



13. Other Marine Users

13.1. Study Area Definition

This chapter of the Scoping Report describes the potential impacts arising from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) hereafter referred to as 'the Project' on other marine users. This chapter considers the following marine users:

- Offshore wind farms (OWF);
- Other power and telecommunication cables;
- Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) and natural gas storage sites;
- Disposal sites;
- Aggregate extraction sites;
- Chemical weapon and munitions disposal sites;
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) Practice Exercise Areas (PEXA);
- Oil and gas operations;
- Recreational activities (note that recreational boating is also covered in Chapter 11 - Shipping and Navigation); and
- Angling – including chartered anglers (note that commercial fishing is also covered in Chapter 12 - Commercial Fisheries).

The Scoping Boundary for the Project extends from MHWS in England to MHWS in Scotland. It is nominally 1 km wide, 500 m either side of the centreline, however, it widens in areas where there is still optionality in the design e.g., to allow for micro-routing around potential seabed features. It is anticipated that the Marine Licence application boundary will ultimately be 500 m following refinement and rationalisation as the MEA and design process evolves.

There are two proposed Landfalls in England being considered at this stage of the environmental assessment process; Anderby Creek and Theddlethorpe. These options will be subject to further technical feasibility work and stakeholder consultation and will be refined to one preferred option for inclusion in the subsequent Marine Licence application for the Project.

The Study Area for this receptor includes the Scoping Boundary plus an additional 15 km buffer to either side. This is a precautionary maximum zone of influence that encompasses the potential impact pathways from increased suspended sediment concentrations. It will be reviewed and refined for the MEA based on maximum tidal excursions and if appropriate sediment dispersion modelling. The zone of influence will be determined by the conclusions of Chapter 6 – Marine Physical Processes, and this chapter should be read in conjunction with these findings.

Kilometre Points (KPs) are used throughout this Chapter to provide context as to where within the Study Area a feature lies. KP 0 is defined at the Anderby Creek Landfall. As there are still alternative Landfalls being considered, KPs have been created along the longest route from the proposed English Landfall at Anderby Creek, around the Holderness Offshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) to the proposed Scottish Landfall at Sandford Bay. The KPs for this route are referenced as KP0 – KP575.3. Alternative options, which branch off this longest route, are routed from the proposed English Landfall at Theddlethorpe to the point where it converges with the longest route (referenced as T_KP0 to T_KP18); and through Holderness Offshore MCZ, which is referenced as KP0 to H_KP40.

13.2. Data Sources

Data sourced for the baseline characterisation will be presented in accordance with relevant guidance for the topic. The datasets that will be used to inform the description of the baseline environment for the MEA are described in the following sub-sections.

13.2.1. Site-specific Survey Data

Extensive information is available regarding other marine users of the North Sea. Following a detailed review to inform the scope of the data and assessment, as presented, no site-specific surveys are planned for this topic.

13.2.2. Publicly Available Data

Desk based review of publicly available data sources (literature and GIS mapping files) would be used to describe the baseline environment. Table 13-1 lists the key data sources which would be used in the assessment.



Table 13-1: Key publicly available data sources for other marine users

Data Source	Description	Coverage	
		English Study Area	Scottish Study Area
The Crown Estate (TCE)	OWF lease agreement areas, Marine Aggregate sites, Carbon Capture and Storage sites, Natural Gas Storage sites (The Crown Estate, 2023)	✓	
Crown Estate Scotland (CES)	OWF lease agreement areas, wave and tidal agreements, aquaculture sites, marine aggregate sites (Crown Estate Scotland, 2023)		✓
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Data sources for licensed aggregate and disposal sites and OWFs.	✓	
Marine Scotland	National Marine Plan Interactive Tool		✓
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)	Data sources for licensed aggregate and disposal sites and OWFs.		✓
KIS-ORCA	KIS-ORCA data is available free of charge to skippers and includes Northern European cables and UK renewable energy structures (KIS-ORCA, 2022)	✓	✓
North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA), Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning	Hosts data on current and historical oil and gas infrastructure (Oil & Gas Interactive, 2023)	✓	✓
EMODnet (2023)	EMODnet is a consortium of organisations assembling European marine data, data products and metadata from diverse sources in a uniform way. In this chapter human activities data will be used such as aggregates, disposal, and offshore windfarm sites.	✓	✓
European Subsea Cable Association (ESCA)	Information for developers on offshore renewable and submarine cable infrastructure (ESCA, 2023).	✓	✓
Royal Yachting Association (RYA)	UK Coastal Atlas of Recreational Boating (RYA, 2019)	✓	✓

13.2.3. Additional Studies

No additional studies are proposed to be undertaken for this topic.

13.3. Consultation

Consultation will be undertaken with other marine users to supplement the desk-top review and studies. The following bodies will be consulted, as a minimum, to ensure that the most up-to-date information is collated:

Table 13-2: List of stakeholders to be consulted

England	Scotland
MMO	MD-LOT
Environment Agency	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
TCE	CES



England	Scotland
MoD	MoD
OPRED	OPRED
NSTA	NSTA
Offshore Energies UK (OEUK)	OEUK
British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA)	BMAPA
RYA	RYA Scotland
Offshore Wind Farm owners	Offshore Wind Farm owners
Third-party asset owners (e.g., pipelines, power and telecommunication cables) which the Offshore Scheme crosses.	Third-party asset owners (e.g., pipelines, power and telecommunication cables) which the Offshore Scheme crosses.

13.4. Baseline Characterisation

13.4.1. Introduction

This section has been split into the following sub-sections.

- English baseline characterisation
- Scottish baseline characterisation

The baseline characterisation sections include information on: OWFs, power and telecommunication cables, CCS and natural gas storage sites, dredge and spoil disposal sites, aggregate extraction sites, chemical weapon and munitions disposal sites, PEXAs, oil and gas operations and recreational activities.

13.4.2. English Baseline KP 0 – KP 431.4

13.4.2.1. Offshore Wind Farms

There are six operational or planned OWF in proximity of the Project within the English Study Area as shown in Figure 13-1 (Drawing C01494-EGL3-INFR-003). Table 13-3 shows the distance from the Scoping Boundary to the OWFs within the English Study Area.

