

BERWICK BANK **WIND FARM**

Pre-Application Consultation Report

December 2022



CONTENTS

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

2. Legislative and regulatory background

- 2.1 Our commitment to engagement
- 2.2 Pre-application consultation requirements – offshore & onshore
- 2.3 Full Statement of Compliance

3. Berwick Bank

- 3.1 Need for the Project
- 3.2 Description of the Project
- 3.3 Aims for the Project
- 3.4 Next steps
- 3.5 Timeline

4. Pre application consultation

- 4.1 Consultation strategy
- 4.2 Who we consulted
- 4.3 Ongoing stakeholder engagement
- 4.4 Consultation zones
- 4.5 Consultation periods
- 4.6 Provision and availability of information
- 4.7 Materials sent to consultees
- 4.8 Mechanisms for asking questions, making comments and providing feedback
- 4.9 Processing responses and correspondence
- 4.10 Approach to analysis
- 4.11 Quality assurance

5. First round of consultation

- 5.1 Summary
- 5.2 Consultation materials
- 5.3 Feedback – offshore & onshore
- 5.4 Our conclusions

6. Second round of consultation

- 6.1 Summary
- 6.2 Consultation materials
- 6.3 Feedback – offshore & onshore
- 6.4 Our conclusions

7. Third round of consultation

- 7.1 Summary
- 7.2 Consultation materials
- 7.3 Feedback – offshore & onshore
- 7.4 Our conclusions

8. Fourth round of consultation (statutory)

- 8.1 Summary
- 8.2 Consultation materials
- 8.3 Feedback – offshore & onshore
- 8.4 Our conclusions
- 8.5 Statement of Compliance

9. Community Councils

10. Additional consultation

11. How we took account of views raised

12. Further changes to the offshore elements of the Project

13. Conclusions

Appendix 1.

Report on Consultation – November 2020

Appendix 2.

Report on Consultation – October 2021

Appendix 3.

Report on Consultation – December 2021

Appendix 4.

Report on Consultation – March 2022

Appendix 5.

Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN)

Appendix 6.

PoAN acknowledgement letter

Appendix 7.

Adverts in local newspapers

Appendix 8.

List of stakeholders consulted

Appendix 9.

Consultation event invites

Appendix 10.

Materials sent to consultees

Appendix 11.

First round of consultation – materials

Appendix 12.

Second round of consultation – materials

Appendix 13.

Third round of consultation – materials

Appendix 14.

Fourth round of consultation – materials

Appendix 15

Pre-application Consultation (PAC) notice

Appendix 16

Schedule 1 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) Scotland Regulations 2013

Appendix 17

Email correspondence with Marine Scotland's Licensing and Operations Team regarding pre-application consultation statement

Appendix 18

Invitation to statutory consultation – email

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report summarises the work carried out by Berwick Bank Wind Farm Limited (BBWFL) for the offshore and onshore elements of the proposed Berwick Bank Wind Farm Project. BBWFL (the Applicant) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SSE Renewables Limited (SSER).

The report accompanies the offshore and onshore consent applications, including the offshore and onshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports and associated documents submitted to Scottish Ministers in accordance with the requirements for Marine licences pursuant to the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and planning permission for the Onshore Transmission Works (OnTW) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

We carried out four rounds of public consultation on the proposals.

The first round of consultation on the offshore and onshore elements ran from November 2020 to December 2020. It introduced the proposals to the local community and sought people's views on them. At this time, they were comprised of two separate proposals, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm. This consultation round focused mainly on the proposals for Berwick Bank Wind Farm whilst explaining that further consultation on Marr Bank Wind Farm was due to follow.

Following discussions with internal and external stakeholders, we decided to combine the two proposals into one – Berwick Bank Wind Farm.

For all subsequent rounds of consultation, 'the Project' refers to this combined proposal.

The second consultation round took place in October 2021. It introduced the updated proposal to the public and allowed the Project team to better understand key local concerns, helping shape future consultation events.

The third round of consultation, which ran from November to December 2021, sought additional views and, where possible, addressed the public's concerns. It successfully resolved some of the issues that attendees and consultees raised previously.

A Proposal of Application Notice in respect of the OnTW was submitted to East Lothian Council and formally registered on 5 January 2022 (ref: 21/00009/PAN).

The fourth round of consultation took place in March 2022. This consultation round revisited concerns raised during the December 2021 consultation and represented the final 'formal' consultation, which included a public exhibition (under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Marine Licensing

(Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 on behalf of the Project ahead of the offshore and onshore consent application submissions.

Views raised during each consultation round have been considered throughout the development of the Project, and issues have been addressed wherever possible. We directly responded to feedback and created Consultation Reports following the end of each round of consultation to ensure the following rounds addressed key points of interest and concern.

For further detail on the views raised within each round of consultation and our responses to them, please refer to the following reports, provided in appendices 1-4, respectively:

- Berwick Bank Report on Consultation November 2020
- Berwick Bank Report on Consultation October 2021
- Berwick Bank Report on Consultation December 2021
- Berwick Bank Report on Consultation March 2022

We have continued consultation and dialogue with statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout the development of the Project.



77
days of consultation over four phases



33,496
mail drops sent out



30
events attended by 1,820 people



1. INTRODUCTION

SSER are the leading generator of renewable energy in the UK and Ireland, developing and operating low-carbon infrastructure to support the Net Zero transition. We're playing a key role in ensuring Scotland's world-leading climate change legislation targets are delivered on time.



With more than 7 gigawatts (GW) of capacity, we have the largest portfolio of offshore wind developments in the UK and Ireland, as well as the largest offshore wind development pipeline (over 6 GW). We're currently seeking consent for the Berwick Bank Wind Farm, a crucial component of this pipeline.

Through this Project, we aim to deliver 4.1 GW of new capacity by constructing wind turbines approximately 38km off the coast of East Lothian. That's enough energy to power all of Scotland's homes twice over – it's one of the largest offshore wind opportunities in the world.



It'll help decarbonise the UK's electricity system, meaning eight million tonnes of carbon dioxide are avoided every year, similar to taking all of Scotland's cars off the road.

Our project is essential to Scotland meeting its offshore wind targets by 2030 and will play a key role in delivering Net Zero for Scotland by 2045, benefitting our environment, people, and economy.

As a large construction project that'll take around eight years to complete, it represents an opportunity to secure a potential £8.3 billion investment in the UK economy.

We have three signed grid connection agreements with the network operator. Two agreements are for connections at the Branxton substation, East Lothian, with a third additional connection at Blyth, Northumberland (hereon in referred to as the Cambois Connection). The third additional connection agreement (Cambois Connection), was signed in June 2022 following National Grid's ESO Holistic Network Review, and will enable the Project to reach full generating capacity (4.1GW) by the early 2030's. The Cambois Connection (export cables and landfall) is being consented separately and has been considered cumulatively with the Proposed Development as part of this application.



Located at the mouth of the Firth of Forth in the seas off the east coast of Scotland, the Berwick Bank itself is a well-studied area of the North Sea, and we have conducted one of the world's largest aerial bird surveys over the last 10 years, enabling us to develop a more environmentally sensitive design.

As we began consulting on our proposals in 2020, the Berwick Bank Wind Farm proposal was comprised of two separate projects, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm.

We decided to combine them based on the feedback we received during our initial rounds of consultation, making material changes to our proposals.

"This is one of the biggest offshore wind farm projects in the world and it's important because we need to build out at scale to meet our climate change targets. Obviously, the greater the scale, the larger the opportunities are for East Lothian Council, but also for Scotland."

Sarah Edwards, Consents Team Manager



2. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

2.1 Our commitment to engagement

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement are important aspects of the Scottish planning (and consenting) system. Legislation and government guidance aim to ensure that statutory and non-statutory consultees have opportunities to have their views considered throughout the development of projects.

We attach great importance to the effect that our work may have on the environment and local residents. We are keen to engage a wide range of stakeholders and are committed to responding to the needs, interests, and concerns of local communities. For Berwick Bank Wind Farm, we began the engagement process at an early stage of the Project's development, and we will continue engaging in the construction stage should consent be granted.

We aim to deliver inclusive, meaningful engagement with consultees throughout all stages of the Project.

2.2 Pre-application consultation requirements – offshore & onshore

The offshore and onshore elements of Berwick Bank Wind Farm require the submission of applications for Marine licences pursuant to the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, and planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, respectively.

We identified a wide range of stakeholders with a potential interest in the Project and looked to engage with them at various stages during the development of our proposals. A list of these stakeholders is provided in Appendix 8.

Offshore Requirements

The Proposed Development needs to apply for Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and Marine licences under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (for the transmission infrastructure and section of the proposed export cable that falls beyond 12 nautical miles of the coast) and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (for the section of the proposed export cable that falls within 12 nautical miles of the coast).

As the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 applies to the Marine licences for the export cable corridor, we were required to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Notice (provided in appendix 15) - This notice was submitted to Marine Scotland on 19 January 2022. It included a Project overview summarising our offshore proposals, an indicative map of our offshore boundary and export cable route and summary of our consultation approach. Copies of this document were also issued to the following stakeholders:

- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Nature Scot
- Restoration Forth
- Berwickshire Marine Reserve
- Scottish Surfers Federation
- Surfers Against Sewage
- Scottish Fishermans Federation
- Scottish Seabird Centre
- Network Rail

- Scottish Water
- Scottish Forestry
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Scottish Borders Council
- Fife Council
- Angus Council
- East Lothian Council (Planning)
- Transport Scotland
- BT
- Ministry of Defence
- Dundee Council (Planning)
- Fisheries Management Scotland
- Forth Salmon Fish Board
- Forth Ports
- UK Chamber of Shipping
- Royal Yachting Association
- RSPB
- National Air Traffic Services (NATS)
- Joint Radio Company
- North & East Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group
- The Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)
- Visit Scotland
- Natural England
- Marine Analytical Unit (MAU)
- Northern Lighthouse Board
- NnG
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Marine Quest

2. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Onshore Requirements

We also are required to apply for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for all infrastructure (i.e. the Onshore Transmission Works) located landward of Mean Low Water Springs. As the Onshore Transmission Works constitute "national development" we are also required to undertake formal pre-application consultation in accordance with that Act.

Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) (appendix 5) – This notice was submitted to East Lothian Council on 23 December 2021. East Lothian Council responded on 24 December 2021, requesting further details of the proposed virtual consultation event. On 24 December the PoAN submission was updated with the requested details and given the Christmas period this was resubmitted to East Lothian Council on 29 December 2021. It included a PoAN form, cover letter and redline boundary of the OnTW (map). The consultation activity proposed within it was deemed acceptable by the council on 11 January 2022. Copies of these documents were also issued to the following stakeholders:

- Dunbar Community Council
- East Lammermuir Community Council
- Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council
- West Barns Community Council
- Councillor Sue Kempson
- Councillor Paul McLennan
- Councillor Norman Hampshire
- Colin Smyth MSP
- Carol Mochan MSP

- Brian Whittle MSP
- Sharon Dowery MSP
- Emma Harper MSP
- Craig Hoy MSP
- Martin Whitfield MSP

These materials are provided in appendix 5 and acknowledgement letters from the council is provided in appendix 6.

Due to the date of the PoAN submission and the date by which the planning application is anticipated to be submitted, the proposal falls within the transitional period meaning that the subsequent changes to pre-application consultation requirements effective from 1 October 2022 in The Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021, such as the requirement to hold two consultation events, do not apply.

Our team has always aimed to go above and beyond statutory requirements, to establish best practices in our sector. To fulfil this aim, our team ran 13 virtual events and 17 in-person events, ensuring we got feedback from as diverse a range of public groups as possible. Details about these public exhibitions are set out in chapters 5-8 of this report.

Public Exhibition – the first two rounds of consultation took place during the COVID-19 emergency period, when Scottish Government guidance suspended in-person events and required alternative means of consulting instead (virtual events).

We also consulted with community councils as described in chapter 9.

Per Regulation 7(2)(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, the consultation events were advertised in the Courier, East Lothian Courier (including their website and Facebook page), St Andrew's Citizen and Berwickshire News. Details on this are set out in section 4.7. These adverts are provided in appendix 7.

We engaged Copper Consultancy Ltd, a leading specialist in consultation for major infrastructure projects, to produce this report, ensuring:

- the report meets the legal requirements;
- it is accepted by stakeholders, influencers, and communities as an accurate representation of the consultation and engagement process, and;
- its narrative brings the process to life, reflecting how we have gone above and beyond such requirements to consult with communities and stakeholders.

Our pre-application consultation work is described in this report, submitted with the Marine licences' applications and planning application to Scottish Ministers and East Lothian Council, respectively. It provides an overview of our consultation work, demonstrating how we have fulfilled the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation, given local communities opportunities to engage with us, and how views raised during this process have influenced the development of the Project.



2.3 Full Statement of Compliance

Offshore Statement of Compliance

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010			
Section 23 (1)	A prospective applicant must give notice that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted	Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Notice - This notice was submitted to Marine Scotland on 24 January 2022	Appendix 15
Section 23 (2)	A period of at least 12 weeks must elapse between giving the notice and the submission of the application	Notice submitted on 19 January 2022 – 12 weeks has therefore elapsed between the submission of the notice in January 2022 and the submission of the application in December 2022.	Appendix 15
Section 23 (3) (a) – (d)	The notice must contain:- a. A description in general terms of the activity to be carried out; b. A plan or chart showing the outline of the location at which the activity is to be carried out, which is sufficient to identify the location; c. Details as to how the prospective applicant is to be contacted; d. Such other information as may be prescribed by Scottish Ministers	All elements covered within Pre-application Consultation Notice including a description of the Proposed Development including a chart showing its location. Details of the consultation events, Applicant contact details and deadline for written response are clearly included in the notice. (a) Description of general terms of activity - 'the Project's intended offshore generating infrastructure is proposed to be located within the area shown indicatively in solid yellow within the figure above and comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 307 offshore wind turbines and associated support structures and foundations; A network of cabling linking individual wind turbines to each other and to the offshore substation platforms (OSPs) (approx. 1,225 km of inter-array cabling); and Estimated scour protection of up to 2,280 m2 per wind turbine. The Project's intended offshore transmission works comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to ten OSPs and associated support structures and foundations proposed to be located within the area shown indicatively in solid yellow in the figure above; Estimated scour protection of up to 4,825 m2 per OSP proposed to be located within the area shown indicatively in solid yellow in the figure above; 	Appendix 15

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Section 23 (3) (a) – (d)	The notice must contain:- a. A description in general terms of the activity to be carried out; b. A plan or chart showing the outline of the location at which the activity is to be carried out, which is sufficient to identify the location; c. Details as to how the prospective applicant is to be contacted; d. Such other information as may be prescribed by Scottish Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-connection cabling between the OSPs (approx. 9.4 km of interconnector cabling) proposed to be located within the area shown indicatively in solid yellow in the figure above; Up to 8 export cables connecting the OSPs to the Skateraw Landfall proposed to be located via the route shown indicatively by the dashed yellow line in the figure above, and; High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) and/or High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission options for connection into the onshore substation which may include the use Offshore Transformer Modules (OTMs) and / or Converter Stations.' (b) Plan or chart of activity ' See Appendix 15 (c) Details of how applicant is to be contacted - 'Feedback may be provided by emailing the Project Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Gary Donlin at gary.donlin@sse.com or by calling (0)7384 798101). (d) The further requirements prescribed in Regulations by Scottish Ministers are considered below. No further information was requested for inclusion by Scottish Ministers or MS-LOT.	Appendix 15
Section 24 (1) and (2)	A pre-application consultation report must be prepared prior to submitting the application, and be in the prescribed format.	Four formal rounds of consultation were held during the pre-application phase of the Project. On 7 March 2022, we publicly launched our fourth round of consultation, which was held in the statutorily prescribed format of a pre-application consultation., which included a virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals and ran until 18 March 2022. In addition, we held an in-person Q&A session on 29 March 2022. Further details of this consultation can be found in Section 8 of this report.	Section 8, Appendix 14



Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) Scotland Regulations 2013			
Regulation 5 (1)	A prospective applicant for a marine licence may notify the Scottish Ministers requiring a pre-application consultation statement from them	Advice was sought via email from MS-LOT on 14 December 2021 on this requirement. MS-LOT advised (email 21 December 2021) that the requirement is discretionary and is up to the Applicant to decide if they require a pre-application consultation statement. The Applicant considered that a statement was not required. This email chain is provided in appendix 17. Based on the correspondence, we determined that no further action was required.	Appendix 17
Regulation 6 (2)	The prospective applicant for a marine licence must give notification that an application for a marine license is to be submitted to- a. The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses; b. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency; c. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency; d. Scottish Natural Heritage; and e. Any delegate for a marine region where the application for a marine licence is for an activity which is to be carried out wholly or partly in that region	List of stakeholders that we issued notice of the application to are as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Lighthouse Board The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses) Maritime & Coastguard Agency SEPA Nature Scot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) Restoration Forth Berwickshire Marine Reserve Scottish Surfers Federation Surfers Against Sewage Scottish Fisherman’s Federation Scottish Seabird Centre Network Rail Scottish Water Scottish Forestry Historic Environment Scotland Scottish Borders Council Fife Council Angus Council East Lothian Council (Planning) Transport Scotland BT Ministry of Defence Dundee Council (Planning) Fisheries Management Scotland Forth Salmon Fish Board Forth Ports UK Chamber of Shipping Royal Yachting Association RSPB National Air Traffic Services (NATS) Joint Radio Company North & East Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group The Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) Visit Scotland Natural England NnG Whale and Dolphin Conservation Civil Aviation Authority Marine Quest (e) No known Marine Delegate for the region.	Section 2.2 , Appendix 8

