

# Aberdeenshire Council

Our Ref: ENQ/2022/1915

Your Ref:

[Redacted]

Tel: 01467 534919

[Redacted]

Marine Scotland  
5 Atlantic Quay  
150 Broomielaw  
Glasgow  
G2 8LU

17 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Marine Licence Consultation for Section 36 Consent and Generating Station Marine Licence Variation at Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm, Firth Of Forth**

I am writing to you in respect of the screening consultation request for the development above. After a review of the submission, I would offer the following observations:

- The interests of Aberdeenshire Council are limited to those effects or impacts which would occur within the Aberdeenshire Council Area.
- Aberdeenshire Council agree that the development would fall under Schedule 2 paragraph 2 as stated within the Screening Report. The scope of the screening therefore relates to differential impact of the variation, as opposed to reassessing the development as a whole.
- The variation falls largely within the previously agreed parameters, with the proposed changes to cable lengths, an increase of concrete bags / mattresses and revised offshore export cable corridor coordinates.

Bearing in mind the above points, it is considered that the scope for comment is limited. As such Aberdeenshire Council would agree that the potential environmental impacts of the variation are unlikely to be so widespread as to warrant the submission of a complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR).

This screening opinion is offered without prejudice to the assessment of any future application or further screening requests. I would highlight that the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact of the development would remain a key consideration for Aberdeenshire Council and as such the variation application should be supported by appropriate information in respect of this matter.

I trust the above response is clear and helpful. Should you have any further queries, please contact the officer named at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully  
[Redacted]

Head of Planning and Economy

# Angus Council

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [MS Marine Renewables](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - OUR REF: 22/00598/PREAPP  
**Date:** 23 December 2022 08:59:02

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“The MW Regulations”)**

**THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“The EW Regulations”)**

**COLLECTIVELY, “The EIA Regulations”**

**CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE MW  
REGULATIONS AND PART 2, REGULATION 8(5) OF THE EW REGULATIONS**

I refer to the above consultation and having reviewed the submitted information in so far as potential impacts on Angus, Angus Council is satisfied that the S36 variation proposal would not result in impacts of significance that are new or materially different to those of the consented Inch Cape Project.

Angus Council would be minded to accept the conclusions presented in the screening report.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

| Team Leader – Development Standards | Planning & Sustainable Growth | Angus Council | Angus House | Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar, DD8 1AN | (01307 492378)

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**From:** [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) <[MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 20 December 2022 16:01

**Cc** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

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Inch Cape Offshore Limited – Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works  
Marine Licence – Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth

Inch Cape Offshore Limited has requested the Scottish Ministers adopt a screening opinion in relation to the above proposed works under regulation 10(1) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(1) of the EW Regulations.

I should be grateful if you would please review the documents provided at the below web address and, as required by regulation 10(5) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(5) of the EW Regulations, provide your view as to whether the above proposed works are an EIA project as defined in the EIA Regulations.

The documents can be found here:

[Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm \(Revised Design\), Firth of Forth - Proposed Variation - Screening Request | Marine Scotland Information](#)

In accordance with regulation 10(6) of the MW Regulations and regulation 8(6) of the EW Regulations, please ensure you provide your view to [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) no later than **24 January 2023**. Please note: the standard 3 week consultation period has been extended to 5 weeks due to the festive period.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Casework Officer - Consenting  
(she/her)

**Marine Scotland** - Marine Planning & Policy  
Scottish Government | Marine Scotland | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

[Redacted]

Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

My normal working pattern is 8-16, Monday to Friday.

Email addresses for Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team( MS-LOT) are [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) for marine renewables correspondence or [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot) for all licensing queries.

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# Dundee City Council

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [MS Marine Renewables](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023  
**Date:** 21 December 2022 15:27:22

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Thank you for your email consultation. I can advise that Dundee City Council has no comment.

Regards,

[Redacted]



Principal Planning Officer (Planning & Economic Development) at Dundee City Council

[Redacted]

P [01382 433760](tel:01382433760)

W [www.dundee.gov.uk](http://www.dundee.gov.uk)

A [Dundee House, 50 North Lindsay Street, DUNDEE, DD1 1QE](#)



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**From:** planning <[planning@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:planning@dundee.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 20 December 2022 16:15  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023

Another one

Thanks

[Redacted]

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**From:** [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) <[MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 20 December 2022 16:01

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[Redacted]

Casework Officer - Consenting  
(she/her)

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# Fife Council

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [MS Marine Renewables](#)  
**Subject:** 22/04263/CON Inch Cape Offshore Limited – Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence Consultation - Request for Screening Opinion  
**Date:** 18 January 2023 11:42:57

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FAO [Redacted]

Good morning [Redacted]

Having examined the details of the proposed variation to the Inchcape Offshore Windfarm offshore transmission work, I can confirm that Fife Council is satisfied that the proposed variation would not result in impacts, in relation to the interests of Fife, of significance that are new or materially different to those of the approved development.