Table 13-3: Distance from Scoping Boundary to existing or planned OWFs within the English Study Area

OWF name	Operator	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary	Project could cross OWF export cables
Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm	Humber Wind Limited, operator RWE Renewables and Greencoat UK Wind Plc	Fully operational 2015	14.6 km	No
Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm	Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, owner J-POWER/Electric Power Development Co. LTD, Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc	Fully operational 2022.	8 km	No
Lincs Offshore Wind Farm	Ørsted A/S, Equitix Ltd, Octopus Energy Generation & Corio Generation	Fully operational 2010.	6.5 km	No
Inner Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited & Equitix Ltd	Fully operational 2009.	8.3 km	No
Lynn Offshore Wind Farm	BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited & Equitix Ltd	Fully operational 2009.	14.8 km	No
Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm	TotalEnergies SE, Corio Generation, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan	Application is expected to be submitted to the	13.5 km	Yes (see table below)



OWF name	Operator	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary	Project could cross OWF export cables
		Planning Inspectorate Q1 2024		

13.4.2.2. Power and Telecommunications Cables

Within the English Study Area there are two operational interconnectors, three planned interconnectors, three planned reinforcement power cable projects, seven active telecommunication cables, 15 cables from operational OWF for Hornsea Projects 1 & 2 OWFs, Lynn, Inner Dowsing, Lincs and Triton Knoll OWFs, and a further eight OWFs whose export cables will cross or potentially cross the Scoping Boundary. All these cables are listed in Table 13-4. These cables are illustrated in Figure 13-1 (Drawing C01494-EGL3-INFR_003).

Table 13-4: Distance from Scoping Boundary to existing or planned power or telecommunication cables within English Study Area

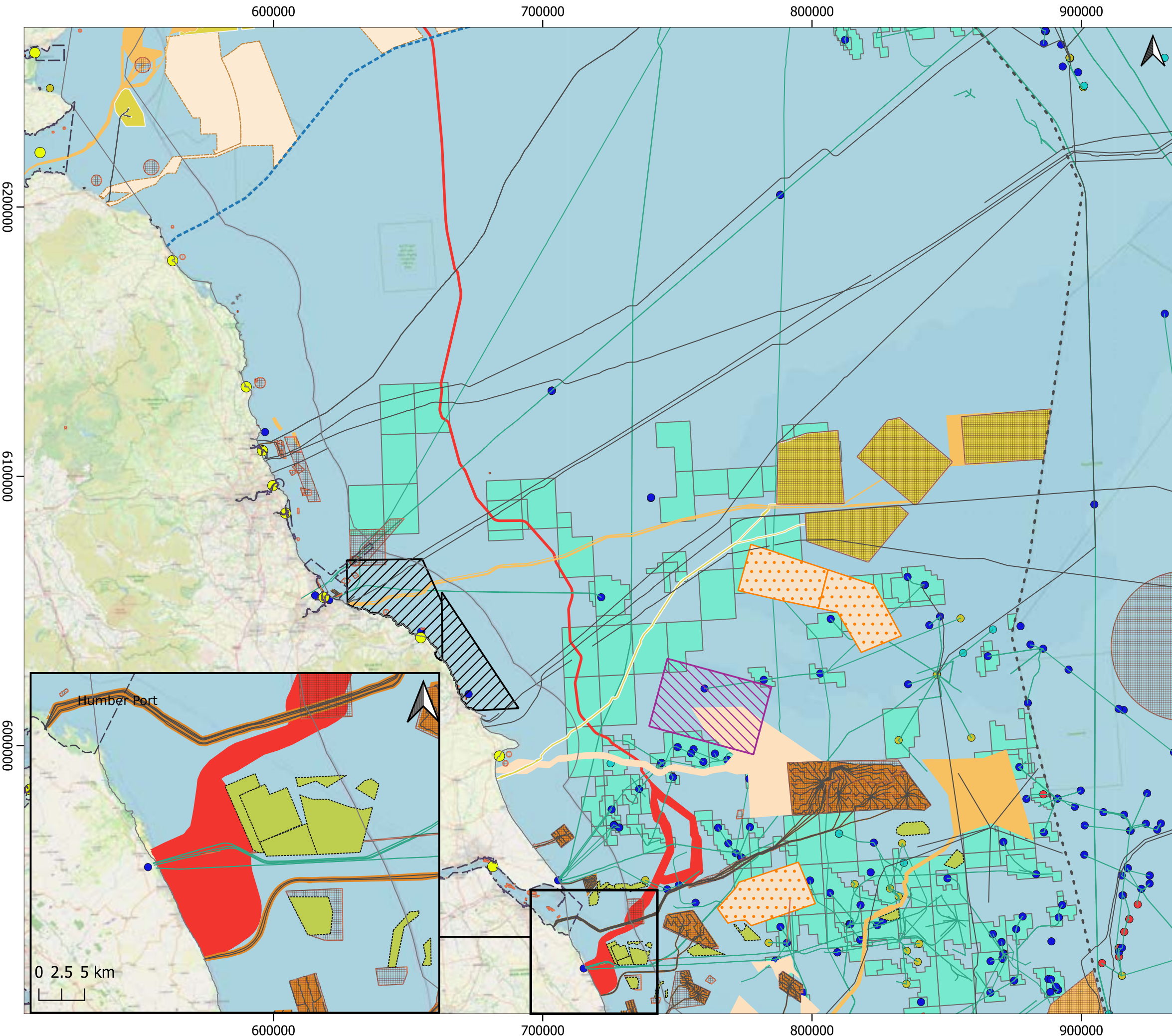
Cable Name and Developer	Type	Project information	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
Viking Link – Energinet DK and National Grid	Interconnector	Operational	Crosses
North Sea Link	Interconnector	Operational	Crosses
Scotland England Green Link 2 [National Grid and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks]	Reinforcement power cable	Application submitted to MMO 2022. Marine Scotland Licence granted July 2023. Construction due to start Autumn 2024 to 2029. MS Application Ref: 00009943	4.7 km
Nu-Link / SENECA [Nu-Link Consortium – Frontier Power]	Interconnector	Connection agreement at Mablethorpe Substation. Connection between UK and Netherlands (Offshore Energy, 2023). OFGEM licence granted 2023	Potentially crosses
Aminth [Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners]	Interconnector	Landfall at Mablethorpe. Connection between UK and Denmark. The project is expected to reach a final investment decision in 2026 and the start of operations between 2030 and 2032 (Offshore Energy, 2023a). OFGEM licence granted 2023	Potentially crosses
Continental Link Multi-Purpose Interconnector [National Grid Ventures]	Interconnector	Pre-Application Application is expected to be submitted Q2 2025 Connection between UK and Norway.	Potentially crosses
Eastern Green Link 4 [NGET and Scottish Power Transmission]	Reinforcement power cable	Pre-Application Application is expected to be submitted 2025. Connection between Scotland and England. Construction to be completed by 2031.	Crosses
Lynn and Inner Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm export cables [GLID Wind Farms]	Six export cables	Fully operational	10 km
Lincs Offshore Wind Farm export cable [Ørsted]	One export cable	Fully operational	10 km
Triton Knoll	Two export cables	Fully operational	Partially Crosses



