

# ***WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM***

## **Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report Appendices**

<b>OWPL Document Number</b>	<b>Originator Document Number</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**Approved by S. Kerr**

Document Control 18/09/2023

### Document Role

Role	Company	Name	Aconex Signature
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### OWPL Revision History

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1	06/07/2023	Issued for review
2	14/09/2023	Issued for use

### Revision Record

Revision Number	Revised Section	Description of Changes
1	Whole document	Addressing comments

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# Appendix 1: Offshore PAC Notice submitted to Marine Scotland



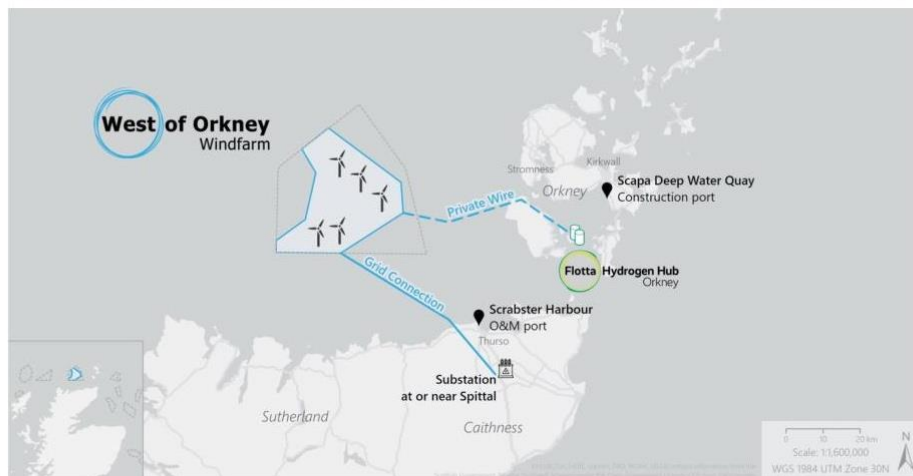
**Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013**

Offshore Wind Power Ltd (company number SC605260 with registered office at Clava House, Cradlehall Business Park, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 5GH) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The key offshore components of the Project are:

- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substations linked to the wind turbines via inter-array cables
- Up to five export cables to Caithness

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure:



Offshore Wind Power Limited is holding a series of pre-application public consultation (PAC) events which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the Project and make comments on the proposals. Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions. The details of the events are as follows:

Date:	Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tue 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Venue:	Orkney Harbour Authority, Kiln Comer, Kirkwall, KW15 1QX	Stromness Community Centre, Church Rd, Stromness, KW 16 3BA	North Walls Community School, Lyness, Hoy, KW16 3NX	Pickaquooy Centre, Muddisdale Rd, Kirkwall, KW15 1LR	Spittal Village Hall, Spittal, Caithness, KW1 5XR	Bettyhill Village Hall, Bettyhill, Thurso, KW14 7SS	North Coast Visitor Centre, High Street, Thurso, KW14 8AJ
Time:	10am - 2pm	4pm - 8pm	4pm - 8pm	3pm - 7.30pm	4pm - 8pm	3pm - 7.30pm	3pm - 7.30pm

In addition to the above, Offshore Wind Power Limited will be submitting subsequent applications for Section 36 consent and onshore planning permission for the infrastructure required to connect the windfarm to the National Grid at or near the existing Spittal substation in Caithness. Marine licence, planning permission and Section 36 consent applications will also be required to connect the windfarm to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub (please see map above). Notification of these applications will be advertised separately and will be subject to additional pre-application consultation at a later date, in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

As marine licence applications have not yet been submitted, written comments should be made to Offshore Wind Power Limited by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Please note that comments made to Offshore Wind Power Limited are not representations to Scottish Ministers. Representations to Marine Scotland can be made when formal marine licence applications are made. To make comments or request further information, please contact:

Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)  
 Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE  
 Phone: 01786 820 111

Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website:

<https://www.westoforkney.com/>

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## Appendix 2: E-mail notifying Marine Scotland & statutory stakeholders

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**Shona Morrison**

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From: Shona Morrison  
Sent: 16 March 2023 10:38  
Cc: Victoria McCusker; Jack Farnham  
Subject: The West of Orkney Windfarm - Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Notice  
Attachments: West of Orkney Windfarm\_Offshore PAC Notice.pdf

Dear Sir / Madam,

Notice under Regulation 6(2) of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation)(Scotland) Regulations 2013

I am writing to you regarding Offshore Wind Power Limited's proposed West of Orkney Windfarm. This email is to formally notify you of Offshore Wind Power Limited's intention to submit applications for marine licences from Marine Scotland for the construction of the offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure.