Kind regards,  
[Redacted]

Lead Professional - Strategic Development  
Major Business and Customer Services  
Planning Services  
Fife Council

[www.fife.gov.uk](http://www.fife.gov.uk) Follow us on twitter: @FifePlanning

**LISTEN | CONSIDER | RESPOND**

Please note that I am unavailable every second Monday

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[www.fife.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.fife.gov.uk/privacy)

Fife Council

\*\*\*\*\*

# Historic Environment Scotland



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

**By email to:**

[MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)

Marine Scotland (Marine Renewables)  
Marine Laboratory  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our case ID: 300020430

19 January 2023

Dear Marine Scotland

[The Marine Works \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2017  
Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine  
Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm \(Revised Design\), Firth of Forth  
Request for Screening Opinion](#)

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 20 December 2022 seeking our comments on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion for the above proposed development. This letter contains our comments for our historic environment interests. That is world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their setting, Historic Marine Protected Areas (HMPAs) gardens and designed landscapes and battlefields on their respective Inventories.

### **Our Screening opinion**

We understand that the Screening relates to the variation to the Marine Licence (06782/19/0) for the Inch Cape Offshore Transmission Works. The proposed variation relates to a change to deposit quantities and a revision of the Offshore Export Cable Corridor Coordinates. We note that the assessment states that there will be no further significant impacts from the proposals because of the variation, and we are content to agree with this assessment regarding our interests. We therefore have no further comments to make for the proposals.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is [Redacted] and they can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 6890 or by email on [Redacted]

Yours faithfully

**Historic Environment Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

NatureScot

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [MS Marine Renewables](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023  
**Date:** 11 January 2023 09:12:20

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[Redacted]

Thank you for consulting us on the EIA Screening of a proposed Marine Licence variation for Inch Cape Offshore Limited (ICOL).

The proposed variation encompasses:

- Changes to temporary and permanent deposit quantities; and
- Revision of the Offshore Export Cable Coordinates.

### **Summary of NatureScot advice**

We have reviewed the applicant's Variation Report (IC02-INT-EC-OFL-003-INC-RPT-001 / Revision 0).

We agree that:

- No further significant effects arise as a result of the proposed variation; and
- No new or materially different impacts have been identified that could lead to increased effects on natural heritage receptors.

We therefore advise Marine Scotland that the proposed variation does not require further EIA in relation to any receptor within NatureScot's remit.

### **NatureScot Advice**

#### Changes to temporary and permanent deposit quantities

The proposed variation would specifically enable:

- Full use of allowable deposit of 180km marine cable between landfall and the OSP location – for the purpose of micrositing cables within the Offshore Export Cable Corridor; and
- An increase in the maximum number of concrete mattresses from 150 to 500 – which is approx. 2,700m<sup>3</sup>

We note from Section 4.1 of the Variation Report that this increase in the maximum allowable concrete matressing amounts to a footprint of <0.01 km<sup>2</sup>. This, in combination with the maximum allowable deposit of stone/ rock/ gravel (0.22km<sup>2</sup>) amounts to a smaller footprint than that previously assessed in the 2013 ES and the 2017 EIA Scoping (and which was subsequently scoped out of further assessment).

As such we are content that any impacts arising as a result of this increase in concrete matressing will be of a smaller magnitude than that previously assessed.

We welcome the additional summary of impacts on the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA in Section 4.3 of the Variation Report. We support the position that the conclusions of the existing Appropriate Assessment remain valid and no update to the HRA is required.

#### Revision of the Offshore Export Cable Coordinates

This proposed variation would specifically enable:

- The Export Cable Corridor to include the are from the boundary of the development area to the location of the proposed Offshore Substation Platform.

We have no comments on this element of the proposed variation.