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Regulation 7 (1) (a)	The prospective applicant for a marine licence must hold at least one pre-application consultation event at which persons identified in Regulation 6(2) and members of the public may provide comments to the prospective applicant as regards the licensable marine activity	Formal pre application consultation events held in March 2022. On 7 March 2022, we publicly launched our fourth round of consultation, which included a virtual (as permitted in accordance with Regulation 7A) and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals and ran until 18 March 2022. In addition, we held an in-person Q&A session on 29 March 2022. All parties listed in Regulation 6 were invited to this public consultation round via e-mail notification. A copy of this notification can be found in Appendix 18.	Section 8, Appendix 14
Regulation 7(1)(b) - ECC amend	The prospective applicant must publish in a local newspaper containing:- i. A description, including the location, of the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought; ii. Details as to where further information may be obtained; iii. The date and place of the pre-application event iv. A statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers	Pre-Application Consultation Notice published in the East Lothian Courier on January 20 2022. i. ‘The Applicant is developing the Project, an offshore wind farm located in the outer Firth of Forth with potential to generate up to 4.1GW of renewable energy. The Project will be located in the central North Sea, 43 km offshore of the East Lothian coastline and 33.5 km from the Scottish Borders coastline at St, Abbs’ ii. ‘Further information can be accessed through the Project website (www.berwickbank.com). iii. Pre-application consultation (PAC) on the proposals, will take place through a virtual public exhibition. The virtual public exhibition will be available between 7 March – 18 March 2022, this will be free to access with details on how to access the platform provided on the project website (www.berwickbank.com) from week commencing 28 February 2022. The virtual exhibition will include live chat sessions where the Project team will be present on the following times:	Section 8, Appendix 7 and Appendix 15



Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Regulation 7 (2)(b)		iv. 'Please note that the PAC comments are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that, if the Applicant makes an application for one or more marine licences, there will be an opportunity to make such representations to the Scottish Ministers on the relevant application when the application is made'	Section 8, Appendix 7 and Appendix 15
Regulation 7 (2) In accordance with the Marine Works and Marine Licensing (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, this regulation was amended, pursuant to Regulation 7A, to refer to an online pre-application consultation event.	A pre-application consultation event must be held no earlier than six weeks after the later of:- a. The date on which the notification of the event is given; and b. The date of notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted	Pre-application event began March 7 2022. (a) Notification issued on 24 January 2022. 6 weeks elapsed from notice submission to Pre-application consultation event beginning (b) Notification issued on 24 January 2022 than an application for a marine licence is to be submitted. 6 weeks elapsed from notice submission to Pre-application consultation event beginning.	Section 8 and Appendix 14
Regulation 8 This regulation was amended, pursuant to Regulation 8A, to refer to the form included in the Schedule of the Marine Works and Marine Licensing (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020	A Pre-Application Report must be in the form prescribed as in Schedule 1, and must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A description of the consultation event;• A description of the proposed information provided by the prospective applicant at the event;• Comments received by the prospective applicant;	This document constitutes A Pre-Application Report. The form prescribed in Schedule 1 has been completed and is included as Appendix 16. This document acts as further supporting evidence as requested in this form and includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sections 5-8 - 'a description of the consultation event;	Appendix 16 (Schedule 1 of the Regulations)

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Regulation 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A description of the amendments to be made to the marine licence application, where applicable;• An explanation of the approach taken, where, despite the prospective applicant receiving relevant comments and objections no relevant alterations are proposed to be made.• An explanation of the approach taken, where, despite the prospective applicant receiving relevant comments and objections no relevant alterations are proposed to be made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sections 5-8 'a description of the proposed information provided by the prospective applicant at the event;'• Sections 5-8 'comments received by the prospective applicant;' <p>The Applicant considered broader feedback and concerns from a range of stakeholders regarding the potential for the Project to have negative effects on various receptors including ornithology, shipping and navigation, and benthic ecology. Such feedback included that contained within the Scoping Opinion from MS-LOT (and consultee representations), and pre-application engagement via Road Map meetings and hazard workshops. In consideration of this feedback and following progression of detailed assessment work for the EIA and HRA, the offshore site array was reduced by approximately 23 percent in June 2022. Further information can be found within Section 12 of this report and within the Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives chapter of our Offshore EIA Report (Volume 1, Chapter 4).</p>	Appendix 16 (Schedule 1 of the Regulations)



Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997			
Section 35A (1)	Prior to submitting an application, an applicant must comply with Section 35B	Complied with as set out below under Section 35B. A request was not made to the local authority (East Lothian Council) to discuss whether a PoAN was a requirement. We were aware that a PoAN was required therefore we issued this.	Appendix 5
Section 35B (2)	The prospective applicant must give notice (a proposal of application notice (PoAN)) to the relevant planning authority that an application is to be submitted	The PoAN was submitted to East Lothian Council and formally registered on 5 January 2022	Appendix 5
Section 35B (3)	A period of at least 12 weeks, but no more than 18 months must elapse between the giving of the notice and submitting the application	The application is anticipated to be submitted in December 2022, which is more than 12 weeks but less than 18 months from the submission of the PoAN	N/A
Section 35B (4) (a) – (d)	A PoAN must contain the following information:- a. A general description of the development to be carried out; b. The provision of a postal address for the site (if one applies); c. A plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify the site (if one applies); d. Contact details for the prospective applicant	Please see copy of PoAN included at Appendix 5 which demonstrated that the information required was submitted. This includes; (a) A description of 'Onshore Electricity Transmission infrastructure' was provided on the PoAN form and an additional reference to the PoAN cover letter for further information of the description of development was included. (b) The PoAN form included the following postal address for the site; Land Between Mean Low Water Mark near Skateraw and Surrounding Branxton Substation Dunbar (c) A plan showing the outline of the site was attached to the PoAN. The plan used a red outline to show the extent of the proposed site. Contact details of Grant Young (Planning Consultant on behalf of SSER) were provided on the PoAN form.	Appendix 5

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Section 35B (7) (a) and (b)	The planning authority may [...] notify the prospective applicant that: a. The PoAN is to be given to additional persons; and b. Additional consultation is required.	The PoAN was issued to a number of parties at the same time as being issued to East Lothian Council planning authority. ELC did not request additional notification/consultation to that set out in the PoAN in the response/registration of the PoAN. Additional parties the PoAN was issued to are as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunbar Community Council • East Lammermuir Community Council • Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council • West Barns Community Council • Councillor Sue Kempson • Councillor Paul McLennan • Councillor Norman Hampshire • Colin Smyth MSP • Carol Mochan MSP • Brian Whittle MSP • Sharon Dowery MSP • Emma Harper MSP • Craig Hoy MSP • Martin Whitfield MSP 	Appendix 5
Section 35C (1)	A Pre-application consultation report is required	This document constitutes a Pre-application consultation report for the purposes of s35C (1)	N/A
Section 35C (2)	The Pre-application consultation report must be in the required format	This document constitutes a Pre-application consultation report in the required format for purposes of s35C (2) and Regulation 7(B) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.	Please see commentary below as to how this report satisfies these requirements.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013			
Regulation 6	The PoAN must contain an account of the consultation the application intends to undertake (in addition to those matters prescribed pursuant to Section 35B (4) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as described above).	The PoAN must contain an account of the consultation the application intends to undertake (in addition to those matters prescribed pursuant to Section 35B (4) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as described above).	Appendix 5
Regulation 7 (1)	The prospective applicant is to consult every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated and provide a copy of the PoAN	The entire development is proposed within East Lammermuir Community Council, whom we have engaged with several times and issued the PoAN to. There are no other Community Council areas land adjoining the land required for the Proposed Development, We have also engaged with neighboring Community Councils and written to a further extensive list regarding public consultations.	Chapter 9, Appendices 5 and 9
Regulation 7 (2) (a)	The prospective applicant must hold one public event Regulation 7A is inserted pursuant to the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, which had the effect of omitting this requirement. However, as noted in third column the consultation comprised of both virtual and in-person events.	Four rounds of public consultation have been held on the following dates and times: First round – a virtual public exhibition on the initial Berwick Bank proposal, from 16 November 2020 to 7 December 2020. Second round – a community roadshow on the updated proposal for Berwick Bank, from 25 October 2021 to 29 October 2021 Third round – virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals, from 6 November 2021 to 30 December 2021, Fourth round (advertised as per Town and Country Planning PoAN and PAC requirements) – virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals from 7 March 2022 to 18 March 2022. We also held a Q&A session with members of the public on 29 March 2022.	Sections 5,6,7,8

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Regulation 7(2) (b)	The prospective applicant must publish in a local newspaper, a notice containing the following event information: Regulation 7A is inserted pursuant to the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, which had the effect of omitting the requirement of the notice to refer to the date and place of the public event. However, as noted in the third column the consultation comprised of both virtual and in-person events.	Copies of the notice(s) are provided in appendix 7. A public notice was submitted and published in the East Lothian Courier on Thursday 24 February 2022, including the following details; Description and location of proposed development - 'Full planning permission for an onshore electricity substation/convertor station, underground electricity cables and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure to export electricity from the Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm into the national electricity transmission system network on land between Mean Low Water mark near Skateraw and surrounding Branxton Substation, Dunbar, East Lothian Details on how to obtain further information - 'If you have questions or comments on the proposals...you can also submit your feedback directly to the Project Stakeholder Engagement Manager at 07384 798 101' Date and place of public event - 'An in person public exhibition on the proposals will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2022 between 13:00 – 19:00 at Innerwick Village Hall, EH42 1SE. A virtual public exhibition on the proposals will be available online from Monday 7 March 2022 to Friday 18 March 2022 on the project website at www.berwickbank.com Statement explaining how representations can be made - 'If you have questions or comments on the proposals, we request that these are submitted via feedback form by 5pm on 31 March 2022. Feedback forms will be available on the Project website, www.berwickbank.com . You can also submit your feedback directly to the Project Stakeholder Engagement Manager at 07384 798 101' Statement confirming comments are not formal submissions to the planning authority - 'Please note that a formal planning application has not been submitted and any comments made on the proposals to Berwick Bank Wind Farm at this stage are not representations to the planning authority.'	Section 8, Appendix 7 and Appendix 15

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Regulation 7(3) Regulation 7A is inserted pursuant to the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, which had the effect of omitting this requirement. However, as noted in the third column, the consultation comprised both virtual and in-person events.	A public event is not to be held earlier than 7 days after notification of the date and place of such event is given	Public events were held on 8 March 2022. Notification was published on February 24 2022.	Section 8
Regulation 7B	A pre-application consultation report must contain: a. The dates on which, and places where, public events were held; b. A description of:- iii. Any additional consultation or notification required by the planning authority; iv. Any additional steps taken by the prospective applicant to consult with the public c. A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the prospective applicant; d. Evidence as to how the prospective applicant carried out the activities under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c);	This document constitutes a Pre-application consultation report, addressing all relevant points. Including: - Dates and places of public events can be found in Sections 5-8 (i) No additional consultation was requested by East Lothian Council, however the Project team voluntarily carried out some additional consultation. Information can be found in Section 9 and 10 (ii) Additional steps taken to consult with the public detailed in Sections 5 – 10 c) A full list of stakeholders consulted during the pre-application consultation phase of the Project can be found in Appendix 8	N/A

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	PAC Reference
Regulation 7B	e. copies of:- i. Any materials sent to consultees; ii. Any materials provided to those attending a public event; and iii. Any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event f. Photographs of any display boards or models at public events; g. Confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or potential to comment on the final application once made to the planning authority; i. A summary of:- i. The written responses to consultations; and ii. Views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events; j. An explanation of how the prospective applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and k. An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the prospective applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process	(d) Evidence detailing how consultation was carried out as per sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) can be found in Appendices 1,2,3,4,7 and 9 (e) (i),(ii),(iii) - Copies of materials sent to consultees, materials provided to those attending public events and visualisations present can be found in Appendices 10,11,12,13,14 (f) PDFs of display boards presented at each event have been hosted on the bespoke Project website: www.berwickbank.com Materials used at public events can also be found in Appendices 11,12,13,14 of this report. (g) (i) (ii) A summary of written responses received, comments and indication of number of responses received and attendees at events can be found in Appendices 11,12,13,14 of this report. Further information on how we took account of views raised can be found in Sections 5,6,7,8 and 11 of this report. Further information on how members of the public were given feedback on the prospective applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process can be found in Sections 5,6,7,8 and 11 of this report.	N/A



3. BERWICK BANK WIND FARM

3.1 Need for the Project

The climate emergency must be addressed.

We need to act now to transition to a Net Zero future, as individuals, organisations, and as nations.

As one of the largest offshore wind developments in the world, Berwick Bank offers a significant opportunity to help prevent the worst effects of climate change whilst establishing Scotland as a global leader in offshore wind.

The Project is key to the Scottish Government fulfilling their Net Zero commitment by 2045, and crucial to Scotland meeting its offshore wind targets by 2030.

It will pave the way for generations to come.

“Berwick Bank Wind Farm is essential to Scotland meeting its targets for offshore wind and Net Zero. This is a real opportunity to deliver something meaningful, by myself, by the team, by SSER to prevent the worst effects of climate change.”



Alex Meredith, Project Director

“Berwick Bank Wind Farm will allow Scotland to step forward and deliver on ambitious targets set by the Scottish and UK Governments to achieve Net Zero. We want to see Scotland build on the momentum from the recent COP26 summit and be a leader not only in the debate, but in the delivery of decarbonisation as well.”



Caitlin Donald
Consents Manager

SSER's parent company (SSE) was a Principal Partner to the UK Government in the run-up to and during the COP26 UN climate summit

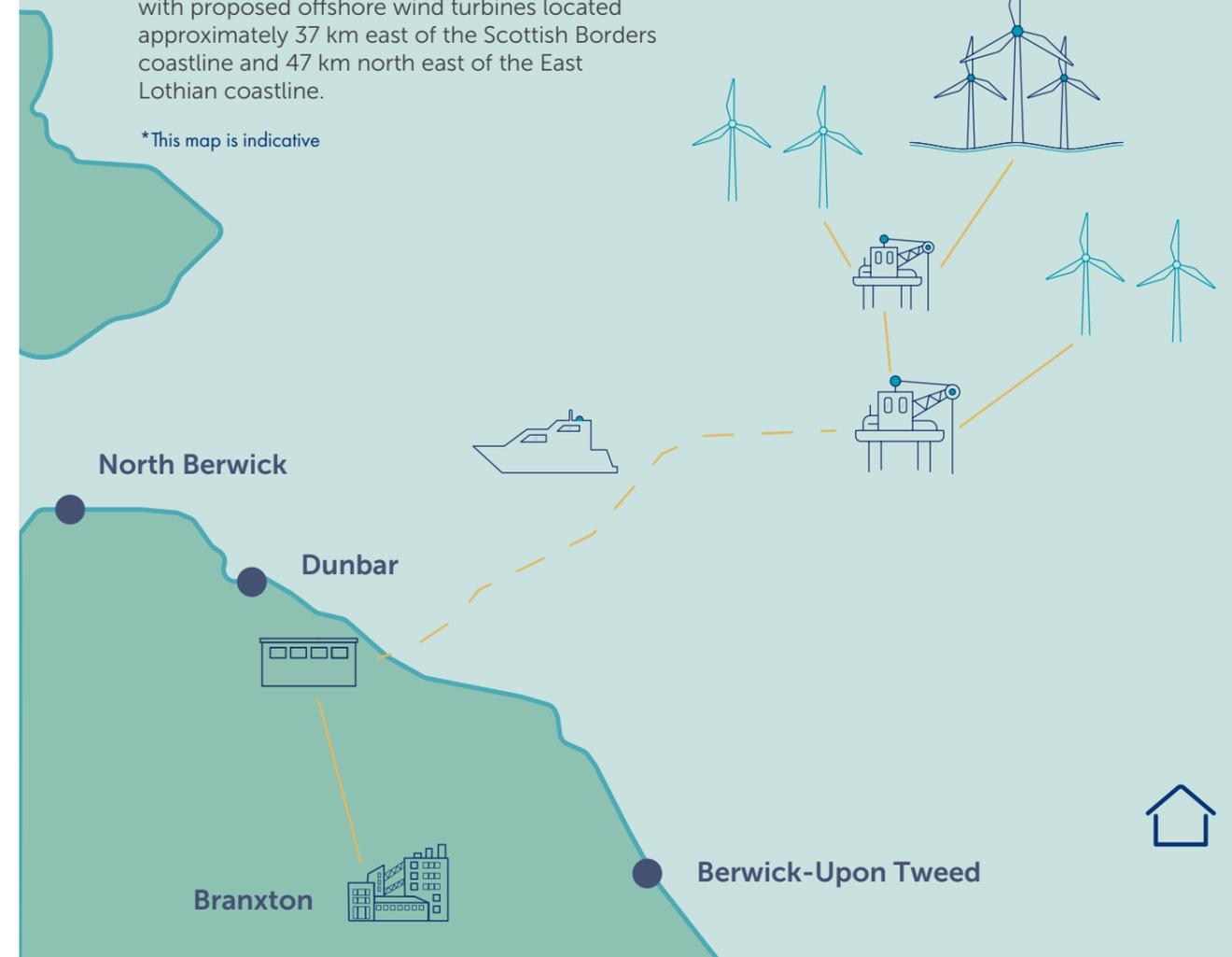
3.2 Description of the Project

Our overarching objective for Berwick Bank is to identify a technically feasible and economically viable development that can deliver 4.1 GW of new offshore wind capacity.

