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Pre-Application Consultation Report

# MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

December 2025

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- Appendix 2: Stakeholders and promotion
- Appendix 3: Pre-Consultation engagement
- Appendix 4: Statutory Consultation 1 – Consultation materials and feedback
- Appendix 5: Statutory Consultation 2 – Consultation materials and feedback

Appendix 6: Statutory Consultation 3 – Consultation materials and feedback

Appendix 7: Statutory Consultation 4 – Consultation materials and feedback

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# 1. Introduction

This Chapter outlines the purpose and structure of this Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report.

## 1.1 Background to the Project

- 1.1.1.1 MarramWind Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') is a company wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited (SPR).
- 1.1.1.2 MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm (the 'Project') is a floating offshore wind farm located between 75-110 kilometres (km) offshore of the northeast Aberdeenshire coast with a total area of 684km<sup>2</sup>, within the northeast 7 (NE7) Option Agreement Area (OAA). The OAA relates to the Option Agreement granting the Applicant exclusive rights to develop a floating offshore wind farm within the NE7 Plan Option. The offshore wind farm is anticipated to occupy the full extent of NE7, enabling the Project to develop a total potential grid connection capacity of up to 3GW by utilising floating wind turbine technology for its wind turbine generators (WTG). The water depths in the OAA ranges from 87.8 to 133.7 metres (m).
- 1.1.1.3 As well as utilising floating WTG technology and their associated mooring systems, the offshore elements of the Project will incorporate offshore transmission infrastructure including array cables to an offshore substation and export cables between the OAA and landfall location(s). The Project will also include onshore transmission infrastructure to facilitate the connection of the MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm to the National Electricity Transmission System.
- 1.1.1.4 The Project will help support the Scottish Government's target of Net Zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045 and the UK Government's target of Net Zero by 2050. These targets drive ambitions for renewable energy supporting decarbonisation while building energy resilience and security in the UK. The move to green energy will help reduce the impact of climate change on people and the environment.

## 1.2 Purpose of this PAC Report

- 1.2.1.1 This Report accompanies the offshore and onshore consent applications, including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) and associated documents being submitted 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 (s.36) of the Electricity Act 1989 and Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP) for the onshore infrastructure under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- 1.2.1.2 The purpose of this Report is to document the consultation and engagement activities undertaken with the local community and stakeholders before submitting the consent applications for the proposed wind farm development. This Report also outlines the consultation methods undertaken, summarises the feedback received, and demonstrates how this input has informed and influenced the design and planning of the Project.

## 1.3 Consultation and engagement periods

- 1.3.1.1 The Applicant is committed to fostering transparent and meaningful engagement with the local community and stakeholders throughout the development of the Project. This



consultation process aligns with the Planning Aid Scotland's SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) guidelines, ensuring that engagement activities are structured to promote effective participation and deliver outcomes that reflect the interests and concerns of the community.

- 1.3.1.2 The consultation process has involved both non-statutory and statutory activities. Engagement with targeted stakeholders has been ongoing since 2022. Public engagement began in 2023 and has continued throughout the process up to submission as outlined below.

### 1.3.2 2023

- 1.3.2.1 Pre-consultation engagement period Drop-In Day (DID). This non-statutory event included an introductory hour for targeted stakeholders followed by a public drop-in session. The aim was to introduce the Project to the local community and gather initial feedback ahead of Statutory Consultations.

### 1.3.3 2024

- 1.3.3.1 Statutory Consultations were conducted in two rounds. Each round included two in-person events, two online question and answer (Q&A) sessions and a virtual exhibition space, offering multiple opportunities for participants to engage with the Project Team and submit their feedback.

### 1.3.4 2025

- 1.3.4.1 Two additional rounds of Statutory Consultation were conducted. Each round included one in-person drop-in event and a virtual exhibition space, offering opportunities for participants to understand how their feedback has shaped the Project and to provide further feedback.

## 1.4 Structure of this PAC Report

- 1.4.1.1 Following this introductory section, the remainder of this Report comprises the following sections:
- **Legislative Context and Regulatory Requirements:** Key legislation, policies, planning regulations, and statutory requirements that inform the consultation process.
  - **Pre-Application Consultation:** Overview of the Statutory Consultation process conducted before the submission of the application, including consultation approach, stakeholder involvement, virtual exhibition space.
  - **Pre-Consultation Engagement:** Overview of pre-consultation events, questionnaires, stakeholder outreach and overview of responses and feedback received from participants and a record of community and stakeholder input during this stage.
  - **Stakeholder feedback overview and analysis of consultation responses:** Overview of stakeholder feedback process, outcomes of the consultations, and overview of how feedback was incorporated into the Project.
  - **Conclusions:** Summary of the findings and outcomes of the pre-application consultation process. Overview of how feedback is addressed and how it aligns and complies with the legislative context and regulatory requirements.

1.4.1.2 **Appendices:** seven appendices accompany this report, which include detailed feedback reports, promotional and consultation materials, and other supporting information referenced in this report. These are outlined below

- **Appendix 1: Compliance;**
- **Appendix 2: Stakeholders and promotion;**
- **Appendix 3: Pre-Consultation engagement;**
- **Appendix 4: Statutory Consultation 1 – Consultation materials and feedback;**
- **Appendix 5: Statutory Consultation 2 – Consultation materials and feedback;**
- **Appendix 6: Statutory Consultation 3 – Consultation materials and feedback; and**
- **Appendix 7: Statutory Consultation 4 – Consultation materials and feedback.**

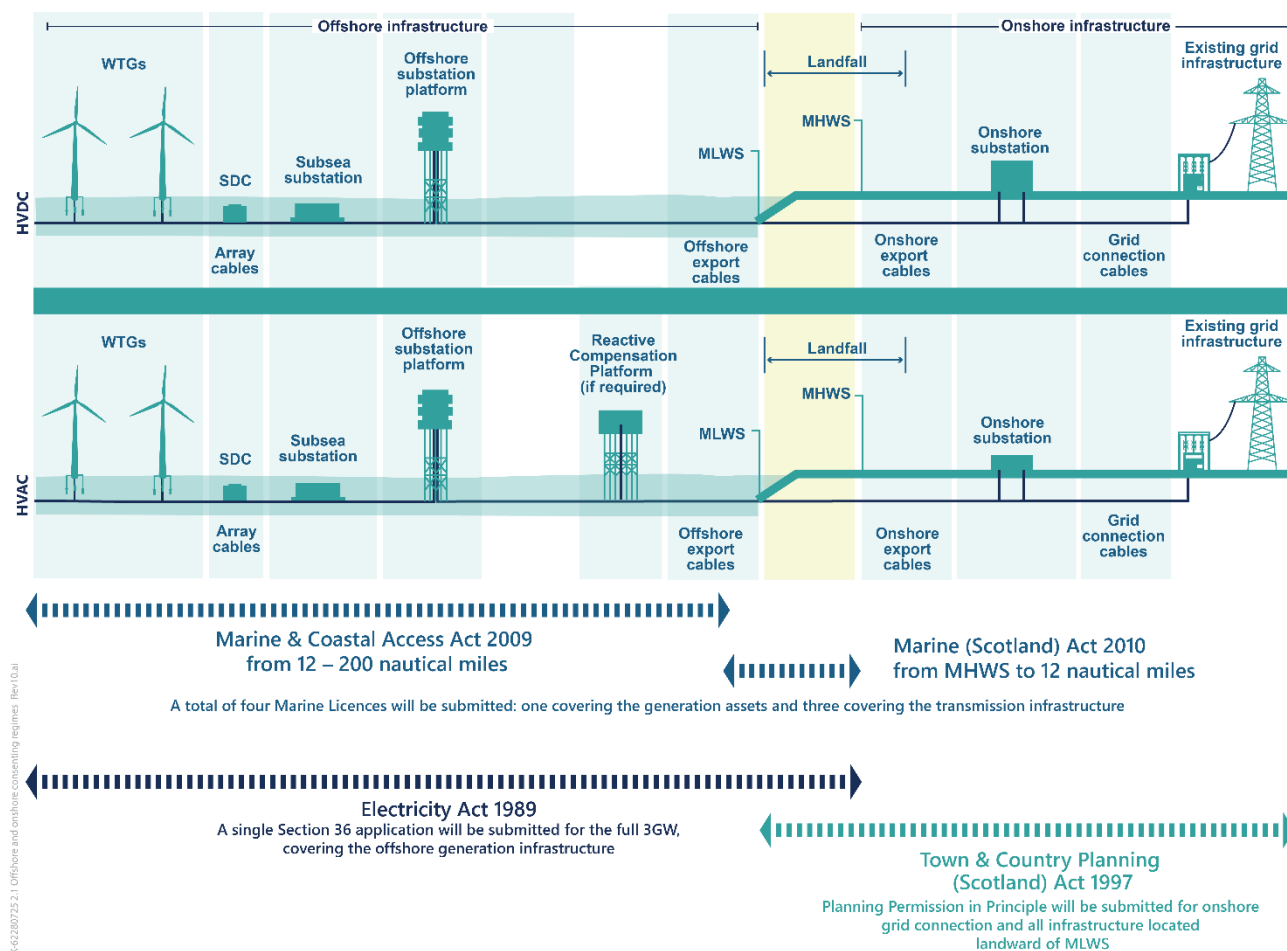


## 2. Legislative Context and Regulatory Requirements

This Chapter outlines the pre-application consultation (PAC) requirements of the consenting regimes and jurisdictions of relevance to the Project and their associated regulations.

- 2.1.1.1 Given the national development status afforded to the Project, the provisions of Sections 35A, 35B and 35C of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, apply. These provisions are enacted through Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and further refined by the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021. As a national development, the application is subject to enhanced statutory requirements for community engagement, including the submission of a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN), a minimum 12-week consultation period, and the preparation of a PAC Report. The 2019 Act introduced additional measures to strengthen the PAC process, such as a maximum 18-month window between PoAN and application submission, and mandatory consultation with relevant community councils.
- 2.1.1.2 The application is also subject to offshore planning requirements as set out in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, for infrastructure from landfall to 12 nautical miles (nm), and the Marine & Coastal Act 2009, from 12-200nm. Section 36 consent, under the Electricity Act 1989, is required for the generating station and array cabling.
- 2.1.1.3 The diagram below (**Plate 2.1**) displays how the various consenting regimes interact with different elements of the Project infrastructure. Full explanations of all regulatory requirements are below the diagram.

## Plate 2.1 Offshore and onshore consenting regimes



## 2.2 Offshore Pre-application Consultation requirements

### 2.2.1 Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

- 2.2.1.1 The 2009 UK Act applies to Project infrastructure beyond 12nm from shore, which includes sections of the export cable corridor and all components within the OAA. It does not mandate pre-application consultation.

### 2.2.2 Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

- 2.2.2.1 Within the inshore region out to 12nm, applications for certain marine infrastructure including the laying of submarine cables are subject to statutory pre-application consultation.

### 2.2.3 Marine Licensing Regulations 2013

- 2.2.3.1 Statutory Consultation is required to be undertaken in relation to marine licences under the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) Scotland Regulations 2013. In the Scottish marine area (both within and beyond the 12nm mark), marine licences are required for the deposit any substance or object anywhere in the sea or on or under the seabed. Therefore,

Statutory Consultation is required for all components of the proposed offshore infrastructure, irrespective of location.

## 2.3 Onshore Pre-application Consultation requirements

### 2.3.1 Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

- 2.3.1.1 Pre-application Consultation (PAC) is a statutory requirement set out in the relevant provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997<sup>1</sup>, which must be undertaken in advance of any planning application being submitted for developments that are categorised as either ‘major’ or ‘national’ significance.

### 2.3.2 Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2013

- 2.3.2.1 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, provides a clearer steer on key stakeholders, communication methods to publicise consultation events and nature of consultation required.

### 2.3.3 The Town and Country Planning Amendment Regulations 2021

- 2.3.3.1 The Town and County Planning (Pre-Application) (Scotland) Amendment Regulation 2021<sup>2</sup> introduced several updates to the PAC process, requiring applicants to hold at least two public events at least 14 days apart.

## 2.4 Details on Applicant compliance

- 2.4.1.1 The pre-application consultation strategy considers all regulatory and legislative requirements, and this PAC report details all steps taken to comply with and exceed these requirements.
- 2.4.1.2 Details on how the Applicant has complied with the regulatory requirements can be found in **Appendix 1**.

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<sup>1</sup> Further amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006

<sup>2</sup> Further refined by subsequent amendments in 2022, detailed in the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022.

## 3. Pre-Application Consultation Overview

This Chapter outlines the purpose of the consultation, when it took place, with whom and how it was carried out. It also provides a summary of how pre-consultation engagement informed the approach to consultation.

### 3.1 Consultation strategy

- 3.1.1.1 The Applicant is committed to delivering Projects that place equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of its business planning and decision-making.
- 3.1.1.2 The Applicant has undertaken both Statutory Consultation, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021, and wider stakeholder engagement to ensure meaningful dialogue with affected communities and interested parties throughout the development process.
- 3.1.1.3 The Statutory Consultation process has been designed in accordance with statutory offshore requirements as set out in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, for export cables from landfall to 12 nautical miles, and the Marine & Coastal Act 2009, from 12-200 nautical miles. The process also meets the requirements under the Electricity Act 1989, for the generating station and the inter-array cabling.
- 3.1.1.4 At the outset of the project, the approach to consultation was set out in a Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Strategy. This outlined the requirements and guidance for pre-application consultation, the aims for the PAC and how the Applicant intended to deliver consultation above statutory minimum requirements.
- 3.1.1.5 The consultation strategy was designed to comply with and exceed both offshore regulatory requirements (**Section 2.2**) and onshore regulatory requirements (**Section 2.3**). The way in which the consultation strategy aligns to all regulatory requirements is outlined in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.1.1.6 The strategy also outlined the plan for the consultation process, consultation materials, in-person and online events, and promotion. It detailed the methods for providing feedback, the approach to analysing the feedback received and how feedback would be taken into consideration.
- 3.1.1.7 This provided an initial plan for the consultation approach to ensure that adequate promotion, information and time were given to allow respondents to learn about the Project.

### 3.1.2 Purpose of consultation

- 3.1.2.1 The aims of Statutory Consultation were to understand key local issues and gather views from the community, statutory consultees, the wider public and all interested in the Project to:
  - seek the views and concerns of all interested parties so that these may be considered and if necessary, addressed in Project planning;

- provide all members of the communities local to the proposed development with access to the developer and provide the opportunity to enter dialogue and record their views on the proposed development;
- enable dialogue with stakeholders impacted by the proposed infrastructure works;
- initiate relationships with community councils with a geographic interest in the works;
- undertake consultation to assist informing of the selection of:
  - the cable corridor within the cable search area; and
  - the substation site and location within the substation search area.
- provide an understanding of the relationship between the proposed onshore works and the development offshore;
- ensure the Applicant initiates an appropriate level of engagement with all interested parties;
- identify suitable mitigation measures; and
- comply with relevant onshore and offshore regulations.