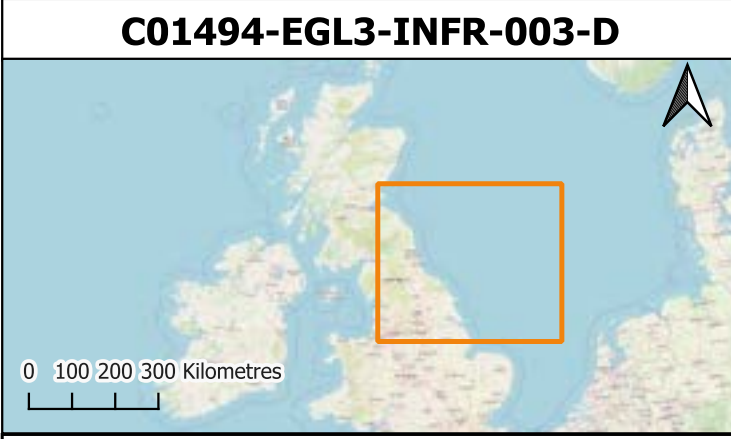
Cable Name and Developer	Type	Project information	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
[Equitix and TEPCO Power Grid]			
Hornsea Project 1 & 2 Offshore wind farm Export cables [OFTO - Diamond Transmission Partners Hornsea One Ltd, OFTO for Hornsea Project 2 is still at ITT stage]	Six export cables	Fully operational	Crosses
Hornsea Project 4 Offshore Wind Farm cables [Orsted]	Export cables (assumed x3)	Development Consent Order application approved in July 2023	Crosses
Dogger Bank A Offshore Wind Farm Export cables [SSE]	Export cables (assumed x2)	Under construction	Crosses
Dogger Bank B [SSE Renewables, Equinor and Vårgrønn]	Export cables (assumed x2)	Under Construction	Crosses
Dogger Bank C [SSE Renewables, Equinor and Vårgrønn]	Export cables (assumed x3)	Development Consent Order Granted in 2015	Crosses
Sofia [RWE]	Export cables (assumed x2)	Development Consent Order Granted in 2015	Crosses
Outer Dowsing Offshore Windfarm [Green Investment Group and TotalEnergies]	Export cables (assumed x2)	Pre – Application Application is expected to be submitted in Q1 2024	Potentially crosses
Dogger Bank South West [RWE]	Export cables (assumed x2)	Pre – Application Application is expected to be submitted in Q2 2024	Potentially crosses
Dogger Bank South East [RWE]	Export cables (assumed x2)	Pre – Application Application is expected to be submitted in Q2 2024	Potentially crosses
Havhingsten [Aquacomms]	Telecom	Active	Crosses
PANGEA NORTH [ASN]	Telecom	Active	Crosses
TATA NORTH EUROPE [EU Networks]	Telecom	Active	Crosses
UK-DENMARK 4 [BT]	Telecom	Active	Crosses
UK-GERMANY 6 [BT]	Telecom	Active	Crosses
NO UK [Altibox]	Telecom	Active	Crosses
CANTAT 3 F4 [Faroese Telecom]	Telecom	Active	Crosses



Figure 13-1: Other marine users with the English Study Area (Drawing C01494-EGL3-INFR_003)



Other Marine Users Within The English Study Area



- C01494-EGL3-INFR-003-D**
- - - Exclusive Economic Zone Limit (EEZ)
 - 12NM Limit
 - - - Scottish Adjacent Waters
 - █ EGL 3 Scoping Boundary
 - Dredging
 - Cable
 - ▨ Carbon Capture And Storage Site Agreement
 - ▨ Aggregate Site Agreement
 - ▨ Mining Site Agreement
 - ▨ Disposal Site
 - Oil & Gas Offshore Installation
 - Closed down
 - Decommissioned
 - Operational
 - Removed
 - Under construction
 - █ NSTA Licensed Block
 - Pipeline
 - - - UK Port Limit
 - Offshore Wind
 - █ Active/In Operation
 - █ Under Construction
 - █ Consented
 - █ In Planning
 - ▨ Pre-planning Application
 - ▨ Round 4 Preferred Project
- 0 10 20 NM
0 10 20 KM

Date 09/10/2023
Coordinate System ETRS89 / UTM Zone 30N
Projection Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)
Unit Meters
Scale at A3 1:1,400,000
Created J Cunningham
Reviewed D Summers/ S Pearce
Authorised A Farley
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13.4.2.3. Disposal Sites

There are 13 disposal sites in proximity of the Scoping Boundary within the English Study Area as shown in Figure 13-1 (Drawing C01494-EGL3-INFR_003). Table 13-5 shows the distance from the Scoping Boundary to these sites.

Table 13-5: Distance from Scoping Boundary to disposal sites within the English Study Area

Disposal Site Name	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
Hornsea 2A, HU209	Closed	Crosses
Hornsea 1, HU205	Open	2.1 km
Spurn Head, HU100	Closed	Crosses
Triton Knoll, HU204	Closed	7.3 km
West of Inner Dowsing Bank, HU200	Not for waste disposal	2.9 km
Sheringham Shoal Drillings, HU123	Closed	6.6 km
North West Zone Area 107, HU149	Closed	13.8 km
Wash Bank, HU114	Closed	8.6 km
Pickerhill Field, HU116	Closed	Crosses
Adjacent to South Basin Gas, HU115	Closed	Crosses
New Sand Hole, HU070	Closed	11.5 km
Babbage, HU203	Closed	14.8 km
Tyne Burial Site, TY193	Closed	9.5 km

Source: EmodNET (2023)

13.4.2.4. Aggregate Extraction Sites

There are eight aggregate extraction sites in proximity of the Scoping Boundary within the English Study Area as shown in Figure 13-1 (Drawing C01494-EGL3-INFR_003). Table 13-6 shows the distance from the Scoping Boundary to these sites.