To that end, we propose to construct a maximum of 307 wind turbines and associated offshore infrastructure in the North Sea. We'll determine the exact number of turbines at a later stage, as this will be based on individual turbine capacity, which could change as technology advances prior to construction.

We're currently seeking consent to develop the Project in the outer Firth of Forth and Firth of Tay, with proposed offshore wind turbines located approximately 37 km east of the Scottish Borders coastline and 47 km north east of the East Lothian coastline.

The offshore cables from these turbines will come to shore on the East Lothian coast, making landfall at Skateraw, transporting energy underground to a new SSE Renewables substation or convertor station, before connecting to a Scottish Power Energy Networks 400kV Grid Substation at Branxton, southeast of Torness Nuclear Power Station. We're planning to connect into this facility in two phases – November 2026 and November 2027. The connection date for the remaining energy transported to Cambois is 2031, however we are working with National Grid to accelerate this.



3.3 Aims for the Project

Our aim is to drive the transition to a Net Zero future through the world-class development, construction, and operation of renewable energy assets.

We have a proven track record of delivering offshore wind projects that bring a wide range of environmental and socio-economic benefits to local communities.

With Berwick Bank Wind Farm, we aim to:



Drive the Net Zero transition – generate enough clean, renewable energy to power more than five million homes. The Project will establish Scotland as a leader in offshore wind globally, inspiring others to follow suit whilst building a skills base that can be exported to lead the world in this technology.



Strengthen our economy – use local and Scottish suppliers as much as possible throughout all stages of development and operation, ensuring that it brings a wealth of opportunity for businesses of all sizes across a wide range of disciplines. We have already contracted several companies in East Lothian to support the Project.

We're committed to making sure the local economy and supply chain are aware of all potential opportunities associated with the Project and will continue engaging with the local, regional and national supply chain to identify additional opportunities throughout its lifespan. We're also currently undertaking a socio-economic report to better understand the full range of economic benefits our proposal can bring to the local area.

“Local supply chain content is going to be absolutely crucial to the success of Berwick Bank Wind Farm”



Gary Donlin, Stakeholder Engagement Manager

“There’s usually lots of opportunities during construction for people working on the Project but also for local businesses in the hospitality industry.”



Sarah Edwards, Consents Team Manager



Support our communities – assist local groups and organisations, delivering keynote speeches and running informational sessions, as well as offering advice and funding to local initiatives. Our team are keen to work alongside the local community and engage with all stakeholders. We're already working with a variety of local organisations, including the Scottish Sea Bird Centre, Fringe by The Sea and the Edinburgh & Midlothian Chamber of Commerce.

“Local stakeholders and the local community are crucially important to the success of our project. This is why we are looking to engage and work alongside the local community and support local initiatives wherever possible.”



Alex Meredith, Project Director



Edinburgh & Midlothian Chamber of Commerce members – delivered Key note address at 2021 Christmas Lunch



STEM Engagement – held interactive virtual wind-farm workshops with East Lothian pupils



Community Sponsor for local Fringe By The Sea festival 2021 – included running three sessions: two information events for children and one panel discussion on achieving net zero



Community Sponsor for Fringe By The Sea 2022 – ran a panel discussion on offshore wind and an engaging 'world of wind' session for children



Sponsored Merlin Sailing National Championship 2021 – held in East Lothian

We have committed to establishing a formal community benefit fund if Berwick Bank is consented and given the green light for construction. Until this point, the Project will continue advising local initiatives to get in touch to discuss their ideas on an ad hoc basis.



3.4 Next steps

This PAC Report has been submitted to East Lothian Council and Marine Scotland's Licensing and Operations Team (MS-LOT) as part of the offshore and onshore consent applications, respectively.

If consented and given the green light for construction, Berwick Bank Wind Farm could begin generating clean electricity by 2026, playing a key role in helping Scotland meet its target of generating up to 11 GW new offshore wind by 2030.

The Project will then present a huge opportunity for the public and organisations to ensure Scotland is at the forefront of global efforts to address the climate emergency, boosting our nation's economic recovery and strengthening Scottish supply chains.

"The Scottish Government have recently set themselves a target of achieving 11 gigawatts of new offshore wind by 2030. Berwick Bank Wind Farm is capable of generating 4.1 gigawatts of clean renewable energy. So those 4.1 gigawatts are absolutely key and crucial if the Scottish Government are to achieve their targets."

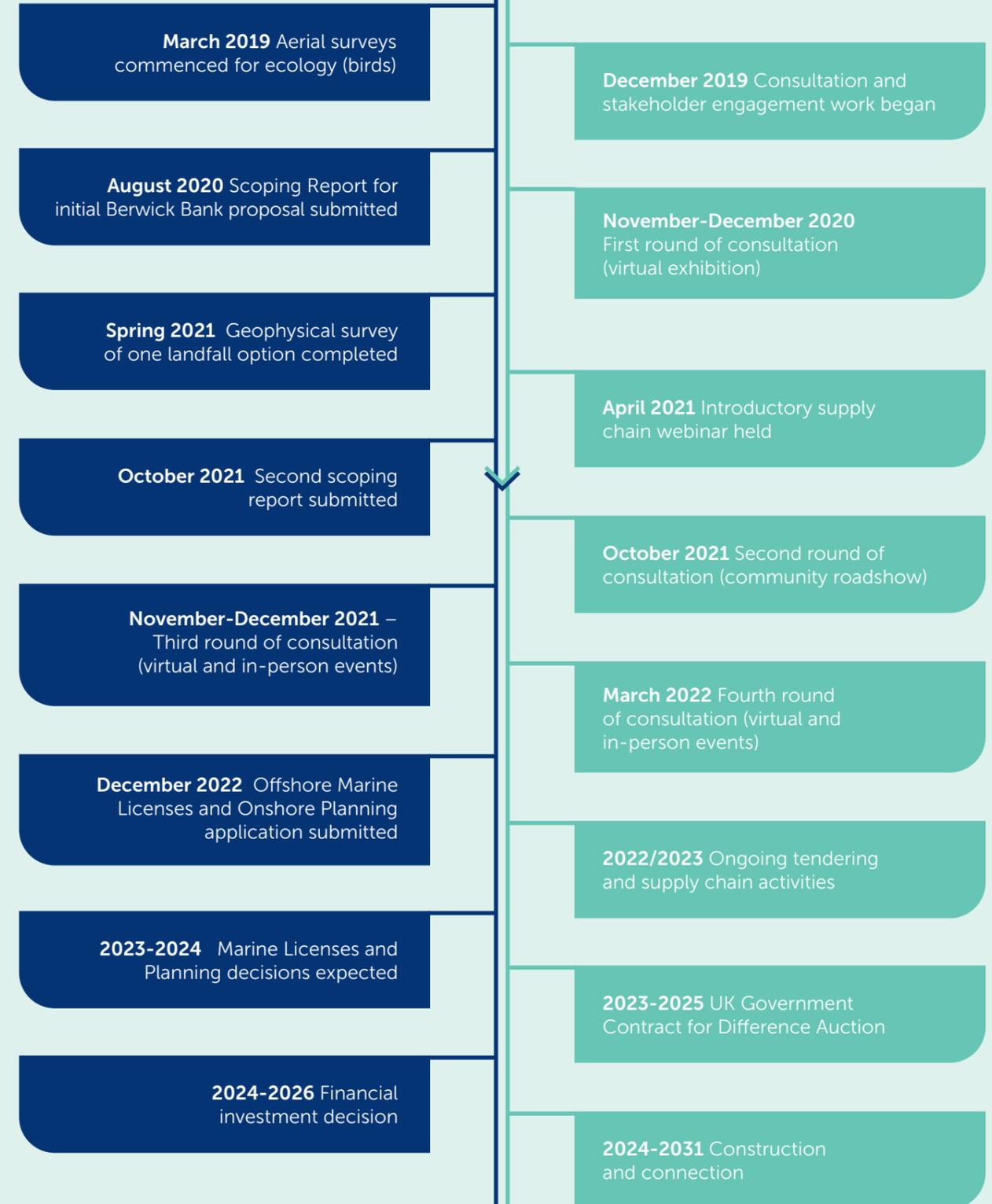


Gary Donlin, Stakeholder Engagement Manager

"As one of the largest offshore wind sites in the world, this is a chance to put Scotland on the map as a global leader in a booming sector. We have a climate emergency, and there's a need for urgency. This site has real potential to be a big part of decarbonising the Scottish electricity system."

Alex Meredith, Project Director

3.5 Timeline



*This timeline is indicative and subject to change.



4. PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation strategy

To best achieve our aims, we devised a strategy to consult as many people as possible, focusing on getting views from a diverse range of groups. To achieve this, we supplemented traditional stakeholder activities, such as village hall exhibitions, with dynamic outreach events. For instance, we delivered a community roadshow to capture the views of harder to reach groups.

Our strategy for Berwick Bank Wind Farm has been founded on the premise of consulting on proposals at key stages of the development process. We've ensured that the public and other key stakeholders are kept up to date (to facilitate meaningful, informed feedback) and given a chance to influence the development of the Project, raising their views on the proposals before the final design stage. This approach allowed our team to take account of a number of locally important issues and concerns.

Based on our commitment to engagement and the legislative requirements, the Project has been subject to four rounds of consultation. These are:

 **First round** – a virtual public exhibition on the initial Berwick Bank proposal, from 16 November 2020 to 7 December 2020, introducing it to the public.

 **Second round** – a community roadshow on the updated proposal for Berwick Bank, from 25 October 2021 to 29 October 2021, establishing local concerns ahead of formal events.

 **Third round** – virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals, from 6 November 2021 to 30 December 2021, presenting our preferred options to the public.

 **Fourth round (advertised as per Town and Country Planning PoAN and PAC requirements)** – virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals from 7 March 2022 to 18 March 2022, providing a project update and confirming which options we have selected. We also held an in-person Q&A session with members of the public on March 29 2022.

These events were designed to engage with key stakeholder groups, including the local community, landowners and individual residents, inviting their feedback on the proposals.

Our strategy for these rounds of consultation was based on the statutory requirements outlined in section 2.2 of this PAC report. It was designed to ensure that the public and other key stakeholders:

- Were able to engage directly with members of our team, virtually and in-person
- Had access to information on the Project, as well as opportunities to ask questions on it
- Could discuss the proposals and put forward their views on them
- Remained confident that the issues they raised would be considered
- Played an active role in developing and influencing our proposals
- Received timely responses and were informed about our consideration of views raised, including changes to proposals.

The rounds of consultation also provided an opportunity for Scottish companies to register their interest in helping support the Project's successful delivery.

We took account of feedback about the consultation process following each round (see sections 5.2, 6.2, 7.2, and 8.2 of this PAC Report).

We'll continue engaging with the local community, as well as a wide variety of stakeholders as the Project progresses.

“My role is to ensure that all our stakeholders can express their views and opinions on our proposals and that as a Project team we listen and communicate effectively.”

Gary Donlin, Stakeholder Engagement Manager



4.2 Who we consulted

During all four rounds of consultation, we invited consultation responses from a range of stakeholders, including the local community, landowners, statutory and non-statutory bodies, as well as environmental bodies, inviting them to our virtual and in-person events via mail drops, advertisements and articles in local newspapers, social media posts, emails, and newsletters.

A full list of the people that we invited to these events (excluding landowners) is provided in appendix 8. A copy of the invites and materials we sent to them are provided in appendices 9 and 10, respectively.

We also informed consultees that they could give their views via email, over the phone, through an online feedback form, or by post (e.g. as a paper form). The materials that we sent to them are provided in appendix 10, as well as the dates on which they were sent.

We also invited consultation responses from a wide range of consultees, including:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Historic Environment Scotland
- East Lothian Council
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Community councils
- Elected representatives (Ministers, MSPs, MPs and councillors)
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- RSPB Scotland
- Port Authorities
- Fisheries
- Landowners
- Local interest organisations and groups

- Residents and businesses within the consultation zones
- Members of the public
- Network Rail
- NatureScot
- Invest in Angus
- Marine Scotland
- Marine Scotland Science
- Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT)
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Ministry of Defence
- Northern Lighthouse Board
- Forth Ports
- Chamber of Shipping
- Cruising Association
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- RYA Scotland
- Scottish Fishermen's Federation
- Scottish Forestry
- Scottish Water

A full list of consultees that we invited responses from during our four consultation rounds is provided in appendix 8.



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



4.3 Ongoing community and stakeholder engagement

We engaged with statutory and non-statutory consultees from an early stage of the Project's development.

We have continued to consult these stakeholders through a wide variety of traditional and new stakeholder activities, including virtual exhibitions and live chats, a Community Roadshow, a village hall exhibition event, a keynote address, informational sessions at a festival, and supply chain webinars.

Our team are also committed to engaging with stakeholders across the education sector, to help develop the young workforce. We're a member of the Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce Industry and Education Partnership group and have worked with Developing Young Minds to deliver a range of STEM activities.

In June 2022, we spent three days engaging with pupils of Ross High and Knox Academy, East Lothian. Within this, we split classes into teams and tasked them with developing their own offshore wind farms and bringing them to life via 3D Software and Virtual Reality technology.

We've also engaged with local community councils around the proposed works through letters and virtual meetings, providing updates and obtaining feedback on the Project.

The Project team attended a meeting on 18 March with Paul McLennan – MSP for East Lothian – and representatives from the energy industry, education sector, local community and supply chain to discuss establishing a formal forum to ensure that

the project team uses local content and that its benefits are felt across the local authority. The project team has committed to attending further meetings in this forum throughout the planning and development process.

In addition, we've had virtual meetings with the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick to explore education and conservation initiatives and have supported the Centre through their COVID-19 fundraising appeal.

We informed consultees and attendees at all public events that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final Offshore Marine Licences' applications and Onshore Planning application once they are submitted to the Scottish Ministers (MS-LOT) and East Lothian Council, respectively. We also let attendees know that they can register for Project updates on the Project website (<https://www.berwickbank.com/>). Once the planning applications are submitted, these can be viewed in full and commented upon on the relevant planning authority website. If consultees are registered for updates, they will be notified about this opportunity. The Project website provides contact information, as well as a library of key documents for download (<https://www.berwickbank.com/library-downloads>).

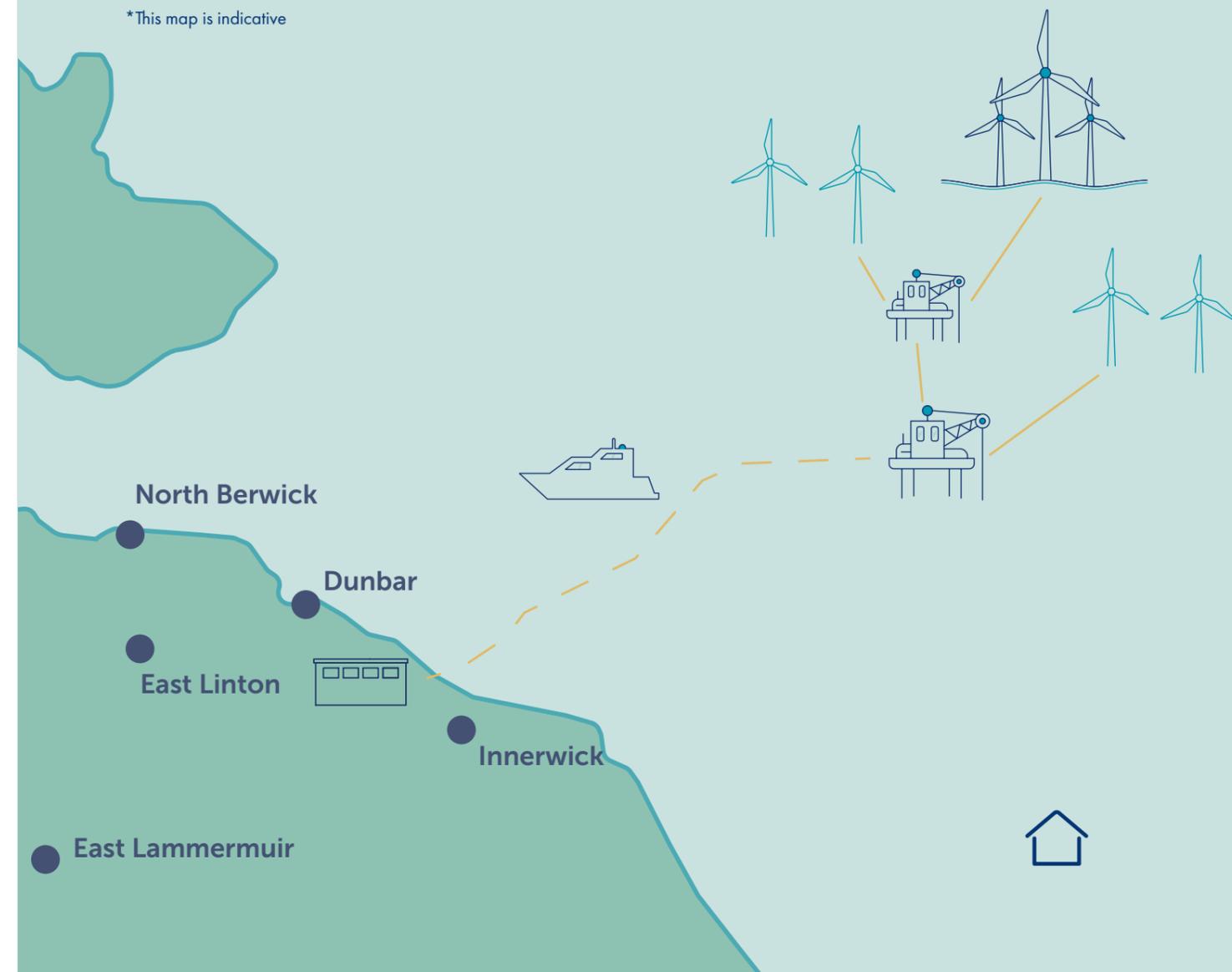
Notice of the applications will also be provided as required by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and publicised in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations in local and national publications.