## 3.2 Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN)

- 3.2.1.1 Prior to undertaking pre-application consultation, a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) was prepared and submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in April 2024. This PoAN set out the details of the proposed approach to Statutory Consultation, as presented in Appendix 1.
- 3.2.1.2 A second PoAN was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in May 2025. As the 18-month timeframe from Proposal of Application Notice to planning application lapsed, a new notice was submitted, and two further Statutory Consultations were held.
- 3.2.1.3 Amendments to timeframes for Statutory Consultation round 2 (as part of the first PoAN) and round 4 (part of the second PoAN) were required to ensure the Applicant was in the best position to communicate Project updates at the right time. Aberdeenshire Council were kept informed of these changes through regular meetings. The Applicant submitted amendments to the PoAN to account for changes in the Project programme, which are detailed in **Table 3.1**.
- 3.2.1.4 The PoAN was produced with consideration of the requirements of:
- the consenting regimes detailed in **Chapter 2**;
  - guidance provided by the Scottish Government's Consultation Principles (2018);
  - Aberdeenshire Council's Community Engagement and Participation Policy (2021);
  - Planning Aid Scotland's SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) guidelines;
  - Scottish Government Planning Circular 3/2022 Development Management Procedures<sup>3</sup>; and
  - the Gunning Principles<sup>4</sup> (legal principles applicable to public consultation in the UK to ensure meaningful, effective and fair consultation).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-circular-3-2022-development-management-procedures/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/evergreen-assets/safelinks/1/atp-safelinks.html>

### 3.2.2 Aberdeenshire Council PoAN timeline

3.2.2.1 The table below (**Table 3.1**) outlines the key dates relating to the Proposal of Application Notice submitted to Aberdeenshire Council.

**Table 3.1 Aberdeenshire Council PoAN timeline**

Date	Detail
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024</b>	The PoAN was issued to Aberdeenshire Council on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024
<b>11<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	Response received from Aberdeenshire Council confirming that the consultation proposed met the minimum statutory requirements.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> August 2024</b>	A PoAN Addendum was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for consideration stipulating that the dates for the second Statutory Consultation were to change from 16 <sup>th</sup> September – 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024 to 9 <sup>th</sup> October – 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the corresponding date changes to the two in-person events and the two online events.
<b>16<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>	Response received from Aberdeenshire Council approving the change in dates for the second Statutory Consultation and the PoAN Addendum.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	A second PoAN was issued to Aberdeenshire Council on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025. As the 18-month timeframe from Proposal of Application Notice to planning application lapsed, a new notice was submitted, which outlined the plan for two further Statutory Consultations.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	Response received from Aberdeenshire Council confirming that the consultation proposed met the minimum statutory requirements.
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025</b>	A PoAN Addendum was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for consideration, stipulating that the dates for the fourth Statutory Consultation would change. Original dates were proposed as 14 <sup>th</sup> October to 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025, with consultation event on 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2025. Revised dates proposed: 30 <sup>th</sup> October to 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 with consultation event on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025</b>	Response received from Aberdeenshire Council approving the change in dates for the second Statutory Consultation and the PoAN Addendum.

3.2.2.2 All evidence of PoAN submissions in 2024 and 2025 and the corresponding addendums can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### 3.2.3 Pre-Application advice report

3.2.3.1 The Applicant sought formal pre-application advice from Aberdeenshire Council on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Aberdeenshire Council provided a Pre-Application Advice Report in December 2024 acknowledging the intention to submit an application and advising on the key issues to address, stakeholder groups for engagement and policy requirements against which the onshore application would be assessed.

3.2.3.2 The consultation has been designed to meet the advice given in Aberdeenshire Council's Pre-Application Advice Report, Planning Aid Scotland's SP=EED (Successful Planning =

Effective Engagement and Delivery) guidelines, and the legislative requirements outlined in **Chapter 2** of this Report.

### 3.2.4 Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team Notice of Application timeline

- 3.2.4.1 The table below (**Table 3.2**) outlines the key dates relating to the Marine Licence application submitted to the Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).

**Table 3.2 Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team Notice of Application timeline**

Date	Detail
<b>7<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>	MD-LOT was notified that an application for a marine licence was to be submitted. The letter can be found in Appendix 1. Notice was also submitted to: Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses; The Maritime and Coastguard Agency; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; NatureScot
<b>14<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>	MD-LOT confirmed that sufficient information was provided for them to provide a PAC Statement.

- 3.2.4.2 MD-LOT was kept informed of changes to the application programme via quarterly meetings which were held between the Applicant and MD-LOT.

## 3.3 Timing of Consultation periods

### The first Statutory Consultation

- 3.3.1.1 27<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 (35 days).

### The second Statutory Consultation

- 3.3.1.2 9<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (41 days).

### The third Statutory Consultation

- 3.3.1.3 18<sup>th</sup> August to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (22 days).

### The fourth Statutory Consultation

- 3.3.1.4 30<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (14 days).

- 3.3.1.5 **Table 3.3** outlines the dates, times and locations of all in-person and online public events, including numbers of attendees.



**Table 3.3 Public consultation and engagement events**

Date	Time	Event	Location	Attendees
<b>Pre-consultation engagement (2023)</b>				
19th May 2023	12:00 – 13:00	Drop-in Day introductory hour (key stakeholders)	Scottish Maritime Academy, South Road, Peterhead, AB42 2UP	12
19th May 2023	13:00 – 19:00	Drop-in day public session	Scottish Maritime Academy, South Road, Peterhead, AB42 2UP	54
<b>Statutory Consultation: 1st Round (27th May – 1st July 2024: 35 days)</b>				
30th May 2024	18:00 – 19:00	Q&A event	Online	9
6th June 2024	13:00 – 19:00	Public drop-in session (with VIP introductory hour)	Palace Hotel, Princes Street, Peterhead AB42 1PL	75
7th June 2024	13:00 – 19:00	Public drop-in session (with VIP introductory hour)	Longside Parish Hall, 49 King Street, Peterhead AB42 1TA	
26th June 2024	18:00 – 19:00	Q&A event	Online	5
<b>Statutory Consultation: 2nd Round (9<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024: 41 days)</b>				
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	18:00 – 19:00	Q&A event	Online	1
29 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	13:00 – 19:00	Public drop-in session (with VIP introductory hour)	Palace Hotel, Princes Street, Peterhead AB42 1PL	82
30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	13:00 – 19:00	Public drop-in session (with VIP introductory hour)	Longside Football Club, Davidson Park, Station Rd, Longside, AB42 4GR	
7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	18:00 – 19:00	Q&A event	Online	4
<b>Statutory Consultation: 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (18<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025: 22 days)</b>				
27 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	14:00 – 19:00	Public drop-in session	Palace Hotel, Princes Street, Peterhead AB42 1PL	37
<b>Statutory Consultation: 4<sup>th</sup> Round (30<sup>th</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025: 14 days)</b>				
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	14:00 – 19:00	Public drop-in session	Longside Football Club, Davidson Park, Station Rd, Longside, AB42 4GR	27

### 3.4 Who was consulted?

- 3.4.1.1 To ensure that consultations were transparent, inclusive and accessible, a stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken. This process included a Project team-wide stakeholder mapping workshop in January 2024, discussions with Aberdeenshire Council and demographic research. The stakeholder mapping exercise sought to identify any seldom heard groups within the community.
- 3.4.1.2 This identified the following stakeholders who were likely to have an interest in the consultation:
- individuals, owners/occupiers and businesses based in the vicinity of the Project;
  - local authorities, including neighbouring authorities, Ward Councillors, and relevant Executive members and council officers;
  - MPs, MSPs and Community Councils covering the design envelope and adjacent areas;
  - voluntary organisations (including community or resident groups);
  - supply chain;
  - other developers covering the design envelop and adjacent areas;
  - ports;
  - recreational organisations;
  - education and skills providers; and
  - statutory consultees (for details on statutory stakeholder compliance, see **Chapter 2**).
- 3.4.1.3 A list of those contacted or notified about the consultation using the methods detailed in **Section 3.8** is presented in **Appendix 2**.

### 3.5 Consultation methods and approaches

- 3.5.1.1 A range of communication and engagement methods were used to ensure that diverse stakeholders were aware of, could understand and participate in the process.
- 3.5.1.2 **Table 3.4** provides an overview of all communication methods used throughout the PAC process. The check boxes indicate whether the methods met the minimum statutory requirements for communication or exceeded the minimum requirements.

**Table 3.4 Statutory status of consultation activities**

Activity	Minimum statutory PAC	Additional activities
Project website		✓
Consultation booklet		✓
Online and hard copy questionnaire		✓
Maps		✓
Virtual exhibition space		✓

Activity	Minimum statutory PAC	Additional activities
Online Q&A events with presentation		✓
Documents available at Peterhead Library		✓
Leaflet		✓
Notice	✓	
Advertisements		✓
Posters		✓
Local radio advert		✓
Letters		✓
VIP Pre-event Introductory Hour		✓
Freepost address for consultation feedback		✓
Statutory Consultation Round 1, Peterhead Event (6th June 2024)	✓	
Statutory Consultation Round 1, Longside Event (7th June 2024)	✓	
Statutory Consultation Round 2, Peterhead Event (29th October 2024)	✓	
Statutory Consultation Round 2, Longside Event (30th October 2024)	✓	
Statutory Consultation Round 3, Peterhead Event (27th August 2025)	✓	
Statutory Consultation Round 4, Longside Event (3rd November 2025)	✓	

## 3.6 Channels of communication

- 3.6.1.1 Several communication channels were used to allow consultees to access Project information and speak to members of the team, as described below. Information outlining how consultees could respond to the consultation is outlined in **Chapter 5**.

### 3.6.2 Project website

- 3.6.2.1 Information about the Statutory Consultation was published on the MarramWind Project webpage <https://www.marramwind.co.uk/consultation>.
- 3.6.2.2 The URL for this page was included in all public-facing materials released during all rounds of the Statutory Consultation.

3.6.2.3 This page provided:

- the consultation dates;
- details of the in-person consultation events;
- links to register for the online Q&A events;
- links to the virtual exhibition space;
- contact details for the Project team; and
- overview of the first Statutory Consultation.

### 3.6.3 Email address

3.6.3.1 Participants were able to contact the Applicant directly via email ([stakeholder@marramwind.com](mailto:stakeholder@marramwind.com)) throughout the Statutory Consultation. This inbox was monitored for queries and feedback throughout the consultation periods.

3.6.3.2 A total of seven emails were received in the mailbox during the first Statutory Consultation and replies were sent to either confirm receipt or to answer specific questions.

3.6.3.3 No emails were received in the mailbox during the second Statutory Consultation.

3.6.3.4 No emails were received in the mailbox during the third and fourth Statutory Consultation.

### 3.6.4 Document deposit location

3.6.4.1 During Statutory Consultation 1 and 2, hardcopy documents were made available at Peterhead Library during consultation and after the virtual exhibition space closed. This provided offline access to Project information in addition to the public drop-in events. During Statutory Consultation 3 and 4, printed materials were available at Buchan House, Public Services and Local Government building in St Peter Street, Peterhead, AB42 1QF.

## 3.7 Consultation materials

3.7.1.1 A range of materials was produced for the consultation to help respondents understand the proposals and submit informed comments. All the Applicants' materials were designed with accessibility in mind. This included offering hard copy documents at public drop-in events and ensuring that the Project team's contact details were easily accessible on the materials and online. Stakeholders were invited to request materials in alternative formats. No requests were made.

### 3.7.2 Banners

3.7.2.1 Consultation banners were designed and displayed at the public drop-in events during both Statutory Consultations.

3.7.2.2 These banners provided key information about the proposals, mirroring the content presented in the consultation booklets to ensure consistency and clarity.

3.7.2.3 14 banners were created for the first Statutory Consultation and 22 banners for the second Statutory Consultation. 12 banners were created for the third Statutory Consultation and 12 banners for the fourth Statutory Consultation.

- 3.7.2.4 The consultation banners can be found in **Appendix 4** for Statutory Consultation 1, **Appendix 5** for Statutory Consultation 2, **Appendix 6** for Statutory Consultation 3, and **Appendix 7** for Statutory Consultation 4.

### 3.7.3 You said, we did report

- 3.7.3.1 During Statutory Consultation 2, a 'You said, we did' hard copy document was also provided to share in greater detail what feedback was gathered during Statutory Consultation 1 and how this was listened to. The applicant's responses to feedback can be found in **Appendix 4**.

### 3.7.4 Booklets

- 3.7.4.1 For each Statutory Consultation, a consultation booklet was created to provide participants with detailed information about the proposals.
- 3.7.4.2 The booklets included comprehensive coverage of key topics including:
- Introduction to MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm.
  - Consents and the Project's programme.
  - Offshore and onshore infrastructure, including landfall infrastructure.
  - Details of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
  - Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).
  - Processes related to the construction and operation of the Project.
  - Benefits and opportunities from the Project.
  - Glossary.
  - Clear instructions on how respondents could provide feedback.
- 3.7.4.3 For the second, third and fourth Statutory Consultations, the booklet also included the Project responses to the feedback received from stakeholders and the public during the first consultation round, demonstrating how input was considered and addressed.
- 3.7.4.4 The booklets could be downloaded online via the virtual exhibition space, accessed as hard copies at the consultation events, and found at Peterhead Library (during Statutory Consultation 1 and 2) or the council offices at Buchan House, St Peter Street, Peterhead, AB42 1QF (during Statutory Consultation 3 and 4).
- 3.7.4.5 The consultation booklets can be found in **Appendix 4** for Statutory Consultation 1, **Appendix 5** for Statutory Consultation 2, **Appendix 6** for Statutory Consultation 3, and **Appendix 7** for Statutory Consultation 4.

### 3.7.5 Maps

- 3.7.5.1 Detailed maps were created for all Statutory Consultations.
- 3.7.5.2 During the first Statutory Consultation, seven maps were produced. These maps were developed to show different topics and geographical areas such as offshore boundaries (and current options), onshore boundaries (and current options), the Project's location in relation to other offshore Projects, potential cable corridors and landfall zones.

- 3.7.5.3 Additionally, nine maps were developed for the second Statutory Consultation and built on the set initially developed. The two additional maps detailed the refined substation location options from the first Statutory Consultation and overarching Project overviews.
- 3.7.5.4 Three maps were developed for the third Statutory Consultation to display how the Project has been refined. Maps showed the onshore substation location, including the options which have been removed, the landfall options, and the offshore cable route.
- 3.7.5.5 During each Statutory Consultation, the maps were available to view at the in-person drop-in events and could also be downloaded through the virtual exhibition space.
- 3.7.5.6 The maps presented can be found in **Appendix 4** for Statutory Consultation 1, **Appendix 5** for Statutory Consultation 2, **Appendix 6** for Statutory Consultation 3, and **Appendix 7** for Statutory Consultation 4.
- 3.7.5.7 To encourage interactive engagement, acetate sheets were provided at the public drop-in events, enabling attendees to draw directly on the maps to highlight specific concerns, provide feedback, or suggest ideas.

### 3.7.6 Questionnaire

- 3.7.6.1 Questionnaires, hosted on Microsoft Forms and accessible via the virtual exhibition space, were the main mechanism through which respondents could submit their feedback to the Statutory Consultations. Further information about the virtual exhibition space is detailed below.
- 3.7.6.2 One questionnaire was created for each Statutory Consultation. They were structured to give participants the opportunity to share their overall level of support for the proposals, and level of support for each aspect (offshore, onshore, landfall, benefits and opportunities and consultation).
- 3.7.6.3 Participants were able to access a printed copy of the questionnaire at the public drop-in events, at Peterhead Library and upon request. Alternative formats were also available on request, for instance in a different language, large-print, or braille, but no requests were received.
- 3.7.6.4 A Royal Mail Freepost service was arranged throughout the Statutory Consultation, with envelopes available at the public drop-in events as well as upon request.
- 3.7.6.5 The consultation questionnaires can be found in **Appendix 4** for Statutory Consultation 1, **Appendix 5** for Statutory Consultation 2, **Appendix 6** for Statutory Consultation 3, and **Appendix 7** for Statutory Consultation 4.

