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Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Application for a licence to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) for one of the following purposes

- For preserving public health or public safety
- For an imperative reason of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)
- For preventing the spread of disease
- For preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.

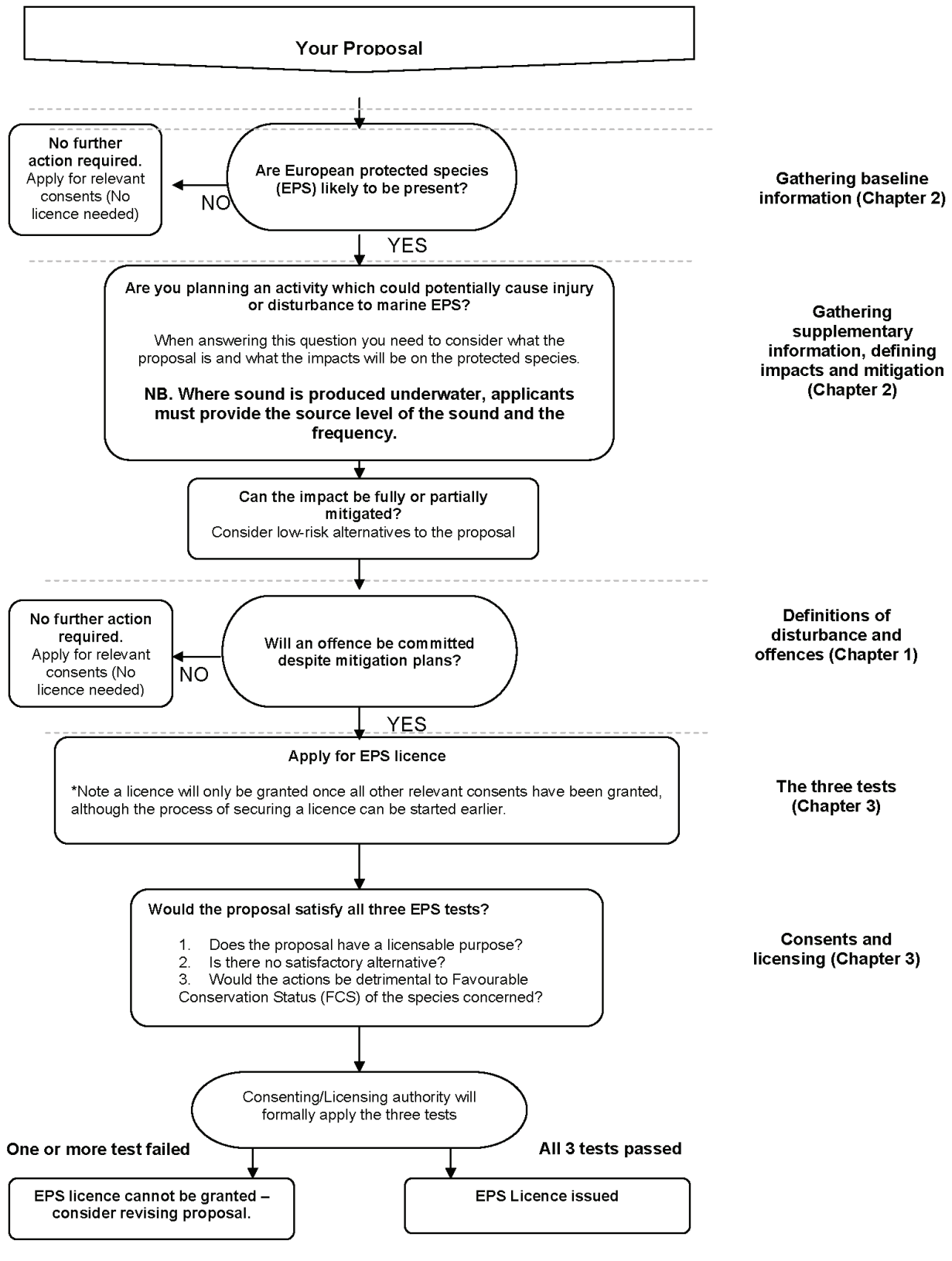
Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the Scottish inshore marine area (0 – 12nm).

