

A photograph of an offshore wind farm at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue, with a few wispy clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong glow. In the foreground, there are dark, choppy waves with white foam. In the background, several wind turbines are visible, their silhouettes against the bright sky. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

Salamander Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore EIA Report

Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 5: Stakeholder Consultation



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Glossary

Term	Definition
Applicant	Salamander Wind Project Company Limited (formerly called Simply Blue Energy (Scotland) Limited), a joint venture between Ørsted, Simply Blue Group, and Subsea7.
Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI)	Energy Balancing Infrastructure which will provide services to the electrical grid, such as storing energy to meet periods of peak demand and improving overall reliability, as well as additional services such as system monitoring and computing. EBI will be housed within buildings and / or containers will be co-located with the Onshore Substation.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process by which the likely significant effects of certain projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations (2017), including the publication of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
Offshore Development	The entire Offshore Development, including all offshore components of the Project (Wind Turbine Generators, Inter-array Cables and Offshore Export Cable(s), floating substructures, mooring lines and anchors, and all other associated offshore infrastructure) required across all Project phases from development to decommissioning, for which the Applicant is seeking consent.
Onshore Development	The entire Onshore Development, including Construction Compounds at the Landfall, temporary working areas, Onshore Export Cables, Transition Joint Bay, Joint Bays, Onshore Substation and Energy Balancing Infrastructure, Construction Compounds, any associated landscaping (if required) and access (and all other associated infrastructure) across all Project phases from development to decommissioning, for which the Applicant is seeking consent.
Salamander Project	The proposed Salamander Offshore Wind Farm. The term covers all elements of both the offshore and onshore aspects of the project.
Salamander Project Team	The project team from the joint venture partners, responsible for developing the Salamander Project.
Scoping	An early part of the EIA process by which the key potential significant impacts of the Salamander Project are identified, and methodologies identified for how these should be assessed. This process gives the relevant authorities and key consultees

Term	Definition
	opportunity to comment and define the scope and level of detail to be provided as part of the EIAR – which can also then be tailored through the consultation process.

Acronyms

Term	Definition
ASCO	Aberdeen Service Company
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
EBI	Energy Balancing Infrastructure
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
LVIA	Landscape Visual and Impact Assessment
MCA	Maritime Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NRA	Navigational Risk Assessment
NZTC	Net Zero Technology Centre
PAC	Pre-application Consultation
RGU	Robert Gordon University
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland)
RYA Scotland	Royal Yachting Association Scotland
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SFSAG	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SPSG	Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Electric Networks
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
SWPC	Salamander Wind Project Company Limited (formerly called SBES)

5 Stakeholder Consultation

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 This chapter describes the stakeholder engagement undertaken by Salamander Wind Project Company Limited (SWPC) (hereafter known as 'the Applicant') for the Offshore Development of the Salamander Project. In accordance with best practice in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), the consultation and engagement process has aimed to inform statutory and non-statutory stakeholders early in the development process of the Salamander Project and seek feedback at key milestones of the pre-application process. This chapter focuses on the stakeholder engagement undertaken that aligns with the EIA process.

5.1.1.2 Further information on consultation undertaken can be found in the Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report (**Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**), which accompanies the consent application to the Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).

5.2 Stakeholder Identification and Characterisation

5.2.1.1 In order to understand the types of stakeholders relevant to the Offshore Development, stakeholder identification and mapping was undertaken (detailed in **Section 5.2.2**).

5.2.1.2 Of these stakeholders, the technical stakeholders, which are defined as those stakeholders which are specific to certain EIA topic areas of the offshore application, were consulted with predominantly on a topic-by-topic basis.

5.2.1.3 Engagement with technical and other key stakeholders that were identified early in the engagement process, were continually engaged with throughout pre-application. Broader engagement on the application process for the Offshore Development has also occurred via regular meetings with MD-LOT and NatureScot.

5.2.1.4 Specific consultation responses for each topic are presented and discussed in the relevant technical assessment chapters within this EIA Report (EIAR) (**Volume ER.A.3, Chapters 7 to 22**).