4.4 Consultation zones

We sought to engage all residents and stakeholders that might be affected by the proposals by creating designated zones for each round of consultation. These areas included all residential and commercial addresses within a 2- or 3-mile radius of proposed locations for the Project's onshore infrastructure.

As these zones are located near the shoreline, this approach allowed us to adequately account for offshore concerns.



4.5 Consultation periods

At the outset of the Project, we built on the recommendations of the Scottish Government’s Consultation Good Practice Guide (2019) regarding consultation periods. The guidance stated that developers should allow at least 6-months for a written consultation. We have formally consulted the public on our proposals since November 2020 and conducted 30 consultation events since then, spanning a total of 15 days.

The first round of non-statutory consultation, a virtual exhibition on the initial Berwick Bank proposals, began on 16 November 2020 and ran until 7 December 2020.

The second round of consultation, a community roadshow on the updated proposal for Berwick Bank, ran from 25 October 2021 to 29 October 2021.

The third round of consultation, a virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals, ran from 6 November 2021 to 30 December 2021.

The fourth round of consultation (statutory), a virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals ran from 7 March 2022 to 18 March 2022. In addition, an in-person Q&A session was held on 29 March 2022. It followed the submission of the PoAN to East Lothian Council and preceded the submission of the formal application. This consultation round was advertised in line with the pre-application consultation requirements of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021.

4.6 Provision and availability of information

Before the first round of consultation (November-December 2020), we published offshore and onshore Scoping Reports (for the Initial 2020 Berwick Bank Wind Farm) that included maps and appendices. We then published a second offshore Scoping Report in October 2021 (prior to the second consultation round). The purpose of these documents was to:

- Support a request for a formal Scoping Opinion from Scottish Ministers, anticipating that this will take account of consultees’ views on the reports
- Explain the background to the Project, including the consenting process
- Provide stakeholders with information on the proposals, enabling engagement on the key topics addressed in the Scoping Reports
- Detail the baseline data sources and assessment methodologies that informed the reports
- Outline the approach to scoping and methodology used to appraise potential options
- Clarify the next steps for the proposals

Local people were notified of the location of information points and consultation events via:



Mail Drop – we sent letters, contact details for our Stakeholder Engagement Manager (SEM), brochures and information on how to attend the public events to all properties in the relevant consultation zone.



Project webpage – a project specific webpage was hosted on the SSE renewables website from the start of the pre-application consultation period (November 2020). In July 2021, this was migrated across to a stand-alone project website (www.berwickbank.com).



Local newspapers – our team took out advertisements in the following publications:

The Courier: 19 November 2020

East Lothian Courier: 19 November 2020, 26 November 2020, 20 November 2021, 2 December 2021, 20 January 2022, 24 February 2022, 3 March 2022

East Lothian Courier (online): 2 to 8 December 2021

East Lothian Courier (Facebook page): 25 February 2022 to 25 March 2022

St Andrew’s Citizen: 20 November 2020, 27 November 2020

Berwickshire News: 19 November 2020, 26 November 2020



Social media – we promoted our events through organic (non-paid) posts on our Facebook and Twitter channels, as well as a sponsored (paid) LinkedIn campaign.



Email – our team sent emails to multiple organisations, affected stakeholders, councillors, Community Councils, MSPs and MPs about the events. We also invited local community members who had signed up to the Project’s mailing list.



Newsletter – we advertised our final event (Q&A session) in Innerwick Parish Council’s newsletter.



Press releases – we issued press releases regarding our consultation event to the Press Association on 13 November 2020 and to the local press in December 2021, which was picked up by the East Lothian Courier.

Following analysis of the feedback received in each round of consultation, the Project Stakeholder Engagement Manager directly responded to individual feedback. We also created Consultation Reports following each round of consultation, summarising key points of interest and concern, as well as themes. This allowed the Project team to ensure that future consultation rounds addressed these themes, concerns and interests where possible. These reports are provided in appendices 1 to 4.



4.7 Materials sent to consultees

Our team sent a variety of materials to the consultees. We have provided a sample of these materials below. All of the materials that we sent to consultees are provided in appendix 10.



Leaflet



Letter

4.8 Mechanisms for asking questions, making comments and providing feedback

We established a dedicated contact point for the Project in October 2020, before the first round of consultation, enabling members of the public and other key stakeholders to easily contact our team via the following channels:

Mobile: (0)7384 798 101
 Address: SSE Renewables
 1 Waterloo Street
 Glasgow
 GA2 6AY
 Email: Gary.Donlin@sse.com

We also created a dedicated inbox in October 2020 for general enquiries berwickandmarrenquiries@sse.com, later changed to berwickbank@sse.com the new project mailbox was subsequently included in all future public consultation materials. Furthermore, the Project Stakeholder Engagement Manager monitored the old inbox to ensure all e-mails that were sent to this inbox were picked up and responded to.

4.9 Processing responses and correspondence

We logged and recorded all consultation responses for analysis.

A data protection statement informed the respondent that their comments could be made available to certain other bodies, for the purposes of the consultation and for creating reports. This included the Scottish Government and relevant planning authorities.

When given by respondents, contact details were recorded and added to the communication database so they could receive Project updates via email (if respondents agreed to receive regular updates).

Our team individually assessed all feedback and correspondence, and, where requested, provided further information to assist the respondent.

Feedback was processed as follows:

- Verbal and phone submissions were recorded on paper forms, which we used to form key themes for our Consultation Reports, and address them accordingly.
- Email submissions also informed these key themes and were responded to via the Project SEM.
- Online feedback forms were used to form the key themes too. If these forms were not anonymous, they were responded to via the Project SEM.
- All comments made during the virtual exhibitions and live chats were stored on a database and used to inform key themes in our Consultation Reports.

4.10 Approach to analysis

Our approach was to analyse and report response data in a way that allowed the views raised to be easily understood.

We considered all comments, queries and concerns, allocating them to existing issues or identifying them as a new issue. Our approach enabled the quick identification of consultees' main issues, which we classified by theme.

4.11 Quality assurance

At the collation and analysis stage, we carried out a number of quality assurance procedures. In each round of consultation, our SEM oversaw the analysis to ensure the consistent application of our methodology.



5. FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATION

5.1 Summary

In November 2020, we carried out a three-week public consultation on the Project, which included proposals for the following offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Up to 242 wind turbines
- Wind turbine foundations
- Inter-array cables
- Interconnection cables
- Substation platforms
- Export cables

Onshore

- New wind farm substation/converter station
- Up to two landfall locations
- Connecting, primarily underground, cables with the potential options of a short section of overhead lines and a cable bridge
- New/upgraded access tracks to the substation, cable construction corridor and landfall(s)
- Associated ancillary infrastructure

The purpose of the consultation was to introduce the initial Berwick Bank Wind Farm proposal to the local community and seek people's views on our proposals, giving the public a chance to influence the development of the Project and enabling our team to account for important local issues and concerns. This proposal went on to be combined with the Marr Bank Wind Farm proposal, forming the current proposal.

Before the consultation, we published offshore and onshore Scoping Reports. These documents explained the need for the Project, how the site had been selected, how options had been considered, and the approach taken to identifying the most suitable landfall(s), substation and cable route locations. They were available on the original Project website (www.sserenewables.com/berwickbankmarrbank) throughout this round of consultation.

On 16 November 2020, we launched our first round of non-statutory consultation, which ran until 7 December 2020. We accepted postal feedback until 31 December 2020.

Throughout the pre-application consultation process, our team divided the Project study area into Consultation Zones, helping people find and comment on the information most relevant to them. The first round of consultation had one such Zone, spanning a 3-mile radius of EH42 1QT, covering the proposed onshore landfall location options of Skateraw Harbour and Thorntonloch Beach.

We delivered a mail drop to 600 residential properties and 67 commercial buildings in this Zone one week before starting this consultation round. The mailing contained a letter, contact details for the Project's SEM and an information brochure on the Project itself.

The consultation was also advertised in local newspapers, and all project information was made available on the original Project website, which included an online feedback facility.

During the consultation period, we held one virtual exhibition and four live chat sessions with the Project team. This exhibition was held virtually because COVID-19 restrictions prohibited face to face consultations. The online platform was free to access and allowed visitors to submit written feedback via feedback forms. We ran this exhibition from 16 November 2020 to 7 December 2020, and our team hosted the live chats on 23 November (12pm to 2pm), 24 November (12pm to 2pm), 25 November (6pm to 7pm) and 26 November (6pm to 7pm).

We recorded 653 visits at these events (the exhibition received 641 views and questions from 12 people during the live chat sessions).

Our team also held additional meetings with statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout this consultation period, including East Lothian Council, MS-LOT, Historic Environment Scotland, Marine Scotland Science, the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, the RSPB, and NatureScot.

We developed a bespoke feedback form that could be completed online or downloaded from the consultation website (and completed offline).

In addition, we accepted feedback that was submitted without a feedback form to the dedicated contact point.



5.2 Consultation materials

Our team provided a variety of materials and visual presentations during the exhibition, including:

- 
Exhibition boards – material traditionally found at village hall exhibitions
- 
Team summary – short biographies introducing some of the team to the community
- 
3D digital visualisations – of proposed onshore works
- 
A 3D video – fly-through of proposals

- 
Feedback forms
- 
Brochures – a hardcopy summary document sent to all households within 3km of the proposed onshore works
- 
Dedicated email address and phone number – for residents to contact our team

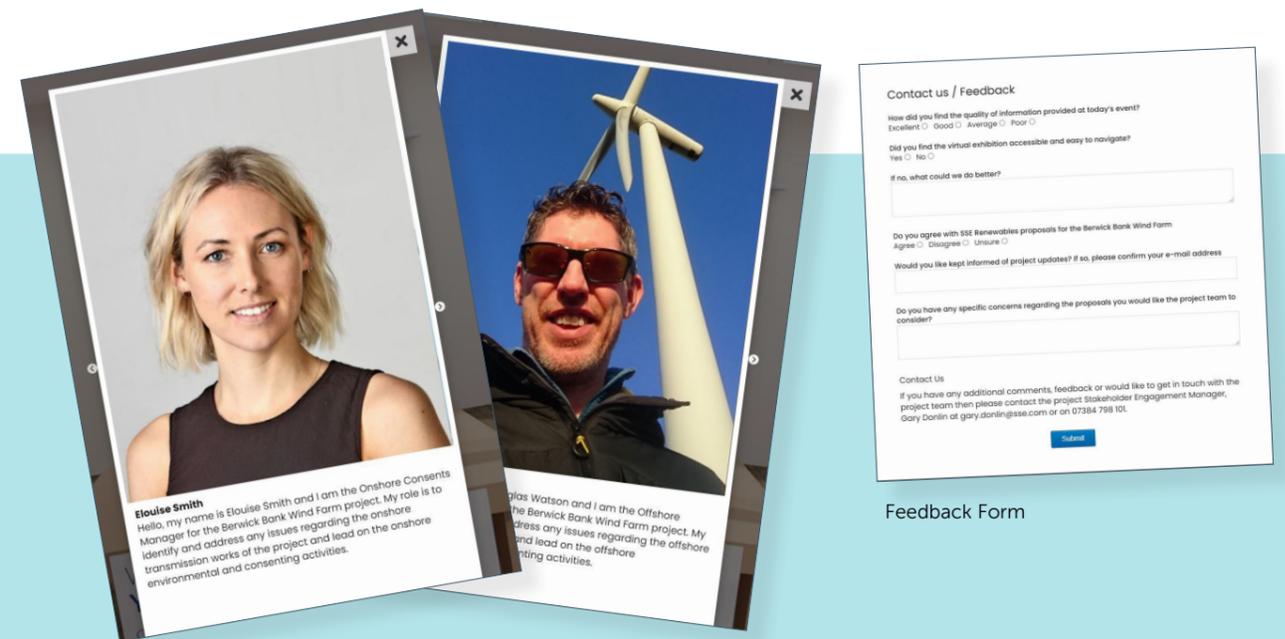
We placed these materials on the original Project website following the end of the exhibition.

We have provided a sample of the exhibition materials below. All of the materials are provided in appendix 11.



Leaflet

Consultation Boards



Meet the team

Feedback Form



5.3 Feedback – offshore & onshore

Our team received 29 questions from 12 individuals in the live chat sessions and three feedback forms, which were submitted to the Project inbox. We also answered several questions at the virtual exhibition.

We also recorded feedback provided via feedback forms and emails, and considered all views raised when developing our proposals.

The main issues addressed during this round of consultation centred around the following themes:

Offshore feedback



Birds Protection – consultees commented on the potential impact on birds, through collision and displacement.



Visual Impact – attendees desired visualisations of the site from the shore, expressing concern that the view will be adversely impacted.

Our response



Birds Protection – we let consultees know that bird welfare is a key consideration for our project. We're currently undertaking collision risk modelling and have regular meetings with stakeholders such as MS-LOT and NatureScot to discuss methodologies, approaches and analysis. Our team is also continuing to engage and liaise with the RSPB on this issue. Additionally, we're closely adhering to the Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) process, ensuring robust protection of bird populations within designated sites.



Visual Impact – we committed to producing such visualisations. Our team also informed attendees that our turbines will be around 43km from the East Lothian coast.

Consultation process feedback

Based on consultees' feedback on the consultation process itself, we also expanded our Consultation Zone to cover additional properties and included additional mailing areas in the second round of consultation, meaning our mail drops reached an additional 9,600 homes and 408 businesses.

Onshore feedback



Noise and Light Pollution – residents asked for clarification on what impact they can expect from the proposed onshore works site.



Supply Chain – members of the public requested information on our procurement and supply chain process, with a focus on the ways in which local businesses can become involved in the Project.

Our response



Noise and Light Pollution – our team commented that more investigations into impact and mitigation measures were being undertaken.



Supply Chain – our team took the details of all interested members of the public and explained that there is a set process in place for becoming an approved vendor with SSER. By 8 December 2020, our procurement and commercial team had formally contacted all these participants. We've kept prospective suppliers' contact details on file and invited them to supply chain events - our introductory supply chain webinar in April 2021 was attended by 698 businesses. We also committed to organising 'Meet the Developer' events to outline future opportunities.



5.4 Our conclusions

We reviewed and considered all feedback received from the public, consultee bodies and local interest groups, using them to develop numerous elements of the proposals.

The views raised informed our development of the Project concerning the following offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Birds protection
- Visual impact

Onshore

- Noise and light pollution

We decided to combine the Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm into one proposal, which also allowed analysis of the collective environmental, ecological and visual impacts as one project. The Project was also refined to increase the minimum blade tip clearance from 22m Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) to 37m LAT in order to help mitigate effects on birds due to collision risk.

The Consultation Report for this round is provided in appendix 1. This sets out further details about the consultation, including a summary of the feedback and how we have taken that into account.



6. SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATION

6.1 Summary

In October 2021, we carried out a weeklong public consultation on the Project, which included proposals for the following offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Up to 307 wind turbines
- Wind turbine foundations
- 1,225km of inter-array cabling
- 94km of interconnector cabling
- Up to 10 substation platforms
- Up to 12 export cables

Onshore

- One new wind farm substation/converter station
- Up to two landfall locations
- Underground cable route connections between the landfall and the new substation, and between the new substation and the grid connection substation
- Associated ancillary infrastructure

The purpose of the consultation was to seek people's views on our proposals and ways to avoid or minimise the impacts that the Project may have.

On 25 October 2021, we publicly launched our second round of consultation (a community roadshow), which ran until 29 October 2021.

This event was primarily designed to understand the local feeling and sentiment across East Lothian Communities to allow the Project team to further

inform future consultation public events and ensure they covered topics which were of interest to the local community.

Throughout this round of pre-application consultation, our team divided the Project study area into three Consultation Zones, helping people find and comment on the information most relevant to them. We defined them as areas surrounding key locations for the OnTW, as follows:

- **Zone one:** within 3-miles of EH39 4SS, North Berwick
- **Zone two:** within 3-miles of EH42 1JH, Dunbar
- **Zone three:** within 3-miles of EH42 1SE, Innerwick

We delivered a mail drop to 10,200 residential properties and 475 commercial buildings in this Zone one week before starting this round of consultation. The mailing contained a letter, contact details for the Project's SEM and an information leaflet on the roadshow.