Table 13-6: Distance from Scoping Boundary to aggregate extraction sites within the English Study Area

Site Name and ID	Site owner	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
Area 197	Tarmac Marine Ltd.	Active	0.9 km
Area 493	Tarmac Marine Ltd.	Active	0 km*
Area 400	Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd.	Active	0.8 km
Areas 106/1, 106/2, 106/3	Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd.	Active	7 km
Areas 481/1 and 481/2	Van Oord Ltd.	Active	14.6 km
Areas 514/1, 514/2, 514/3, 514/4	CEMEX UK Marine Ltd.	Active	0.8 km
Area 515/1 and 515/2	Westminster Gravels Ltd.	Active	19.7 km
Area 1805	Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd.	Exploration	3 km

* Although the Scoping Boundary overlaps with Area 493, the proposed submarine cable corridor will not enter the marine aggregate site.

Source: EmodNET (2023)

13.4.2.5. Chemical Weapons and Munitions disposal sites

There are no chemical weapon or munition disposal sites that lie within the Scoping Boundary. However, UXO munitions are frequently found in the North Sea.



13.4.2.6. MoD Practice and Exercise Area (PEXA)

There are 16 MoD PEXA within the English Study Area. It is not possible for the proposed submarine cable corridor to avoid all of these. Table 13-7 lists all these sites.



Table 13-7: MoD PEXA within the English Study Area

Name	Category	Information
D613D	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 10000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D207: HOLBEACH	Firing danger area, small arms firing range, surface danger area, range	Authority: DIO SD TRG; Maximum Altitude: 23000 0; Activity: B,F,DUO
D307: DONNA NOOK	Surface danger area, firing danger area	Authority: DIO SD TRG; Maximum Altitude: 20000 0; Activity: F,B
D323F	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 25000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D323C	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 5000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D323D	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 5000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
X5309: ROWLSTON	Firing danger area, small arms firing range, surface danger area	Authority: ARMY DEPT; Activity: F
D323B	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 5000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D323E	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 25000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D323A	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 5000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D323G	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 25000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D412: STAXTON	Surface danger area, firing danger area	Authority: HQ Air; Maximum Altitude: 10000 0; Activity: AAF
D513B: DRURIDGE BAY	Surface danger area, firing danger area	Authority: HQ Air; Maximum Altitude: 23000 0; Activity: F
D513: DRURIDGE BAY	Surface danger area, firing danger area	Authority: HQ Air; Maximum Altitude: 10000 0; Activity: F
D513A: DRURIDGE BAY	Surface danger area, firing danger area	Authority: HQ Air; Maximum Altitude: 23000 0; Activity: F
D513B	Firing danger area	Firing Practice Area

13.4.2.7. Oil & Gas operations

There are 13 active pipelines which cross the proposed submarine cable corridor within the English Study Area and nine which are not in use or abandoned. These pipelines are listed in Table 13-8 and illustrated in Figure 13-1 (Drawing C01494-EGL3-INFR_003).

Table 13-8: Oil and Gas pipeline crossings within the English Study Area

Name	Type	Status
AMETHYST A2D TO EASINGTON	Gas	Not in use
AMETHYST C1D TO AMETHYST A1D	Gas	Not in use
BREAGH 20INCH GAS PIPELINE - PART 1	Gas	Active
BREAGH 3INCHMEG PIPELINE - PART 1	Chemical	Active
CLEETON CP TO DIMLINGTON	Gas	Active
CLEETON TO MINERVA UMBILICAL	Hydraulic	Active
EKOFISK 2/4J TO TEESSIDE	Oil	Active



Name	Type	Status
EVEREST TO TEESIDE 36IN GAS EXPORT	Gas	Active
LANGELED PIPELINE	Gas	Active
LOGGS PP TO THEDDLETHORPE GAS LINE	Gas	Not in use
LOGGS PP TO THEDDLETHORPE MEOH LINE	Chemical	Not in use
PICKERALL A TO THEDDLETHORPE	Chemical	Not in use
MINERVA TO CLEETON PIGGY	Methanol	Active
MINERVA TO CLEETON GAS EXPORT	Gas	Active
NEPTUNE TO MERCURY PIPELINE	Gas	Active
NEPTUNE TO MERCURY UMBILICAL	Hydraulic	Active
THEDDLETHORPE TO MURDOCH MD	Gas	Not in use
THEDDLETHORPE TO MURDOCH MD MEOH LINE	Methanol	Not in use
VIKING AR TO THEDDLETHORPE GAS LINE	Gas	Not in use
VIKING AR TO THEDDLETHORPE MEOH LINE	Chemical	Not in use
WEST SOLE TO EASINGTON 16IN GAS LINE	Gas	Active
WEST SOLE TO EASINGTON 24IN GAS LINE	Gas	Active

Source: NSTA (2023)

As well as the pipelines that are in the North Sea, there are a number of licensed oil and gas blocks which the proposed submarine cable corridor will pass through. Below is a list of these license blocks for the English Study Area.

- 47/9
- 47/4
- 42/29
- 42/28
- 42/27
- 42/22
- 42/17
- 42/12
- 42/7
- 42/1
- 41/5
- 41/4
- 35/29
- 35/24
- 35/23



13.4.2.8. CCS and Natural Gas storage

There are two CCS projects at the planning stage which are within the English Study Area. These projects are called Viking CCS project which is led by Harbour Energy, and Endurance which is a partnership of BP, Eni, National Grid, Shell and Total. The proposed Endurance site is 12.3 km away from the Scoping Boundary.

There are plans from the UK Government for many more to be implemented within the North Sea region. Figure 13-2, from The Crown Estate illustrates the potential CCS within the UK.

