

Appendix B
Consultation Feedback and Engagement

Resident’s Concerns and SP Energy Networks Responses

Below we have detailed the concerns raised in the written responses to the pre-application consultation and the SP Energy Networks response:

Issue raised	Response
<p>Environmental: What is being done to lessen the impact of the landfall cable on the local surfing community and the potential disruption to parking/use of the beach?</p>	<p>The underground cables will be installed via horizontal directional drill (HDD). This means that there will be no disturbance to the intertidal area of the landfall. The HDD will exit into the water between 4m and 10 m below the lowest tide.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks accepts that there is likely to be some potential disturbance to those areas close to the landfall that are used for parking and the access to the beach in the proximity of the HDD compound if the HDD compound on the north side of the A1 is utilised.</p> <p>The impact of the landfall works and all other elements of the project on local recreation and tourism is assessed further in Chapter 14 of the Onshore EIA Report submitted as part of the planning application and Chapter 15 Other Sea Users of the Marine Scheme Environmental Appraisal Report submitted in support of the marine licence application.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks is committed to working closely with the community to notify them of the construction activities and to minimise disturbance wherever possible.</p>
<p>Environmental: What is being done to lessen the impact of the landfall cable on local wildlife?</p>	<p>Full ecological assessments have been undertaken and form an integral part of the EIA Report submitted in support of the onshore planning application. Further detailed surveys will be complete ahead of the construction works. Chapter 9 of the EIA Report identifies habitats and protected species that have the potential to be impacted by the project and set out mitigation measures that will be taken to reduce the impact on the local wildlife. SP Energy Networks will seek to both improve and diversify the local habitats during the restoration works. Full restoration work will be carried out to any affected habitats and where possible we will aim to restore to a greater level of biodiversity than the original site.</p>
<p>Environmental: What is being done to maintain local wildlife corridors?</p>	<p>Full ecological assessments have been undertaken and form an integral part of the EIA Report submitted in support of the onshore planning application. Further detailed surveys will be complete ahead of the construction works. Chapter 9 of the EIA Report identifies habitats and protected species that have the potential to be impacted by the project and set out mitigation measures that will be taken to reduce the impact on the local wildlife.. Full restoration work will be carried out to any affected habitats, with an aim of widening the diversity of the local habitats through measures such as making SUDS ponds into new wildlife habitats.</p>

Issue raised	Response
<p>Geology: Concerned about the location at Thorntonloch where the cables will come onshore.</p>	<p>HDD beneath the cliffs will be used to preserve the integrity of the local geology. Monitoring of the drilling activity will be undertaken throughout the works.</p>
<p>Impact on local community: What is being done to ensure the converter station fits in with its surroundings?</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks has carried out detailed options appraisal which has resulted in the converter station being located in an area that minimises its landscape and visual impact. Detailed plans for the converter station appearance have yet to be developed. However, SP Energy Networks have developed a design framework which helps to ensure a sense of place is considered and integrated throughout the design process and visual impacts are mitigated where possible whilst respecting landscape character. This will be through consideration of key elements including building orientation, form, composition, layout, materiality, use of colour and landscape treatments. Proposals seek not only to create a visually sensitive and appropriate development within the local landscape but also through new planting and enhancement of existing vegetation.</p>
<p>Impact on local community: What support or community benefits are being proposed?</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks is looking at local projects that could be supported financially or in kind as part of the project. We are currently liaising with the local Community Councils and local stakeholders about potential options.</p> <p>The impact of all elements of the project on local recreation and tourism is assessed in Chapter 14 of the Onshore EIA Report submitted as part of the planning application.</p>
<p>Impact on the local community: Will the converter station need permanent staff?</p>	<p>The converter station will be serviced and maintained by a small team based on site. The site will be monitored continuously but is not envisaged to be manned continuously with staff normally anticipated to be on site only during normal working hours. Due to the critical nature of the site the facility will have local standby personnel available continuously who may need to take access to site at any time. During maintenance (planned and unplanned) the number of personnel present on site would increase. The site is likely to have yearly planned maintenance regimes which may see staffing levels increase to between 20-30 people for short periods however the number of staff required under unplanned events will be proportionate to the nature of the works being undertaken.</p>
<p>Impact on the local community: Will the works result in the loss of access to local outdoor amenities?</p>	<p>Local access to rights of way and long-distance paths will be maintained. Where any construction works are required that could affect access issues, we will ensure that appropriate alternative access is provided.</p>
<p>Impact on the local community: What steps have been taken to ease the impact on the local transport infrastructure during construction?</p>	<p>We will take every opportunity to minimise the impacts of construction and we will need to talk to local communities who will be affected. A traffic management plan will be developed in consultation with East Lothian Council Highways Team, BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland</p>