In addition, we advertised the consultation in local newspapers (appendix 7).

During the consultation period, we carried out a Community Roadshow event to maximise our reach, going to where people will be rather than getting them to come to us. This event format enabled our team to distribute project information to interested members of the public and answer their questions at 17 different locations in East Lothian across five days:

Monday 25 October	
9:30am to 12pm	North Berwick High Street
1pm to 5pm	North Berwick Community Centre, 8 Law Road, EH39 4PN
Tuesday 26 October	
9:30am to 12:30pm	Tesco, Tantallon Rd, North Berwick EH39 5NF
2pm to 3pm	Dirleton, Main Road, EH39 5EP
3pm to 4pm	Gullane, Main Street
4pm to 5:30pm	North Berwick Sports Centre, Grange Rd, Eh39 4QS
Wednesday 27 October	
9:30am to 12pm	Dunbar High Street
1:15pm to 2:15pm	Skateraw
2:30pm to 3:30pm	Thorntonloch
3:45pm to 6pm	Innerwick, Village Hall
Thursday 28 October	
9am to 12pm	Melbourne Rd, outside Scottish Seabird Centre
1pm to 3pm	Aldi, Dunbar Rd, North Berwick EH39 4DQ
3:15pm to 4:15pm	Whitekirk
4:30pm to 5:30pm	East Linton, Community Hall
Friday 29 October	
10:30am to 12:30pm	Hallhill Sports Centre, Kellie Road, Dunbar, EH42 1RF
2pm to 3pm	Broxburn, Main Street
3pm to 4pm	West Barns, Edinburgh Road



6.2 Consultation materials

Our team provided a variety of materials and visual presentations during the exhibition, including:



An information leaflet



Maps showing the Project in relation to other developments



3D visualisations of the site from the shore



A project video



Maps showing distances to the shore

We have provided a sample of the exhibition materials below. All of the materials are provided in appendix 12.



6.3 Feedback

Our team engaged with approximately 200 people during this round of consultation. We did not receive formal feedback forms due to the event format. We considered all views raised when developing our proposals.

The Project team gathered feedback during this round of consultation via direct questions posed during in-person interactions at the above locations. Attendees that asked our team questions either received direct responses at the time or via a follow up e-mail.

The main issues addressed at the roadshow centred around the following themes:

Offshore feedback



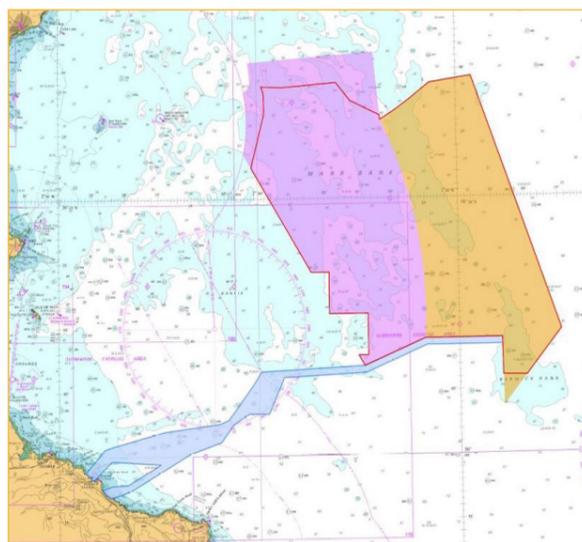
Birds Protection – consultees commented on the impact our proposals may have on the Bass Rock’s gannet population.



Number of Turbines – members of the public queried the total number of turbines.



Visual Impact – local attendees commented that they would like visualisations of the site, as viewed from the shore, due to concern that the view would be adversely impacted.



Our response



Birds Protection – we let attendees know that bird welfare is a key consideration for our project. Our team confirmed that we’ve finished 18 months’ worth of aerial and boat-based Ornithology studies, informing the development of the Project. Based on consultees’ views and our findings, we’ve reduced the overall site boundary by approximately 10 per cent (compared to the combined size of the two separate proposals, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm). We’ve also increased the height of turbines to minimise collision risks for birds in the area, including kittiwake and guillemot. In addition, we have regular meetings with MS-LOT, the RSPB, The Scottish Seabird Centre and NatureScot to discuss methodologies, approaches and analysis. We’re closely adhering to the HRA process, ensuring robust protection of bird populations within designated sites.



Number of Turbines – we informed attendees that this number currently ranges from 179 to 307, noting that the final number will likely sit in the middle of this range. Our team explained that this number will depend on individual turbine capacity, which could change as technology advances during the consenting process.



Visual Impact – we presented a 3D model showing views of the offshore array from various locations in East Lothian on 28 October 2021. Our team also informed attendees that the Project’s turbines will be around 43km from the East Lothian coast. Further, consultees were advised of our preliminary understanding at the time, as part of the scoping exercise that this impact would be considered non-significant. The 3D model also showed views of potential visual impacts of proposed onshore infrastructure associated with the Project – this included a view of indicative cable routes and potential onshore HVDC/HVAC substation/ convertor stations.



Onshore feedback



Construction Traffic – Skateraw residents wanted clarification on what impact they can expect. Consultees commented that they are keen to work with us to create a construction traffic route that works for the local community.



Noise and Light Pollution – Skateraw residents asked for clarification on what impact they can expect.



Supply Chain – several stakeholders requested information on our procurement and supply chain process, emphasising how local businesses can become involved. There was a key focus on larger elements of the Project’s delivery, such as blade and turbine manufacturing. Several community members expressed a desire to have these components constructed within Scotland and the UK.



Energy Storage – local members of the public expressed concerns that the Project would generate too much electricity, leading to waste.



Onshore Assets – consultees, particularly those near proposed onshore works, were keen to know where the substation and cable route will be located.



Community Benefit – stakeholders provided examples of local benefits that the Project could provide.



Landfall – local residents were keen to discuss the range of landfall options, wanting to know how many landfall options have been considered and understand why some have been excluded. Our team confirmed that we will produce a site selection chapter to accompany the onshore Environmental Impact Assessment, which will detail various landfall considerations in more detail, but at this stage, we will be proceeding with our consideration of two potential landfall options – one at Skateraw Harbour and another at Thorntonloch Beach.



Project Timelines – attendees queried construction periods and were keen to understand when we would be working on different sections of our proposals, asking how long it would take to install a particular section of the cable route and construct the substation/converter station.

Our response



Construction Traffic – our team committed to discussing the works involved in constructing the onshore substation with stakeholders before making the planning application. We let attendees know that we’re happy to work alongside the local community to find a solution regarding construction traffic and confirmed that the probable substation site was across the A1, towards Innerwick.



Noise and Light Pollution – stakeholders raised concerns regarding potential noise and light pollution from onshore construction works. We commented that more investigations into the potential impact and mitigation measures will be implemented.



Supply Chain – we confirmed that we want to create as much local and Scottish supply chain content as possible. Our team added that a socio-economic report confirming our aims for this is in the final stages of review. We also noted that consenting projects on the scale of the Berwick Bank Wind Farm could boost confidence throughout the supply chain, supporting the manufacture of key elements within the UK.



Community Benefit – our team confirmed we are willing to engage with local community members to discuss their proposals. We have already supported various local initiatives (see pages 10 and 11) and intend to continue this support as the Project progresses.



Energy Storage – our team commented that a blend of technologies would be key for delivering Net Zero, highlighting the potential of pumped hydro storage schemes as a means of storing energy, such as the Coire Glas pumped hydro storage project which is also being brought forward by SSE Renewables.



Onshore Assets – we stated our intention to finalise our preferred design solution in November 2021. This was confirming our preferred location for our onshore assets (cable route and substation/converter station). The planning application will retain flexibility to consent either a HVAC solution or HVDC solution. When we reach the detailed design stage of the Project we will continue to discuss our proposals with the local community and members of the public.



Landfall – we committed to confirming our preferred location in late 2021/early 2022 and consulting local communities on this.



Project Timelines – our team commented that we could not currently confirm this due to variables regarding the planning process, noting that in the earliest realistic time rame we would commence construction by 2024, which would allow the Project to begin generating electricity by 2026, with a view to becoming fully operational from 2030.



6.4 Our conclusions

We reviewed and considered all feedback received from the public and other consultees, alongside additional technical studies and fieldwork, and used this to develop numerous elements of the proposals.

The views raised informed our development of the Project concerning the following offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Birds protection
- Visual impact

Onshore

- Construction traffic
- Noise and light pollution
- Supply chain

Based on consultees' feedback, we also included an additional mailing area for the third round of consultation.

The Consultation Report for this round is provided in appendix 2. This sets out further details about the consultation, including a summary of the feedback and how we have taken that into account.



7. THIRD ROUND OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Summary

In November and December 2021, we carried out an eight-week public consultation on the Project, which included proposals for offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Up to 307 wind turbines
- Wind turbine foundations
- 1,225km of inter-array cabling
- 94km of interconnector cabling
- Up to 10 substation platforms
- Up to 12 export cables

Onshore

- One new wind farm substation/converter station
- One landfall location
- Underground cable route connections between the landfall and the new substation, and between the new substation and the grid connection substation
- Associated ancillary infrastructure

The purpose of the consultation was to seek people’s views on our proposals and ways to avoid or minimise the impacts that the Project may have.

On 6 November 2021, we publicly launched our third round of consultation, which ran until 30 December 2021.

For this round, our team divided the Project study area into the following Consultation Zones:

- **Zone one:** within 3-miles of EH39 4SS, North Berwick
- **Zone two:** within 3-miles of EH42 1JH, Dunbar
- **Zone three:** within 3-miles of EH42 1SE, Innerwick
- **Zone four:** within 2-miles of East Linton

We delivered a mail drop to 11,348 residential properties and 503 commercial buildings in this Zone one week before starting this round of consultation. The mailing contained a letter, contact details for the Project’s SEM and information on how to attend the public events.

We also advertised the consultation in local newspapers (appendix 7).

During the consultation period, we held a virtual exhibition and two live chat sessions with the Project team, as well as a ‘traditional’ village hall exhibition (in-person). We ran the virtual exhibition from 6 November 2021 to 30 December 2021, and our team hosted both live chats on 8 November 2021 (12pm to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm).

We delivered the in-person event at Innerwick Village Hall on 9 November 2021 (1pm to 7pm).

We recorded 533 visits at these events (463 online and 70 in-person).

7.2 Consultation materials

Our team provided a variety of materials and visual presentations during the exhibition, including:



An A5 booklet



Project information boards



3D visualisations



Maps showing distances to the shore



Maps showing Berwick Bank in relation to other developments



Maps showing the proposed onshore infrastructure



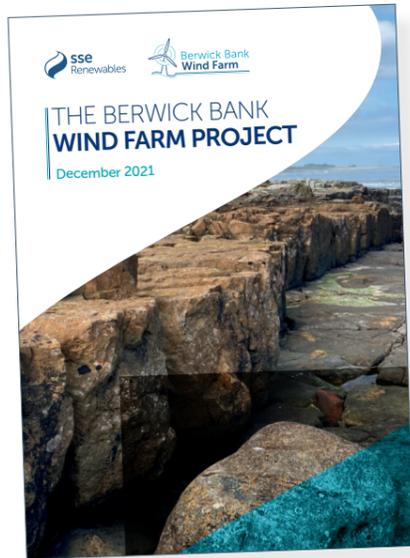
Project videos



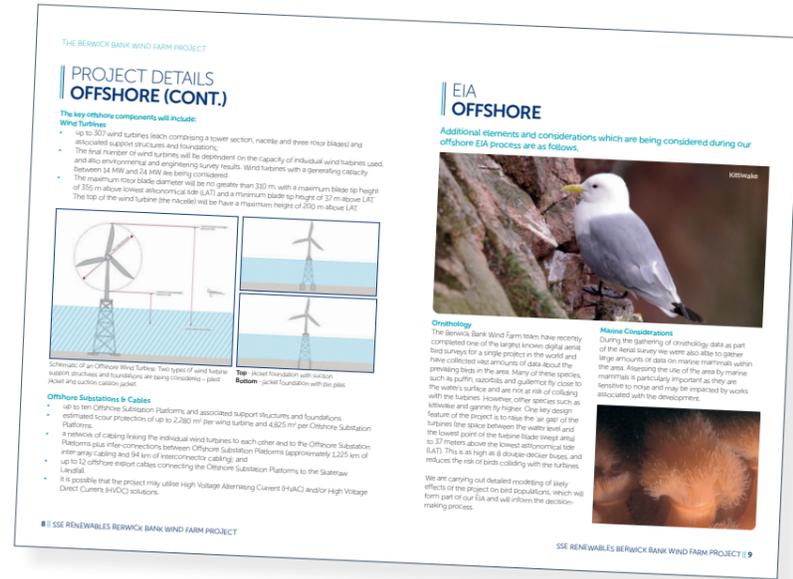
A 3D model showing offshore and onshore infrastructure



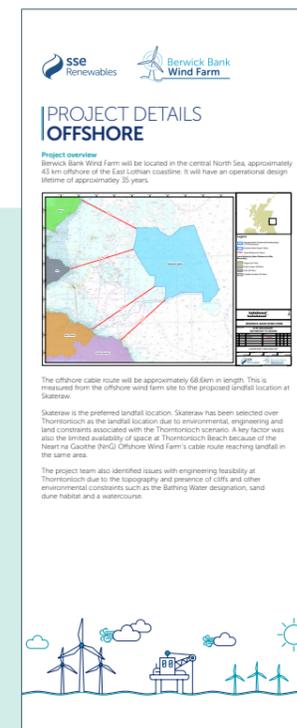
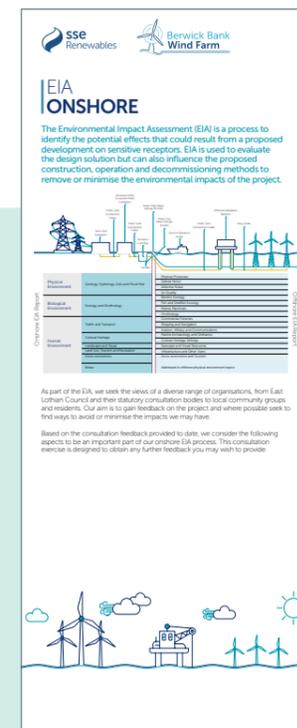
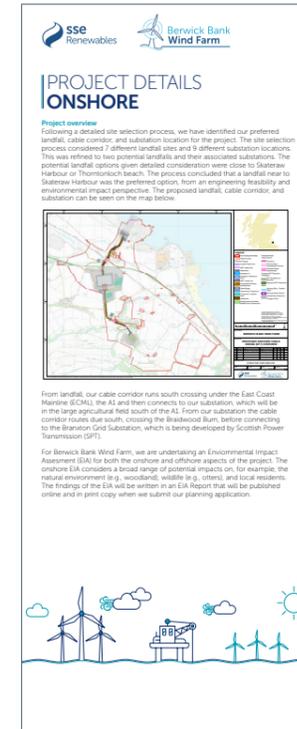
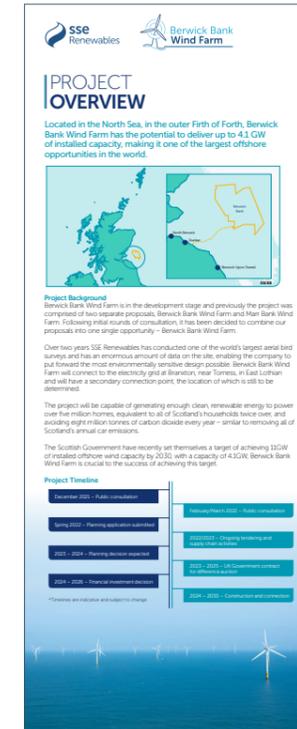
We have provided a sample of the exhibition materials below. All of the materials are provided in appendix 13.



Leaflet



Consultation Boards



7.3 Feedback

Our team received nine questions in the live chat sessions and five feedback forms, which were submitted to the Project inbox. We also addressed several issues at the virtual exhibition.

We recorded every feedback form, letter, and email that we received and considered all views raised when developing our proposals.

The main issues addressed during this round of consultation centred around the following themes:

Offshore feedback

 **Birds Protection** – consultees commented on the impact our proposals may have on the gannet population that nests on Bass Rock.

 **Number of Turbines** – attendees queried the total number of turbines.

 **Visual Impact** – stakeholders requested to see some form of visualisation of the offshore array before we submit our documents for planning consent.

Our response

 **Birds Protection** – we let attendees know that bird welfare is a key consideration for the Project. Our team confirmed that we've finished 24 months' worth of aerial and boat-based Ornithology studies, informing the development of the Project. Based on consultees' views and our findings, we've reduced the overall site boundary by approximately 10 per cent (compared to the combined size of the two separate proposals, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm), enabling us to avoid a hotspot for Kittiwake. We've also increased the height of turbines to minimise collision risks for birds. Additionally, we have regular meetings with MS-LOT, the RSPB, The Scottish Seabird Centre and NatureScot to discuss methodologies, approaches and analysis.

 **Number of Turbines** – we confirmed that this number currently ranges from 179 to 307, noting that the final number will likely sit in the middle of this range. Our team explained that this number will depend on individual turbine capacity, which could change as technology advances during the consenting process.