The proposed West of Orkney Windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located approximately 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. Offshore Wind Power Limited will be holding a series of public consultation events under the Pre Application Consultation (PAC) regulations to inform stakeholders about the Project and allow them to make comments to Offshore Wind Power Limited. In accordance with relevant licensing legislation, a statutory Notice announcing Offshore Wind Power Limited's intentions and providing details of the public consultation events will be published in a local newspaper and on the [project website](#) a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of the event.

A copy of the statutory Notice including a plan identifying the area in which the activity is proposed to take place and a description of the nature of the Project is attached. The Notice also provides details of the events, contact information for Offshore Wind Power Limited's West of Orkney Windfarm Project Team, and instructions on how to find out more about the Project or make comments.

I trust that this is in order. However, should you have any questions or wish to discuss the West of Orkney Windfarm Project further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Farnham  
Development Manager



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## Appendix 2a: List of stakeholders notified

### Official PAC Notice distributed to all stakeholders on eBase

- Abbey Ecosse
- Aberdeen Airport
- Alistair Carmichael (MP)
- Aspire Orkney (Engage Orkney)
- Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
- Bettyhill, Strathnaver and Altnaharra Community Council
- Birsay Community Council
- Bower Community Council
- Brimms Tidal Array
- British Astronomical Association (BAA)
- British Shipping
- British Telecom (BT)
- Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership (CNSRP)
- Caithness Chamber of Commerce
- Caithness District Salmon Fishery Board (CDSFB)
- Caithness Seacoast (Private boat charter)
- Caithness West Community Council
- Castletown Community Council
- CHC Scotia
- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- Cooke Aquaculture Limited
- Crofting Commission
- Dawn Star Boat Tours
- Deep Wind Offshore Cluster
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MoD)
- Department of Development and Infrastructure (Orkney Islands Council)
- Department of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services (Orkney Islands Council)
- Destination Orkney
- Develop Caithness
- Dounreay Site Restoration Limited
- Dounreay Stakeholder Group
- Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council
- Durness Community Council
- Durness Development Group Limited
- Eday Partnership
- Evie & Rendall Community Council
- Fast Vessel Charters (Stromness based vessel charter)
- Firth & Stenness Community Council
- Fishing Industries Representative (FIR)
- Flotta Community Council
- Forss House Fishing Association
- Friends of the Hoy Kirk
- Gill's Bay Harbour
- Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council
- Groats Boat Trips
- H G Helicopters
- Halkirk Community Council
- Harray & Sandwick Community Council; Health and Safety Executive
- Heriott-Watt, International Centre for Island Technology (ICIT)
- Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL)
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- Holm Community Council
- Holm Sailing Club
- Hoy Half Marathon
- Hoy Outdoor Centre
- Island of Hoy Development Trust
- Jamie Stone (MP)
- John O' Groats Development Trust
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Joint Radio Company
- Kinlochbervie Community Council
- Kirkwall & St. Ola Community Council
- Kirkwall Grammar School
- Kirkwall Kayak Club
- Liam McArthur (MSP)
- Long Distance Advisory Council
- Longhope Sailing Club
- Maree Todd (MSP)
- Marine Conservation Society (MCS)
- Fisheries Management Scotland
- Marine Management Organisation (Scottish Government)
- Orkney Marine Planning Partnership
- Marine Safety Forum