Issue raised	Response
	ahead of construction to mitigate the impact of works on local travel and transport infrastructure, particularly with regards to vehicle movements given demand on the A1.
Construction: Could there be potential for solar panels on the roof of the Converter Station?	The detailed design of the converter station has not been carried out yet, however it is likely that several sustainable approaches to the development will be included. Solar panels on the roof, the use of sustainable urban drainage (SuDs), greywater recycling and electric vehicle charging points are likely to be included in that detailed design work.
Construction: Could there be potential for green planting on the roof of the Converter Station?	SP Energy Networks will examine the feasibility of options to screen the converter station as part of the design guide. This will include options for green walls.
Construction: Could the Converter Station be screened? Can you plant trees around it?	SP Energy Networks will examine the feasibility of options to screen the converter station as part of the design guide. Due to the scale of the building it would not be possible to screen it completely with trees however the detailed options appraisal work has ensured that the location of the buildings is such that their landscape and visual impact are minimised with very little visibility in the wider area.
Construction: What is being done to ensure the cable digging, route and positioning does not impact local residents?	<p>SP Energy Networks has carried out a detailed options appraisal and has planned the cable route so that it specifically avoids constraints, such as residential, archaeological or environmental locations of note. The route therefore avoids residential areas and we are liaising with individual properties that are relatively near to the proposed cable route or that may be affected by potential construction traffic.</p> <p>A community liaison officer will be appointed for the duration of the works to ensure that local residents have a point of contact and can liaise effectively with the local community.</p>
Construction: What is being done to ensure no rubbish is left or unnecessary harm comes to the local area?	A community liaison officer will be appointed for the duration of the works to ensure that local residents have a point of contact and can liaise effectively with the local community. This will include monitoring of the impact on the local community. We will also ensure that all contractors strictly adhere to considerate constructor principles and has measures in place to address rubbish that may be generated.
Construction: Many accidents happen North and South of the A1, have you taken these into account and planned for mitigations?	<p>SP Energy Networks acknowledges the safety concerns regarding increased traffic movements on the A1 and has consulted Highways Scotland, BEAR Scotland and East Lothian Council Highways team to discuss the interactions between the project and the A1.</p> <p>Chapter 12 Access, Traffic and Transport of the EIA Report assesses the potential impact of the project on the A1.</p>

Issue raised	Response
	<p>A traffic management plan will be developed in consultation with East Lothian Council Highways Team, BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland ahead of construction to mitigate the impact of works on local travel and transport infrastructure, particularly with regards to vehicle movements given demand on the A1.</p>
<p>Access: Could you install more dedicated cycle paths?</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks is looking at potential local projects that could be supported financially or in kind. We are currently liaising with the local Community Councils and local stakeholders about potential options.</p>
<p>Cumulative effect: The visual impact of so many installations is industrialising the area.</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks has carried out detailed options appraisal which has resulted in the converter station being located in an area that minimises its landscape and visual impact.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks have developed a design framework which helps to ensure a sense of place is considered and integrated throughout the design process and visual impacts are mitigated where possible whilst respecting landscape character. This will be through consideration of key elements including building orientation, form, composition, layout, materiality, use of colour and landscape treatments. Proposals seek not only to create a visually sensitive and appropriate development within the local landscape but also through new planting and enhancement of existing vegetation.</p>