5.2.1.5 Consultation with other key stakeholders, such as members of the public and local community councils, has focused on providing general information, and seeking feedback on the development as a whole, including the onshore aspect. Further detail on this aspect of the engagement and associated feedback, and how feedback has been gathered during the EIA process, can be found in the PAC Report which will be submitted alongside both the Offshore and Onshore applications, therefore, only a summary will be provided here.

5.2.2 Stakeholder Mapping

5.2.2.1 **Table 5-1** shows the stakeholder list, identified through stakeholder mapping and analysis undertaken at the inception of the Salamander Project which acted as a live document and covered both onshore and offshore aspects. The list also includes stakeholders consulted through the formal scoping consultation process.

5.2.2.2 The list includes the identified relevant stakeholders which are a combination of statutory, technical, government, fisheries/marine, and industry consultees. In addition, there are also key interest groups and relevant community networks and organisations included in the list. The Stakeholder list was reviewed periodically throughout the EIAR development and pre-application process.

Table 5-1 Stakeholders identified through the Mapping Exercise

Government and Administration	
Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)
Buchan East Community Council	Peterhead Community Council
Crown Estate Scotland (CES)	Rathen, Cortes and Memsie Community Council
Cruden Community Council	Scottish Government
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DEZLNZ) – (formerly Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS))	Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU)
Invercairn Community Council	Strichen Community Council
Longside Community Council	
Technical (Statutory and Non-statutory)	
Civil Aviation Authority	Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Scottish Water
Marine Directorate Science	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Ministry of Defence (MoD)/Defence Estates	Transport Scotland
NatureScot	
Interest Groups	
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)	Scottish Wildlife Trust
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland	Visit Scotland
Royal Yachting Association (RYA) (Scotland)	
Industry/ Supply Chains/ Academia/ Education	
Aberdeen Service Company (ASCO)	Peterhead Academy
Aberdeen Harbour Board	Peterhead Developers Forum

Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)
Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University (RGU)	Scottish Development International
European Marine Energy Centre	Scottish Enterprise
Fraserburgh Academy	Scottish Gas Networks (SGN)
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Scottish Maritime Academy
Mintlaw Academy	Scottish Power Renewables
National Air Traffic Services	The University of Edinburgh
North East Scotland College	University of Aberdeen
Net Zero Technology Centre (NZTC)	University of St Andrews - Sea Mammal Research Unit
Pale Blue Dot	
Community and Media	
Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust	Peterhead Gazette
Aberdeen Group	Peterhead Golf Club
BBC Scotland	Peterhead Sailing Club
Buchan Development Partnership	Public/Local Community
Buchan East Community Council	Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers
Buchanhaven Harbour Trust	Scottish sub-aqua Club
Buchanhaven Heritage Centre	Scottish Surfing Federation
Cruden Bay Community Association	Scottish Wildlife Trust (Aberdeenshire)
Cruden Bay Harbour Trustees	Sport Scotland
Local golf clubs	Surfers Against Sewage (Scotland)
Moray & Firth Coastal Partnership	Visit Scotland
Peterhead Canoe Club	Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers
Peterhead Community Council	

Fisheries and Marine	
Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW)	The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
Fisheries Management Scotland	Scottish Fisheries Sustainable Accreditation Group (SFSAG) - Northern shelf saithe
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
Marine Directorate – Marine and Fisheries	Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group (SPSG) - Atlanto-Scandian herring
Maritime and Coastal Agency (MCA)	Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)

5.3 Engagement Approach and Key Engagement Activities

5.3.1.1 The Applicant's engagement approach has sought to identify and engage all stakeholders, including organisations, individuals, and communities, who may have an interest in the Offshore Development. This has been to enable the Salamander Project to benefit from stakeholders' experience and expertise to inform and refine the development of both the offshore and onshore project aspects.

5.3.1.2 The Applicant is committed to a stakeholder engagement process with both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. Stakeholders have been identified, informed of and consulted on the Salamander Project from an early stage. The Salamander Project Team have continued ongoing communications and meetings throughout the pre-application process, and gathered feedback at key pre-application milestones of the Salamander Project.