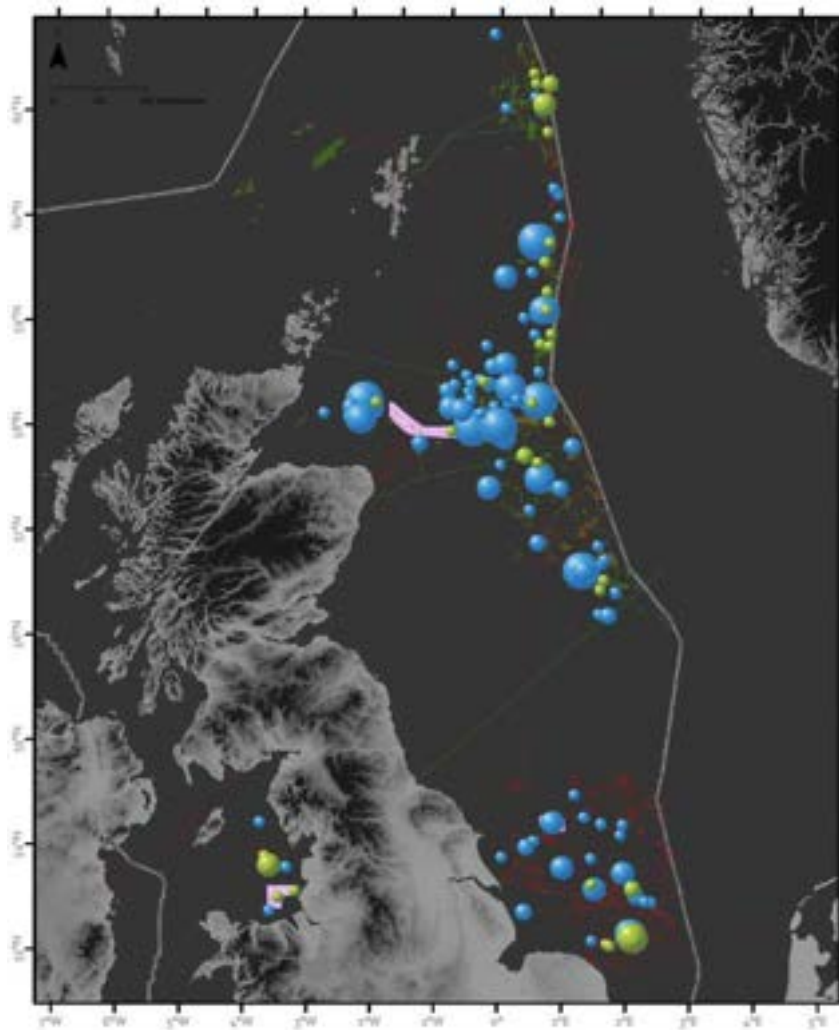


Figure 13-2: Map of Potential UK Offshore CO₂ Storage Sites. Source: The Crown Estate (2021)

13.4.2.9. Recreational activities

Bathing waters

There are seven designated 'bathing waters' close to the proposed landfalls in the English Study Area which are listed in Table 13-9, all of which were classified as having excellent bathing water status in 2022/23. Consultation with the Environment Agency identified that the entire coastline within the Scoping Boundary between Theddlethorpe and Anderby Creek is considered a bathing water.



Table 13-9: Bathing waters within the English Study Area

Bathing Water Name	Area	Year of Designation	Status (2022/2023)	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
Mablethorpe Town	Lincolnshire	1988	Excellent	Within
Sutton-on-Sea	Lincolnshire	1988	Excellent	Within
Moggs Eye	Lincolnshire	1988	Excellent	Within
Anderby	Lincolnshire	1988	Excellent	0.8 km (Anderby Creek Landfall)
Chapel St Leonard's	Lincolnshire	1988	Excellent	4.9 km (Anderby Creek Landfall)
Ingoldmells South	Lincolnshire	1988	Excellent	9.3 km (Anderby Creek Landfall)
Skegness	Lincolnshire	1990	Excellent	14 km

Source: Gov.UK, 2023

SCUBA Diving

There is evidence that there is recreational SCUBA diving which takes place along the east and northeast coast of England, associated with wrecks but also for marine environmental research (Seasearch, 2023).

Sailing and Cruising

The east and northeast coast of England is a popular area to sail with many RYA sailing clubs along this coastline. The RYA Coastal Atlas (RYA, 2019) identifies the study area as of low to medium-use for recreational sailing.

Water Sports

The east and northeast coast of England have seasonal recreational water sports utilising its coastal waters including surfing, paddleboarding, canoeing, kite surfing, sailboarding, foiling and water skiing.

Angling

There are a number of chartered fishing vessels along the east and northeast coast which run fishing trips during the winter months aiming to catch cod, skate and whiting and in the spring, summer and autumn targeting cod, ling and pollock.

13.4.3. Scottish Baseline KP 431.4 – KP 575.3

13.4.3.1. Offshore Wind Farms

There are 16 operational or planned OWF within the Scottish Study Area as shown in Figure 13-2 (Drawing: C01494-EGL3-INFR-004). Table 13-10 shows the distance from the Scoping Boundary to these OWFs. Although some of the OWFs listed are more than 15 km away from the Project we have noted them as there is a possibility that their export cables will intersect with the EGL 3 cable route.

Table 13-10: Distance from proposed submarine cable corridor to existing or planned OWFs within the Scottish Study Area

OWF name	Operator	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary	Project could cross OWF export cables
Buchan Deep Demo site (also known as Hywind)	Hywind (Scotland) Ltd Equinor ASA, Masdar	Floating windfarm commissioned in 2017.	9.6 km	No
Morven Windfarm, also known as Plan Option Area E1, Phoenix 1A+1B (TEC Register)	BP plc, EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG	Pre-Planning	1.8 km	Possibly
Ossian Wind Farm	SSE Renewables, Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corporation (Marubeni) and	Pre-Planning	2.4 km	Yes



OWF name	Operator	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary	Project could cross OWF export cables
	Danish fund management company Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP)			
Bellrock, also known as Plan Option Area E1, Gemini	Renantis (formerly Falck Renewables), BlueFloat Energy	Pre-Planning	30.7 km	Yes
Campion Wind	Shell Wind Energy Ltd, & ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited	Pre-Planning	61.7 km	Yes
Muir Mhòr, also known as Mara Mhor (changed name September 2022), Plan Option Area E2, Cumhachd Cumhachd Ri Teachd 2A, CRT-2A	A joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall	Pre-Planning	40.5 km	Yes
Bowdun Offshore Wind farm also known as Cluaran Deas Ear, Plan Option Area E3	Thistle Wind Partners DEME CONCESSIONS NV, Qair Marine (formerly Quadran Energies Marines), Aspiravi Holding NV	Pre-Planning	5.9 km	No

13.4.3.2. Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG)

Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) is a Scottish leasing round for offshore wind projects that will directly reduce emissions from oil & gas production and boost further innovation. Developers are able to apply for seabed rights to build offshore wind projects that fall into two different categories: IN – which are small scale, innovative projects, of less than 100 MW designed to further progress innovative technology such as the production of hydrogen on offshore wind platforms; and TOG – which are projects connected directly to oil and gas infrastructure, to provide electricity and reduce the carbon emissions associated with production (Crown Estate Scotland, 2023a).