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

Applicants are advised to read these notes in conjunction with [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#). If further clarification is needed please contact Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) on 0300 244 5046 or email: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Flowchart showing the decision-making process

Please refer to the relevant chapter of [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#)



Please complete all relevant sections of the form.

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

The completed application should be sent to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot.

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you provide appropriate information to support your application. Applicants can provide this supporting information in the form of an EPS Risk Assessment. Guidance can be found in [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#). Please contact MS-LOT if you wish to discuss the level of supporting documentation required for your application. Failure to provide sufficient supporting information may delay the consultation and licensing process.

MS-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued **within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application**. However, please note that for large scale or complex projects, the determination period may be longer.

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

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the Scottish marine area (0 – 12nm).

Please note that European protected species are also protected in the offshore marine environment (between 12 and 200 nautical miles). Species in this area are protected under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH Licensing, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, Telephone 01463 725000, email licensing@snh.gov.uk or visit [their website](#)) for a licence application for these purposes. SNH also issues licences for the purposes of marking animals or plants in relation to conservation or introducing them to particular areas for conserving natural habitats, and for protecting zoological or botanical collections.

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

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

Part A

Section 1 Personal details

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with the terms and conditions of a licence.

Section 2 Previous applications

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

Part B

Section 3

Species

Please provide details of the species that will be affected by the work, the number likely to be affected and a description of how this number was determined. This information can be described in detail in your supporting information. You will need to provide detailed proposals (to be included in the 'Supporting information') of all the mitigation work that you plan to carry out which will affect European protected species.

Location

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

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

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

Section 4 Consideration of designated sites

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

Section 5 Activities to be licensed

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

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

Section 6 Purpose of the licence application

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application, the first of the legal tests.

Please complete the relevant Annex to provide justification for the licensing purpose. This is the [legal basis of the application](#).

Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include all other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), as well as all alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternatives dates / timings.

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

Section 8 Summary of the planning / licensing position

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

Section 9 Noise Monitoring

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

These forms are available at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>

Section 10 Privacy notice

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

Part D

Section 11 Declaration and warning

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

Site visits and compliance checks

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

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

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

Where to seek further information

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

If your proposal relates to one of the purposes for which SNH is the licensing authority, please contact your local office of SNH.

Licensing Operations Team
Marine Scotland
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MS.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1994 Regulations and other legislation.

Part A. The Applicant: Personal details

These questions relate to the person who will be the **named licensee**. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with any condition imposed by a licence.

1. Name of applicant

Title: Forename(s): Surname:

Company Name:

Business Title (if Appropriate):

Address:

Tel no. (inc. dialling code):

Email address:

2. The Applicant: Previous applications:

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

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

Who issued the licence?

Licence number (most recent licence)

Year in which the licence was issued.

What species were covered by the licence?

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

Part B. The Application

3. Species

(a) Please indicate which species is / are affected by the proposed works.

Common name(s):	Harbour porpoise Bottlenose dolphin Common dolphin White-beaked dolphin White-sided dolphin Minke whale
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Scientific name(s)	Phocoena phocoena Tursiops truncatus Delphinus delphis Lagenorhynchus albirostris Lagenorhynchus acutus Balaenoptera acutorostrata
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(b) How many individual animals will be affected by licensed work?

Injury - Zero individuals (all species).
Disturbance
Harbour porpoise - 47 individuals, 0.019% of relevant management unit.
Bottlenose dolphin - 2 individuals, 1.026% of relevant management unit.
Common dolphin - 0 individuals, 0% of relevant management unit.
White-beaked dolphin - 19 individuals, 0.043% of relevant management unit.
White-sided dolphin - 1 individual, 0.005% of relevant management unit.
Minke whale - 3 individuals, 0.015% of relevant management unit.

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

See Section 3 of the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm EPS Risk Assessment: Geophysical Survey Campaign 2023 for more information on how the numbers were calculated and the full risk assessment.

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

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

LATITUDE								LONGITUDE							
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
		°			.		'N				°			.	'W

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.

Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information

Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

The proposed geophysical survey is in relation to the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm. The geophysical survey is required to inform the bathymetric, geological, and sedimentary characteristics of the seabed within the proposed array area and export cable corridor (although for the purposes of this form, only the export cable corridor survey is relevant for the Scottish inshore marine area (0 – 12nm)). The geophysical survey will commence no earlier than 25th March 2023 and conclude no later than 30th July 2023. The total duration of proposed activity within the export cable corridor survey area (excluding downtime due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances) is anticipated to be 30 days.

