planning
- Scottish Surfing Federation

<sup>5</sup> Those denoted in bold provided a response, those denoted in italics provided a nil return or stated no comment and the remainder did not provide a response

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No:
		A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		
Status: Final		Rev: A01

- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Seagreen Wind Energy Limited
- Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
- *Sports Scotland*
- Surfers Against Sewage
- Tay District Salmon Fishery Board
- Tealing Community Council
- The Fish Producer’s Organisation
- The Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
- Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council
- Transport Scotland Ports and Harbours
- **UK Chamber of Shipping**
- Visit Scotland
- West Barns Community Council
- West Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation

#### 4.4.2.2. MMO SCOPING

32. As part of the Scoping process in English waters, the following organisations were approached<sup>6</sup>:

- Blyth Harbour Authority;
- **Cefas**;
- **Environment Agency**;
- **Historic England**;
- JNCC;
- **MMO**;
- **Natural England**;
- Northumberland County Council; and
- Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA) / North East IFCA.

#### 4.4.3. Fisheries Liaison Officer

33. A FLO has been engaged on the Project since 2022. The FLO is the primary point of contact for liaison with the fishing industry on behalf of the Applicant. As part of the role the FLO may represent the Applicant in regard to issues relating to the fishing industry including (but not limited to):


- Timely communication of programmed works including duration and location;
- Attendance at Commercial Fisheries Working Groups (CFWG’s); and
- Negotiations regarding any required disruption settlements.

34. Brown and May Marine Ltd (BMML) are the contracted FLO for the Project. BMML has over 35 years’ experience in the provision of commercial fisheries consultancy services to the offshore industry across the UK. BMML have extensive experience of developing long-term working relationships with regional, national and international fishermen organisations, statutory stakeholder bodies, government research centres and government and EU ministries.

35. Additionally, the Applicant has a dedicated and experienced in-house Commercial Fisheries Manager employed to support the Project. The Commercial Fisheries Manager provides technical expertise on all fisheries related internal proposed development operations across the Applicant’s offshore development portfolio and leads the company’s external representation on strategic fisheries work and stakeholder liaison.

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<sup>6</sup> Those denoted in bold provided a response, those denoted in italics provided a nil return or stated no comment and the remainder did not provide a response

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No:
	Classification: Final	
Status: Final		Rev: A01

## 4.5. Public Engagement

36. Key groups of public stakeholders have been engaged throughout the pre-application phase of the Project, and on matters relevant to the Project as part of engagement for BBWF. The Applicant has met with local organisations and members of the public, as detailed in Table 4.3 and in Volume 3, Appendix 4.1: Cambois Connection – Report on Public Consultation.
37. A dedicated Stakeholder Engagement Manager (SEM) has been in place from the commencement of development of the Project, to facilitate and support engagement with the community. The SEM is available 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, or alternatively by appointment outside of these hours. Contact details for the SEM have been made available on the Project website, at a public exhibition on 11 May 2023, and via direct mailings to all residents located within 2.5 miles of Cambois<sup>7</sup>.
38. The SEM carried out local engagement with members of the public, parish councils, businesses and local organisations in the form of virtual and in person meetings (refer to Table 4.3 and section 4.5.1). A Project specific e-mail for public queries was also set up and is monitored and responded to when appropriate by the SEM.
39. A Project mailing list has also been created and is managed by the Project SEM. This list allows members of the public to voluntarily provide their e-mail address to ensure they are directly contacted with major Project information, such as notification of when the Marine Licence applications are submitted and how to view/comment on the applications.


### 4.5.1. Pre-Application Consultation

40. An in person public exhibition has been held on 11 May 2023 in East Bedlington to introduce and update members of the public on the progress of the Project. Approximately 50 attendees joined this event which allowed the Project team to respond to any queries and questions the public had on the proposals. Pre-application consultation has been the main opportunity for communities and members of the public to: review the plans; provide comments; submit feedback; and to shape the development of the Project design prior to submission of the applications for the Marine Scheme. The Applicant has ensured that communities and wider public stakeholders who are most affected by the proposals have been engaged in the development of the Project and have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals at key decision-making points. A summary of the public exhibition and how the Applicant engaged members of the public can be found in Volume 3, Appendix 4.1: Report on Public Consultation.
41. The Applicant has and will continue to offer a range of ways for the public to contact the Project team and share their views based on the most appropriate mechanisms for the community. As part of this further engagement, the Project team will be hosting a follow-up public exhibition event in Q3 2023.


## 4.6. Summary and Conclusions

42. The Applicant has reviewed and had regard to all feedback received throughout the pre-application process, as described in this ES chapter and specifically within technical chapters (Volume 2, Chapters 7 to 15). The main feedback from stakeholders has related to data sources and designated sites, approach to assessment and survey methodology. This feedback has been used to inform assessment of the Marine Scheme and the wider Project. It has also been used by the Applicant to inform key decisions on the development of the Project such as selection and refinement of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor, as well as preparation of recent and upcoming geophysical and geotechnical surveys. The Applicant is committed to and will continue stakeholder

<sup>7</sup> Identified as postcode NE24 1RD. A total of 28,486 letters were mailed. For further details, refer to Volume 3, Appendix 4.1: Report on Public Consultation.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
Classification: Final		Rev: A01
Status: Final		

engagement and consultation as the Marine Scheme and the Cambois Connection as a whole will progress.

	<b>Cambois Connection – Marine Scheme</b> <b>ES Chapter 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	Doc No: A100796-S01-A-REPT-004-003
	Classification: Final	
Status: Final		Rev: A01

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