So far there are five IN projects who have exclusivity agreements in place, eight TOG projects are expected to sign exclusivity agreements later this year. There are two IN projects which are within the Scottish Study Area. These are illustrated in Figure 13-2 (Drawing: C01494-EGL3-INFR-004).

13.4.3.3. Power and Telecommunications Cables

Within the Scottish Study Area there is one planned interconnector, two planned reinforcement power cable projects and one active telecommunication cable. All of these cables are listed in Table 13-11. These cables are illustrated in Figure 13-2 (Drawing: C01494-EGL3-INFR-004).

A number of the Scotwind OWF export cables may cross or lie in proximity to the proposed submarine cable corridor, but this project data is not currently available.

Table 13-11: Distance from proposed submarine cable corridor to existing or planned power or telecommunication cables within Scottish Study Area

Cable Name and Developer	Type	Project information	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
North Connect KS	Interconnector	Partly Consented Application approved in Scottish waters in 2020, but Norway refused interconnector licence March 2023 (Energyworld.com, 2023). MS Application Ref: 06771 & 06870	Crosses



Cable Name and Developer	Type	Project information	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
Scotland England Green Link 2 [National Grid and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks]	Reinforcement power cable	Application submitted to MMO 2022. Marine Scotland Licence granted July 2023. Construction due to start Autumn 2024 to 2029. MS Application Ref: 00009943	Within Scottish landfall Scoping Boundary
TAMPNET CNSFTC	Telecom	Active	Crosses

13.4.3.4. Disposal Sites

There are five disposal sites in proximity of the Scoping Boundary within the Scottish Study Area as shown in Figure 13-2 (Drawing: C01494-EGL3-INFR-004). Table 13-12 shows the distance from the Scoping Boundary to these sites.

Table 13-12: Distance from the Scoping Boundary to disposal sites within the Scottish Study Area

Disposal Site Name	Status	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
South Buchan Ness, CR100	Closed	Crosses
South Buchan Ness B, CR105	Closed	Crosses
Peterhead Harbour, CR071	Open	1.9 km
Middle Buchan Ness B, CR095	Closed	1.1 km
Notch Buchan Ness	Closed	1.2 km

Source: EmodNET (2023)

13.4.3.5. Aggregate Extraction Sites

There are no identified aggregate sites within the Scottish Study Area.

13.4.3.6. Chemical Weapons and Munitions disposal sites

There are no chemical weapon or munition disposal sites that lie within the Scoping Boundary. However, UXO munitions are frequently found in the North Sea.

13.4.3.7. MoD Practice and Exercise Area (PEXA)

There are 18 MoD PEXAs within the Scottish Study Area. It is not possible for the proposed submarine cable corridor to avoid all of these. Table 13- 3 lists these sites.

Table 13-13: MoD PEXAs within the Scottish Study Areas

Name	Category	Information
X5642: FORTH MIDDLE	submarine exercise area, practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Activity: Sub
X5641: FORTH OUTER	submarine exercise area, practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Activity: Sub
D613A	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 10000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D613B	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 10000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D613C	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 10000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
D613D	AIAA - Areas of Intense Aerial Activity	Authority: HQ Air; Minimum Flight Level: 10000 feet; Maximum Flight Level: 66000 feet
X5614: MAY ISLAND	practice and exercise area (surface fleet), submarine exercise area	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: ASW, Sub



Name	Category	Information
X5637: FIRTH OF FORTH (SOUTHERN)	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: MCM
X5615: FORTH DEEP	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: MCM
X5613S: ABERLADY	submarine exercise area, practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Activity: Sub
X5613N: KIRKCALDY	submarine exercise area, practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Activity: Sub
D604: BARRY BUDDON	surface danger area, firing danger area	Authority: DIO SD TRG; Maximum Altitude: 1500 0; Activity: P,F,DUO
X5612: ABERLADY BAY	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: MCM
X5625: ANSTRUTHER	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: MCM
X5611: KIRKCALDY BAY	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: MD,MCM
X5638: FIRTH OF FORTH (NORTHERN)	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: NAVY DEPT; Activity: MCM
X5722: DRUMS LINKS	firing danger area, small arms firing range, surface danger area, range	Authority: CIVILIAN; Activity: F
X5703: BLACK DOG	practice and exercise area (surface fleet)	Authority: ARMY DEPT; Activity: F

13.4.3.8. Oil & Gas operations

There is one active and one abandoned pipeline which cross the proposed submarine cable corridor within the Scottish Study Area. These are listed in Table 13-14.

Table 13-14: Oil and Gas pipeline crossings within the Scottish Study Area

Name	Type	Status
FORTIES C TO CRUDEN BAY (PL721)	Oil	Active
FORTIES C TO CRUDEN BAY (PL8)	Oil	Abandoned

Source: NSTA (2023)

The proposed submarine cable corridor does not pass through any oil and gas licensed blocks within the Scottish Study Area.

13.4.3.9. CCS and Natural Gas storage

Within the Scottish Study Area there is one CCS project which is at the planning Stage called Acorn CCS. Though there are plans from the UK Government for many more to be implemented within the North Sea region. Figure 13-2 which is from The Crown Estate illustrates the potential CCS within the UK.

13.4.3.10. Recreational activities

Bathing waters

There are two designated 'bathing waters' close to the proposed Scottish landfall. These are listed in Table 13-15 and were classified as having a good or excellent bathing water status in 2022/23.

Table 13-15: Bathing waters within the Scottish Study Area

Bathing Water Name	Area	Year of Designation	Status (2022/2023)	Distance from the Scoping Boundary
Cruden Bay	Aberdeen	1999	Good	11 km
Peterhead (Lido)	Peterhead	1999	Excellent	1.1 km

Source: SEPA (2023)



Scuba Diving

There is evidence of some recreational diving within the Scottish Study Area, but this is at a lower level than within the English Study Area.