The survey activities are scheduled to be on a 24-hour working basis and vessels are expected to be present throughout the survey period.

The geophysical methods to be used include Ultra-Short Baseline (USBL) positioning systems, Sidescan Sonar (SSS), Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES), Sub-Bottom Profilers (SBP), Ultra-High Resolution Seismic (UHRS) and magnetometer.

The source levels and associated frequency for the vessels and equipment used during the proposed geophysical surveys are presented in Table 5 of the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm EPS Risk Assessment: Geophysical Survey Campaign 2023.

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on European protected species.

Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information.

The EPS Mitigation Strategy has been prepared with the intention to reduce injury and disturbances to EPS from proposed geophysical survey activities. Visual measures have been included and the measures listed here are based on JNCC guidance for minimising the risk to marine mammals from geophysical surveys (JNCC, 2017). Survey vessels will adhere to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code provisions (SNH, 2017) and all parties contracted as part of the survey works will be made aware of the presence of any EPS within the area.

Mitigation measures will include:

- An 500m mitigation zone;
- Marine Mammal Observers (MMO);
- Pre-start search;
- Soft start;
- Monitoring and reporting;
- Survey Vessel speed; and
- Toolbox talks.

See Section 4 of the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm EPS Risk Assessment: Geophysical Survey Campaign 2023 for more information on the mitigation strategy for the proposed geophysical surveys.

4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on Scottish Natural Heritage website (<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/>) or from your local SNH office.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐

- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted (see note 4). Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

There are a number of protected sites within the vicinity of the proposed survey area for which EPS species are qualifying features. These sites are:

- the Moray Firth SAC - 153km from the survey area and relevant designated feature is bottlenose dolphin;
- the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC - 115km from nearest part of proposed export cable corridor survey area and relevant EPS designated feature is otter; and
- the Southern Trench NCMPS - the proposed export cable corridor survey area crosses the site. Minke whale is the relevant EPS protected feature of the site.

Due to the close proximity of some of these designated sites to the proposed survey area, Muir Mhòr recognises that there is potential for interaction with designated or protected EPS features associated with these sites. However, as there is no potential for injury or significant disturbance to EPS in the vicinity of the survey operations, it is considered that there is no potential for any adverse effect on the integrity of these designated sites in relation to designated or protected EPS features. Furthermore, Section 4 of the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm EPS Risk Assessment: Geophysical Survey Campaign 2023 outlines the mitigation measures that will be used to reduce the risk of disturbance and injury as a result of the geophysical survey activity

See Section 6 of the Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm EPS Risk Assessment: Geophysical Survey Campaign 2023 for more information on designated sites in the vicinity of the proposed geophysical survey works.

5. Activities to be Licenced

Proposed Methods

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

Activity to be licensed (please tick)					Time period	
Capture	Kill (exceptional circumstances only)	Injure	Transport	Disturb/ Harass	Method to be used, (e.g. piling)	From To
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MBES	25/03/23 30/07/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SBP / SSS	25/03/23 30/07/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UHSR	25/03/23 30/07/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USBL	25/03/23 30/07/23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Magnetometer / Vessels	25/03/23 30/07/23

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

A licence can only be issued if 3 specific legal tests are met. The section below relates to the first of these tests. The options shown are taken from the **Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)**.

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works

(a) Preserving public health or public safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) Regulation 44(2)(e) ☐

Complete Annex A

(b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (*including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment*) Regulation 44(2)(e) ☒

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing the spread of disease Regulation 44(2)(f) ☐

Complete Annex C

(d) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries Regulation 44(2)(g). ☐

Complete AnnexD

7. Satisfactory alternatives

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

There are no satisfactory alternatives to these proposed geophysical surveys. As part of the Crown Estate Scotland ScotWind Leasing process, Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind farm Limited were identified as successful bidders and awarded an option agreement for the proposed Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) located within the E2 Plan Option (PO) area and as such there is no alternative to survey location as this array area requires an export cable corridor to connect to an onshore substation.