- 
- Marine Scotland; Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT)
  - Marine Scotland Compliance (local fisheries officers)
  - Marine Scotland Marine Analytical Unit
  - Marine Scotland Science
  - Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
  - Melvich Community Council
  - MeyGen Tidal Energy Project
  - National Air Traffic Services EN-Route PLCO (NATTS)
  - National Trust for Scotland
  - NatureScot; North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG)
  - North and West District Salmon Fisheries Board
  - North of Scotland Newspaper (John O' Groat Journal & Caithness Courier)
  - Northern District Salmon Fishery Board (NDSFB)
  - Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)
  - NorthLink Ferries
  - Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
  - Offshore helicopter operators
  - Oil & Gas UK (OGUK)
  - Orcades Marine Management Consultants UK Ltd
  - Orkney College UHI
  - Orkney District Association of Young Farmers' Clubs
  - Orkney Dive Boats
  - Orkney Ferries
  - Orkney Field Club
  - Orkney Fisheries Association (OFA)
  - Orkney Fisheries Local Action Group
  - Orkney Fishermen's Society (OFS)
  - Orkney Harbours
  - Orkney Heritage Society
  - Orkney Islands Council (OIC)
  - Orkney Islands Council Marine Services
  - Orkney Islands Sea Angling Association
  - Orkney Marinas
  - Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF)
  - Orkney Sailing Club
  - Orkney Sustainable Fisheries
  - Orkney Vintage Club
  - Orkney Woodland Project
  - Orkney Youth Forum
  - Orkney.com
  - Orphir Community Council
  - Outer Hebrides Regional Inshore Fishery Group
  - Paddle Orkney
  - Papa Westray Community Council
  - Papay Development Trust
  - Pentland Ferries
  - Pentland Firth Yacht Club
  - Pentland Floating Offshore Wind
  - RenewableUK (RUK)
  - Repsol Sinopec UK
  - Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust Ltd
  - Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council
  - Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) (Kirkwall, Lochinver, Longhope, Stromness, and Thurso)
  - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
  - Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
  - Sail Orkney (Yacht charter)
  - Sail Scotland
  - Sanday Development Trust
  - Sanday Junior High School
  - SCDI North East and Highlands & Islands
  - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) (Distribution)
  - Scottish Canoe Association; Scottish Conservatives
  - Scottish Creel Fishermen's Association (SCFA)
  - Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
  - Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
  - Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFO)
  - Scottish Marine Environment Enhancement Fund (SMEEF)
  - Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association
  - Scottish Seafarms Limited
  - Scottish Surfing Federation
  - Scottish Water
  - Scottish Whitefish Producers Association
  - Scottish Greens
  - Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
  - Scourie Community Council
  - Scourie Community Development Company
  - Scrabster Harbour Trust
  - Sea Kayak 59 degrees north (commercial kayak business)
  - Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU)
  - Seafish Industry Authority
  - Shapinsay Development Trust
  - Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
  - SIMEC Atlantis Energy
-

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- Space Hub Sutherland
  - SSE Transmission
  - Stand up Paddle Boarding (paddleboard business and club)
  - Strathy & Armadale Community Council
  - Stromness Academy
  - Stromness Community Council
  - Stromness Community Development Trust
  - Stromness Sailing Club
  - Stronsay Development Trust
  - Stronsay Junior High School
  - Surfers Against Sewage
  - The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS)
  - The Crown Estate Scotland
  - The Cruising Association
  - The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC)
  - The Highland Council
  - The Orcadian
  - The Orkney Partnership
  - Thurso Angling Association
  - Thurso Community Council
  - Thurso Community Development Trust
  - Thurso High School
  - Tongue, Melness and Skerray Community Council
  - Transport Scotland
  - Transport Scotland Ports and Harbours
  - UK Chamber of Shipping
  - Visit Scotland
  - Vulcan Nuclear Test Reactor
  - Ward Manager Caithness (Highland Council)
  - Watten Community Council
  - Westray Community Council
  - Westray Development Trust
  - Westray Junior High School
  - Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDACS)
  - Wick Harbour Authority (inc marina)
  - Wick High School

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## Appendix 3: Door-to-door leaflet advertising 1<sup>st</sup> PAC events (May 2023)



## INVITATION TO ATTEND

**PRE-APPLICATION  
CONSULTATION EVENTS  
(REVISED DATES ENCLOSED)**



## West of Orkney Windfarm

Offshore Wind Power Limited plans to submit consent applications to construct offshore wind turbines and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland.

The key components of the Project are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>OFFSHORE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 125 wind turbine generators with fixed turbine foundations</li> <li>Up to five offshore substations linked to the wind turbines via inter-array cables</li> <li>Up to five export cables to Caithness</li> </ul> | <p><b>ONSHORE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New substation at or near the existing Spittal substation</li> <li>Up to five underground cables from the landfall point to the substation</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted later and will be subject to further consultation.