### 3.7.7 Online Q&A events

- 3.7.7.1 During the first two Statutory Consultations, online Q&A events were held to engage with stakeholders and the public. These events enabled more people to engage with the Project team who could not attend in person events due to timing, geography, accessibility or personal preference. The Project team presented key information about the proposals and respond to questions from attendees.
- 3.7.7.2 Two online Q&A events were delivered during each of the first two rounds of Statutory Consultation. Q&A events were not organised for Statutory Consultations 3 and 4 due to the low uptake at online events during Statutory Consultation 1 and 2.
- 3.7.7.3 First Statutory Consultation:
  - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 18:00 – 19:00.

- 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 18:00 – 19:00.

3.7.7.4 Second Statutory Consultation:

- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 18:00 – 19:00.
- 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 18:00 – 19:00.

3.7.7.5 Each presentation was led by members of the Project team and provided a detailed overview of the Project proposal. The content included:

- an introduction to the Project, its objectives, and its timeline;
- explanation of the consent process required for the Project;
- details of offshore and onshore infrastructure, including landfall locations, cable routes and substations; and
- information on the supply chain, including key Project partners and priorities for local involvement.

3.7.7.6 The presentations also highlighted ways for attendees to provide their feedback and encouraged participation. After each presentation, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion with the Project team. Any questions that the Project team did not have the opportunity to answer in the session were responded to in writing.

3.7.7.7 Slides presented during the online presentations can be found in **Appendix 4** for Statutory Consultation 1 and **Appendix 5** for Statutory Consultation 2.

### 3.7.8 Virtual exhibition space

3.7.8.1 A virtual exhibition space was created and made available throughout the Statutory Consultation to provide the public with an accessible way to learn about the Project proposals. This provided an opportunity for stakeholders, who are unable to attend due to time constraints, location, mobility issues or personal preference, to have fair access to the same information as event attendees.

3.7.8.2 The virtual exhibition space could be accessed through the MarramWind Project webpage. A link to the virtual exhibition space was also available from the MarramWind Limited homepage during the consultation period.

3.7.8.3 During all Statutory Consultations, the virtual exhibition space featured banners that detailed key aspects of the Project, identical to those that were printed for the public drop-in events.

3.7.8.4 During the second Statutory Consultation, the virtual exhibition space also presented several banners outlining the Project responses to the stakeholder feedback from the first round. This information was also available at the consultation events in the form of a booklet.

3.7.8.5 The third Statutory Consultation provided a further overview of feedback received and Project responses.

3.7.8.6 The fourth Statutory Consultation provided a summary overview of feedback received throughout all rounds of consultation and how that has contributed to Project development throughout the process.

3.7.8.7 The virtual exhibition space provided downloadable versions of the consultation booklet, maps, and Scoping Report and included links to the online questionnaire.

3.7.8.8 An image of the virtual exhibition space can be found in **Plate 3.1**.



### Plate 3.1 Virtual exhibition space



Visual representation of virtual exhibition space from Statutory Consultation 1

## 3.8 Promotion of the consultation

- 3.8.1.1 Various methods of promotion were used during the Statutory Consultation to provide details to the public on the designs as well as to raise awareness and encourage participation, as detailed below.
- 3.8.1.2 All promotional materials for the four Statutory Consultations can be found in **Appendix 2**.

### 3.8.2 Leaflet and leaflet distribution

- 3.8.2.1 A5 leaflets were created and distributed during the Statutory Consultation to both raise awareness and provide essential information about the Project. They included details of the consultation events and instructions on how to provide feedback.
- 3.8.2.2 In the first Statutory Consultation, 12,434 properties in Aberdeenshire received an A5 leaflet, which were delivered by courier between 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- 3.8.2.3 During the first Statutory Consultation, the Project team gathered feedback on communication methods. The Project team identified that leaflet distribution via Royal Mail may provide greater reliability and visibility than the courier. Therefore, the second round of leaflets was distributed via Royal Mail. This approach offered greater assurance of delivery and visibility to recipients.
- 3.8.2.4 During the second Statutory Consultation, approximately 13,050 properties in Aberdeenshire were sent leaflets, which were delivered on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 3.8.2.5 During the third Statutory Consultation, leaflets were delivered to 2,272 properties, focussing on those within the closest vicinity to landfall, cable corridor and substation site.
- 3.8.2.6 During the fourth Statutory Consultation, leaflets were delivered to 2,379 properties, focussing on those within the closest vicinity to landfall(s), export cable corridor and the onshore substation site.

### 3.8.3 Letters to stakeholders

- 3.8.3.1 Letters were distributed via email to key stakeholders to inform them of the Statutory Consultations and encourage their participation.

- 3.8.3.2 During the first Statutory Consultation, different letters were issued to stakeholders depending on the recipients' involvement with the Project. Over 130 emails were issued to stakeholders and community representatives throughout the affected and neighbouring areas. These included representatives from Community Councils, Councillors, the local Member of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament, commercial fisheries organisations and individual fishers, and other wider stakeholders.
- 3.8.3.3 Directly affected and neighbouring community councils were notified about the first Statutory Consultation on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This included information about the Project and consultation and an offer of a meeting. The PoAN was also shared with this letter. Follow-up emails were sent on 27<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.
- 3.8.3.4 For the second Statutory Consultation, letters were issued to the same Community Councils on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 3.8.3.5 Community representatives were also asked to notify their constituents and contacts through their communication channels to further promote the consultation.
- 3.8.3.6 During the second Statutory Consultation, five different letters were issued to stakeholders depending on the recipient's involvement with the Project. Similarly to the first round, the letters were issued to representatives from Community Councils, Councillors, Members of Scottish Parliament, commercial fisheries organisations and other wider stakeholders.
- 3.8.3.7 During the third Statutory Consultation letters were issued to representatives from Community Councils, Councillors, Members of Scottish Parliament, commercial fisheries organisations and other wider stakeholders on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- 3.8.3.8 During the fourth Statutory Consultation, letters were issued to representatives from Community Councils, Councillors, Members of the Scottish Parliament, commercial fisheries organisations and other wider stakeholders on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025.

### 3.8.4 Newspaper notice

- 3.8.4.1 As part of the Statutory Consultation process, notices related to the Marine Licence and TCPA were published in local and regional newspapers, as well as online. These notices aimed to inform the public about key consultation milestones and ensure compliance with statutory requirements.
- 3.8.4.2 The TCPA notice was published on
- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 for the first Statutory Consultation;
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 for the second Statutory Consultation;
  - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 for the third Statutory Consultation; and
  - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 for the fourth Statutory Consultation.
- 3.8.4.3 Each publication was scheduled one week before the in-person events (6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025) in line with statutory requirements.
- 3.8.4.4 The Marine Licence notice was published on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024, six weeks before the in-person event on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024, and published on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 ahead of the event on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in line with statutory requirements.
- 3.8.4.5 Both notices appeared in the Buchan Observer, Ellon Times, Fraserburgh Herald, and The Press and Journal, as well as on the [scotsman.com](https://www.scotsman.com) website.
- 3.8.4.6 The TCPA notices and marine licenses can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### 3.8.5 Newspaper advertisements

- 3.8.5.1 A series of newspaper and digital advertisements were placed in regional and local publications throughout the Statutory Consultation. These adverts provided details about the Project, including consultation dates, event information, and instructions on how to provide feedback.
- 3.8.5.2 Advertisements were published in the following newspapers throughout the first Statutory Consultation:
- Buchan Observer (14<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024).
  - The Press and Journal (10<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024).
- 3.8.5.3 Advertisements were published in the following newspapers throughout the second Statutory Consultation:
- Buchan Observer (1<sup>st</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024).
  - The Press and Journal (9<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024).
- 3.8.5.4 Advertisements were published in the following newspapers throughout the third Statutory Consultation:
- Buchan Observer (12<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025).
  - The Press and Journal (13<sup>th</sup> August, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025).
- 3.8.5.5 Advertisements were published in the following newspapers throughout the fourth Statutory Consultation:
- Buchan Observer (28<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025).
  - The Press and Journal (27<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025).
- 3.8.5.6 Digital advertisements were displayed on [www.scotsman.com](http://www.scotsman.com) throughout the first two Statutory Consultations, encouraging readers to visit the consultation webpage. The initial digital campaign, supporting the first Statutory Consultation, ran for 28 days from 4<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. The second round's campaign lasted 22 days, running from 9<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 3.8.5.7 The second and third Statutory Consultations were also promoted in the Buchan Development Partnership newsletter in October 2024 and August 2025, respectively, with an advert published directly to engage the local community.

### 3.8.6 Posters

- 3.8.6.1 To raise awareness of the Statutory Consultation and encourage community participation, posters were distributed to community locations and businesses local to the Project, with a request to display them where members of the community would be able to see them.
- 3.8.6.2 The posters included:
- an overview of the proposals and an introduction to the Project;
  - dates, times, and locations of consultation events; and
  - clear instructions on how stakeholders and the public could provide feedback.
- 3.8.6.3 **Table 3.5** provides an overview of where posters were sent via post and email for display during each Statutory Consultation:

**Table 3.5 Poster venues**

Venue	Statutory Consultation			
	1	2	3	4
Albert Hotel	✓	✓		✓
Asda	✓	✓		
The Arc Cinema				✓
Boddam Library	✓			✓
Longside Golf Club	✓	✓	✓	✓
Longside Parish Church	✓		✓	
Palace Hotel	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peterhead Bay Marina	✓			✓
Peterhead Church of Christ				✓
Peterhead Fish Market	✓			✓
Peterhead FC – Balmoor Stadium	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peterhead Harbour Office	✓	✓	✓	
Peterhead Ice Factory	✓			✓
Peterhead Leisure and Community Centre	✓	✓		✓
Peterhead Library	✓			✓
Peterhead Men's Shed				✓
Powerzone Strength Gym				✓
Morrisons	✓			
Symposium Coffee House				✓

### 3.8.7 Radio advertising

- 3.8.7.1 Radio advertisements were broadcast on Original 106FM during the first two Statutory Consultations to raise awareness and encourage community participation.
- 3.8.7.2 Radio advertisements were not broadcast for Statutory Consultation 3 and 4. Anecdotal feedback from stakeholders attending events suggested that the reach of the radio advertisements was low in comparison to other communication methods.
- 3.8.7.3 In the first Statutory Consultation, adverts aired over a two-week period from 25<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

- 3.8.7.4 For the second round, the adverts were broadcast over two weeks from 9<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024.
- 3.8.7.5 These advertisements outlined the consultation dates and directed listeners to [www.marramwind.co.uk](http://www.marramwind.co.uk) for further information and details about the public drop-in events.

### 3.8.8 Social media posts

- 3.8.8.1 Several posts were shared on LinkedIn and X (formerly known as Twitter) to increase awareness about the consultation and drop-in events.

## 3.9 Consultation events

- 3.9.1.1 Public drop-in events were held during each Statutory Consultation period as detailed in **Table 3.3**. The venues chosen were accessible and with good transport links and parking options.
- 3.9.1.2 Representatives from the Applicant and WSP UK Ltd (the Project's lead EIA Consultant), attended the events, offering the public an opportunity to learn more about the proposals and ask questions to the Project team. Representatives from the Project's land agents and Fisheries Liaison Officer attended to provide specialist expertise on land and commercial fisheries issues.
- 3.9.1.3 In total, 75 members of the public attended the first Statutory Consultation events, while 82 members of the public attended the second Statutory Consultation events. As part of the pre-consultation Drop In Day event, a VIP Pre-event Introductory Hour was held from 12:00 – 13:00 prior to the event opening to the public. Key stakeholders, including representatives of the local community, were invited and 12 attended. More information about the Drop In Day Event and VIP Introductory Hour can be found in **Section 4.2**.
- 3.9.1.4 37 members of the public attended the public drop-in event during the third Statutory Consultation, and 27 members of the public attended the drop-in event during the fourth Statutory Consultation.
- 3.9.1.5 A dedicated meeting with fishing representatives was held at each consultation event to enable meaningful and focussed dialogue between the fishing industry and the project team.
- 3.9.1.6 Photographs from the Statutory Consultation events can be found in **Plate 3.2**.



## Plate 3.2 Photographs of Statutory Consultation events



*Attendees at the Statutory Consultation events were notified that pictures were being taken, and were given the opportunity to opt-out of being included in any photographs.*

## 4. Pre-Consultation Engagement

This Chapter details all pre-consultation engagement activities and stakeholder feedback, including the scoping opinion engagement in 2023 and engagement in the lead-up to Statutory Consultation.

### 4.1 Scoping Opinion Consultation

- 4.1.1.1 Prior to Project implementation, the Scoping Opinion was produced by Scottish Ministers to prescribe the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided by the Applicant in their environmental assessment accompanying an application for development consent.
- 4.1.1.2 Following receipt of the Scoping Report, the Scottish Ministers, in accordance with the EIA Regulations, initiated a 30-day consultation process, which commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The last response was received on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 following an extension to the process. The Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Teams Scoping Opinion report and appendices contain all responses in full.<sup>5</sup> All organisations consulted in this process, and summary of responses where impact was noted or a steer on future engagement, can be found in .
- 4.1.1.3 Marine Scotland was renamed as The Marine Directorate in Summer 2023. The Scoping Opinion Consultation took place before this change. For the purpose of this report, the title ‘Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team’ (MD-LOT) is used throughout.

### 4.2 Drop-in day

- 4.2.1.1 A Drop-In Day (DID) was hosted by the Applicant as a non-statutory engagement opportunity. The aim of the event was to introduce the offshore wind farm Project to the local community ahead of the Statutory Consultations. It was held at the Scottish Maritime Academy, South Road, Peterhead, AB42 2UP and took place on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 13:00 – 19:00, allowing the public to come and leave at any time during the event. A VIP Pre-event Introductory Hour took place at 12:00 – 13:00 for community representatives, who were invited by the Project team. A summary of the Introductory Hour is included below.
- 4.2.1.2 Feedback forms were made available to the attendees, which included seven questions to gather feedback on the event itself, the information presented and what information would be of interest at future events. A summary and presentation of the results of the feedback form is included in **Section 4.2.4**.
- 4.2.1.3 Informational banners were displayed, presenting the technical, environmental and social aspects of the Project. The Project team was also available to answer questions and keep a record of any conversations held with stakeholders. An analysis of the conversations and the recurring topics is included in **Section 4.2.5**.
- 4.2.1.4 A total of 54 people attended the DID, across the introductory hour and public event. The attendees included local landowners, commercial fisheries representatives, local authority Councillors and representatives, Community Council representatives, a member of Scottish Parliament (MSP), staff and students from the Maritime Academy and members of the public.

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<sup>5</sup> [marramwind\\_offshore\\_wind\\_farm\\_-\\_scoping\\_opinion.pdf](#)



## 4.2.2 VIP pre-event introductory hour

- 4.2.2.1 A VIP Pre-event Introductory Hour was held from 12:00 – 13:00 prior to the DID event opening to the general public. Key stakeholders, including representatives of the local community, were invited to attend. The Introductory Hour was opened by Richard Eakin (Project Director) who welcomed the attendees and gave them an overview of the Project. Richard highlighted the Applicants' commitment to working with the community representatives on behalf of their communities to ensure the Project's transparency and openness. The attendees were able to speak to the Project team and view the information presented to gain a better understanding of the Project and establish contacts in order for effective engagement to continue.
- 4.2.2.2 In total, 12 attendees were present at the VIP Pre-event Introductory Hour. These included:
- representatives of Peterhead Ports;
  - representatives of Peterhead Community Council and Longside Community Council;
  - councillors Dianne Beagrie and Doreen Mair;
  - representative of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation;
  - MSP Maggie Chapman and her assistant; and
  - the CEO of Aberdeenshire Council Jim Savege.