Sailing and Cruising

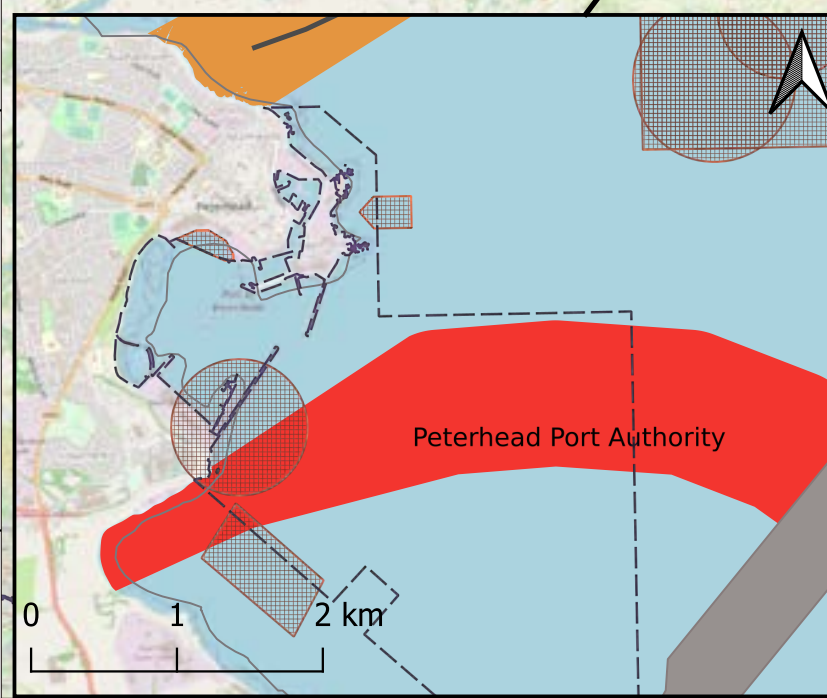
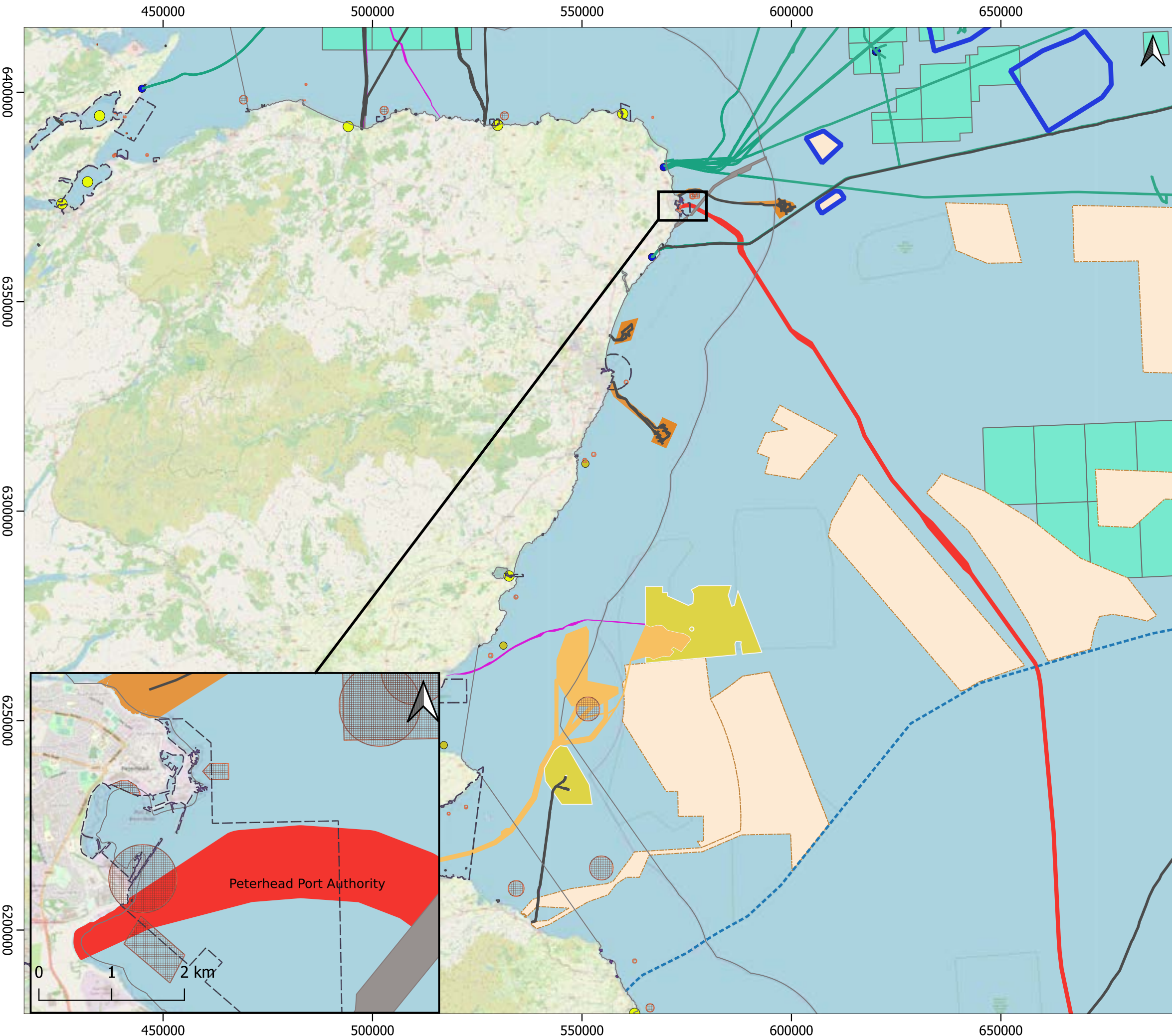
The east coast of Scotland is also a popular area for sailing. There are two RYA sailing clubs within the Scottish Study Area. The RYA Coastal Atlas (RYA, 2019) identifies the area as of low to medium-use for recreational sailing.