 **Visual impact (turbines)** – our team took account of attendees' concerns by producing and presenting a full 3D model to the public, showing views of the site from various locations in East Lothian. This model satisfied stakeholders, who confirmed that the visual impact from the coast would not be significant.



Onshore feedback



Construction Traffic – local residents raised concerns about construction traffic. People living in the vicinity of the proposed OnTW said construction traffic is a primary concern for them.



Noise, Light and Dust Pollution – local residents asked for clarification on what impact they can expect from the proposed onshore works site.



Visual Impact (substation) – stakeholders requested to see some form of visualisation of the onshore substation before we submit our documents for planning consent. Some Innerwick residents expressed concerns over the size of the onshore substation and its potential impact on the local landscape.



Supply Chain – several members of the public requested information on our procurement and supply chain process, emphasising how local businesses can become involved. There was a key focus on larger elements of the Project's delivery, such as blade and turbine manufacturing. Several community members expressed a desire to have these components constructed within Scotland and the UK.



Energy Storage – local stakeholders expressed concerns that the Project would generate too much electricity, leading to waste. A member of the public suggested we explore the possibility of using some of the heat emitted from Transformers to provide local district heating.



Community Benefit – the public provided examples of local benefits that the Project could provide. One consultee asked our team to consider whether we could construct a crossing over the A1, enhancing the local cycling network and providing a safe way for residents to cross.



Project Timelines – attendees raised the issue of construction periods. Residents local to Skateraw and Innerwick asked for further information on how long the onshore construction period could take in their areas.



Working Hours – local residents stated they would like to see us apply for a Monday-Friday construction working hours arrangement.



Drainage – a local resident raised concerns about the Project leading to increased flooding in the area.

Our response



Construction Traffic – our team informed attendees that, at local residents' request, we began a dialogue with the neighbouring cement works to assess options for accessing the onshore works site via the west of Skateraw. We explained that this approach presents significant challenges, ranging from poor road quality to lack of space and potential health and safety risks. We confirmed that these discussions are still ongoing. We also committed to continuing to communicate with local residents during the planning process, accounting for views on the proposed Construction Traffic Management Plan to minimise the impact of construction traffic.



Noise, Light and Dust Pollution – we provided more information about substation lighting, reassuring attendees that we don't intend to have the onshore substation permanently lit. We added that this lighting would only be used as required during maintenance operations (to ensure safe working). In addition, our team commented that more investigations into potential impacts and mitigation measures will be implemented.



Visual impact (onshore substation) – our team took account of attendees' concerns by producing and presenting a full 3D model to the public, cable routes and substation options. We also committed to considering available screening options for the substation, and to presenting our findings at the next round of consultation.



Supply Chain – we confirmed that we want to create as much local and Scottish supply chain content as possible. Our team added that a socio-economic report confirming our aims for this is in the final stages of review. We also noted that consenting projects on the scale of our Project could boost confidence throughout the supply chain, supporting the manufacture of key components within the UK. Our team has already engaged with and utilised several Scottish suppliers, from the hospitality and communications sectors to local ports and harbours, and from Scottish environmental, survey, geotechnical and engineering consultancies to local contractors. We committed to continuing our engagement with the local supply chain.



Energy Storage – our team commented that a blend of technologies would be key for delivering Net Zero, highlighting the potential of pumped hydro storage schemes, such as Coire Glas. The Project SEM has accounted for the attendee's view on using heat from Transformers to provide local district heating and has been in contact with them about it. Following initial meetings, our SEM arranged calls between the attendee and project engineers from SSE Distributed Energy to explain current technological constraints and further explore the idea with them.



Our response



Community Benefit – our team confirmed we are willing to engage with local community members to discuss their proposals on an ad hoc basis. We noted that we’re involved in high-level discussions with East Lothian Council and other developers on the proposed crossing, adding that we’re open to discussing a potential funding mechanism for it. Our team informed consultees that we’ll establish a formal Community Benefit Fund following the planning decision (expected 2023-2024). We have already supported various local initiatives (see pages 10 and 11) and intend to continue this support as the Project progresses.



Project Timelines – our team commented that we could not currently confirm this due to variables regarding the planning process, noting that in the earliest realistic time frame we would begin construction by 2024, enabling the Project to begin generating clean electricity by 2026. Our team indicated that the construction period for the Skateraw and Innerwick areas could take two years.



Working Hours – we confirmed that we will most likely apply for permission to work seven days a week, from 7am to 7pm. We explained that this is because, in the event of unexpected delays, it is common practice for work to occur on weekends. We also informed attendees that we will apply for 24-hour working in relation to using trenchless techniques (e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling) for sections of the onshore cable corridor, to ensure we can complete each stage of drilling promptly. Our team explained that this is required due to the nature of trenchless techniques - once you begin a drill run, it must be completed. This requirement can result in irregular working hours. We reassured consultees that we will liaise closely with the local community when exceptional circumstances arise. As residents took a view that they would not be in favour of these arrangements, our team will provide a further update on the issue at the next round of consultation.



Drainage – we commented that we do not envisage our plans increasing flood risk in the area or negatively impacting local drainage networks, adding that a flood risk & drainage assessment is currently underway. We have also committed to carrying out an additional study with environmental consultants ITPE and to meeting the locally concerned resident to discuss the issue further.

7.4 Our conclusions

We reviewed and considered all feedback received from the public and other consultees, alongside additional technical studies and fieldwork, using them to develop numerous elements of the proposals.

The views raised informed our development of the Project concerning the following offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Birds protection
- Visual impact (turbines)

Onshore

- Construction traffic
- Noise, light and dust pollution
- Visual impact (onshore substation)
- Supply chain
- Energy storage
- Community benefit
- Drainage

The Consultation Report for this round is provided in appendix 3. This sets out further details about the consultation, including a summary of the feedback and how we have taken that into account.



8. FOURTH ROUND OF CONSULTATION

8.1 Summary

In March 2022, we carried out a four-week public consultation on the Project, which included proposals for offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Up to 307 wind turbines
- Wind turbine foundations
- 1,225km of inter-array cabling
- 94km of interconnector cabling
- Up to 10 substation platforms
- Up to 10 export cables

Onshore

- One new wind farm substation/converter station
- One landfall location
- Underground cable route connections between the landfall and the new substation, and between the new substation and the grid connection substation
- Associated ancillary infrastructure

The purpose of the consultation was to build on the information presented during the third consultation round, allow community members to ask further questions, confirm the OnTW we intend to submit for planning consent, and fulfil statutory pre-application obligations. In sum, we sought people’s views on our proposals and ways to avoid or minimise the impacts that they may have.

On 7 March 2022, we publicly launched our fourth round of consultation, which included a virtual and in-person public exhibition on the updated proposals and ran until 18 March 2022. In addition, we held an in-person Q&A session on 29 March 2022.

For this round, our team divided the Project study area into the following Consultation Zones:

- **Zone one:** within 3-miles of EH39 4SS, North Berwick
- **Zone two:** within 3-miles of EH42 1JH, Dunbar
- **Zone three:** within 3-miles of EH42 1SE, Innerwick
- **Zone four:** within 2-miles of East Linton

We delivered a mail drop to 11,348 residential properties and 503 commercial buildings in this Zone one week before starting this consultation round. The mailing contained information on how to attend the public events, contact details for the Project’s SEM and a letter.

Additionally, we advertised the consultation in local newspapers (appendix 7).

During the consultation period, we held a virtual exhibition and four live chat sessions with the Project team, as well as a ‘traditional’ public consultation event in-person. We ran the virtual exhibition from 7 March 2022 to 31 March 2022, and our team hosted the live chats on 9 March 2022 (12pm to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm) and 10 March 2022 (12pm to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm).

We hosted the in-person event at Innerwick Village Hall on 8 March 2022 (1pm to 7pm) and returned to the same venue for a Q&A session with interested members of the public on 29 March 2022 (7pm to 9pm) – at the request of the local parish council (Innerwick Welfare Parish Association). The Project SEM also invited the Dunbar and East Lammermuir Community Councils to this event.

We recorded 434 visits at these events (384 online and 50 in-person).

8.2 Consultation materials

Our team provided a variety of materials and visual presentations during the virtual and in-person exhibitions, including:



An A4 booklet



Project information boards



iPads with 3D visualisations



Maps showing distances to the shore



Maps showing Berwick Bank in relation to other developments



Maps showing the proposed onshore infrastructure



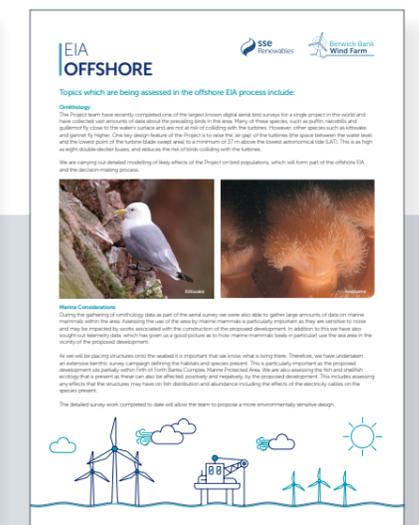
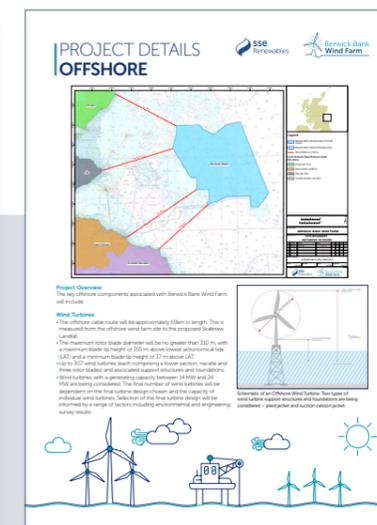
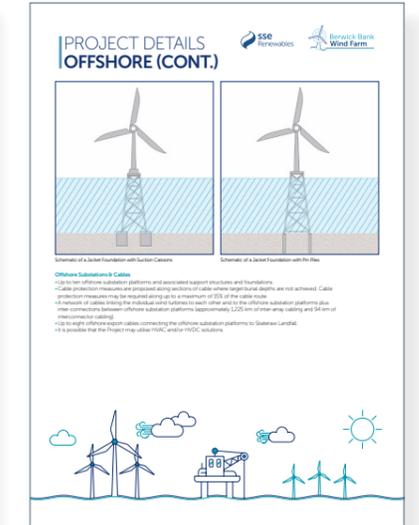
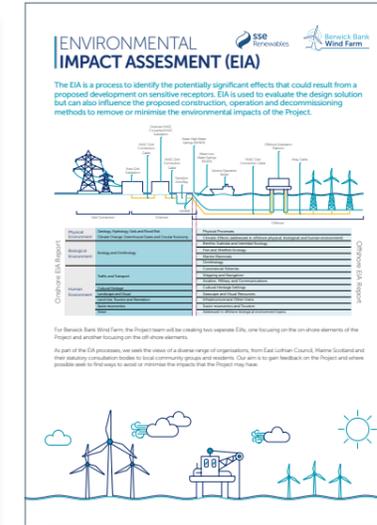
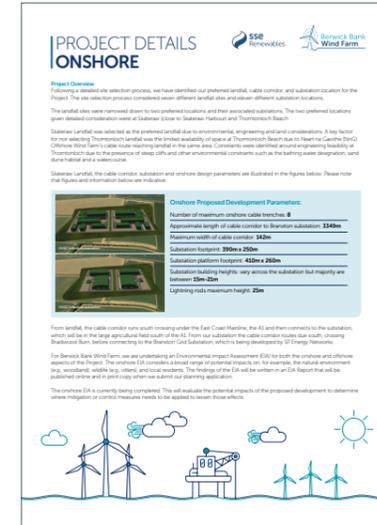
A project video



A 3D model showing offshore and onshore infrastructure, including turbines, cables routes and substation locations



We have provided a sample of the exhibition materials below. All of the materials are provided in appendix 14.



A0 boards



8.3 Feedback

Our team received eight questions in the live chat sessions and three feedback forms were submitted to the Project inbox. We also addressed several issues at the public exhibition.

We also recorded feedback provided via feedback forms and emails, and considered all views raised when developing our proposals.

The main issues addressed during this round of consultation centred around the following themes:

Offshore feedback



Birds Protection – residents commented on the impact our proposals may have on the gannet population nesting on Bass Rock.



Number of Turbines – attendees asked about the total number of turbines, their average speed, and average life expectancy.



Visual Impact – stakeholders previously requested to see a visualisation of the offshore array before we submit our documents for planning consent.



Fishing – a representative from a local shellfish supplier raised concerns about the Project leading to a negative impact on their business.

Our response



Birds Protection – we let consultees know that bird welfare remains a key consideration. Our team confirmed that we've finished 25 months' worth of aerial and boat-based Ornithology studies, informing the design of the Project. Based on the public's views and our findings, we've reduced the overall site boundary by approximately 10 per cent (compared to the combined size of the two separate proposals, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm). We've also increased the height of turbines to minimise collision risks for birds. In addition, we are considering environmental mitigation and compensation measures and have regular meetings with MS-LOT, the RSPB, The Scottish Seabird Centre and NatureScot to discuss methodologies, approaches and analysis.



Number of Turbines – our team confirmed that the number of turbines still ranges from 179 to 307, adding that the final number will likely sit in the middle of this range. We explained that this number will depend on individual turbine capacity, which is yet to be determined. We also confirmed that the average speed of the turbines is expected to be between seven and nine revolutions per minute.



Visual impact (turbines) – we presented a full 3D model to the public which showed views of the site from various locations in East Lothian. This model satisfied stakeholders that the visual impact from the coast would not be significant. The application will be supported by a detail visual impact assessment including visualisations and photomontages to illustrate the potential visual effects associated with the Project.



Fishing – the Project SEM noted these concerns and arranged a follow-up meeting between the representative and relevant members of the team to further discuss the issue.



Onshore feedback



Construction Traffic – local residents have been in regular contact with the Project team regarding construction traffic. People living in the vicinity of the proposed OnTW said construction traffic is a primary concern for them.



Project Timelines – attendees raised the issue of construction periods on several occasions.



Noise and Light Pollution – attendees raised concerns over noise pollution during the construction and operational stages of the Project, with a focus on onshore infrastructure. Skateraw residents have been in regular contact with the Project team regarding noise and light pollution.



Working Hours – Skateraw residents have been in regular contact with the Project team regarding proposed working hours, and previously stated they would like to see us apply for a Monday-Friday construction working hours arrangement.



Drainage – a local property owner expressed concern over the Project leading to increased flooding in the area.



Visual Impact (onshore substation) – stakeholders previously requested to see a visualisation of the onshore substation before we submit our documents for planning consent. Some local residents expressed concern over the size of the proposed substation and its potential impact on the views.



Grid Connection – attendees enquired about the potential location of a secondary grid connection.



Community Benefit – stakeholders gave examples of local benefits that the Project could provide. A consultee asked our team to consider constructing a crossing over the A1, to enhance the local cycling network and provide a safe way for residents to cross.

Our response



Construction Traffic – we informed attendees that, at local residents' request, we are in a dialogue with the neighbouring cement works to assess options for accessing the onshore works site via the west of Skateraw. Our team explained that this approach presents significant challenges due to poor road quality, lack of space, and potential health and safety risks. We confirmed that these discussions are still ongoing, adding that we have now conducted a site visit to assess suitability. The Project SEM has also written to a local resident, offering them a meeting to further discuss this issue. Additionally, we committed to continuing to communicate with local properties during the planning process, accounting for views on the proposed Construction Traffic Management Plan to minimise the impact of construction traffic. As one local resident expressed concern over their property acting as a postcode for the local area, the Project team has committed to investigating ways to ensure that they do not receive deliveries meant for the works site.



Noise and Vibration chapter is complete. We also provided more information on substation lighting, reassuring consultees that we don't intend to have the onshore substation permanently lit. Our team noted that this lighting would only be used as required during maintenance operations (to ensure safe working). Additionally, we commented that more investigations into potential impacts are ongoing and that mitigation measures The Project team is committed to discussing this issue further once the application has been submitted.

Visual Impact (onshore substation) – we presented a full 3D model to the public which showed cable routes and substation options. We also let attendees know that we are currently assessing screening options to mitigate the potential visual impact of the substation. The SEM and Project Director added that we'll include a detailed site selection chapter in the onshore EIA. They encouraged those present to register for project updates, so they will be contacted once this document can be viewed in full. In addition, we're considering producing a physical model of the substation for use at future events or meetings and looking into incorporating a green eco-roof into its design.



Noise and Light Pollution – based on local residents' feedback, our team relocated drilling equipment, removing or reducing noise pollution for their communities. We also confirmed that a detailed noise assessment is being completed and will be included (in full) within the onshore EIA, noting that initial modelling has indicated that noise levels are expected to fall within acceptable limits. As one stakeholder asked for further information on this model, the Project team has committed to providing an update after the onshore EIA has been submitted and the EIA



Onshore feedback



Community Benefit – our team confirmed that we are willing to discuss local community members’ proposals on an ad hoc basis, adding that we’ll establish a formal Community Benefit Fund following the planning decision (expected 2023-2024). We also informed consultees that we’re involved in high-level discussions with East Lothian Council and other developers about the proposed crossing, noting that we’re open to discussing a potential funding mechanism for it. We have already supported a range of local initiatives (see pages 10 and 11) and intend to continue this support as the Project progresses.