## 4.2.3 Event promotion

- 4.2.3.1 The DID was promoted in the weeks before the event through various channels to ensure local stakeholders, particularly members of the community and community representatives, were aware of their opportunity to come and learn about the Project and meet the Project team.
- 4.2.3.2 **Table 4.1** outlines how the Drop-In-Day was promoted. The promotional material can be found in **Appendix 3**.

**Table 4.1 Drop-in-day promotion**

Advertising	Detail
Newspaper adverts	In six editions of the Press and Journal in the three weeks leading up to the event; a local newspaper with distribution covering potentially affected area of the Project:
Digital adverts	On the homepage of the Press and Journal which visitors to the website could click on to be taken to the MarramWind Project website ( <a href="https://www.marramwind.co.uk/">https://www.marramwind.co.uk/</a> ) and find out further information on the DID.

Advertising	Detail	
Poster	Peterhead Library Boddam Library Mintlaw Library Strichen Library Peterhead Methodist Church St. Mary's Catholic Church Blackhills Nature Reserve	Peterhead Academy Meethill School Burnhaven School Clerkhill School St Fergus School Mintlaw Primary School
Online articles	On 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 an article was published in Grampian Online, promoting the DID including a link to the MarramWind Project website. The link to the Grampian Online article can be found at: <a href="http://www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/public-session-being-held-in-peterhead-for-the-proposed-marr-313888/">www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/public-session-being-held-in-peterhead-for-the-proposed-marr-313888/</a> .	
VIP hour invitation	Community Councils: Boddam Community Council Buchan East Community Council Longside and District Community Council Peterhead Community Council MSPs for Aberdeenshire East Banffshire and Buchan East MP for Banff and Buchan	Councillors of Aberdeenshire Council of potentially affected wards: Peterhead North and Rattray Councillors Fraserburgh and District Councillors Turrieff and District Councillors Central Buchan Councillors

- 4.2.3.3 Promotional materials, the feedback form and respondent feedback for the pre-consultation engagement can be found in **Appendix 3**.

#### 4.2.4 Feedback form responses

- 4.2.4.1 Feedback forms were available for people to fill in and return while they were at the event.
- 4.2.4.2 These questions aimed at gaining details of the event itself, to help shape the approach to and delivery of future public events. However, one question asked the attendees to provide information on what topics they would like to see more information about at the Statutory Consultation. This helped in the shaping of the information presented at Statutory Consultation.
- 4.2.4.3 In total 15 feedback forms were received.
- 4.2.4.4 The responses to the questions asked on the feedback form are presented below.

##### “Did you find the information presented today clear and informative?”

- 4.2.4.5 All respondents (14) indicated that they were satisfied with the information presented, with no negative comments received.

### “Have the questions you came with today been answered?”

- 4.2.4.6 The majority of respondents (12) felt their questions were answered, while two suggested that some questions were answered, though it was not specified which ones.

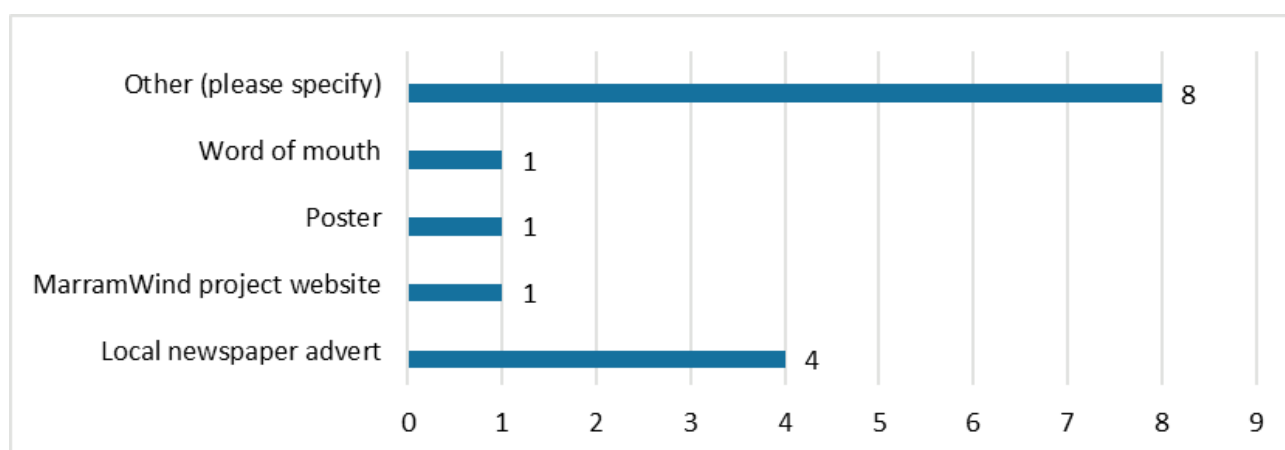
### “Were the event staff helpful in answering your questions?”

- 4.2.4.7 Most respondents (12) felt staff were helpful and three stated that they left with unanswered questions.

### “Was the event venue a suitable location to host today’s event?”

- 4.2.4.8 14 respondents felt the venue was suitable. Suggestions were made that a community centre, library or a more central location in Peterhead would have been more suitable. One respondent indicated that they did not feel the event venue was a suitable location for the DID.
- 4.2.4.9 Most respondents were made aware of the DID through “Other” channels (8) as shown in **Plate 4.1**. This included social media, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, a letter/invitation or they were passing by the event.

**Plate 4.1 Feedback form – Q.5**

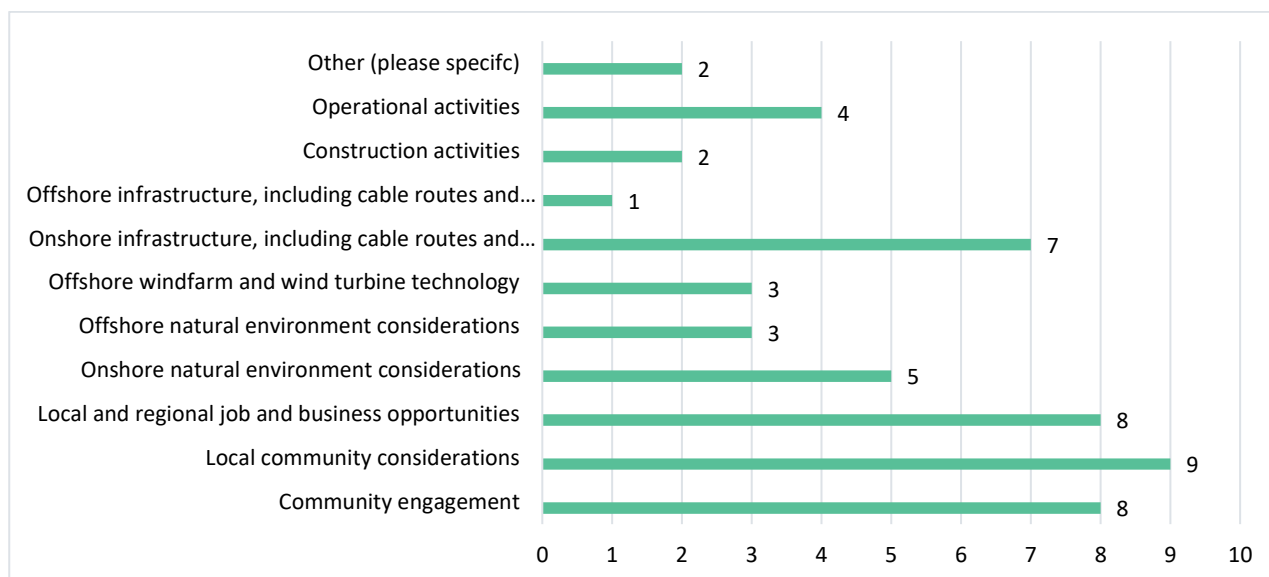


### Select three topics of interest to find out more during Statutory Consultation.

- 4.2.4.10 As shown in **Plate 4.2** most respondents indicated they were most interested in local community considerations, community engagement and local and regional job and business opportunities.
- 4.2.4.11 Respondents were least interested in offshore infrastructure, construction activities, offshore wind farms and wind turbines and offshore natural environmental considerations.
- 4.2.4.12 For the “Other” option, responses included:
- commercial fisheries;
  - plans to mitigate climate extremes;
  - plans to mitigate negative activity by third parties; and

- procurement.

**Plate 4.2 Feedback form - Q6**



“If there is any other feedback you would like to provide about today’s event or if you would like to share details on the answers you have given, please use the space below”.

#### 4.2.4.13 Answers included:

- Energy used to ensure swimming pools, libraries, school etc. all benefit from power generated. Also, local establishments who support the most vulnerable in the community.
- A really interesting event, great venue (and weather!).
- Looking at Fraserburgh – and their local maintenance set-up. Hope to see the same in Peterhead.
- Give back to the community – so swimming pools etc. can afford to operate.
- Karen Adam MSP’s team also asked that the Project keep in touch and is keen to continue ongoing engagement. Email addresses were provided for Karen Adam, her public affairs staff member and her community engagement staff member.

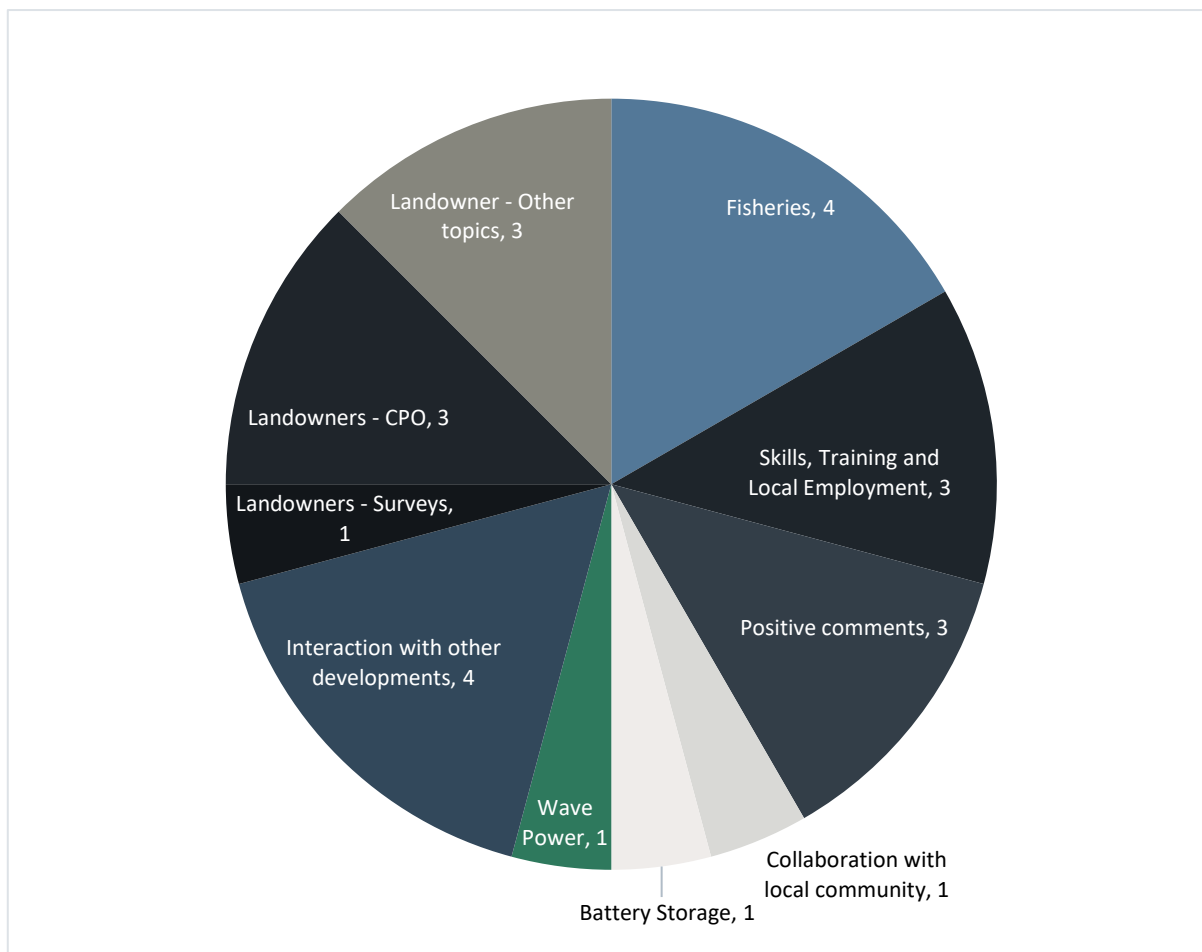
### 4.2.5 Conversations with attendees: emerging themes

- 4.2.5.1 The Project team had several constructive and insightful discussions with stakeholders throughout the DID covering a variety of topics and providing a detailed insight into the types of concerns that stakeholders have.
- 4.2.5.2 The notes on the conversations had between stakeholders and the Project team were analysed and grouped into themes to help identify the key issues being raised.
- 4.2.5.3 A summary of the conversations, collated by theme, is included in **Table 4.2**, and the frequency of each theme raised can be found in **Plate 4.3**.

**Table 4.2 Summary of conversations with attendees**

Theme	Key points
<b>Fisheries</b>	<p>Need to engage with the fishing community.</p> <p>Electric cables dispersing lobster and fish.</p> <p>Location of other developments compounding the impact on fishing (would like one area for all developments).</p> <p>Support for a route or crossing and hatcheries to mitigate impacts.</p> <p>Compensation measures.</p>
<b>Skills, training and local employment</b>	<p>Training for young local people and future employment options.</p> <p>Timescales of undertaking Maritime Academy courses against the Project programme.</p>
<b>Interaction with other developments</b>	<p>Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) – Community Councils and Landowners have been in conversation or filled out Landowner Questionnaires about developments by SSEN.</p> <p>Fraserburgh Harbour – Community Councillor in contact with developer and invited Project team to visit.</p>
<b>Landowner – Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)</b>	<p>Landowners have been through compulsory purchases for pipelines.</p> <p>Although the Project is not seeking a CPO at this stage, there was a mixture of landowners who would be and would not be willing to sell.</p>
<b>Landowner – Other topics</b>	<p>Investment into future farming.</p> <p>Representative for Landowners was willing to share contacts and arrange a meeting with other landowners.</p>

**Plate 4.3 Frequency of themes**



#### 4.2.6 Post-event feedback

- 4.2.6.1 After the event, feedback was received by email from representatives of Peterhead Community Council, University of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council.
- 4.2.6.2 In summary, all four guests had a positive experience at the event and had their questions answered. The guests expressed an interest in engaging or collaborating in the future.
- 4.2.6.3 On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the Grampian Online and Banffshire Journal published an article about the DID and The Scotsman published the article on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The article gave a summary of the Project and DID and includes quotes from Richard Eakin (MarramWind Project Director), Maggie Chapman MSP (North East Scotland) and Jim Savege (Aberdeenshire Council Chief Executive).
- 4.2.6.4 The link to the Grampian Online article is here:  
<https://www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/peterhead-event-showcases-the-marramwind-offshore-Project-314705/>
- 4.2.6.5 The link to the Scotsman article is here:  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/peterhead-hosts-first-public-event-for-marramwind-floating-offshore-wind-farm-4160061>

## 5. Stakeholder Feedback Process

This Chapter details how feedback was received and analysed.