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure:



## Community consultation

As part of our mission to deliver a world-leading offshore windfarm, we are keen to communicate openly with communities across the north of Scotland and offer multiple opportunities for us to meet and hear your views. We've already attended a number of local events including the Durness Gathering, the Halkirk Games, the Dounby Show and the Orkney County Show. In November, we organised a Project specific consultation event in seven venues across Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney which were well attended.

We have now analysed the feedback we have received to date and would like to share with you an overview of that analysis. We would also like to provide you with a Project update and some more detailed insights into a number of the environmental assessments we have been undertaking.

We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to attend one of our local pre-application consultation events, where you will get a chance to meet the development team, ask questions and offer feedback.

You may have received a leaflet advising of future consultation events commencing in March 2023. We have decided to delay these events for a few weeks and extend the date by which comments should be submitted. The planned pre-application consultation events will now take place in May 2023 on the dates and in the venues detailed below:

<p><b>Thurso</b> <i>The Pentland Hotel</i> Tue 16th May <b>3.30pm - 7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Strathly</b> <i>Strathly Village Hall</i> Wed 17th May <b>3.30pm - 7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Halkirk</b> <i>Ross Institute</i> Thu 18th May <b>3.30pm - 7.30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Kirkwall</b> <i>Orkney Harbour Authority, Kln Corner</i> Tue 23rd May <b>10am - 2pm</b></p> <p><b>Sandwick</b> <i>Sandwick Community Hall</i> Tue 23rd May <b>4pm - 8pm</b></p> <p><b>Kirkwall</b> <i>LPG Room, Picaquoy Centre</i> Wed 24th May <b>3.30pm - 7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Stromness</b> <i>Robert Rendall Building, ICIT</i> Thu 25th May <b>3.30pm - 7.30pm</b></p>
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## What happens next?

We are continuing to prepare our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be submitted with our applications. We plan to submit the applications for the wind turbines and offshore infrastructure in the summer of 2023. Applications for the onshore infrastructure on Caithness will be submitted later in 2023. Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted at a later date and will be subject to further consultation.

We are continuing to receive your feedback, which we are using to inform the development of the West of Orkney Windfarm. If you are unable to attend our events or would rather not attend, there are several ways you can find out more or provide your feedback. You can get in touch by phoning, emailing or writing to us using the contact details below. We have also developed a short community questionnaire as another way for you to express your opinion about the project. This can be accessed by scanning the QR code or visiting the website.

We have also developed a virtual public exhibition which remains open and can be visited via our website. This replicates the information displayed at the most recent events.

[www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

### Please note

As marine licence/ planning consent applications have not yet been submitted, written comments on the proposals should be made to Offshore Wind Power Ltd (OWPL) by **30th June 2023**.

Please note that comments made to OWPL are not representations to Marine Scotland or The Highland Council. Representations to Marine Scotland and/ or The Highland Council can be made when formal marine licence/ planning applications are submitted.



Please scan the QR code to access the community questionnaire

### Contact us

01786 820 111  
info@westoforkney.com  
Freepost FCHANGE



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## Appendix 4: Offshore PAC Notice published in papers (shown in situ) (ROUND 4)

# public notices



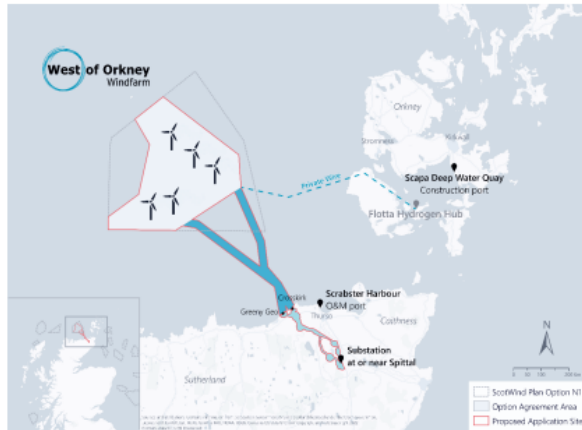
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

## Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Offshore Wind Power Ltd (company number SC605260 with registered office at Clava House, Cradlehall Business Park, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 5GH) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The key offshore components of the Project are:

- Up to 125 x wind turbine generators with fixed foundations, a maximum tip height of 370m and a rotor diameter of between 236m and 330m
- Minimum turbine spacing 944m to 1,320m (depending on rotor diameter)
- Up to 5 x offshore substations
- Inter-array cables buried at a maximum depth of 5m linking the wind turbines
- Up to 5 export cables to landfall sites at Greeny Geo and Crosskirk in Caithness

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure:



Offshore Wind Power Limited is holding a series of pre-application public consultation (PAC) events which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the Project and make comments on the proposals. Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions. You may have received a leaflet advising of future consultation events commencing in March 2023. We have decided to delay these events for a few weeks and extend the date by which comments should be submitted. The planned pre-application consultation events will now take place in May 2023 on the dates and in the venues detailed below.