Geophysical surveys are required to map the seabed (and record features such as boulders and unexploded ordnance), measure water depth and characterise layers of sediment or rock below the seabed. These surveys are essential for developing offshore wind projects. While there are potentially different types of equipment that can be used, this is often constrained by the specific purpose the geophysical survey that is being undertaken and in this instance the use of alternative equipment is deemed not be effective to meet the objectives of the survey. Therefore, there are no alternative options to the use of the geophysical equipment proposed for this survey.

The Muir Mhòr geophysical surveys aim to achieve a 100% coverage of the seabed survey area and to identify objects at a minimum of 0.5m. The geophysical survey results will be used to identify any potential hazards that should be avoided by the development. The geophysical survey results will also be used to feed into the benthic survey scope and determine the spread of sample stations in this survey. Additionally, the geophysical survey results will be used within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The key areas where the geophysical survey results will be used within the EIA are within the baseline characterisation of multiple technical topics. For example, within the modelling of coastal processes, benthic ecology and marine archaeology. This survey is fundamental to ensure a robust EIA is carried out for the Muir Mhòr OWF. It is therefore considered that the 'no satisfactory alternative test' has been met and the project cannot be safely developed without the survey.

Public safety is paramount, and it is not possible to safely construct a wind farm without understanding ground conditions to enable appropriate design and installation of foundation structures or subsea cables, or ensuring there is no UXO present within the area. Should the work not proceed, the completion of the Muir Mhòr OWF would not be possible.

8. Other Licences / Consents

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

Type of Licence / Consent (e.g. Marine Licence, Local Planning Authority, Local Works Licence)	Date Applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of licence / consent
Licence to disturb or injure marine European Protected Species - for offshore area (beyond 12 nautical miles)	22/12/22		
All appropriate licences will be applied for as and when required.	N/A	N/A	N/A

9. Noise Monitoring

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

Use of explosives ☐ Piling ☐ Use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices ☐
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz ☒

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a Proposed Activity form in the Marine Noise Registry at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>.

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

Activity application numbers:
MBES - 3180
SBP - 3181 (linked activity)
SBP (UHRS) - 3182 (linked activity)

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

11. Privacy notice

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

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

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot

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

Completed Application form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Completed Annex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Map / Chart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correct co-ordinates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Additional information / EPS risk assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part C. Declarations

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

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

Warning

Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with the conditions imposed by a licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence.

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

Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000), or to both imprisonment and a fine.

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

Signature of the
Applicant

[Redacted]

Date 22/12/2022

(The person named at part 1)

Name in BLOCK
LETTERS

[Redacted]

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

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

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Licensing Operations Team
Marine Scotland
EPS Division
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1994 Regulations and other legislation.

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road,
Aberdeen AB11 9DB
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



Annex A

Only to be completed if you selected *for Preserving public health or public safety* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

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

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk

Annex B

Only to be completed if you selected for *Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

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

While the marine survey associated with the Muir Mhòr OWF presents a temporary disturbance to a localised marine environment, this work will allow an important addition to Scotland's growing contributions to the UK's renewable energy sector in the long term. Offshore wind provides the opportunity to deliver this new capacity, not only from a renewable, low carbon resource, but a resource which is indigenous and does not depend upon the geo-economic and geo-political risks attendant with importing fuels, a vital point given the UK's current energy crisis.

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

Muir Mhòr OWF will offers the opportunity to deliver a low-cost, low-carbon supply of electricity at a time when the UK urgently needs new generation capacity to maintain a secure, affordable supply of power. The development of the wind farm (as a result of the proposed activity) will benefit the public socioeconomically, as Muir Mhòr Offshore Windfarm Limited is uniquely placed, through our project and financial support to the supply chain, to contribute significantly towards national climate change policies, deliver multi-billion pound investments and thousands of jobs locally. We aim to establish globally competitive fabrication facilities in Scotland, position the country as a world leader in exportable innovation, and address wider sector opportunities around skills and diversity for current and future generations.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

Public safety is paramount, and it is not possible to safely construct a wind farm without understanding ground conditions to enable appropriate design and installation of foundation structures or subsea cables, or ensuring there is no UXO present within the area. Should the work not proceed, the completion of the Muir Mhòr OWF would not be possible.