### 5.1 How consultees could respond

5.1.1.1 The following mechanisms were made available to facilitate the submission of consultation feedback:

- Online questionnaire - available on the virtual exhibition space via Microsoft Forms.
- Email - by sending an email to stakeholder@marramwind.com.
- Hardcopies of the questionnaire - available at events and at Peterhead Library. These would have been provided in alternative formats / languages on request via contact through the Project email address.

### 5.2 Number of responses received

5.2.1.1 A total of 35 responses were received across the three Statutory Consultations: 26 during the first round, six during the second, and three during the third.

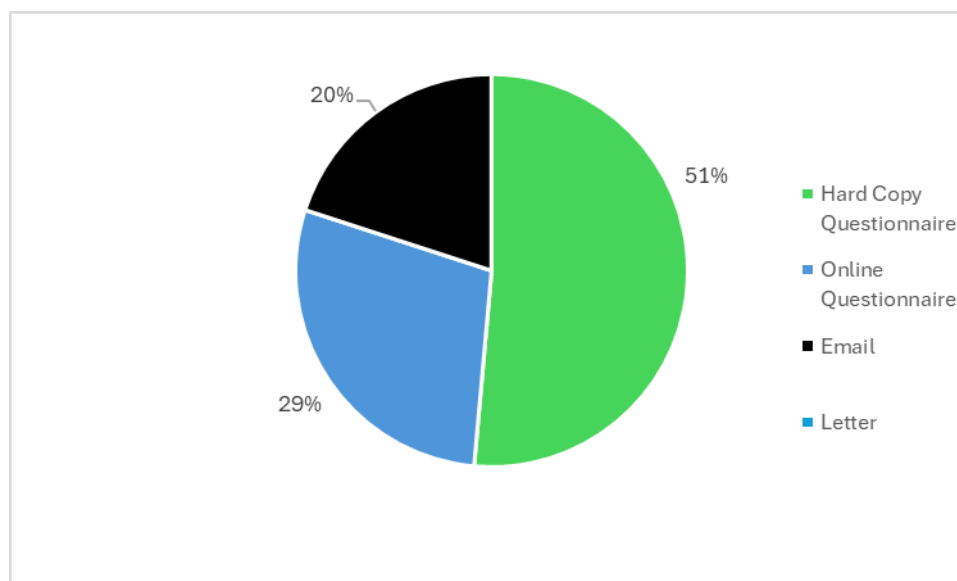
5.2.1.2 The largest proportion of responses (18 or 51%) were submitted using the hard copy questionnaire, either through the Freepost service or by completing it at the public drop-in events.

5.2.1.3 Ten responses (29%) were submitted via the online questionnaire.

5.2.1.4 Seven responses (20%) were received by email and no responses were submitted by letter.

5.2.1.5 **Plate 5.1**, below, details the proportion of responses received by method of response.

**Plate 5.1 Method of response**





## 5.3 Data processing and analysis

- 5.3.1.1 The following steps ensured robust analysis and reporting of insights captured through stakeholder feedback.

### 5.3.2 Analysis of consultation feedback

- 5.3.2.1 The following section of this Report presents a detailed analysis of the feedback received from the Statutory Consultations. It includes a quantitative analysis of the questionnaire responses, which are presented in figures or tables, as well as the written responses. These written responses have been summarised from the emails received and the open-text questions of the questionnaire.

### 5.3.3 Coding

- 5.3.3.1 The open responses required further analysis through a process called coding to identify common themes. A code frame was created by reviewing a sample of the responses received and identifying a set of common themes and areas of comment. Each theme was given a unique code made up of an alphabetical reference and a general topic covered.

### 5.3.4 Quality assurance

- 5.3.4.1 Both the code frame and coding exercise underwent a quality assurance check to ensure consistency and accuracy throughout the process. To ensure compliance with data protection laws, the Project team undertook a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements. This ensured that personal data collected during the consultation was handled securely and transparently, with appropriate safeguards in place to protect respondents' privacy.

### 5.3.5 Presentation of results

- 5.3.5.1 Several of the closed questions within the survey had an option for respondents to provide alternative, free-text responses. These 'other' answers have been summarised according to the key themes raised.
- 5.3.5.2 Please note that percentages presented in this Report may not always total 100%, as figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## 6. Responses Received to Statutory Consultation 1

This Chapter summarises the feedback received from consultees during the first Statutory Consultation and how it was considered in the development of the proposals, including the Applicant's response to the feedback.

### 6.1 Summary of the responses received

- 6.1.1.1 26 responses were received during the first Statutory Consultation. **Table 6.1** outlines the number of responses received in each format.

**Table 6.1 Format of responses in Statutory Consultation 1**

Number of responses	Format of responses
9	Hard copy questionnaires returned via the Freepost address or at the public drop-in events.
10	Online questionnaire submissions via the online feedback form.
7	Email responses.

- 6.1.1.2 Two additional questionnaire responses were received in the inbox after the consultation had closed so were not included in the formal analysis outlined in the PAC report. However, these responses have been taken into consideration by the Applicant as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement.
- 6.1.1.3 Full analysis of the first Statutory Consultation, the consultation material and the applicant's response to feedback can be found in **Appendix 4**. A summary of key findings can be found below.

### 6.1.2 Offshore

**Question 1) The role of offshore windfarms in the context of addressing climate change.**

- 6.1.2.1 68% of respondents agreed (somewhat or strongly) that offshore wind is an important part of the solution to addressing climate change, while 16% of respondents disagreed.

**Question 2) Ranked interest in relation to the offshore elements of the Project**

- 6.1.2.2 Respondents ranked aspects of the offshore infrastructure in order of interest, which indicated *Cable corridor(s) to landfall(s)* (24%), *Wind farm site* (19%) and *Construction methods and duration* (19%) were of greatest interest.

### Question 3 and 4) Topics of greatest importance to you in relation to offshore elements

- 6.1.2.3 Respondents ranked environmental topics in order of greatest importance. Marine habitats (21%) were ranked of greatest importance, followed by environmental protection (16%) and impact on marine wildlife and birds (13%).
- 6.1.2.4 Free text responses reinforced the ranking responses, with calls to minimise disruption to marine wildlife and ensure positive long-term effects on flora and fauna. One respondent suggested pre- and post-installation surveys on marine life such as brown crabs and lobsters.
- 6.1.2.5 The impact on industries including commercial fisheries (11%) and shipping and navigation (7%) were also considered important to some respondents.
- 6.1.2.6 Construction methods, visual considerations, amenity and recreation, air quality, sustainability, aviation and noise were considered of reducing importance in the ranking, whilst the visual impact from key viewpoints was raised as a key concern in the free-text response.

### 6.1.3 Landfall

#### Questions 5 and 6) Topics of greatest importance in relation to Landfall (where offshore cables reach the shore)

- 6.1.3.1 Ranked responses were weighted based on respondent ranking. The two most important topics to respondents were environmental protection and construction methods and installation (16% respectively).
- 6.1.3.2 Seascape, landscape and visual considerations ranked as the third most important element with 15% of the selections.
- 6.1.3.3 Intertidal wildlife ranked fourth most important with 11% of the selections.
- 6.1.3.4 The highest ranked responses were reinforced in the free-text responses:
- Two comments of nine related to minimising environmental disruption, enhancing biodiversity and protecting local habitats. One respondent suggested prioritising use of brownfield sites instead of countryside areas.
  - Three respondents suggested developers reduce the impact of construction by sharing cable corridors to reduce the impact of construction and preparing for future extensions at this stage.

### 6.1.4 Onshore

#### Questions 7 and 8) Aspects and impacts of greatest importance in relation to the onshore elements of the Project.

- 6.1.4.1 In both these questions, ranked responses were weighted. The three most important aspects of the Project to respondents were
- 1) Location of the Project substation site (26%).
  - 2) Onshore cable route corridors (21%).
  - 3) Built form and design of the Project substation (20%).

- 6.1.4.2 In relation to these aspects of the Project, the topic of greatest importance to respondents was *landscape and visual considerations* (32% weighted ranking).
- 6.1.4.3 Environmental protection, onshore wildlife and construction methods were also of importance to respondents (12%, 11%, 10% weighted rankings respectively).

#### Question 9) Feedback on proposed onshore infrastructure and substation site options.

- 6.1.4.4 Of 14 responses to this free-text question, ten respondents indicated a preference for site D as the most suitable location for the substation. This is due to its remoteness, limited visual impact and low impact on surrounding communities. In contrast, concern was raised about option A and its proximity to the village of Longside.
- 6.1.4.5 Additionally, the feedback indicated a desire for the Project to not only minimise disruption but also leave the area better than it was.

### 6.1.5 Benefits and opportunities

#### Question 10 and 11) Opportunities for MarramWind to make a positive difference.

- 6.1.5.1 Of the ranked responses the opportunity of greatest importance to respondents was the development of a Community Benefit Fund (27%). This was closely followed by interest in the creation of jobs and skills (25%).
- 6.1.5.2 These were followed by:
- enhancing ecology, wildlife and the landscape (18%).
  - supply chain engagement and procurement (16%).
  - sustainability (14%).
- 6.1.5.3 Specific recommendations for tangible community benefits in the free-text responses included the creation of diverse habitats, tree planting and improved greenspaces for people and nature.
- 6.1.5.4 Responses also reinforced the need for a community benefit fund to support communities most affected by the Project.
- 6.1.5.5 Three respondents suggested a focus on skills development for young people, recommending scholarships, trips and site visits.

### 6.1.6 Understanding of the Project

#### Question 12) Level of understanding of the Project

- 6.1.6.1 The majority of respondents rated their understanding of the Project as good or very good (67% combined), while 28% of respondents had a fair understanding. One respondent had a poor understanding of the Project (5%).

### 6.1.7 About you

- 6.1.7.1 *About you* questions enabled the Project team to understand the nature and diversity of stakeholders engaging with the Project and to understand the efficacy of different communication methods to promote the Project.

6.1.7.2 The questions in this section included:

- Question 13: How did you hear about the MarramWind Offshore Wind farm consultation?
- Question 14: Where do you live?
- Question 15: Please tick the following, as appropriate to your status.

6.1.7.3 Responses indicated that the majority of respondents were local residents from the Longside area and that word of mouth was the most effective communication channel. The radio advertising did not directly lead to any consultation responses.

## 6.2 Views raised at the consultation events

### 6.2.1 Summary of views raised at the in-person consultation events

6.2.1.1 The two consultation events held as part of the first Statutory Consultation attracted 75 people in total. 41 stakeholders attended the Palace Hotel consultation event on 6th June 2024 and 34 attended the Longside Parish Hall consultation event on 7th June 2024. A summary of the comments raised at the two events held is included below.

#### Fisheries

- 6.2.1.2 Concerns have been raised about pipeline gates that are used by commercial fishing vessels to safely traverse the pipeline.
- 6.2.1.3 Stakeholders noted potential impacts on herring spawning grounds caused by disturbance to gravel.
- 6.2.1.4 Concerns about spatial conflicts regarding the wet storage of floaters in Firths.
- 6.2.1.5 Loss of fishing grounds due to the array installation was highlighted as a key issue.
- 6.2.1.6 Multiple cable installation campaigns were flagged as disruptive to inshore fishing activities.
- 6.2.1.7 A request was made to remove all seabed infrastructure after decommissioning.
- 6.2.1.8 Preferred method for cable crossings is rock protection rather than mattresses.
- 6.2.1.9 Increased vessel transit times were identified as a concern.

#### Traffic concerns

- 6.2.1.10 Local rural roads, particularly the Ugie Bridge, were highlighted as potentially unsuitable for high volumes of construction traffic.
- 6.2.1.11 Concern whether existing road infrastructure could accommodate the number of Projects.
- 6.2.1.12 The need for road upgrades and connections to the existing bypass was emphasised.
- 6.2.1.13 Collaboration among developers to minimise traffic impacts was recommended.

#### Local residential concerns (Flushing)

- 6.2.1.14 Concerns centred on the impact of the onshore substation, particularly in the vicinity of Muir Mhor Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Infrastructure.
- 6.2.1.15 Landscape and visual effects were noted as significant issues.

- 6.2.1.16 Potential reductions in house prices were highlighted, with specific figures of £50,000 mentioned.

### Local residential concerns (Hillock)

- 6.2.1.17 Some residents expressed support for the Project, but raised concerns about noise levels, lighting and light pollution during construction and operation, increased traffic, vibrations from construction activities and negative experiences with previous gas line works.

### Noise and light pollution

- 6.2.1.18 Substation noise was identified as a concern.
- 6.2.1.19 Light pollution from both construction activities and the substation was also raised as a concern.

### Coordination with other developers

- 6.2.1.20 Interest was expressed in understanding whether the Project is collaborating with other wind farm developers to share ports, facilities, and resources to reduce cumulative effects.

## 6.2.2 Summary of views raised at the online Q&A events

- 6.2.2.1 As part of the Statutory Consultation, the Applicant undertook additional engagement activities to provide members of the public with opportunities to learn about the Project and ask questions directly to the Project team.
- 6.2.2.2 Among these activities, the Applicant hosted a series of Q&A events, which served as informal forums for discussion. These events were not designated as formal channels for submitting consultation feedback; rather, they were intended to supplement the wider consultation by offering attendees the chance to engage with Project representatives and gain a deeper understanding of the proposal.
- 6.2.2.3 The feedback raised during these sessions has been summarised in this Section to provide transparency on the discussions held, though it is important to note that these were separate from the formal feedback channels where responses were provided from the Applicant.
- 6.2.2.4 In total, 14 individuals attended the Q&A events for the first Statutory Consultation (nine attended the event on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and five attended the event on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024).
- 6.2.2.5 A summary of the questions raised at the two online events held is included below:

### Coordination with Acorn Carbon Storage

- 6.2.2.6 As the Project partially overlaps the Acorn Carbon Storage site how are you handling any co-location issues given the larger footprint of floating wind farms may impact the ability to measure, monitor and verify (MMV) the carbon dioxide plume created by injection? Is there active discussion and resolution involving the Applicant, Acorn, Crown Estate Scotland, and North Sea Transition Authority?
- 6.2.2.7 How is the Project coordinating offshore planning regarding the potential overlap with Acorn Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) and recently awarded oil and gas licenses?

## Offshore considerations

- 6.2.2.8 Are there any other marine spatial planning issues that need to be addressed before the Project progresses, for example with fisheries, marine protected areas, unexploded ordnance (UXO), the Ministry of Defence or any other stakeholders?
- 6.2.2.9 What is the impact expected to be on the local fishing industry?
- 6.2.2.10 Other developers of floating wind schemes have identified the difficulty of finding appropriate wet storage areas for marshalling the devices before deployment. What are the Project's thoughts about this?

## Infrastructure components: design and procurement

- 6.2.2.11 Are you considering wind turbines supplied by Mingyang Smart Energy?
- 6.2.2.12 Do you know yet if you're planning to undertake the structural design and analysis of the infrastructure components - the foundations, jackets, turbines, and substations (on- and off-shore) either in-house by your design engineers or will this aspect be outsourced?