Project Timelines – we said we could not currently confirm this due to variables regarding the planning process. We informed attendees that in the earliest realistic time frame, we would begin construction in 2024, start generating clean electricity in 2026, and complete the Project in 2030. The Project team stressed that this timeline is indicative and subject to change, depending on the planning process.



Grid Connection – our team let attendees know that we expect the secondary grid connection cable to connect at Blyth, Northumberland. We noted that this has not yet been confirmed by National Grid and is subject to change until they do so.



Working Hours – we commented that we’ll most likely apply for permission to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Following dialogue with East Lothian Council (as the Planning Authority) we confirmed that normal working hours would be from 7am to 7pm, Monday – Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, but 24-hour working could occasionally be required for certain activities, such as trenchless techniques (e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling – once you begin a drill run, it must be completed). Any noisy works required to be completed outside ‘normal’ hours would require prior approval from the Planning Authority. We will notify impacted residents in advance of abnormal working taking place. As residents took a view that they would not be in favour of these arrangements, the Project SEM has written to a local resident, offering them a meeting to discuss this issue.



Drainage – our team commented that we do not envisage our plans increasing flood risk in the area or negatively impacting local drainage networks. We let attendees know that a flood risk & drainage assessment is currently underway and have conducted additional flood risk assessments to reassure the local property owner.

8.4 Our conclusions

We reviewed and considered all feedback received from the public and other consultees, alongside additional technical studies and fieldwork, using them to develop numerous elements of the proposals.

The views raised informed our development of the Project concerning the following offshore and onshore elements:

Offshore

- Birds protection
- Visual impact (turbines)
- Fishing

Onshore

- Construction traffic
- Noise and light pollution
- Visual impact (onshore substation/converter station)
- Working hours

The Consultation Report for this round is provided in appendix 4. This sets out further details about the consultation, including a summary of the feedback and how we have taken that into account.

8.5 Statement of Compliance

This round of consultation followed the registration of the PoAN on 5 January 2022. It fulfilled the requirement that we undertake pre-application consultation in respect of the Project’s offshore and onshore elements, per the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) Scotland Regulations 2013, the Electricity Act 1989, the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and the Town and Country Planning Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

A full Statement of Compliance can be found in section 2.3 of this PAC Report.

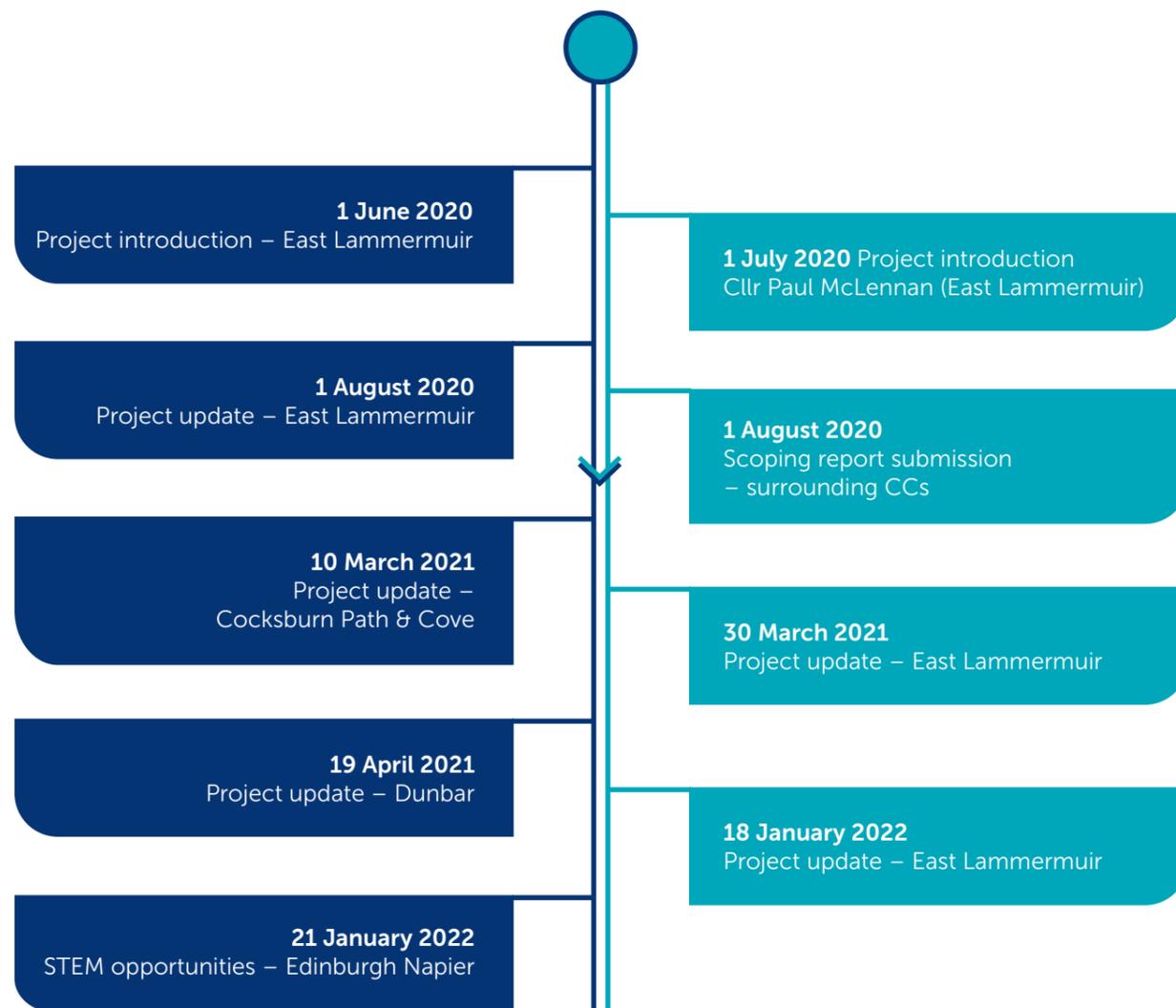


9. COMMUNITY COUNCILS

We recognise the importance of Community Councils (CCs) and have been meeting with East Lammermuir and Dunbar Community Councils since June 2020.

We've also attended CC meetings in Dunbar and East Lammermuir to provide updates on our proposals.

In addition, we invited the following CCs to attend our four public rounds of consultation:



East Lothian

- Gullane Area
- North Berwick
- West Barns
- Dunbar
- East Lammermuir
- Cockenzie & Port Seton
- Longniddry

Scottish Borders

- Cocksburnpath & Cove
- Coldingham
- St Abbs
- Eyemouth
- Burnmouth
- Foulden, Mordington & Lamberton

Fife

- Tayport Ferryport on Craig
- Leuchars
- St Andrews
- Boarhills & Dunino
- Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke – Royal Burgh
- Pittenweem & District – Royal Burgh
- St Monans, Abercrombie & District
- Elie & The Royal Burgh of Earlsferry
- Largo Area
- Leven
- Methil
- Buckhaven & Denbeath
- East Wemyss and McDuff
- Dysart
- Kirkcaldy West
- Kinghorn – Royal Burgh

Angus

- Broughty Ferry
- Carnoustie
- Arbroath – Royal Burgh
- Murroes & Wellbank
- Ferryden & Craig
- Montrose
- Monifieth
- Monikie & Newbigging
- Fintry
- Letham & District
- Tealing



10. ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION

We have gone above and beyond the legal requirements by ensuring we engage with Ministers and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP).

We held a three-day exhibition inside the Scottish Parliament building, from 29 March 2022 to 31 March 2022. This event introduced the most recent proposals to key political stakeholders, emphasising the Project’s environmental, economic and social importance for Scotland and the UK.

Our SEM attended a Scottish Government Parliamentary Reception hosted by Scottish Renewables, Paul McLennan MSP and Michael Matheson MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, on 7 September 2022. This event featured speeches from these figures on energy security and the need to solve the energy price crisis, which concluded that accelerating the growth of renewable energy is the best way to achieve this. Our SEM took the opportunity to discuss the Project’s progress with key political stakeholders at this event.

In addition, our team arranged a stakeholder visit to our sister site, Seagreen Wind Farm, on 22 September 2022. Attendees included representatives from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), RSPB, Crown Estate Scotland and East Lothian Council. The visit allowed our team to show these stakeholders how large sites are constructed, hear their views on the Project, and discuss its progress with them.

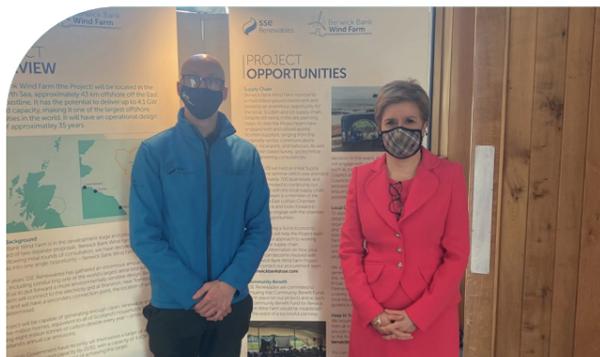
We’ve also met members of the fishing community, local residents and interested environmental groups. Notably, a representative from a local shellfish supplier raised concerns during our fourth consultation round (appendix 4). You can see how we responded to their feedback in Chapter 11. Full details on our engagement with representatives of the fishing industry during the pre-application consultation phase of the Project are provided in the Commercial Fisheries chapter of our Offshore Environment Impact Assessment (Volume 2, Chapter 12, Section 12.5).

We undertook pre-scoping engagement to support the development of our Scoping Reports too, both, within the above consultation periods and outside of them.

We invited consultees to respond to the topic-specific questions, key areas identified, data sources and methodologies in our Scoping Reports, and through the road map process.

As part of our additional consultation work, we have:

- Provided general project introductions to key stakeholders and regulators
- Presented landfall options and the proposed intertidal assessment approach
- Given interim updates to key Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
- Supplied interim data results for a range of topics, including shipping and navigation, ornithology, and marine mammals

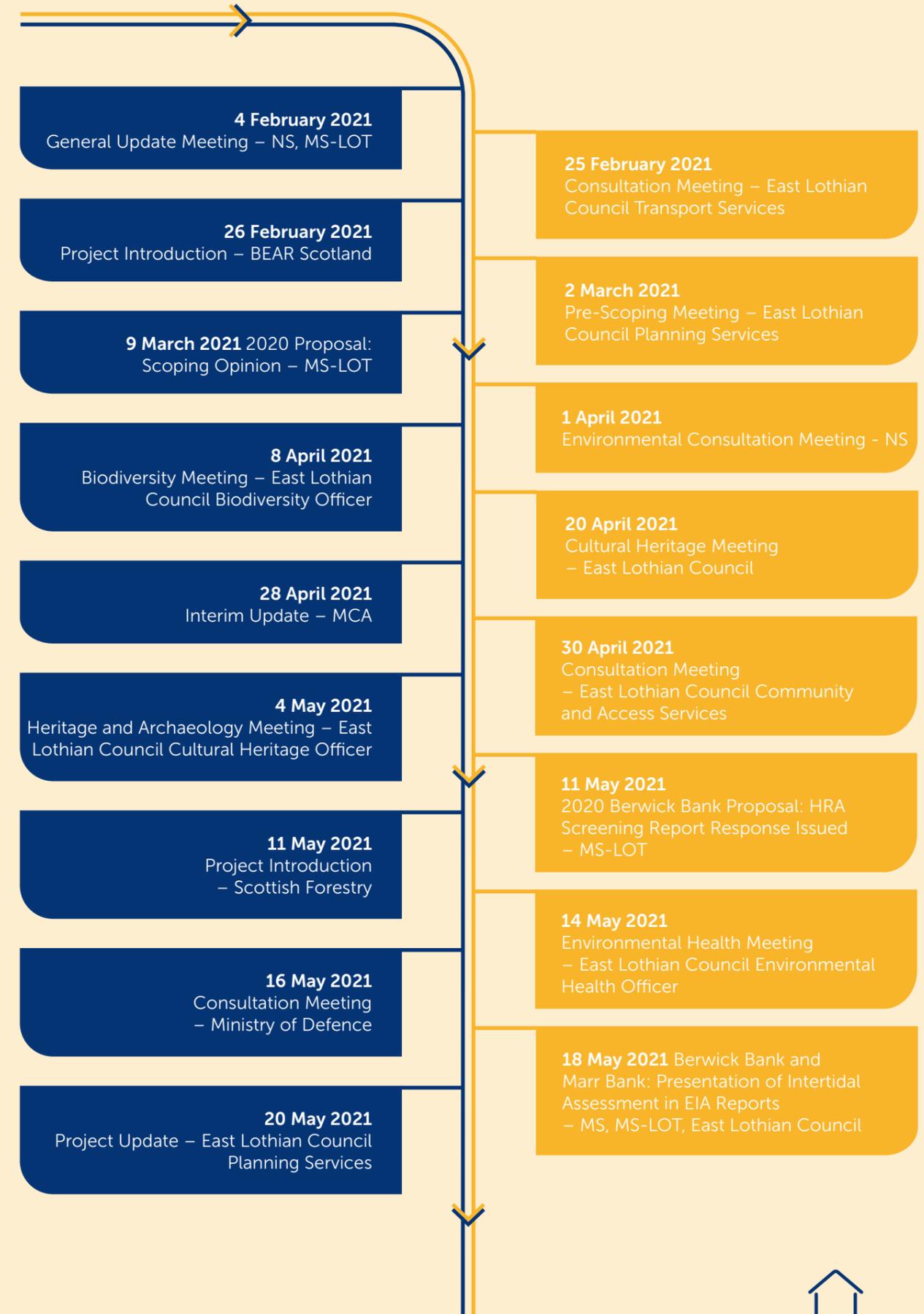
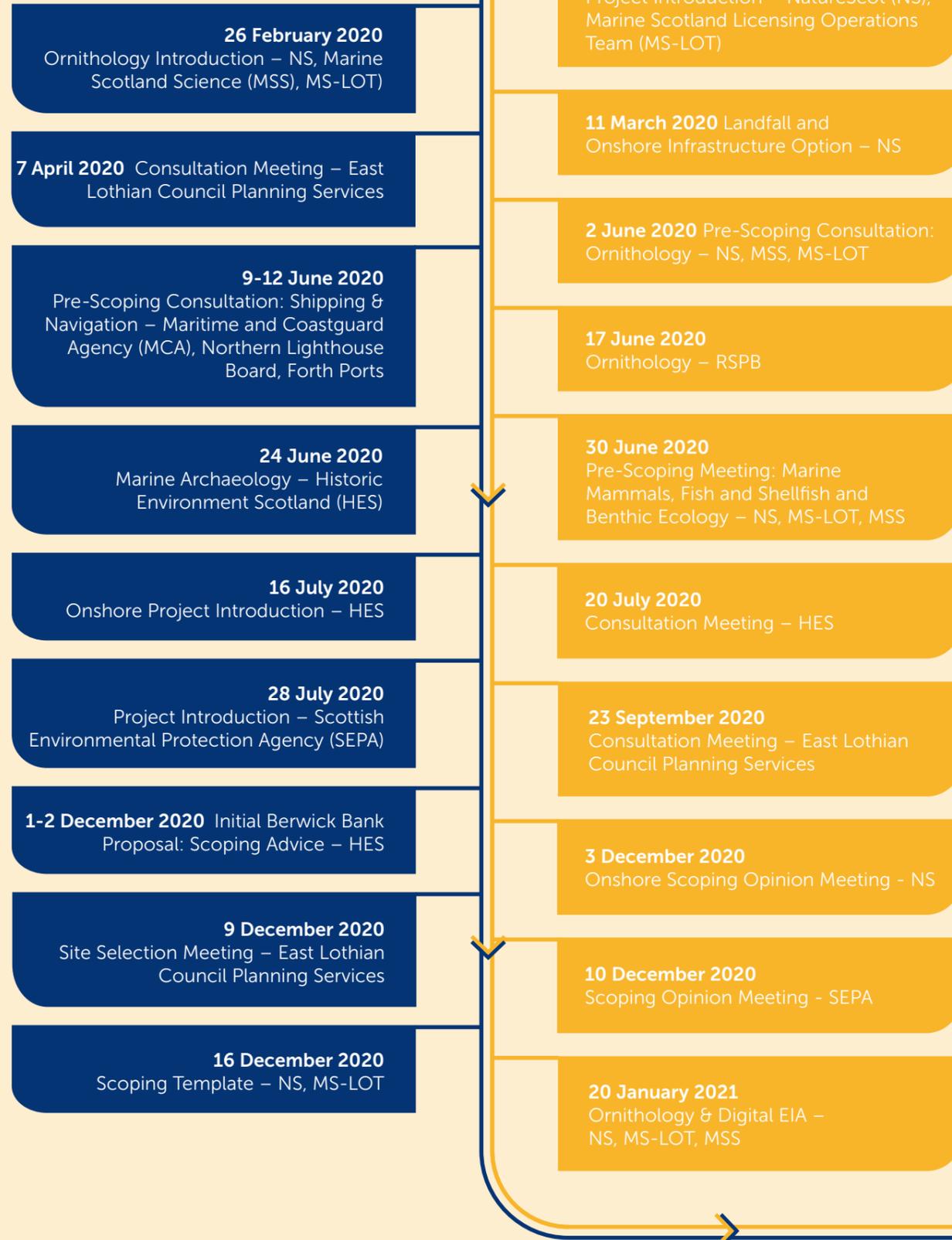