Water Sports

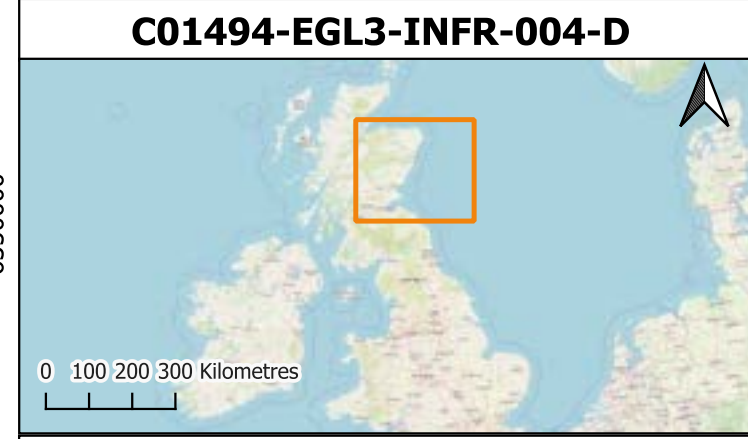
The east coast of Scotland as with England has seasonal recreational water sports along its coastline including surfing, paddleboarding, canoeing, wind surfing, canyoning and coastal rowing.

Angling

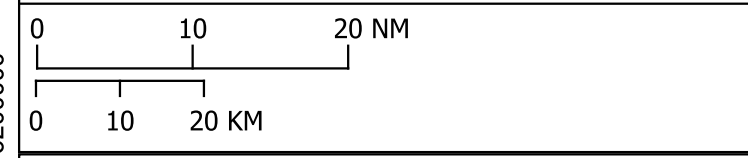
There are chartered fishing vessels on the east coast of Scotland who run fishing trips all year round. Landed fish can include Cod, Ling, Coley, Pollack, Scorpion fish, Cuckoo Wrasse, Ballan Wrasse, Dab, and Mackerel when in season. More information on fishing can be found in the Chapter 12 Commercial fisheries.



Other Marine Users Within The Scottish Study Area



- C01494-EGL3-INFR-004-D**
- 12NM Limit
 - Scottish Adjacent Waters
 - EGL 3 Scoping Boundary
 - Cable
 - UK Port Limit
 - Dredging
 - Disposal Site
 - Offshore Oil & Gas Installation**
 - Closed Down
 - Operational
 - NSTA Licensed Block
 - Pipeline
 - Offshore Wind**
 - Operational
 - Under construction
 - Consented
 - Pre Planning
 - OFTO (Offshore Transmission Owner, Including Wind)
 - INTOG (Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas) Energy Application Area



Date	09/10/2023
Coordinate System	ETRS89 / UTM Zone 30N
Projection	Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)
Unit	Meters
Scale at A3	1:900,000
Created	J Cunningham
Reviewed	D Summers/ S Pearce
Authorised	A Farley

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13.5. Proposed Assessment Methodology

The other marine users MEA will follow the assessment approach set out in Chapter 4 of this Scoping Report, using the project-wide assessment matrix. The assessment of potential effects will be established using the standard Source-Pathway-Receptor approach. The MEA chapter will be prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- ESCA Guideline No.6: The Proximity of Offshore Renewable Energy Installations & Submarine Cable Infrastructure in UK waters (ESCA, 2016)
- ICPC recommendations (ICPC, 2023)

Crossing/proximity agreements will be established for all cables which the Project crosses or is located within 250 m of.

The baseline will be established through desk-based review of literature and GIS mapping files and consultation with relevant stakeholders. Where possible quantitative analysis will be provided e.g., an estimate of the amount of area that is no longer available for other projects, including where positioning of the Project may restrict future development or use. If quantitative analysis is not possible, qualitative assessment will be undertaken based on consultation with relevant stakeholders and review of publicly available literature.

The potential for displacement, as a result of cumulative impacts, will be considered carefully and an appropriate assessment approach agreed with key stakeholders once the number of other projects to be assessed is defined. Further detail on the approach to the assessment of cumulative effects is provided in Chapter 4.

Where significant effects are identified, mitigation measures will be proposed, and residual effects presented.

13.6. Scope of Assessment

A range of potential impacts on other marine users have been identified which may occur during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project. Table 13-16 describes the potential impacts identified and provides justification as to whether they will be scoped in or out of the MEA. A precautionary approach has been taken and where there is no strong evidence base, or the significance is uncertain at this stage the impact has been scoped 'in' to the MEA. Where there is a clear evidence base that the effect from the impact will not be significant, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, the impact has been scoped 'out' of the MEA.

It is recognised that the other marine users will be transiting between their licensed areas and ports. However, potential impacts on vessel movements will be assessed in Chapter 11 - Shipping and Navigation.



Table 13-16: Scoping assessment of impacts on other marine users

Potential Impacts	Project Activities	Sensitive Receptors	Scoping Justification		
			Construction	Operation (including repair and maintenance)	Decommissioning
Interaction with other seabed infrastructure	Boulder clearance, PLGR, pre-sweeping of sand waves. Cable burial and trenching. Anchoring / jack-up legs.	Cables and pipelines	OUT - Pre-works surveys will be undertaken to locate all existing infrastructure including subsea cables and pipelines. Following analysis of this information appropriate plans will be put in place to avoid or to cross existing subsea cables or pipelines with the use of external cable protection. Individual crossing agreements will be set up with cable and pipeline owners following guidance from the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) and European Subsea Cable Association.	IN - If the cable is installed correctly the likelihood of it requiring maintenance and repair is significantly reduced. However, there remains the potential that localised repair works, or remedial external cable protection may be required which potentially could affect any new or existing infrastructure. If this occurs discussions will take place with the cable owners ahead of works taking place and will be agreed through the crossing agreements.	OUT – At the point of decommissioning studies will be undertaken to decide how or if the cable will be removed from the seabed and how that will affect any other seabed infrastructure.
Occupancy of seabed – Below seabed	Presence of cables	Oil and Gas, aggregates, power and telecom cables, Offshore wind farms and CCS.	n/a	IN - The presence of the cables in the seabed may disrupt the placement of future infrastructure/offshore activities	n/a
Occupancy of seabed – on seabed	External cable protection	Oil and Gas, aggregates, power and telecom cables, Offshore wind farms and CCS.	n/a	IN - The presence of external cable protection may disrupt the placement of future infrastructure/offshore activities.	n/a



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