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

The proposed activity is required to develop the offshore wind farm, the development of which supports the Scottish Government's Offshore Wind Policy - "the Scottish Government plans to ensure that Scotland's long and positive association with renewables continues to go from strength to strength and is central to our green recovery. Scotland's people will be key to this, which will mean ensuring local communities can participate in, and benefit from Scotland's transition to net zero emissions" (2020). As the UK follows policies to meet its national and international commitments to greenhouse gas reduction, additional demands will be placed on domestic electricity supply as use of, for example, electric vehicles, increases. The project will provide additional support to the UK government's national and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gases, which will bring long-term benefits.

This project is also in line with the Scottish National Marine Plan objectives in Section 11. Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy (2015), and supports the targets set in the Scottish Government's 'Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032' (3.1 Electricity, 2020) by producing renewable energy to aid the transition to net zero.

Annex C

Only to be completed if you selected for *Preventing the spread of disease* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

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

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

Annex D

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

Please complete all questions

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

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

Muir Mhòr Offshore Wind Farm EPS Risk Assessment

Muir Mhòr Survey Areas

Legend

- Array Survey Area
- ECC Survey Area
- Array Survey Limit Point
- ECC Survey Limit Point

Notes

Contains Ordnance Survey data
© Crown copyright and database
rights (2022). OS OpenData.

Datum: ETRS89
Projection: UTM30N

Scale: 1:400,000 @A3
Date: 21/12/2022
Drawn by: BPHB
Checked by: DL
Approved by: LK