5.3.2 Offshore Policy Consultation Requirements

5.3.2.1 Sections 22 to 24 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 require pre-application consultation to be undertaken for developments in Scottish territorial waters that are of a certain scale or involve works with the potential for significant impact on the environment and local communities. This process provides opportunities to receive feedback from the public that can then be addressed in the application and supporting EIAR.

5.3.2.2 Section 7 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 requires that at least one PAC event is carried out to allow members of the public to provide comments to an applicant on a proposed licensable marine activity.

5.3.2.3 Two rounds of public consultation have been held during the pre-application stage. These events are summarised in **Section 5.4** of this chapter with further detail relating to the public consultation provided in the PAC Report (**Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**). Therefore, the requirements of both the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 have been met.

5.3.3 Key Stakeholder Meeting Summary

5.3.3.1 The Applicant held meetings with statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout the EIA process. These meetings were used to inform consultees on the progress of the Offshore Development, to enable consultees to raise concerns and discuss them with the Applicant, and to ensure the assessment process was

transparent and robust. In addition to written communications and meetings, public consultation has also taken place via PAC events and online exhibitions, which are detailed further in the PAC Report.

5.3.3.2 Engagement with specific consultees is detailed in **Table 5-2** and **Table 5-3**, including the consultee, the topic of discussion and phase of engagement, and the date the meeting was held.

Table 5-2 Meetings with Statutory Consultees for the Offshore Development

Consultee	Topic of discussion (Phase)	Meeting	Date
Aberdeenshire Council	Pre-application Advice (Pre-Scoping)	✓	30 August 2022
	Landscape Visual and Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Scoping)	✓	24 November 2022
	Onshore Ornithology, Ecology and Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) and LVIA Viewpoint Consultation (Scoping)	✓	14 July 2023
HES	Scoping workshops and communications (Scoping)	-	Invited but could not attend
MCA	EIA Scoping and EIA assessment methodologies (pre-scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
	Meeting regarding shipping and navigation	✓	13 October 2023
NatureScot	Salamander Project Introduction and Site Selection (Pre-scoping)	✓	06 July 2020
	Survey design for offshore ornithology surveys and benthic surveys (Pre-scoping)	✓	27 August 2020
	Quarterly meetings (with MD-LOT)	✓	30 August 2022 start date
	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Scoping)	✓	28 November 2022
	Offshore Ornithology (Scoping)	✓	28 November 2022
	Marine Mammals (Scoping)	✓	29 November 2022

Consultee	Topic of discussion (Phase)	Meeting	Date
	Marine Physical Processes (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
	Onshore Ornithology, Ecology and Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
	Assessment of Benthic and Intertidal Ecology within the Nearshore Export Cable Corridor (EIAR)	✓	14 September 2023
	Post-scoping meetings across various EIA topics (EIAR)	✓	Various
NLB	EIA Scoping and EIA assessment methodologies (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
	Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) workshop (EIAR)	✓	28 September 2023
Scottish Government - MD-LOT	Salamander Project Introduction and Site Selection (Pre-scoping)	✓	02 July 2020
	Survey design for offshore ornithology surveys and benthic surveys (Pre-Scoping)	✓	27 August 2020
	Quarterly meetings (with NatureScot)	✓	30 August 2022 start date
	Landscape Visual and Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Scoping)	✓	24 November 2022
	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Scoping)	✓	28 November 2022
	Offshore Ornithology (Scoping)	✓	28 November 2022
	Marine Mammals (Scoping)	✓	29 November 2022
	Marine Physical Processes (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
	Onshore Ornithology, Ecology and Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022

Consultee	Topic of discussion (Phase)	Meeting	Date
	Assessment of Benthic and Intertidal Ecology within the Nearshore Export Cable Corridor (EIAR)	✓	14 September 2023
SEPA	Onshore Ornithology, Ecology and Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022