## Onshore grid connection

- 6.2.2.13 Will the onshore connection to the grid involve the construction of new pylon transmission lines?

## Digital twin technology

- 6.2.2.14 Are you currently or are you planning to utilise Digital Twin technology to help better manage the overall planning, construction and operations and maintenance aspects of MarramWind - is there a timeframe for this?

## Engagement

- 6.2.2.15 Have you undertaken any engagement with young people so far / are you planning on engaging young people?

## 6.3 Consideration of feedback during the pre-application consultation process

- 6.3.1.1 The Applicant has considered all comments received through the official feedback channels for the first Statutory Consultation. The following Section summarises the key themes that emerged from the questionnaire results and the written responses submitted by email and via the Freepost address from the first Statutory Consultation. These responses were presented at the second Statutory Consultation to provide stakeholders with a clear understanding of how their feedback influenced the Project's development.

### 6.3.2 The Applicant's response to feedback received

- 6.3.2.1 The Applicant's response to the key themes identified during the first Statutory Consultation can be found in **Appendix 4**. Each theme reflects a range of comments received, which are summarised alongside the Applicant's corresponding response. The responses aim to address the concerns raised, provide clarity where required, and explain how stakeholder input has informed decision-making. This feedback was used to help refine early Project proposals and inform the second Statutory Consultation.



### 6.3.3 How feedback at Statutory Consultation 1 fed into the development of the Project

- 6.3.3.1 The Applicant has carefully considered all feedback from Statutory Consultation 1 which has contributed, alongside environmental and technical assessments, to the following Project developments.

#### Landfall

- 6.3.3.2 At the first consultation, three potential areas were presented where landfall sites could be located:
- Scotstown Beach, south of St Fergus Gas Terminal and north of Peterhead;
  - Lunderton, north of Peterhead; and
  - Sandford Bay, south of Peterhead.
- 6.3.3.3 Stakeholders raised concerns regarding the impact of the landfall on the seascape, landscape and visual considerations, environmental protection, construction methods and installation and intertidal wildlife.
- 6.3.3.4 Taking into consideration stakeholder feedback and the results of environmental and technical assessments, Sandford Bay was discounted as a landfall option and the onshore and offshore export cable routing associated with Sandford Bay removed.

#### Fisheries

- 6.3.3.5 Fisheries' stakeholders raised concerns at the in-person events about the impact of the development on fishing practices. This included navigation safety for fishers, potential impacts on herring spawning grounds caused by disturbance to gravel, loss of fishing grounds and the impact of seabed infrastructure.
- 6.3.3.6 The Applicant is committed to maintaining regular engagement with fishers and their representative bodies throughout the development process. This engagement will continue to include dedicated fisheries meetings as part of statutory consultation events. The issues raised by fishers will continue to be acknowledged and incorporated into the iterative design process of the project. Other concerns that extend beyond the development stage will also be considered, and dialogue with the sector will continue if the Project secures consent.

#### Onshore substation site locations

- 6.3.3.7 During the first consultation, five potential onshore substation site locations were presented.
- 6.3.3.8 Responses received at Statutory Consultation 1 relating to the onshore substation site options identified landscape and visual considerations as the topic of greatest importance to respondents. Environmental protection, onshore wildlife and construction methods were also notably important to consultees.
- 6.3.3.9 Stakeholder feedback expressed a preference for onshore substation site Option D. This was reportedly due to its remoteness, limited visual impact and low impact on surrounding communities. In contrast, concerns were raised about Option A and its proximity to the village of Longside.
- 6.3.3.10 Despite the partial endorsement of onshore substation site Option D at Statutory Consultation 1, it appeared on assessment that this site would carry the greatest associated

environmental and landscape and visual impact; elements reported as important to stakeholders.

- 6.3.3.11 The decision was taken to discount onshore substation site Options A and E. In each case there were significant questions over the degree to which required SSSEN infrastructure (understood to be planned to cross the sites) could be accommodated. Furthermore, the visual impact of onshore substation site Option A and the access challenges of onshore substation site Option E made the Options B and C preferable as development options.
- 6.3.3.12 Moreover, the advantages of Option D expressed as part of stakeholder feedback (low visual and community impact) were considered to be delivered equally or more effectively by onshore substation site Options B and C. Site D was therefore also discounted at this stage.
- 6.3.3.13 The Project preference was for Option B, which offered advantages of direct access and lower elevation / slope over onshore substation site Option C. The latter was, however, considered to remain a viable option, and the decision was taken to retain both options at Statutory Consultation 2.

### Local amenity

- 6.3.3.14 Respondents raised concerns about the effect of construction, including impact of traffic and transport, of onshore export cables and the onshore substation sites
- 6.3.3.15 The onshore substation site options which were retained at Statutory Consultation 2, Option B and C offered advantages for construction methods and transport.
- 6.3.3.16 Both options B and C provide sufficient space for the construction of the onshore substation sites, with the sites both having suitable ground conditions and topography. Due to their location, the distance over which the onshore export cables need to be installed is also kept to a minimum.
- 6.3.3.17 Options B and C and have good access for construction traffic, with Option B located adjacent to the A950 and Option C only a short distance from the A90 via local roads. The sites are located further to the east and therefore closer to the A90, reducing the distance construction traffic will be required to travel on the local road network from the A90.
- 6.3.3.18 A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council, with this supporting the implementation of measures to mitigate the temporary effects from construction traffic, particularly during the morning and evening peak periods. Measures will include:
- specifying acceptable construction traffic access routes,
  - identifying any times HGV deliveries will be required to avoid,
  - management of deliveries via a booking system to avoid vehicles arriving in convoy,
  - providing a suitably sized storage area onsite to support the stockpiling of materials and reducing the number of deliveries, where possible,
  - providing access arrangements to minimise vehicle delays; and
  - car sharing to reduce employee vehicles.

## 7. Responses Received to Statutory Consultation 2

This Chapter summarises the feedback received from consultees during the second Statutory Consultation and how it was taken into account in the development of the proposals, including the Applicant response to feedback received.

### 7.1 Summary of the responses received

- 7.1.1.1 Six responses were received during the second Statutory Consultation. These responses were all returned via the Freepost address or at the public drop-in events.
- 7.1.1.2 Full analysis of the second Statutory Consultation, the consultation material and the Applicant's response to feedback can be found in **Appendix 5**. A summary of key findings can be found below.

#### 7.1.2 Offshore

Question 1) With consideration to our updated proposals for the offshore Project design and infrastructure, which of the following aspects are most important to you?

- 7.1.2.1 22% of respondents selected that commercial fisheries were of most importance. 11% respectively selected: seascape, landscape and visual impacts; construction methods and installation; environmental protection; and marine habitats and wildlife (including birds) as being most important.

Question 2) Please explain the reason for your answer to Question 1.

- 7.1.2.2 20% of responses requested more information including clarity on long-term community benefits and Project effects. 10% raised concerns about the environment including potential effects of offshore cables on seabed habitats, marine wildlife, and the fishing industry, which was noted as being "extremely important" to the Peterhead economy.
- 7.1.2.3 Community impacts were also cited, with dissatisfaction over energy costs and the need for equitable benefits in the community. Recommendations included adopting international practices for offshore power transmission and mitigating onshore cable corridor effects.

Question 3) Are there any specific environmental, social or economic sensitivities related to the updated offshore Project design or infrastructure that you wish to provide feedback on?

- 7.1.2.4 13% of responses raised concerns about impacts on communities and local services. 13% recommended offshore cable corridor mitigation, including horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or rock dumping to minimise environmental impacts. Each of the following concerns were raised once:
- Concerns about impact on roads, fishing, worker accommodation and labour shortages;
  - general objection to the Project citing dissatisfaction over perceived inequities in energy distribution and costs; and

- concerns about tourism and local agriculture, if cultural heritage is affected by construction or infrastructure.

Question 4) With consideration to our updated proposals for landfall options (Scotstown Beach and Lunderton), which of the following aspects are most important to you? And Q5) Please explain the reason for your answer to Question 4.

- 7.1.2.5 Respondents ranked the aspects by importance. Commercial fisheries (20%) was ranked of greatest importance, followed by the aspects: socio-economics and opportunities; intertidal habitats; environmental protection; and amenity, recreation, and tourism (13%) and the aspects protection, construction methods and installation, intertidal wildlife including birds, and shipping and navigation (7%).
- 7.1.2.6 Free text responses raised five different themes which were all mentioned once, this included:
- impacts on communities;
  - impacts from wind farm on fishing;
  - support for Lunderton landfall site;
  - recommendation to approach to EIA/HRA; and
  - recommendation for site visits for local people/schools.
- 7.1.2.7 One response objected to the onshore cable corridor.

Question 6) Are there any specific environmental, social or economic sensitivities related to the landfall Project design or infrastructure that you wish to provide feedback on?

- 7.1.2.8 The most common feedback (29%) supported opportunities for community benefits and opportunities. The other themes were mentioned once each and included: impacts from cables on marine wildlife and a recommendation/request for engagement and marine wildlife assessment. One response objected to the Project.

### 7.1.3 Onshore

Question 7) With consideration to our updated proposals for the onshore Project design and infrastructure, which of the following aspects are most important to you? And Question 8) Please explain the reason for your answer to Question 7.

- 7.1.3.1 Respondents ranked the aspects by importance. 33% ranked traffic and transport as most important, followed by 22% ranking landscape and visual considerations. The following aspects were each ranked as most important by one respondent (11%): amenity and recreation; environmental protection; onshore wildlife (including birds); and socioeconomics and opportunities.
- 7.1.3.2 The free text responses raised other aspects that were important to respondents, each theme was mentioned once:
- impacts on communities;
  - impacts on communities (including recreation);
  - support for benefits and opportunities; and
  - recommendation / request for engagement.

7.1.3.3 Responses included one objection to the Project.

**Question 9) Are there any specific environmental, social or economic sensitivities related to the onshore Project design or infrastructure that you wish to provide feedback on?**

7.1.3.4 Free text responses identified two themes that were each mentioned once, concern that power won't stay in Scotland and a recommendation for electricity discount. Responses included an objection to the Project and an objection to the onshore cable corridor.

#### 7.1.4 Benefits and opportunities

**Question 10) If MarramWind was to implement a Community Benefit Fund, what sort of Projects would you want to see funded?**

7.1.4.1 50% of respondents made a recommendation for benefits and opportunities, suggestions included including significant capital investment to improve local facilities, create transformative change, and support community hubs like Port Errol Harbour and the Old Congi Church.

7.1.4.2 Three other comments mentioned impacts on communities (including recreation), a recommendation for education/skills development for young people and a recommendation/request for engagement.

**Question 11) Please add any other ideas you have for MarramWind to leave a positive legacy.**

7.1.4.3 43% of respondents made a recommendation for benefits and opportunities. The comments included a suggestion for sustained investment in local groups and facilities beyond construction and improving healthcare infrastructure, such as refurbishing Ugie Hospital to attract and retain staff.

7.1.4.4 A recommendation for marine wildlife assessment, concern about lack of labour availability, a recommendation for education/skills development for young people and a recommendation for enhancing landscape onshore were each raised once (14%).

#### 7.1.5 Feedback on consultation

7.1.5.1 This Section enabled the Project team to understand the effectiveness of the materials produced for the consultation, the online and in-person events and promotion methods.

**Question 12) Based on the information presented in this consultation, how would you describe your understanding of the MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Project? Please add any other ideas you have for MarramWind to leave a positive legacy.**

7.1.5.2 60% of respondents described their understanding as very good, the remaining respondents (40%) described their understanding as fair.

**Question 13) If you attended one of our in-person consultation events or online Q&A sessions, how would you rate your overall satisfaction?**

7.1.5.3 50% rated their satisfaction as very good and the other 50% rated it as fair.

Question 14) If there is anything you hoped or expected to learn about MarramWind at this consultation that we did not present, please share.

- 7.1.5.4 50% were satisfied with the information presented, praising the quality of the consultation and the responsiveness of staff, 25% were satisfied with the events, stating expectations were met and 25% were dissatisfied with promotion, suggesting that better reminders could have helped increase attendance.

Question 15) How did you hear about the MarramWind Offshore Wind farm consultation?

- 7.1.5.5 40% selected a local newspaper advert or notice and 40% also selected 'other' and specified that they heard about the consultation through Brown & May and Community Council sources. 20% selected flyer.

### 7.1.6 About you

- 7.1.6.1 *About you* questions enabled the Project team to understand the nature and diversity of stakeholders engaging with the Project, these questions are listed below.

Question 16) Where do you live?

- 7.1.6.2 40% of respondents selected Peterhead, 40% selected 'other' and 20% selected Longside.

Question 17) Please tick the following, as appropriate to your status

- 7.1.6.3 50% of respondents were local residents while 25% were members of the fishing community. A member of a Community Council and local business owner were also selected once each.

## 7.2 Views raised at consultation events

### 7.2.1 Summary of views raised at the in-person consultation events

- 7.2.1.1 The two consultation events held as part of the second Statutory Consultation attracted 82 people in total. 35 stakeholders attended the Palace Hotel consultation event on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and 47 attended the Longside Football Club consultation event on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- 7.2.1.2 A summary of the comments raised at the two events held is included below.

### Community and local benefits

- 7.2.1.3 Stakeholders highlighted the importance of using the Community Benefit Fund to support local initiatives, including the renovation of Cruden Church and Cruden Bay Harbour.
- 7.2.1.4 A strong desire was expressed for long-term, positive outcomes for the local area.
- 7.2.1.5 Comments were made about the value of thorough engagement with the local residents, with an appreciation for efforts to address feedback from earlier consultations.
- 7.2.1.6 Interest was expressed in collaborating with the Project to develop local skills and training programs to support offshore workforce development.
- 7.2.1.7 Discussions are ongoing with educational institutions already working with similar offshore Projects to explore partnership opportunities.

## Fishing and maritime interests

- 7.2.1.8 Representatives of local fishing operations expressed interest in gaining a clearer understanding of the Project.
- 7.2.1.9 Follow-up engagement with key fishing bodies was recommended to ensure comprehensive coverage.

## Residential concerns

- 7.2.1.10 Local residents expressed general concerns and anxiety about the proximity of construction activities to their homes.
- 7.2.1.11 Some residents were reluctant to provide feedback until further Project decisions are formalised.
- 7.2.1.12 Specific concerns were raised about geological features near the Project route, referencing past challenges with similar Projects (hard rock and granite along the River Ugie).

## Consultation

- 7.2.1.13 Positive feedback was received on the public consultation process, with appreciation for promotional efforts through multiple channels (e.g., radio, digital media, and leaflets).
- 7.2.1.14 Some stakeholders acknowledged improvements in the Project's design refinement since earlier consultations.

## Land use and planning

- 7.2.1.15 Concerns were raised about the avoidance of brownfield sites, particularly the selection process for onshore substation locations.
- 7.2.1.16 Stakeholders challenged the reasoning for excluding certain sites (such as brownfields) that have already been designated for commercial use by Aberdeenshire Council.
- 7.2.1.17 Concerns regarding how Project information is presented on official planning portals, with comparisons made to other applications that were seen as more transparent (Salamander Offshore Wind farm).
- 7.2.1.18 Support for the discounting of site A for the proposed onshore substation location.