Onshore Stakeholder Engagement Meetings Summary

Date	Organisation	Summary
17 June 2020	Crown Estate Scotland	Project introduction, programme and marine survey
18 June 2020	SNH, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland	Project introduction
23 June 2020	East Lothian Council	Project introduction
15 July 2020	EDF	Project introduction
23 July 2020	East Lothian Council	Site Selection meeting
23 September 2020	East Lothian Council	Joint project meeting with SSER Berwick Bank OWF Team
24 February 2021	East Lothian Council	Options Appraisal discussion
03 March 2021	East Lothian Council	Options Appraisal discussion
24 March 2021	East Lothian Council	Options Appraisal discussion
30 March 2021	East Lammermuir Community Council	Project Introduction
28 May 2021	SEPA	Project update meeting
15 June 2021	East Lothian Council	Project update meeting
30 June 2021	Dunbar Community Council	Project introduction
30 June 2021	Paul McLennan MSP	Project introduction
01 July 2021	Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council	Project introduction
16 July	Kenny MacAskill MSP	Project introduction
31 August 2021	East Lothian Council	Consultation meeting
03 September 2021	Martin Whitfield MSP	Project introduction
06 October 2021	BEAR Scotland, East Lothian Council Highways, Transport Scotland	Traffic and transport meeting
01 October 2021	Network Rail	Project introduction
27 October 2021	Craig Hoy MSP	Project introduction
15 November 2021	East Lothian Council	Branxton Substation application discussion
22 November 2021	Councillor Hampshire and East Lothian Council Head of Development	Project discussion
12 January 2022	Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council	Project update ahead of pre-application consultation
18 January 2022	East Lammermuir Community Council	Project update ahead of pre-application consultation
25 January 2022	SEPA	Project update
27 January 2022	Network Rail	Project update
17 February 2022	Scottish Surfing Federation	Scottish Landfall consultation
22 March 2022	NatureScot	Project update ahead of pre-application consultation
23 March 2022	East Lothian Council	Project update

Onshore Screening and Scoping Consultation

Screening consultation was undertaken in February 2021 and submitted to East Lothian Council who confirmed in March 2021 that the onshore elements of the project were EIA development. A request for a scoping opinion was submitted to East Lothian Council in June 2021 with a Scoping Opinion received in August 2021. Consultation bodies consulted by East Lothian Council as part of the scoping process include Scottish Border Council, SEPA, NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland, Health and Safety Executive, Marine Scotland, Network Rail, Transport Scotland, Office for Nuclear Regulation as well as a number of relevant departments within East Lothian Council. The Opinion has informed the scope and detail of the environmental assessment carried out to support the planning permission in principle application.

Marine Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement and consultation has been carried out throughout the course of the pre-application period with a range of relevant marine stakeholders including MS-LOT, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), NatureScot, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural England.

As part of the marine route selection process, engagement was carried out with key stakeholders to discuss and obtain feedback on the evolution of the preferred route for the project marine scheme. Alongside this, technical engagement has been carried out at key stages prior to and during the desk top study and seabed survey. Regular engagement has been carried out with the licensing bodies for the project marine scheme (MS-LOT and MMO) to help inform the marine licence application process. A summary of engagement is presented below:

Date	Organisation	Summary
13 November 2019	MS-LOT, JNCC, SNH	Project introduction
01 June 2020	MS-LOT, SNH, JNCC	Project update on routing and programme
17 June 2020	Crown Estate Scotland	Project Introduction
18 June 2020	SNH, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland	Project Introduction
18 June 2020	HES, SNH and SEPA	Project introduction and options appraisal
17 June 2020	Crown Estate Scotland	Project introduction, programme and marine survey
02 July 2020	Scottish Fishermens Federation (SFF)	Project introduction
02 July 2020	National Fishermens Federations	Project introduction
24 November 2020	MMO, MS-LOT	Project update and consents strategy
02 November 2021	SFF and Scottish White Fish Producers Association	Fisheries Consultation
09 November 2021	North Eastern RFIG	Fisheries Consultation
11 November 2021	The Wildlife Trusts	Marine Update
11 November 2021	National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations	Fisheries Consultation
17 November 2021	Marine and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, National Lightboard, UK Chamber of Shipping,	Navigational Risk Assessment Consultation
25 November 2021	Port of Tyne, Dunbar Harbours Trust, Forth Ports, PD Ports,	Navigation Risk Assessment Consultation
01 December 2021	North Eastern IFCA	Fisheries Consultation
17 February 2022	Scottish Surfing Federation	Scottish Landfall Consultation
22 March 2022	NatureScot	Marine Update
24 March 2022	MMO, MS-LOT	Marine Update Workshop
7 April 2022	Natural England	Marine Update Workshop

Marine Screening and Scoping Consultation

A screening report was submitted to MS-LOT in February 2021 with advice received the same month confirming the project marine scheme in Scottish water is not considered EIA development. A request for comments on the scope of the marine environmental appraisal was submitted in March 2021 with MS-LOT issuing consultation responses from a number of consultees (Marine Scotland Science, East Lothian Council, Historic Environment Scotland, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, NatureScot, Northern Lighthouse Board, Scottish Water, Transport Scotland, Royal Yachting Association Scotland, UK Chamber of Shipping and Scottish Fishermen's Federation). The consultation responses have informed the scope and detail of the marine environmental appraisal carried out to support the marine licence application.