Table 5-3 Meetings with Non-Statutory Consultees for the Offshore Development

Consultee	Topic of discussion (Phase)	Meeting	Date
Marine Scotland Science (now Marine Directorate Science)	Survey design for offshore ornithology surveys and benthic surveys (Pre-Scoping)	✓	27 August 2020
	Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology (Scoping)	✓	28 November 2022
	Offshore Ornithology (Scoping)	✓	28 November 2022
	Marine Mammals (Scoping)	✓	29 November 2022
	Marine Physical Processes (Scoping)	✓	30 November 2022
RSPB Scotland	Salamander Project Introduction and Site Selection (Pre-Scoping)	✓	03 July 2020
	Survey design for offshore ornithology surveys (Pre-Scoping)	✓	27 August 2020
	Meeting to discuss Scoping comments (EIAR)	✓	25 January 2024
SFF	Salamander Project Introduction and Site Selection (Pre-Scoping)	✓	06 July 2020
	NRA workshop (EIAR)	✓	Invited but could not attend
	Project update	✓	17 June 2022
	Site selection workshop		28 June 2022

Consultee	Topic of discussion (Phase)	Meeting	Date
	Regular project update meetings	✓	August 2022 start date
SWFPA	Salamander Project Introduction and Site Selection (Pre-scoping)	✓	06 July 2020
	Regular project update meetings	✓	August 2022 start date
	NRA workshop (EIAR)	✓	28 September 2023
North & East Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group	Monthly project update meetings	✓	August 2022 start date
CES	Salamander Project Introduction and Site Selection (pre-scoping)	✓	08 July 2020
Montrose Port Authority	NRA workshop (EIAR)	✓	28 September 2023
Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association	NRA workshop (EIAR)	✓	28 September 2023
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Project Introductory call	✓	20 June 2023
	Project update (EIAR)	✓	5 December 2023
Royal Yachting Association (RYA Scotland)	NRA workshop (EIAR)		Invited but could not attend
UK Chamber of Shipping	Meeting regarding shipping and navigation (EIAR)	✓	20 October 2023

5.3.3.3 Throughout the development of the Salamander Project, the Salamander Project team have sought to keep Community Councils informed about the Salamander Project's progress. Representatives from Peterhead Community Council and Buchan East Community Council attended the first round of Pre-Application Consultation events (Scoping phase) in June in Peterhead and Crimond, respectively. Two representatives from Cruden Bay Community Council attended the second round Pre-Application Consultation events (EIAR phase) in Peterhead in November 2023. This engagement is detailed further in the PAC Report (**Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**).

5.4 Stakeholder Engagement Phases

5.4.1.1 While stakeholder engagement was ongoing throughout the pre-application process, the purpose of these engagements can be divided into three phases: Pre-scoping, Scoping and EIAR. The below section summarises the key objectives and activities undertaken in each phase, and if there was public consultation

which is detailed separately in the PAC Report (**Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**).

5.4.2 Phase 1 - Pre-scoping

5.4.2.1 Pre-scoping engagement aimed to start initial conversations with key stakeholders and understand any concerns or issues early in the process of site selection. This phase started to build relationships and contacts with key stakeholders and built the foundation for future stages of consultation.

5.4.2.2 A series of targeted but informal workshops were scheduled via Microsoft Teams to inform key consultees of the Salamander Project; these are listed in **Table 5-2** and **Table 5-3**. This was to gain initial views to feed into the site selection process (further details on this is provided in **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives**) and pre-scoping, as well as discussing the consenting process for the Salamander Project.

5.4.2.3 There was no public consultation during the pre-scoping phase.

5.4.3 Phase 2 - Scoping (and First Round Pre-Application Consultation events)

5.4.3.1 The scoping process is discussed in further detail in **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 6: EIA Methodology**. Engagement with stakeholders during this phase was undertaken in the following stages:

- Scoping briefing packs and workshops: Distribution of briefing packs to stakeholders in advance of meetings (two weeks), which included a high-level baseline, the Scoping methodology (embedded mitigation and an overview of the impacts scoped in and out), and the EIA methodology). Followed by meetings (with presentations and discussion) that took place for ten key receptor topics. The feedback from these workshops was used to inform the Salamander EIA Scoping Report (SBES, 2023);
- Engagement with regulators and other stakeholders: in relation to licences and permits associated with pre-development surveys took place;
- Formal submission and publication of the Salamander EIA Scoping Report (SBES, 2023) and request for a Scoping Opinion; and
- Public / stakeholder-specific engagement events: including outreach and communications to notify the public of the events, and updates to the Salamander Project website.