CORRECT DATES AND VENUES FOR PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION EVENTS							
Date:	Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> May
Venue:	The Pentland Hotel Princes Street Thurso KW14 7AA	Strathly Village Hall Strathly Sutherland KW14 7RZ	Ross Institute Bridge Street Halkirk Caithness KW12 6XZ	Orkney Harbour Authority Kiln Corner Kirkwall KW15 1QX	Sandwick Community Hall Sandwick Orkney KW16 3JE	Pickaquoy Centre Muddisdale Rd Kirkwall Orkney KW15 1LR	Robert Rendall Building Franklin Rd Stromness Orkney KW16 3AN
Time:	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	10am-2pm	4pm-8pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm

In addition to the above, Offshore Wind Power Limited will be submitting subsequent applications for Section 36 consent and onshore planning permission for the infrastructure required to connect the windfarm to the National Grid at or near the existing Spittal substation in Caithness. Marine licence, planning permission and Section 36 consent applications will also be required to connect the windfarm to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub (please see map above). Notification of these applications will be advertised separately and will be subject to additional pre-application consultation at a later date, in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

As marine licence applications have not yet been submitted, written comments should be made to Offshore Wind Power Limited by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Please note that comments made to Offshore Wind Power Limited are not representations to Scottish Ministers. Representations to Marine Scotland can be made when formal marine licence applications are made. To make comments or request further information, please contact:

Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)  
 Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE  
 Phone: 01786 820 111

Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website:

<https://www.westoforkney.com/>

## ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS (APPLICATIONS FOR VARIATION OF CONSENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

Notice is hereby given that Highland Wind Limited (Company registration number: SC675148 and having its registered office at 4th Floor 115 George Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, EH2 4JN) has applied to the Scottish Ministers to vary both the consent granted under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 on 16 March 2017 and marine licence number MS-00009324 granted under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 on 8 June 2021 in order to construct and operate the Downreay Tri Floating Wind Demonstrator, located approximately 6 km off the Downreay coast in Caithness with a total area of 25 km<sup>2</sup> (central grid reference: 58° 39.093' N, 03° 50.976' W).

The applications made under section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 and Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, seeks to make the following variations to the S36 consent and marine licence:

- Remove the individual turbine capacity of 6 MW; and
  - Remove the total generating capacity of 12 MW.
- There would be no change to the physical parameters of the project consented in 2017.

Copies of the variation application and the supporting information are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office/opening hours at:

Thurso Library, Davidson's Lane, Thurso KW14 7AF	Orkney Library, 44 Junction Rd, Kirkwall KW15 1AG
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The section 36 variation and marine licence variation application and supporting information is available for review on the following websites:

1. [www.pentlandfloatingwind.com](http://www.pentlandfloatingwind.com)
2. <https://marine.gov.scot/ml/downreay-tri-floating-wind-demonstration-project>

Any representations regarding the section 36 variation application and/or marine licence variation application should be made in writing by email to [MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot) or by post to: The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB, identifying the proposal and specifying grounds for objection or support, no later than 14 April 2023, although the Scottish Ministers may consider representations received after this date. Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and the full return email or postal address of those making representation.

Where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers may cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

1. Approve and grant the consent/licence for the variation application(s), with or without conditions attached; or
2. Reject the variation application(s).

### Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team ("MS-LOT") determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, the Marine and Coastal Act 2009 and section 36 consents under The Electricity Act 1989 (as amended). During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make a representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, e.g. a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application, the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals should the Scottish Ministers call a PLI and, where necessary, be published online, however, personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: [ms.marinerenewables@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinerenewables@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the area planning AND BUILDING STANDARDS office, Highland Council, Caithness House, Market Place, Wick, KW1 4AB; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where
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**publicnotices**



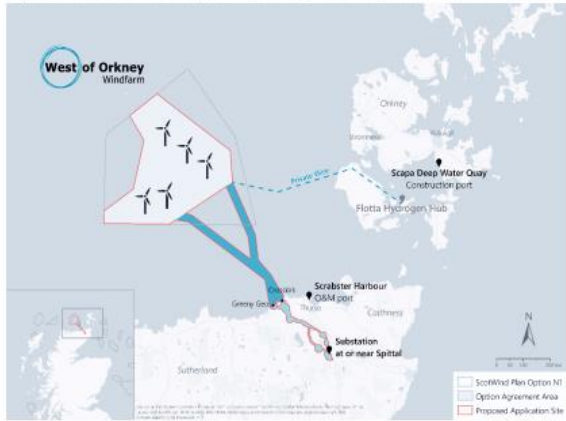
Marine (Scotland) Act 2016

Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Offshore Wind Power Ltd (company number SC805260 with registered office at Clava House, Cradlehall Business Park, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 5GH) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The key offshore components of the Project are:

- Up to 125 x wind turbine generators with fixed foundations, a maximum tip height of 370m and a rotor diameter of between 236m and 330m
- Minimum turbine spacing 844m to 1,320m (depending on rotor diameter)
- Up to 5 x offshore substations
- Inter-array cables buried at a maximum depth of 6m linking the wind turbines
- Up to 5 export cables to landfall sites at Greeny Geo and Crosskirik in Caithness

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure:



Offshore Wind Power Limited is holding a series of pre-application public consultation (PAC) events which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the Project and make comments on the proposals. Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions. You may have received a leaflet advising of future consultation events commencing in March 2023. We have decided to delay these events for a few weeks and extend the date by which comments should be submitted. The planned pre-application consultation events will now take place in May 2023 on the dates and in the venues detailed below:

CORRECT DATES AND VENUES FOR PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION EVENTS							
Date:	Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> May
Venue:	The Penland Hotel Princes Street Thurso KW14 7AA	Strathly Village Hall Strathly Sutherland KW14 7RZ	Ross Institute Bridge Street Halkirk Caithness KW12 8DZ	Orkney Harbour Authority Kirkwall KW15 1QX	Sandwick Community Hall Sandwick Orkney KW16 3JE	Pickaquoy Centre Muddisdale Rd Kirkwall Orkney KW15 1LR	Robert Rendall Building Franklin Rd Stromness Orkney KW16 3AN
Time:	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	10am-2pm	4pm-8pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm

In addition to the above, Offshore Wind Power Limited will be submitting subsequent applications for Section 36 consent and onshore planning permission for the infrastructure required to connect the windfarm to the National Grid at or near the existing Spittal substation in Caithness. Marine licence, planning permission and Section 36 consent applications will also be required to connect the windfarm to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub (please see map above). Notification of these applications will be advertised separately and will be subject to additional pre-application consultation at a later date, in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

As marine licence applications have not yet been submitted, written comments should be made to Offshore Wind Power Limited by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Please note that comments made to Offshore Wind Power Limited are not representations to Scottish Ministers. Representations to Marine Scotland can be made when formal marine licence applications are made. To make comments or request further information, please contact:

Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)  
 Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE  
 Phone: 01786 820 111

Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website:  
<https://www.westoforkney.com/>

**jobsnorth**

SITUATIONS VACANT

**Help Wanted**

Wick based - Kennel Club Assured Breeder of pedigree Yellow Labradors with Fox Red coat



Bonnie's litter is due April, looking for Puppy Nanny and general support with my adult dogs, hours from 10-25 per week.

The successful applicant will be:

- Completely dependable and trustworthy
- A dog lover • 21 or over • Driver with car
- Available flexible hours including weekends sometimes
- Detail oriented and organised

Pay commensurate with experience. Training provided. Interviews in March. Enquiries and Applications to The Director: [info@honeyfitz.co.uk](mailto:info@honeyfitz.co.uk)

**servicesnorth**

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 Call Malcolm 07387411270



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Caithness Courier:

1pm Friday

John O'Groat Journal:

1pm Tuesday

(Except for Personal Announcements

which are 1pm Monday/1pm Wednesday)