We hope this advice is clear, please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

--

[Redacted] **Marine Sustainability Adviser**

NatureScot | Silvan House | 3rd Floor East | 231 Corstorphine Road | Edinburgh | EH12 7AT | t: 0131 316 2629  
NàdarAlba | Taigh Silvan | 3mh Làr an Ear | 231 Rathad Chros Thoirphin | Dùn Èideann | EH12 7AT  
[nature.scot](http://nature.scot) – A nature-rich future for all – [@nature\\_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot)

---

**From:** MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot <MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 20 December 2022 16:01

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023

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Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Casework Officer - Consenting  
(she/her)

**Marine Scotland** - Marine Planning & Policy  
Scottish Government | Marine Scotland | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

Email: [Redacted]

Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

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---

SEPA

**From:** [Planning South East](#)  
**To:** [MS Marine Renewables](#) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** SEPA ref 7774 - Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence  
**Date:** 20 December 2022 16:58:06

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OFFICIAL

Dea [Redacted]

We have no comments to make on this application as any applications which are purely within the marine environment, including at any stage of EIA falls below our consultation thresholds. Please refer to Section 2.2 of our [SEPA standing advice for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Marine Scotland on marine consultations](#).

Please consider our standing advice in Section 3 and Table 1 as SEPA's views and consultation response, where relevant. If you are seeking advice on something specific that meets our thresholds for consultation, then please re-consult us specifying what advice you require.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

Planning Officer  
Planning Service  
SEPA Stirling Office, Strathallan House, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TZ  
email: [planning.south@sepa.org.uk](mailto:planning.south@sepa.org.uk)

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*Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist.*

*Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu [postmaster@sepa.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@sepa.org.uk).*

*Oifis chlàraichte: Taigh Srath Alain, Pàirc Gnothachais a' Chaisteil, Sruighlea FK9 4TZ. Fo Achd Riaghladh nan Cumhachdan Rannsachaidh 2000, dh'fhaodadh gun tèid an siostam puist-d aig SEPA a sgrùdadh bho àm gu àm.*

OFFICIAL

**From:** MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot <MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 20 December 2022 16:01

**Cc:**

[Redacted]

**Subject:** Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023

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(she/her)

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Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

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# East Lothian Council

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Inch Cape Offshore Limited - Proposed Variation to Offshore Transmission Works Marine Licence - Inch Cape Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design), Firth of Forth - Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion - Response Required by 24 January 2023  
**Date:** 13 February 2023 15:38:45

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Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your consultation of this Council on the above and apologise for our delayed response.

The Variation proposes an increase in concrete bags / mattresses from up to approximately 150 mattresses with a volume of up to 800 m<sup>3</sup>, to up to approximately 500 mattresses with a volume of 2,700 m<sup>3</sup>. This will increase the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the project. The global climate is a sensitive receptor. We would suggest that information be provided on greenhouse gas emissions and any proposed mitigation, as there does not appear to be any information given on this aspect in the Screening Report. This will allow consideration of whether or not this is significant, including reference to meeting Scottish and UK short and long term greenhouse gas emission targets. If there is mitigation proposed for the emissions, this could be taken into account in deciding whether or not they are significant.

The Screening Report considers Habitat Regulation Appraisal, which can also be relevant for EIA. The Screening Report notes that a review of existing consents relevant to the proposed variation has been carried out. This review and subsequent assessment were undertaken with particular regard to the sensitivities of the geographical area that may be affected through a review of relevant designated sites. These sites include European Sites within or partly within East Lothian, namely the Firth of Forth SPA and Forth Islands SPA, as well as the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex. The Screening Report notes that AA considered that impacts during construction and operation of the export cables may arise on the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA from direct disturbance or displacement, indirect disturbance of seabed habitats and/or prey species of seabirds and loss of seabed habitats, and that part of this SPA was overlapped by the Offshore Export Cable Corridor. The Screening Report reports the conclusion of the AA of the revised design, dated 14/03/2019 that "there will be no adverse effects, either from the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects, on the site integrity on any designated site, including the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA, where mitigation is applied in line with the conditions set out in the Marine Licence". This assessment was dated 14/03/2019, which is now over three years ago. The Screening Report states that no new or materially different impacts have been identified which could lead to an increase in significant effects on HRA features. The Council does not have the expertise to assess this claim. The report does not consider whether there have been any relevant changes to the SPA features. We value the biodiversity of our SPAs, and also the marine mammals which visit our shores, and so would support the views of NatureScot on this matter.

These comments are given without prejudice to any subsequent consideration by the planning authority of the impacts of the proposed development, and the authority's assessment of the acceptability or otherwise of the proposed development.

Should you wish to discuss this response, please [Redacted] on [Redacted]

Regards,

[Redacted]

Planning Service Manager  
Development  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
HADDINGTON  
EH41 4NA

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