## 7.2.2 Summary of views raised at the online Q&A events

- 7.2.2.1 As part of the second Statutory Consultation, the Applicant undertook additional engagement activities to provide members of the public with opportunities to learn about the Project and ask questions directly to the Project team.
- 7.2.2.2 Among these activities, the Applicant hosted a series of Q&A events, which served as informal forums for discussion. These events were not designated as formal channels for submitting consultation feedback; rather, they were intended to supplement the wider consultation by offering attendees the chance to engage with Project representatives and gain a deeper understanding of the proposal.
- 7.2.2.3 The feedback raised during these sessions has been summarised in this Section to provide transparency on the discussions held, though it is important to note that these were separate from the formal feedback channels where responses were provided by the Applicant.



- 7.2.2.4 In total, five individuals attended the Q&A events (one attended the event on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024, and four attended the event on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024).
- 7.2.2.5 A summary of the questions raised at the two online events held is included below.
- 7.2.2.6 The individuals represented a range of bodies, including These Islands, Aberdeen University, Eurasia Energy Ltd and Downiehill Farming.

### Impacts and considerations in relation to other Projects

- 7.2.2.7 Has the overlap with the Project and Acorn Carbon Storage been fully resolved following the adjusted areal footprints for both Projects?
- 7.2.2.8 Are there potential conflicts or synergies between MarramWind and the oil and gas licence granted to Finder Energy in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Offshore Licencing Round?
- 7.2.2.9 Will there be shared onshore infrastructure between MarramWind and the CampionWind Offshore Windfarm Projects, such as substations or cable routes?

### Infrastructure queries and considerations

- 7.2.2.10 What additional stakeholder hurdles need consideration, such as shipwreck sites, historical wreckage, or proximity to maritime traffic lanes?
- 7.2.2.11 How many cables will be in the offshore cable corridor, and what will its width be (including buffer zones or safety measures)?
- 7.2.2.12 Will Peterhead serve as the base of operations, including turbine assembly and long-term maintenance?

### Financial and commercial queries

- 7.2.2.13 Are these statements focused primarily on ensuring supply chain capacity and resilience, or do they aim to prioritise local (e.g., Scottish) supply chain contributions?
- 7.2.2.14 How is the balance between regional supply chain development and national/global requirements being managed?
- 7.2.2.15 If developer ambition statements prioritise Scotland disproportionately, does the relatively low £250k maximum remedy payment act as a deterrent or incentive for achieving these ambitions?
- 7.2.2.16 Does the Applicant see potential for GB Energy to act as a co-investor or partner in this Project?

### Environmental protection areas and wildlife concerns

- 7.2.2.17 Are there marine protected areas, sensitive habitats, or unique ecosystems in the development area that could present challenges or require mitigation?
- 7.2.2.18 Aside from seabirds, are there concerns regarding marine mammals or other wildlife?
- 7.2.2.19 What mitigation strategies are in place for marine mammals and other wildlife?
- 7.2.2.20 What specific measures are being planned to address concerns about migrating seabirds? Has there been a consultation with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds or other agencies, and are any artificial nesting habitats or monitoring programs planned?

## Commercial fishing

- 7.2.2.21 What is the Applicant's position on commercial fishing within the floating wind farm, and has there been engagement with local fisheries or fishing industry representatives?

## Community and economic impact

- 7.2.2.22 How is the Applicant addressing local community concerns or ensuring economic benefits (e.g. job creation and infrastructure development)?

## Timeline and milestones

- 7.2.2.23 What is the current timeline for the Project's key milestones, including permitting, construction, and operation?
- 7.2.2.24 Are there risks of delays due to external factors such as regulatory approvals or stakeholder challenges?

## 7.3 Consideration of responses during the pre-application consultation process

- 7.3.1.1 The Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered all comments received through the second Statutory Consultation, including responses submitted via the questionnaire, email, and the designated Freepost address.
- 7.3.1.2 The responses received during this round were categorised into key themes through a coding exercise, as detailed in the previous section. These themes include areas such as environmental considerations, community impact, design preferences, and potential opportunities or benefits.

### 7.3.2 The Applicant's response to feedback received

- 7.3.2.1 The second Statutory Consultation built upon the feedback received during the initial round, where a "you said, we did" approach was implemented to address key concerns and refine early Project proposals. This iterative process informed the second Statutory Consultation, enabling the Applicant to respond more effectively to stakeholders' evolving priorities and concerns.
- 7.3.2.2 The Applicant's response to the key themes identified during the second Statutory Consultation can be found in **Appendix 5**. Each theme reflects a range of comments received, which are summarised alongside the Applicant's corresponding response.

### 7.3.3 How feedback at Statutory Consultation 2 fed into the development of the Project

- 7.3.3.1 During the second Statutory Consultation, stakeholders were invited to share further views on the remaining options for the onshore substation site location. Stakeholder feedback indicated traffic and transport was the most important consideration, followed by the visual impact on local communities.

## Onshore substation site

### Feedback

- 7.3.3.2 Concern about the visual impact on local landscapes and communities of onshore infrastructure.
- 7.3.3.3 Concern about the strain on local infrastructure, and the impact on traffic and transport.

### Consideration of feedback in Project development

- 7.3.3.4 Onshore substation site Option B was selected as the preferred location.
- 7.3.3.5 **Visual and land:** This location reduces the proximity to residential properties, minimising visual impact on residents. Furthermore, the site offers the potential for screening views of the onshore substation sites. The site performs well from a technical and environmental perspective as the site is relatively flat and neighbouring land is already in industrial use so would provide a more coherent, semi-industrial setting for the onshore substations. The elevation of onshore substation site option B is lower than option C, so would be less prominent.
- 7.3.3.6 **Traffic and transport:** The direct A-road access for the onshore substation site option B would require minimal alteration or enhancement to establish. This site is also close to the A90 where it acts as a ring road around Peterhead, minimising distances and durations for Project traffic from this trunk road.

## Onshore export cable corridor

- 7.3.3.1 During the second Statutory Consultation, stakeholders were invited to share further views on the onshore export cable corridor. Stakeholder feedback indicated that key development considerations to consultees were traffic and transport and landscape and visual.

### Feedback

- 7.3.3.2 Concern about the visual impact on local landscapes and communities of onshore infrastructure.
- 7.3.3.3 Concern about the strain on local infrastructure, and the impact on traffic and transport.

### Consideration of feedback in Project development

- 7.3.3.4 Consultee priorities support the preference for the primary onshore export cable corridor to the east of Longside Airfield.
- 7.3.3.5 **Traffic and transport:** Having the route run closer to Peterhead and the A90 trunk road would reduce traffic impact and also reduce the need for disturbance on local roads.
- 7.3.3.6 **Visual impact:** The eastern route presents several benefits in relation to visual impact.
- the route would generally run through and closer to semi-industrial areas, rather than open fields and farmland;
  - construction would be less visible from the Formartine and Buchan Way Core Path and Long-Distance Route; and
  - the route would be shorter and more direct, resulting in a smaller footprint and minimising the overall environmental impact during construction.

- 7.3.3.7 **Technical and environmental considerations:** Stakeholder feedback was assessed alongside technical and environmental considerations. The establishment of the onshore export cable corridor considered hard constraints, including the avoidance of pipelines via trenchless crossings where necessary, excluding large woodland areas where possible, and ensuring appropriate buffers were maintained around Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments. These considerations also support discounting the western route around the airfield in favour of the primary eastern onshore export cable corridor.

## Offshore infrastructure

### *Feedback*

- 7.3.3.8 Suggestion to use trenching and rock dumping around cables to minimise effect on wildlife and impact of magnetic fields.

### *Consideration of feedback in Project development*

- 7.3.3.9 In line with feedback and consideration of environmental and technical assessments, the Project intends to implement the most effective method for protecting the cable from damage and for avoiding changes to marine habitats. In most cases this will involve burying the offshore cable wherever possible. Cable protection will only be used where cable burial is not possible.

## 8. Responses Received to Statutory Consultation 3

This Chapter summarises the feedback received from consultees during the third Statutory Consultation and how it was considered in the development of the proposals, including the Applicant's response to the feedback.

### 8.1 Summary of the responses received

- 8.1.1.1 Three responses were received during the third Statutory Consultation. All of these were hard copy questionnaires returned via the freepost address or at the public drop-in events.
- 8.1.1.2 In addition to this, ongoing conversations were held with a wide range of key stakeholders and statutory organisations. These discussions were designed to maintain an open and transparent dialogue, enabling continuous feedback to be gathered and incorporated throughout the duration of the pre-application consultation process.
- 8.1.1.3 The consultation material and the applicant's response to feedback at Statutory Consultation 3 can be found in **Appendix 6**. Following full analysis of the responses received, findings are outlined below.

### 8.1.2 Onshore and offshore Project considerations

Question 1) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- 8.1.2.1 **Offshore wind will play a crucial role in addressing the worst impacts relating to climate change.**
- 8.1.2.2 Two respondents strongly agreed that offshore wind will play a crucial role in addressing climate change, while one disagreed.
- 8.1.2.3 **Offshore wind can bring a range of economic benefits to Scotland and the UK**
- 8.1.2.4 Two respondents strongly agreed that offshore wind can bring economic benefits to Scotland and the UK, while one strongly disagreed.
- 8.1.2.5 **Offshore wind has a significant role to play in the future of Scotland and the UK's energy security and affordability.**
- 8.1.2.6 Two respondents strongly agreed that offshore wind has a significant role to play in energy security and affordability, while one disagreed.

Question 2) What impact do you think MarramWind Offshore Windfarm could have on the below topics?

- 8.1.2.7 **Commercial fisheries**
- 8.1.2.8 Two respondents believed the Project would have a negative impact on commercial fisheries. One respondent was not sure.
- 8.1.2.9 **Wildlife and the natural environment**

- 8.1.2.10 Two respondents believed the Project would have a negative impact on wildlife and the natural environment. One respondent believed there would be no impact.
- 8.1.2.11 **Jobs and the local economy**
- 8.1.2.12 Two respondents thought there would be a positive impact on jobs and the local economy. One thought there would be no impact.
- 8.1.2.13 **Tourism**
- 8.1.2.14 Two respondents believed there would be no impact, while one thought there would be a negative impact.
- 8.1.2.15 **Landscape reviews**
- 8.1.2.16 Two respondents believed there would be no impact, while one thought there would be a negative impact.
- 8.1.2.17 **Community wellbeing**
- 8.1.2.18 One respondent thought there would be a negative impact, one thought there would be no impact and one respondent was not sure.
- 8.1.2.19 **Local infrastructure and transport**
- 8.1.2.20 Two respondents believed there would be no impact, while one thought there would be a negative impact.
- 8.1.2.21 **Cultural heritage**
- 8.1.2.22 Two respondents believed there would be no impact, while one thought there would be a negative impact.
- 8.1.2.23 **Recreation**
- 8.1.2.24 Views were mixed, with one resident thinking the Project would have a positive impact, one thinking there would be a negative impact and one thinking there would be no impact.

### Question 3) Please explain the reason/s for your answers to Question 2.

- 8.1.2.25 Two out of three respondents cited fishing as a key concern, particularly how the undersea cables could affect lobster, velvet crab and brown crab fishing.
- 8.1.2.26 Concern was raised about the loss of land during construction of the onshore infrastructure, and the resulting impact on wildlife.
- 8.1.2.27 Community wellbeing was cited, with concern that those near the proposed onshore substation site have not been contacted about the consultation.

### Question 4) Do you have any comments to make on the offshore aspects of our proposed Project?

- 8.1.2.28 One respondent asked if shellfish landing data could be collected both before and after cables have been laid, to understand any effect on fishery.
- 8.1.2.29 Concern was raised that the seabed will be disturbed by the Project. They were supportive that platforms would be offshore, but asked why all infrastructure could not be kept offshore.

Question 5) Depending on the technology used, the Project may require up to two Reactive Compensation Platforms (RCPs) located at the approximate mid-point between the offshore substation and the onshore substation site. What considerations should we take into account if we need to install this infrastructure?

- 8.1.2.30 Respondents' key consideration was to keep the infrastructure as far offshore as possible, to minimise the impact on fishermen. A secondary concern was to minimise the impact on the marine environment.

Question 6) Do you have any comments to make on the onshore aspects of our proposed Project?

- 8.1.2.31 The majority of respondents cited concern over the impact on the amenity of local residents. Noise and visual impact were particular areas of concern, but concern was also raised about the loss of farmland, flooding, traffic and devaluation of local property.

### 8.1.3 Benefits and opportunities

Question 7) Do you think MarramWind and offshore wind can benefit local people and businesses in North-East Scotland?

- 8.1.3.1 Two respondents believed that the Project could benefit local people through reduced electricity prices and the development of local skills.
- 8.1.3.2 The other respondent believed the Project would have minimal to no benefit post construction.

Question 8) Are there barriers preventing local people and businesses from benefitting from MarramWind or offshore wind (e.g. jobs, contracts, investment in local infrastructure, environmental enhancements)

- 8.1.3.3 Responses suggested partnering with local academies to support the re-skilling of local people for employment in the construction or operating phases.

Question 9) What role should developers play in helping local people and businesses access opportunities and benefits from wind farm Projects?

- 8.1.3.4 Respondents recommended working with the Peterhead Neighbourhood Board, local schools, and the port authority to support local people accessing opportunities from the Project.

### 8.1.4 Mitigation

Question 10) Do you believe the environmental design of the MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Project is sustainable and appropriate?

- 8.1.4.1 One respondent said there was not enough information available to comment. Two respondents were supportive of the offshore infrastructure and the efforts to minimise impact, particularly on fishing. One respondent did not agree that the environmental design of the onshore infrastructure was appropriate, raising concerns about the loss of farmland and proposing instead that infrastructure is kept offshore or to wasteland.



Question 11) Are there any specific environmental measures you would like to see included in the MarramWind Commitments Register – a document that lists all the commitments made by the Project to mitigate, monitor, and manage environmental impacts?

- 8.1.4.2 Concern was raised about the cumulative impact of MarramWind and other nearby infrastructure Projects, including other wind farms, the Netherton Hub, Eastern Green Link, and BESS sites. The respondent noted that Projects appear to be working in isolation and asked that cumulative impacts are considered.

### 8.1.5 Community benefit fund

Question 12) What criteria should be used to define the communities that benefit from the community benefit fund? (For example, geographic proximity to onshore works, economic need, environmental impact, or other)

- 8.1.5.1 One respondent suggested using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation to target groups, while another recommended targeting the impacts on the fishing industry.

Question 13) How should the community benefit fund be managed? (For example, through a new community organisation, by the wind farm developer, by an independent third-party fund manager, other)

- 8.1.5.2 One response supported the developers retaining direct involvement and one recommending a community organisation be set up which is directly accountable to local residents.

Question 14) What types of issues/Projects should the community benefit fund support? Please rank the following options from 1-7 in the order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important.

- 8.1.5.3 In these questions, ranked responses were weighted. The three most important Projects which the respondents thought MarramWind's community benefit fund should support were:
1. Education, skills and STEM
  2. Local infrastructure improvements.
  3. Net zero or energy efficiency.

Question 15) Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

- 8.1.5.4 **This consultation has enhanced my understanding of the MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Project**
- 8.1.5.5 Two responses strongly agreed with this statement, with one response neither agreeing nor disagreeing.
- 8.1.5.6 **This consultation has given me a good opportunity to share my views**
- 8.1.5.7 Two responses strongly agreed with this statement, with one response neither agreeing nor disagreeing.
- 8.1.5.8 **The level of information in this consultation is appropriate to my needs**

- 8.1.5.9 All respondents agreed that the level of information was appropriate, two of whom strongly agreed.