**E-MAIL** Your Advertisement direct to [advertising@nosn.co.uk](mailto:advertising@nosn.co.uk)

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**CONTAINER RENTAL &**

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Caithness Courier

For help with placing your advert in the Classified Journal

Contact 01955 602424

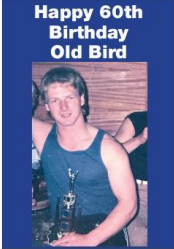
John O'Groat Journal

Caithness Courier

Telephone: 01955 602424



**Personal**



**Happy 60th Birthday Old Bird**

**Public Notice**

**The Orkney Islands Council (Muddisdale Car Park, Kirkwall) (Temporary Closure) Order 2023**

Orkney Islands Council has made the above-named Order under Section 62 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to ensure the safety of the public and road users during an event in association with the Islands Centre for Net Zero.

The Order will be in operation on Friday 24 March 2023 and its effect will be to close the Muddisdale Car Park, when required. Traffic signs will be erected to indicate when the car park is closed.

**Oliver Reid,**  
Chief Executive,  
Council Offices, Kirkwall,  
Orkney,  
KW15 1NY.  
16 March 2023.

**PROPOSED SHORT LEASE OF AN OWNER-OCCUPIED CROFT**

Kate Alexandra Robertson is applying to let the whole croft at Noust, Cross & Burness on a short-term lease to William Tulloch Muir of Hooking, North Ronaldsay, Orkney for 5 years. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot with 28 days of the date of this advert.

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sales@printorkney.co.uk

**Public Notice**

**Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**  
**Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013**

Offshore Wind Power Ltd (company number SC605260 with registered office at Clava House, Cradlehall Business Park, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 5GH) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The key offshore components of the project are:

- Up to 125 x wind turbine generators with fixed foundations, a maximum tip height of 370m and a rotor diameter of between 236m and 330m.
- Minimum turbine spacing 944m to 1,320m (depending on rotor diameter).
- Up to 5 x offshore substations.
- Inter-array cables buried at a maximum depth of 5m linking the wind turbines.
- Up to 5 export cables to landfill sites at Greeny Geo and Crosskirk in Caithness.

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure:

Offshore Wind Power Limited is holding a series of pre-application public consultation (PAC) events which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the project and make comments on the proposals. Members of the project team will be available to answer questions. You may have received a leaflet advising of future consultation events commencing in March 2023. We have decided to delay these events for a few weeks and extend the date by which comments should be submitted. The planned pre-application consultation events will now take place in May 2023 on the dates and in the venues detailed below.

CORRECT DATES AND VENUES FOR PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION EVENTS							
Date:	Tue 16th May	Wed 17th May	Thu 18th May	Tue 23rd May	Tue 23rd May	Wed 24th May	Thu 25th May
Venue:	The Pentland Hotel, Princes Street, Thurso, KW14 7AA.	Strathy Village Hall, Strathy, Sutherland, KW14 7RZ.	Ross Institute, Bridge Street, Halkirk, Caithness, KW12 6XZ.	Orkney Harbour Authority, Kiln Corner, Kirkwall, KW15 1QX.	Sandwick Community Hall, Sandwick, Orkney, KW16 3JE.	Pickaquoy Centre, Muddisdale Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1LR.	Robert Rendall Building, Franklin Road, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3AN.
Time:	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	10am-2pm	4pm-8pm	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.30pm

In addition to the above, Offshore Wind Power Limited will be submitting subsequent applications for Section 36 consent and onshore planning permission for the infrastructure required to connect the windfarm to the National Grid at or near the existing Spittal substation in Caithness. Marine licence, planning permission and Section 36 consent applications will also be required to connect the windfarm to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub (please see map above). Notification of these applications will be advertised separately and will be subject to additional pre-application consultation at a later date, in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

As marine licence applications have not yet been submitted, written comments should be made to Offshore Wind Power Limited by 30th June, 2023. Please note that comments made to Offshore Wind Power Limited are not representations to Scottish Ministers. Representations to Marine Scotland can be made when formal marine licence applications are made. To make comments or request further information, please contact:

Email: info@westoforkney.com  
Postal address: Freeport FCHANGE  
Phone: 01786 820111

Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website: <https://www.westoforkney.com/>

**The Orkney Islands Council (Bridge Street, Albert Street and Laing Street, Kirkwall) (Temporary Closure) Order 2023**

Orkney Islands Council has made the above-named Order under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to ensure the safety of the public and road users to enable safe access and egress to No18 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, for vehicles, plant and materials in connection with the redevelopment of No18 Bridge Street, Kirkwall.