0 10 20 km
0 5 10 nm

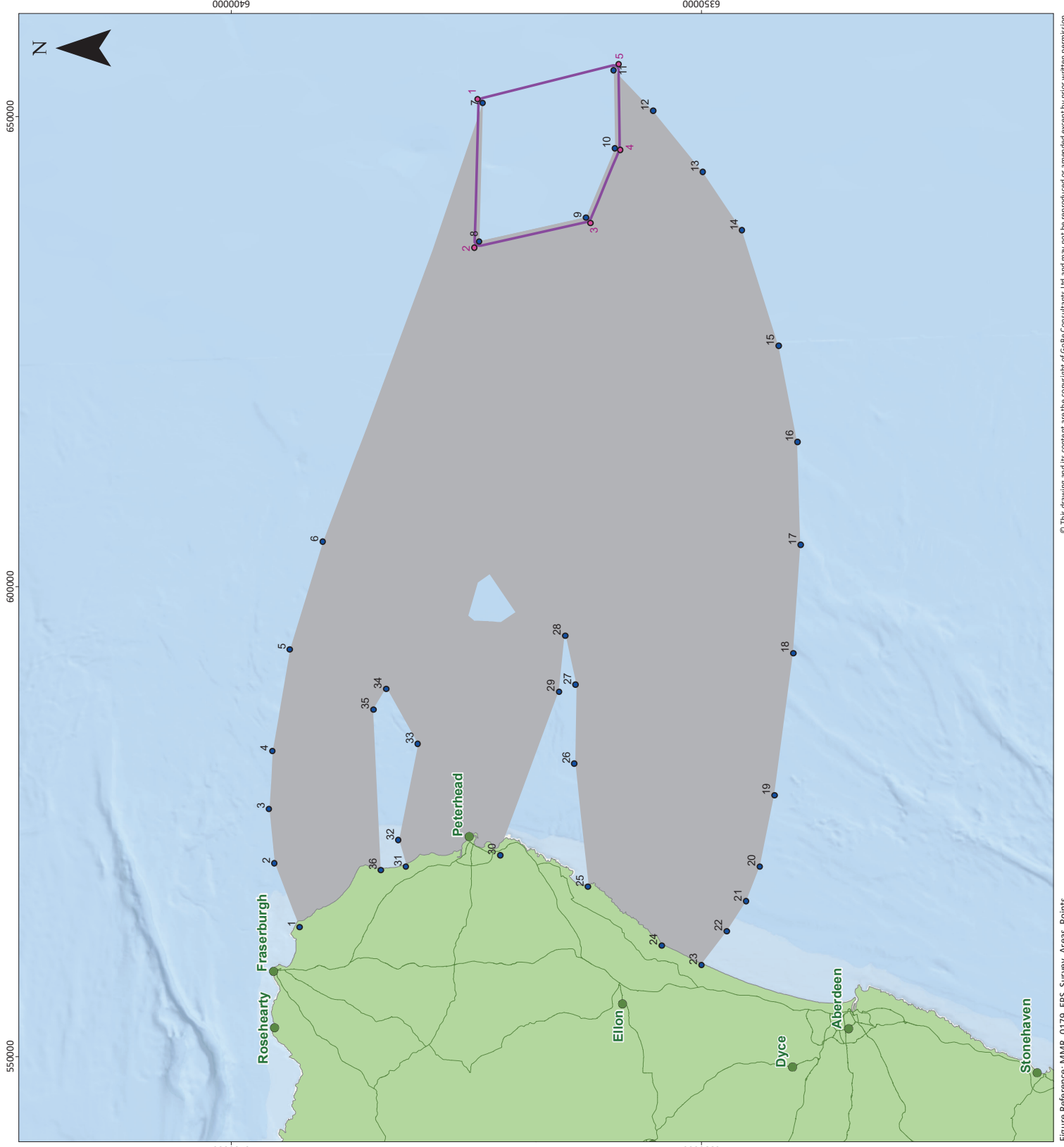


Figure Reference: MMR_0179_EPS_Survey_Areas_Points

Muir Mhor Offshore Wind Farm
European Protected Species (EPS) Risk Assessment:
Geophysical Survey Campaign 2023

Point	Long_DD	Lat_DD	Long_DDM	Lat_DDM
1	-1.929894	57.672024	1° 55.794' W	57° 40.322' N
2	-1.815308	57.695099	1° 48.919' W	57° 41.706' N
3	-1.717847	57.699269	1° 43.071' W	57° 41.956' N
4	-1.614776	57.695021	1° 36.887' W	57° 41.701' N
5	-1.434167	57.676349	1° 26.050' W	57° 40.581' N
6	-1.244085	57.642224	1° 14.645' W	57° 38.534' N
7	-0.473765	57.476259	0° 28.426' W	57° 28.576' N
8	-0.718587	57.48437	0° 43.115' W	57° 29.062' N
9	-0.683127	57.381902	0° 40.988' W	57° 22.914' N
10	-0.562768	57.351981	0° 33.766' W	57° 21.119' N
11	-0.424655	57.350352	0° 25.479' W	57° 21.021' N
12	-0.498645	57.314063	0° 29.919' W	57° 18.844' N
13	-0.60962	57.268618	0° 36.577' W	57° 16.117' N
14	-0.714419	57.233208	0° 42.865' W	57° 13.993' N
15	-0.920356	57.20184	0° 55.221' W	57° 12.110' N
16	-1.090169	57.186462	1° 5.410' W	57° 11.188' N
17	-1.271334	57.186076	1° 16.280' W	57° 11.165' N
18	-1.461222	57.195777	1° 27.673' W	57° 11.747' N
19	-1.710485	57.216507	1° 42.629' W	57° 12.991' N
20	-1.835764	57.231587	1° 50.146' W	57° 13.895' N
21	-1.89673	57.24524	1° 53.804' W	57° 14.714' N
22	-1.94897	57.264362	1° 56.938' W	57° 15.862' N
23	-2.007795	57.288786	2° 0.468' W	57° 17.327' N
24	-1.972463	57.326622	1° 58.348' W	57° 19.597' N
25	-1.866177	57.396067	1° 51.971' W	57° 23.764' N
26	-1.648279	57.406991	1° 38.897' W	57° 24.420' N
27	-1.508778	57.404228	1° 30.527' W	57° 24.254' N
28	-1.421197	57.413144	1° 25.272' W	57° 24.789' N
29	-1.520031	57.420049	1° 31.202' W	57° 25.203' N
30	-1.807995	57.479436	1° 48.480' W	57° 28.766' N
31	-1.825403	57.569446	1° 49.524' W	57° 34.167' N
32	-1.777839	57.576363	1° 46.670' W	57° 34.582' N
33	-1.607826	57.556063	1° 36.470' W	57° 33.364' N
34	-1.508466	57.585117	1° 30.508' W	57° 35.107' N
35	-1.544698	57.597662	1° 32.682' W	57° 35.860' N
36	-1.830825	57.593502	1° 49.850' W	57° 35.610' N