Question 16) Is there anything you hoped or expected to learn about MarramWind at this consultation that we did not present, please share.

- 8.1.5.10 One respondent suggested that they have a different idea from the landfall suggestions, which they would like to share. Another respondent was disappointed that their previous concerns were not directly responded to at previous consultations.

### 8.1.6 About you

Question 17) Where do you live?

- 8.1.6.1 Two respondents are from Peterhead, one from Nether Kinmundy.

Question 18) Please tick the following, as appropriate to your status.

- 8.1.6.2 Two respondents are local residents; one a member of the fishing community the other a landowner. The third respondent is a member of the community council.

## 8.2 Summary of views raised at the in-person consultation event

- 8.2.1.1 An in-person drop-in event was held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at the Palace Hotel in Peterhead. This event attracted 37 attendees.
- 8.2.1.2 A summary of the comments raised at the two events held is included below.

### Onshore infrastructure

- 8.2.1.3 Concerns were raised about the proposed routeing, citing the proximity to properties and the impact on landowners.
- 8.2.1.4 Residents noted the volume of overlapping Projects in the area, and they perceived that there was limited coordination between Project teams.
- 8.2.1.5 A visitor raised concerns about the scale of the onshore substation and requested clarity on when detailed designs will be available. Specific issues were noted regarding the intersection with the Burn of Faichfield and the necessary above-ground infrastructure such as link boxes and joint bays.

### Community Benefit Fund

- 8.2.1.6 A community representative noted that Peterhead is the most populated area, and local community councils should have an input into the community benefit fund agenda.

## 8.3 Consideration of responses during the pre-application consultation process

### 8.3.1 The applicant's response to feedback received

- 8.3.1.1 The Applicant's responses to the key themes identified through formal written feedback during the third Statutory Consultation can be found in **Appendix 6**. This feedback has fed into the continued refinement of the Project and was presented to stakeholders in the form of a banner at the fourth Statutory Consultation.

### 8.3.2 How feedback at Statutory Consultation 3 fed into the development of the Project

- 8.3.2.1 The feedback received during the third Statutory Consultation has been fully considered as the Project continues to be developed ahead of the submission of the application. The Project has been refined to take this feedback into consideration, alongside previous stakeholder feedback and technical and environmental reports.

## Skills development and employment opportunities

### *Feedback:*

- 8.3.2.2 Suggestion that local people should have the opportunity to re-skill and gain employment.

### *Consideration of feedback in Project development*

- 8.3.2.3 The Applicant has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Energy Skills Accelerator and are exploring partnerships with skills and education institutions to identify relevant pathways.

## Visual impact of the onshore substation site

### *Feedback*

- 8.3.2.4 Concern that the high and expansive infrastructure will damage the landscape.

### *Consideration of feedback in Project development*

- 8.3.2.5 Onshore substation site Option B was selected as the proposed onshore substation site location.
- 8.3.2.6 The proposed onshore substation site location has been chosen to minimise proximity to residential properties. The more industrial nature of the A950 corridor offers a more compatible setting for the infrastructure compared to other site options.
- 8.3.2.7 This site lends itself to visual screening in a way that would avoid or reduce landscape and visual effects. This will help integrate the onshore substation site into the surrounding environment and enhance local biodiversity and landscape character over time.
- 8.3.2.8 Careful selection of colour, materials, and detailing ensure the onshore substation site's appearance complements its surroundings.

## Impact on nature and wildlife

### *Feedback*

- 8.3.2.9 Concern that the construction of the onshore substation site will result in the permanent loss of 40 acres of land and will affect wildlife.

### *Consideration of feedback in Project development*

- 8.3.2.10 The Project will use comprehensive data gathered to avoid areas identified as resting, roosting, commuting, or foraging sites for protected or notable species, and take into account sensitive seasonal periods to minimise disturbance.

## Impact on seabed and pollution

### *Feedback*

- 8.3.2.11 Concern that the Project will disturb the seabed and pollute the waters.

### *Consideration of feedback in Project development*

- 8.3.2.12 To ensure disturbance to the seabed is kept to a minimum, and in line with feedback, mooring and anchoring systems for the Project are being carefully selected to control and reduce environmental impact. These systems will comply with all relevant regulations, including those related to navigational safety, and will take into account potential effects on the seabed and marine ecosystems.
- 8.3.2.13 The seabed will be surveyed and prepared to remove obstacles such as debris and boulders. Wherever feasible, cables will be buried 1–2m beneath the seabed using specialised cable-laying vessels. This approach helps to minimise change to marine habitats that could occur from surface-laid cables as this would introduce hard substrates or materials in what is currently a mainly sandy seabed environment.

## Impact on fishing

### *Feedback*

- 8.3.2.14 Concern that the seabed will be disturbed and may impact shellfish populations and fishery activity and request to survey shellfish beds.

### *Consideration of feedback in Project development*

- 8.3.2.15 To understand more about the potential impact of subsea cables on shellfish populations, the Applicant has commissioned a strategic creel study focused on the Peterhead nearshore area. The aim of the study is to establish a high-resolution baseline of crab and lobster fisheries to provide a credible evidence base for future assessments of potential impacts of offshore wind on inshore fisheries activity.
- 8.3.2.16 We will look to engage other developers and local fisheries groups to shape the survey design, identify priority grounds, participate in data collection, and validate results to ensure local knowledge directly informs the process.

## 9. Responses to Statutory Consultation 4

This Chapter summarises the feedback received from consultees during the fourth Statutory Consultation and how it was considered in the development of the proposals, including the Applicant's response to the feedback.

### 9.1 Summary of the responses received

- 9.1.1.1 At this consultation, the Applicant presented how the Project had been updated following the three previous Statutory Consultations.
- 9.1.1.2 Six respondents provided written feedback during this Statutory Consultation period. Five feedback forms were submitted online. One respondent provided a hard copy written response which was handed in at the public drop-in event.
- 9.1.1.3 In addition to this, ongoing conversations were held with a wide range of key stakeholders and statutory organisations. These discussions were designed to maintain an open and transparent dialogue, enabling continuous feedback to be gathered and incorporated throughout the duration of the pre-application consultation process.
- 9.1.1.4 The consultation material and the Applicant's response to feedback at Statutory Consultation 4 can be found in **Appendix 7**. Following full analysis of the feedback form responses received, findings are outlined below.

#### Question 1) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- 9.1.1.5 **Offshore wind will play a crucial role in addressing the worst impacts relating to climate change.**
- 9.1.1.6 Two respondents strongly agreed with this statement, three strongly disagreed.
- 9.1.1.7 **Offshore wind can bring a range of economic benefits to Scotland and the UK.**
- 9.1.1.8 Two respondents strongly agreed with this statement, one disagreed and two strongly disagreed.
- 9.1.1.9 **Offshore wind has a significant role to play in the future of Scotland and the UK's energy security and affordability.**
- 9.1.1.10 Two respondents strongly agreed with this statement, one disagreed and two strongly disagreed.

#### Question 2) What impact do you think MarramWind could have on the below topics

- 9.1.1.11 **Commercial fisheries**
- 9.1.1.12 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.13 **Wildlife and natural environment**

- 9.1.1.14 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.15 **Jobs and the local economy**
- 9.1.1.16 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have no impact.
- 9.1.1.17 **Tourism**
- 9.1.1.18 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.19 **Landscape**
- 9.1.1.20 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.21 **Community wellbeing**
- 9.1.1.22 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.23 **Local infrastructure and transport**
- 9.1.1.24 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.25 **Cultural heritage**
- 9.1.1.26 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.
- 9.1.1.27 **Recreation**
- 9.1.1.28 Two respondents believed the Project would have a positive impact, and three believed it would have a negative impact.

### Question 3) Please explain the reason/s for your answers to Question 2.

- 9.1.1.29 Residents raised concern about the impact of the onshore substation site on the rural environment and the loss of farmland. Traffic, noise and impact on views were the biggest areas of concern.

### Question 4) Do you have any comments to make on the offshore aspect of our proposed Project?

- 9.1.1.30 Residents raised concern about the impact on fishermen, and navigation around the windfarm.

### Question 5) Do you have any comments to make on the onshore aspect of our proposed Project?

- 9.1.1.31 Residents asked if it could be built somewhere else, e.g., Aberdeen, and raised concerns about the visual impact of the onshore substation site on residents in Longside.

## Question 6) Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the Project or our engagement with the community

- 9.1.1.32 One resident raised concern that there were no feedback forms available at Buchan House, although noting that the booklets were available.
- 9.1.1.33 Two respondents noted their objection to the Project.

### Where do you live?

- 9.1.1.34 Three respondents live in Longside and one lives in Burnside.

### Please tick the following, as appropriate to your status

- 9.1.1.35 Four respondents gave answers to this question, all of whom were local residents. One respondent was also a landowner, and another was a business owner.

## 9.1.2 Summary of written feedback (not on feedback form)

- 9.1.2.1 One respondent provided written feedback with specific reference to impact on fishing.
- 9.1.2.2 The feedback raised concerns about the lack of consultation from other developers in the area with inshore fishing industry representatives but that MarramWind has taken an open and collaborative approach to engagement with the same group.
- 9.1.2.3 Concern was raised about the volume of power cables across multiple developments in the area and the potential significant implications for Peterhead inshore fishing fleet.
- 9.1.2.4 The respondent requested that baseline surveys are carried out, as soon as possible, to assess the effect of cables on inshore shellfish stocks.

## 9.2 Summary of views raised at the in-person consultation event

- 9.2.1.1 An in-person public drop-in event was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at Longside Football Club. This event was attended by 27 members of the public, two of whom were representatives from Peterhead Community Council.

### Landfall

- 9.2.1.2 Concerns were raised about the concentration of multiple Projects utilising the same landfall location. They were concerned that Projects could be under construction at the same time and render the beach unusable for walkers and visitors.

### Project timeline

- 9.2.1.3 Residents were interested to hear the timeline for construction of the wind farm. They were particularly interested to hear when the onshore substation site and export cables would be constructed.

### Cable route

- 9.2.1.4 A number of visitors asked questions regarding the onshore export cable route from the onshore substation site to the Netherton Hub.



## 9.3 Consideration of responses during the pre-application consultation process

- 9.3.1.1 The Applicant's response to the key themes identified during the fourth Statutory Consultation can be found in **Appendix 7**. The feedback given during this round of Statutory Consultation has fed into the continued refinement of the Project ahead of the submission of the EIA.

### 9.3.2 How feedback at Statutory Consultation 4 fed into the development of the Project

- 9.3.2.1 The feedback received during the fourth Statutory Consultation has been fully considered as the Project continues to be developed ahead of the submission of the application.
- 9.3.2.2 The fourth Statutory Consultation was an opportunity to share how the Project had developed following feedback during previous Statutory Consultations. The consultation material presented the final proposed Project to residents in advance of planning submission. Feedback received during this consultation enabled refinement of design and mitigation measures.

## Landfall

### Feedback

- 9.3.2.3 Concerns were raised about the concentration of multiple Projects utilising the same landfall location. They were concerned that Projects could be under construction at the same time and render the beach unusable for walkers and visitors.

### Consideration of feedback in Project development

- 9.3.2.4 A broad grid connection location was identified by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) through their holistic network design (HND) that explored different options to improve the coordination of offshore wind farms and their associated transmission networks. The project has responded to the location identified by NESO and subsequently SSSEN.
- 9.3.2.5 The landfall construction has been designed to minimise any disruption to beach users. Landfall selection is based on a range of environmental, social and commercial variables including landowner negotiations and competition for space with other developers. Two options for landfall are being submitted as part of the EIA. Maintaining flexibility between Scotstown and Lunderton allows the Applicant to deliver the infrastructure needed for a 3GW windfarm, while minimising environmental impacts.
- 9.3.2.6 Taking into account feedback from beach users, alongside technical reports, the decision has been made that landfall export cable infrastructure will be installed below ground using HDD (or similar trenchless technique). The export cable entry point would be located within a fenced off, temporary construction compound, and the export cable exit point would be on the seabed a short distance from shore. Consequently, it is not envisaged that onshore / landfall infrastructure, either during construction or for the operational phase, will restrict access or cut off access to the coast.

## Fisheries

### Feedback

- 9.3.2.7 Fishing community representatives raised concerns about the volume of cables across multiple developments and their potential significant implications for Peterhead inshore fishing fleet.
- 9.3.2.8 Concern about loss of access within floating wind arrays, navigation safety, electromagnetic field (EMF) effects from HVAC cables, and displacement impacts from non-UK vessels
- 9.3.2.9 Concern about compensation and coexistence particularly overlapping survey campaigns and the complexity of compensation processes.

### Consideration of feedback in Project development

- 9.3.2.10 To understand more about the potential impact of subsea cables on shellfish populations, the Applicant has commissioned a strategic creel study focused on the Peterhead nearshore area. The aim of the study is to establish a high-resolution baseline of crab and lobster fisheries to provide a credible evidence base for future assessments of potential impacts of offshore wind on inshore fisheries activity. The Applicant has held preliminary discussions with other developers after this issue was raised during Statutory Consultation 3.
- 9.3.2.11 We will engage further with other developers and local fisheries groups to shape the survey design, identify priority grounds, participate in data collection, and validate results to ensure local knowledge directly informs the process.
- 9.3.2.12 The Applicant has committed to ongoing engagement with fishing industry representatives, sharing corridor options, and conducting desktop studies as well as specific actions including sharing cable route coordinates, seabed hazard information, and overlaying fishing plotter data.
- 9.3.2.13 The Project committed to sharing cable route coordinates, exploring offshore substations, reviewing mooring designs to minimise footprint, considering burial of inter-array cables, and incorporating mitigation measures in the EIA.

## 10. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 10.1.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a range of engagement activities to ensure that communities and stakeholders with an interest in the Project are well-informed about the emerging development proposal and have had the opportunity to share their views.
- 10.1.1.2 The pre-application process was planned to include two Statutory Consultations. As the 18-month timeframe from PoAN to planning application lapsed, a new notice was submitted, and two further rounds of Statutory Consultation were held.
- 10.1.1.3 This PAC Report summarises and evidences all community engagement activity in accordance with relevant regulations as outlined in **Chapter 2** (Legislative Context). The Project Team has conducted a broad range of additional engagement with stakeholders that falls beyond the scope of these legislative requirements.
- 10.1.1.4 This report has been submitted to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate as part of the consent applications. The Applicant remains committed to ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the application process, as well as during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Project, to ensure open communication and collaboration.
- 10.1.1.5 If consented to and approved for construction, the MarramWind Offshore Wind farm is anticipated to commence construction in the early 2030's, with operations expected to begin in mid 2030's.
- 10.1.1.6 All information shared during Statutory Consultations, the Applicant's responses to feedback raised, and the Applicant's compliance with offshore and onshore legislation can be found in the Appendices.

### 10.2 Submission of consents applications

- 10.2.1.1 The applications and relevant supporting documents will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate in Q4 2025. Once verified, the relevant documents will be published online and made publicly available on the websites of Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate.
- 10.2.1.2 The MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Project website will be updated with web links to the relevant documents on the Aberdeenshire Council and Marine Directorate websites.
- 10.2.1.3 A printed copy of the relevant documents will be made available for public inspection at the council offices building, Buchan House, St Peter Street, Peterhead, AB42 1QF.
- 10.2.1.4 A printed copy of the relevant documents or any part thereof will also be able to be obtained by the public upon request to the Applicant via its website.

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