5.4.3.2 The Salamander EIA Scoping Report (SBES, 2023) was submitted to MD-LOT and Aberdeenshire Council in February 2023. Subsequently a Scoping Opinion was received from MD-LOT in June 2023 (MD-LOT, 2023) regarding the Offshore Development of the Salamander Project. Comments relating to the Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI) will be covered in the Onshore EIAR, to be submitted separately with the Onshore Development consent application. Comments received detailed the opinion of the Scottish Ministers and consultees on the scope of the EIA.

5.4.3.3 As the Applicant will seek consents separately for the components of the Offshore and Onshore Developments, and a separate Onshore EIAR will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council and the Energy Consents Unit, only comments in the Scoping Opinion and consultee representations that relate to the Offshore Development are included within the Offshore EIAR. Any onshore related comments will be addressed within the Onshore EIAR.

First Round Public Consultation

5.4.3.4 The first round of public consultation took place in June - July 2023, to inform and gather feedback on the Salamander Project. A detailed summary of the public consultation can be found in the PAC Report, which

accompanies the consent application (**Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**).

5.4.4 Phase 3 – Environmental Impact Assessment Report (and Second Round Pre-Application Consultation events)

5.4.4.1 This phase considered the feedback received from the Scoping Opinion, and the first round PAC events, as well as other ongoing stakeholder engagement, in order to refine the Salamander Project proposals and inform the impact assessments provided in the Offshore EIAR.

5.4.4.2 This included targeted engagement with key statutory and technical stakeholders where further engagement was deemed necessary.

Second Round Public Consultation

5.4.4.3 The second round of public consultation took place in November – December 2023, to provide an update on the further development of the Salamander Project since the first PAC event. A detailed summary of the public consultation can be found in the PAC Report, which accompanies the consent application (**Volume RP.A.4, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**).

Socio-economic Stakeholder Questionnaire

5.4.4.4 In response to the Salamander EIA Scoping Report (SBES, 2023), the Marine Analytical Unit (MAU) requested further engagement with a wider range of interest groups with socio-economic impacts to be the focus of some of the engagement. The Salamander Project therefore conducted further consultation with key local stakeholders, including local marine recreational and community groups to the south of Peterhead, were invited to consult via direct letters on 01 December 2023. Stakeholders from recreation, tourism and leisure were invited to complete a questionnaire by 15 December 2023 and offered further bilateral engagement as desired.

5.4.4.5 The consultation focused heavily on socio-cultural and distributional issues however, no responses to the questionnaire were received from these consultees.

5.4.5 Ongoing Engagement

5.4.5.1 The Applicant will carry out ongoing engagement and conversations with key stakeholders throughout and beyond the consenting process, through to construction and operational phases. For further information on the progress of the Salamander Project, updates can be viewed on the Salamander Project's website: <https://salamanderfloatingwind.com>.

5.5 Summary and Conclusions

5.5.1.1 Through the stakeholder engagement process, all statutory and legislative requirements have been met, and key statutory and technical stakeholders have been involved throughout the EIA process, and involved in ongoing conversations and provision of feedback as the Salamander Project has progressed through the pre-application stage.

5.5.1.2 Further detail on the statutory and technical stakeholder engagement undertaken, including the discussion topics and feedback received, and how this has been considered and incorporated throughout the EIA process, can be found in the technical assessment chapters of this EIAR (**Volume ER.A.3, Chapters 7 to 22**).

5.5.1.3 Detail on the public consultation process and feedback received, and how this feedback has been considered, can be found in the PAC Report that accompanies this application, **Volume RP.A.4.1, Report 1: Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**.

5.6 References

MD-LOT (Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team), (2023). Scoping Opinion for Salamander Offshore Wind Farm.

Simply Blue Energy (Scotland) Ltd. (SBES) (2023). Salamander Offshore Wind Farm, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report. Available online at:

https://marine.gov.scot/sites/default/files/salamander_offshore_wind_farm_-_scoping_report.pdf.