Our Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Gary Donlin and First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon

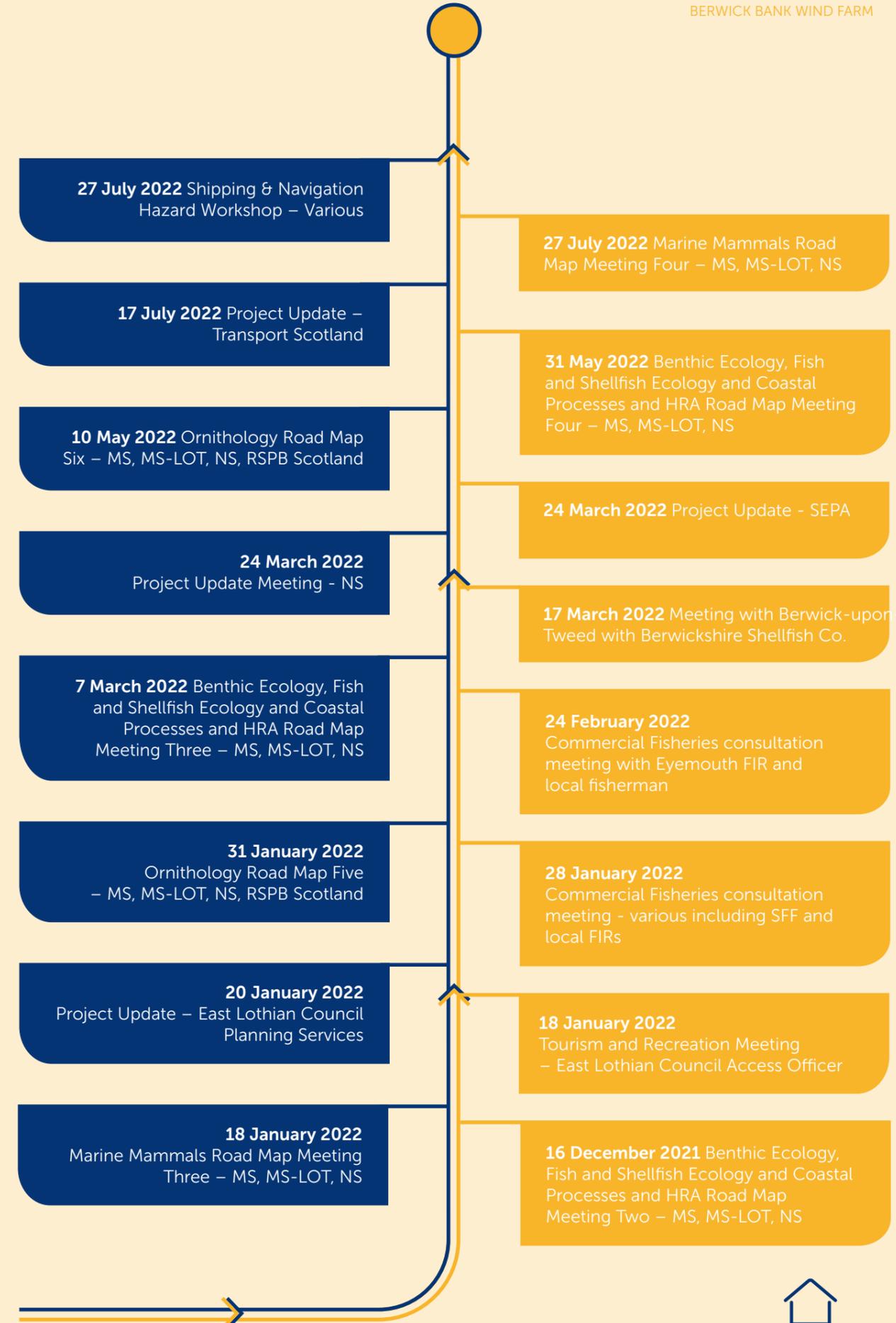
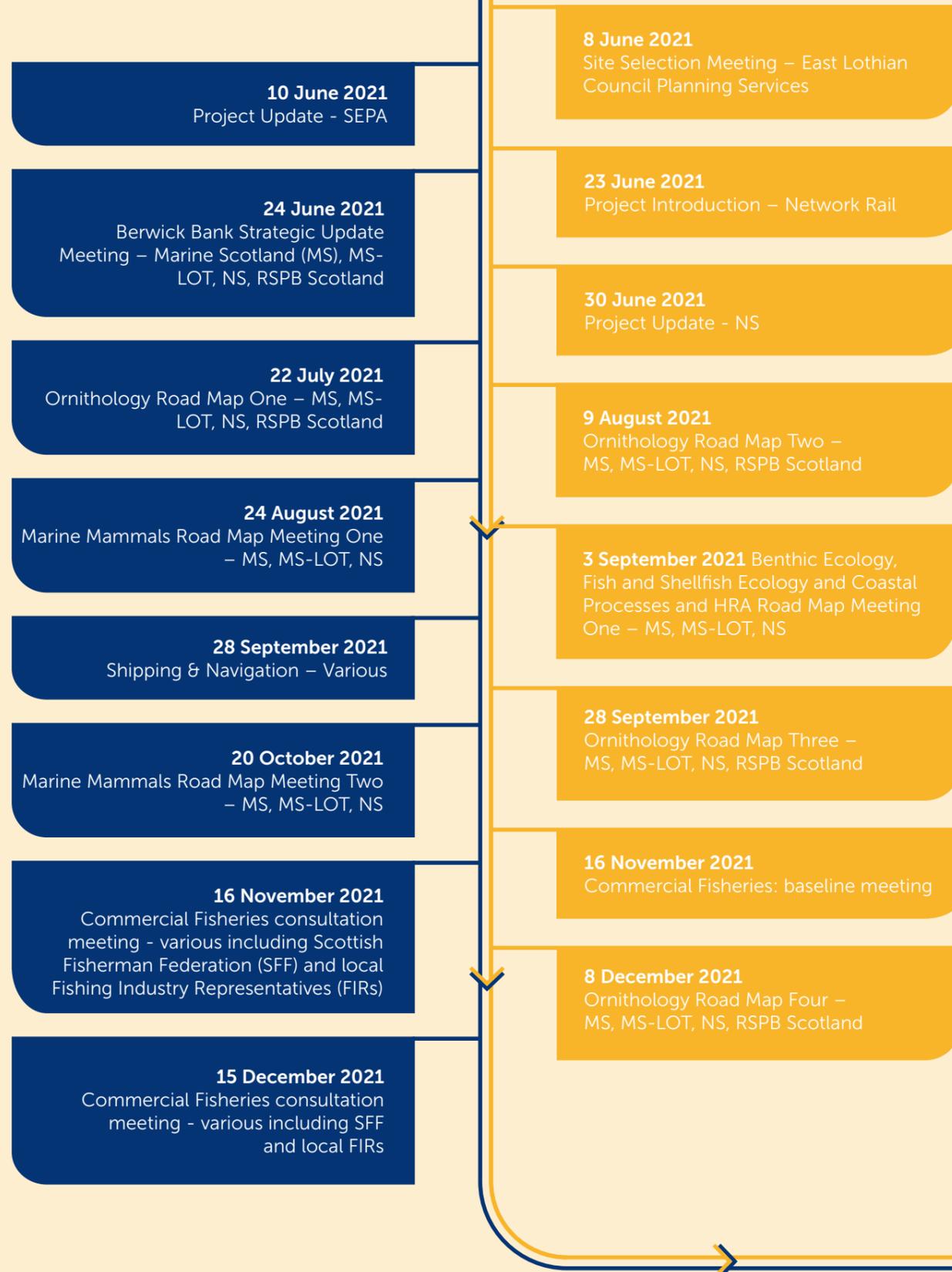


Member of the Scottish Parliament for East Lothian, Paul McLennan and our Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Gary Donlin

We held the following events and meetings to support our wider consultation and stakeholder engagement work:



We held the following events to support our consultation and stakeholder engagement work:



11. HOW WE TOOK ACCOUNT OF VIEWS RAISED

The Project

Berwick Bank Wind Farm was initially comprised of two separate proposals, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm. We decided to combine them based on the feedback we received during our first round of consultation and progress made in the detailed review of the sites' environmental constraints.

We amended the site boundary and combined large proportions of the Agreement for Lease area for both developments, including the proposed offshore cable corridors – making material changes to reduce environmental impacts, as well as the overall project footprint, by approximately 10 per cent.

Offshore elements



Birds Protection – Based on consultees' views and the findings of our studies, we reduced the array site boundary by 10 per cent in Summer 2021 (compared to the combined size of the two separate proposals, Berwick Bank Wind Farm and Marr Bank Wind Farm), then reduced it by a further 20 per cent in June 2022. We revised the boundary in June 2022 to minimise ornithological impacts, reducing the overall area, avoiding potentially important ornithological areas in the site, and adding a 2 km buffer between the array site and the Firth of Forth Banks Complex SPA.

We also increased the height of our turbines to better account for the average flight heights of the prevailing birds in the area, minimising collision risks. Specifically, we increased the space between the water level and the lowest point of the turbine swept area (the 'air gap') from 22m to 37m. Additionally, we are considering a range of environmental mitigation measures.



Number of Turbines – We reduced the maximum number of turbines to 307 (when comparing the combined numbers for the Initial 2020 Berwick Wind Farm along with Marr Bank Wind Farm) by increasing the minimum and maximum turbine sizes from 10-20MW to 14-24MW, potentially reducing associated environmental, and ornithological impacts to generate the same amount of renewable energy.

Visual impact (turbines) – We produced and presented a full 3D model to the public, showing views of the site from various locations in East Lothian. After seeing this, stakeholders confirmed that the visual impact from the coast would not be significant.

Our boundary refinements in June 2022 also increased the minimum distance of the wind turbines offshore from the coast and reduced the spread of wind turbines across the horizon.

Onshore elements



Noise and Light Pollution – We relocated a proposed construction compound and drilling equipment based on local residents' concerns over pollution from construction works, in order to reduce noise pollution. A detailed noise assessment is also being completed, which will be included in full within the onshore EIA. In addition, we've provided more information on light pollution, reassuring attendees that the onshore substation will only be lit as required (to ensure safe working) and not permanently lit once operational.



Visual impact (onshore substation) – We produced and presented a full 3D model to the public, showing cable routes and substation options. We're also assessing screening options to mitigate the potential impact of the substation. We will continue to look at substation design and screening to identify if there is scope to reduce visual impact.



Offshore elements

You said	We did
Birds Protection – the proposals may have an impact on the gannet population on Bass Rock.	We reduced the site boundary by 10 per cent in Summer 2021 (compared to the two initial proposals), then reduced it by a further 20 per cent in June 2022, and increased the height of our turbines – reducing collision risks. Our team completed 25 months’ worth of Ornithology studies to help inform this decision.
Turbines – how many turbines will there be? What’s their average speed?	We let the public know that it is currently expected there will be between 179 and 307 turbines, depending on individual turbine capacity. Our team informed attendees that the average speed is expected to be between seven and nine revolutions per minute.
Visual Impact – I want to see visualisations of the proposals.	We displayed a 3D model showing the offshore infrastructure. We will provide a detailed assessment of the visual impacts, including visualisations and a photomontage as part of the offshore application.
Fishing – the Project may impact our business.	The Project SEM arranged a meeting between the representative and the team to further discuss the issue.

Onshore elements

You said	We did
Construction Traffic – what impact can we expect?	We began a dialogue with the neighbouring cement works to assess options for accessing our works site and have conducted a site visit to that end. The team has committed to ensuring signage is placed at relevant points (as agreed with local residents) to advise construction traffic of speed limits. Our team committed to submitting an outline Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) with the application and an associated outline Construction Traffic Management Plan which should be read in conjunction with the outline CEMP to ensure that construction traffic follows a set route when accessing the site. Prior to construction, a final CTMP will be prepared to provide details of access junctions, routing plans, and safety measures identifies the traffic management measures required to support the Proposed Development.
Noise and Light Pollution – what impacts can we expect?	We relocated drilling equipment to reduce noise pollution and are completing a detailed noise assessment. We informed attendees that we don’t intend to have the substation permanently lit. Lighting will only be used during maintenance operations (to ensure safe working).
Visual Impact – I want to see visualisations of the proposals. The substation could impact the local landscape.	We displayed a 3D model showing the onshore infrastructure. We’re looking into screening options for the substation. Details are outlined in the onshore EIA Report, Volume 1, Chapter 6.
Supply Chain – we want to know how local businesses can get involved.	Our procurement and commercial team contacted all interested attendees. We ran an introductory supply chain webinar and have committed to organising ‘Meet the developer’ events at the appropriate time (once Tier 1 contractors are appointed). In addition, we have created a dedicated Supply Chain registration page on the Berwick Bank Wind Farm website – www.berwickbank.com
Energy Storage – will the project generate too much electricity and cause waste? I’d like to know if heat from the transformers could be used for local district heating.	We informed attendees that pumped hydro storage schemes can help prevent this, noting the success of Coire Glas . The Project SEM arranged calls with this attendee to explain current technological constraints and further explore the idea.

Onshore elements

You said	We did
<p>Onshore Assets – where will the substation and cable route be?</p>	<p>We provided a map of the proposed onshore infrastructure.</p>
<p>Landfall – we’d like to discuss the options.</p>	<p>We consulted local communities on the preferred location for landfall, which was narrowed down to two options (Skateraw Landfall and Thorntonloch Landfall)</p> <p>Following consultation with stakeholders and further optioneering assessments by our engineering team. We presented our preferred landfall location at Skateraw to members of the public during the fourth consultation round.</p>
<p>Community Benefit – the Project could provide local benefits.</p> <p>Can you consider constructing a crossing over the A1?</p>	<p>The team confirmed we’re willing to discuss local community members’ proposals, adding that we’ll establish a formal Community Benefit Fund after the planning decision.</p> <p>We began discussions with East Lothian Council about this crossing.</p>
<p>Project Timelines – how long will the construction period be?</p> <p>How long will works take in Innerwick and Skateraw?</p>	<p>Our team let attendees know that we cannot confirm this but aim to begin construction in 2024, start generating clean electricity in 2026, with a view to completing full construction for the Project in 2030.</p> <p>We informed residents that onshore works in the East Lothian area could take approximately two years (specific to localised areas along the cable route).</p>
<p>Working Hours – we’d like you to apply for a Monday-Friday working hours arrangement.</p>	<p>The team explained that normal working hours will be from 7am to 7pm, Monday – Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, but 24-hour working could occasionally be required for certain activities and that, in the event of unexpected delays, it is common practice for work to occur on weekends. So, we’ll most likely apply for permission to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.</p> <p>In the event of a requirement to work outside the hours specified above, this would need to be approved by East Lothian Council.</p> <p>We also offered to meet a concerned local resident to discuss this issue.</p>
<p>Drainage – I think the project might lead to increased flooding.</p>	<p>We conducted additional flood risk assessments to reassure this attendee.</p>
<p>Grid Connection – we’d like to know more about the secondary grid connection.</p>	<p>We let attendees know that we expect this to connect at Cambois, Northumberland.</p> <p>The Cambois connection was confirmed in June 2022 following the National Grid’s Electricity System Operator (NGESO) Holistic Network Review.</p>



12. FURTHER CHANGES TO THE OFFSHORE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

As detailed in Section 2.3 of this report we have made several changes to the offshore elements of the Project as a result of broader feedback received during the pre application consultation stages of the Project. Our team considered feedback and concerns received outside of the consultation periods from a wide range of stakeholders regarding the potential for the Project to have a negative effect on various receptors. These included ornithology, shipping and navigation, and benthic ecology.

However, our team also considered feedback and concerns received outside of the consultation periods from a wide range of stakeholders regarding the potential for the Project to have a negative effect on various receptors. These included ornithology, shipping and navigation, and benthic ecology.

During the pre-application consultation period, we gained such feedback via Road Map meetings and hazard workshops. Our team later received further feedback from MS-LOT in February 2022 via the Scoping Opinion. After considering their comments and progressing our detailed assessment work for the EIA and HRA, we reduced the size of the offshore site array by approximately 23 per cent.

The main reasons for the changes we made included:

- Mitigating effects to ornithological receptors (reducing its size/spatial extent and adding a 2 km buffer)
- Mitigating possible effects to the Firth of Forth Bank Complex MPA (reducing the distance between the site and the Project Array area)
- Mitigating possible concerns around navigational safety (increasing the space between Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm and the western boundary of the Project array area)

Further information on how we considered other impacts as part of the boundary change (including to fish ecology, commercial fishing, and visual impacts) can be found within the Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives chapter of the Offshore EIA Report (Volume 1, Chapter 4).



13. CONCLUSIONS

We have carried out four rounds of pre-application consultation on the Project and maintained ongoing stakeholder engagement over a two-year period prior to submitting consent applications to the Scottish Government.

We considered views raised during each round of consultation throughout the development of the Project, and addressed issues wherever possible. We directly responded to feedback and created Consultation Reports after each consultation round to ensure following rounds addressed key points of interest and concern.

We have been able to demonstrate how views raised during the pre-application consultation process have influenced the development of the Project. We believe that the consultation described in this report satisfies the requirements associated with consent applications.





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