The Order will be in operation from 27 March 2023 for the period until and including 23 September 2024 and its effect will be to at times to either close, or temporarily allow traffic to travel in the opposite direction along, Albert Street (from Bridge Street to Mountkoolie Lane); Bridge Street; and Laing Street, all Kirkwall, when required. Traffic signs will be erected to indicate when a road is closed or where the traffic flow will be reversed.

**Oliver Reid,**  
Chief Executive,  
Council Offices, Kirkwall,  
Orkney, KW15 1NY.  
16 March 2023.

**The Orkney Islands Council (General Carriageway Works and Repairs) (Temporary Closure) Order 2023**

Orkney Islands Council has made the above-named Order under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to ensure the safety of site personnel and road users while general carriageway and repairs are carried out.

The Order will come into operation on 1 April 2023 for the period until and including 31 March 2024 and its effect will be to close the sections of the roads referred to in the schedule below, when required. Traffic signs will be erected to indicate when a road is closed.

**Schedule**

**Roads in Stromness:**  
Alfred Street, Dundas Street, Ferry Road, Graham Place, John Street, Ness Road, South End, and Victoria Street.

**Roads in Kirkwall:**  
Albert Street, Bridge Street, Main Street, Tankerness Lane, and Victoria Street.

**Oliver Reid,**  
Chief Executive,  
Council Offices, Kirkwall,  
Orkney, KW15 1NY.  
16 March 2023.



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## Appendix 5: Onshore PAN submitted to The Highland Council (registered 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023)



## PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE MOLADH BRATH IARRTAIS

**The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and Planning (Scotland) Act 2019**

**Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021**

The Council will respond within 21 days of validation the Notice. It will advise whether the proposed Pre-application Consultation is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required.

Please note that a planning application for this proposed development cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from the date the Proposal of Application Notice is received by the Council and without the statutory consultation requirements having been undertaken. The planning application must be accompanied by a Pre-application consultation report.

The Proposal of Application Notice will be valid for a period of 18 months from the date of validation of the notice by the Council

**Contact Details**

Applicant	Offshore Wind Power Limited	Agent	N/A
Address	32 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4ET	Address	-
Phone	<Redacted>	Phone	-
Email	<Redacted>	Email	-

**Address or Location of Proposed Development**

Please state the postal address of the prospective development site. If there is no postal address, please describe its location. Please outline the site in red on a base plan to a recognised metric scale and attach it to this completed Notice

**Cable landfalls**

Up to two cable landfalls at Greeny Geo and/or Crosskirk

Thurso

Caithness

KW14 7UZ

**Onshore substation**

The onshore substation shall be located at or near the existing Spittal substation

Halkirk

Caithness

KW12 6XA

The onshore transmission infrastructure area is highlighted in the attached Base Plan.

### **Description of Development**

Please include detail where appropriate – eg the number of residential units; the gross floorspace in m<sup>2</sup> of any buildings not for residential use; the capacity of any electricity generation or waste management facility; and the length of any infrastructure project. Please attach any additional supporting information.

Provision of onshore transmission infrastructure for an offshore windfarm, located approximately 28km off the Caithness coast and approximately 23km off the coast of Sutherland. The onshore proposal includes approximately 22km of underground cabling, a substation and associated infrastructure.

As set out in the Scoping Report submitted to MS-LOT 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 the Caithness onshore infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm will comprise of:

- Cable landfalls - at Greeny Geo and/or Crosskirk, Caithness
- One cable transition joint bay at each landfall
- Up to 5 underground onshore cables, buried to a depth of 1m, subject to ground conditions. The underground cables shall extend for a distance of approximately 22km. During construction, a corridor up to 100m wide may be required, which includes haul roads, topsoil and turf storage. Soil and turf shall be reinstated after construction.
- A new onshore substation, at or near the existing Spittal substation. This location was deemed suitable by National Grid and Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Limited. The exact location and size will depend on ground conditions, landowner agreement and grid requirements.
- Temporary construction compounds for the onshore substation and cable landfalls.
- Potential new access tracks for the onshore export cables, landfalls and onshore substations. The exact location and number will depend on landowner agreement and shall be subject to approval from The Highland Council.

The onshore substation will include the electrical equipment to connect the West of Orkney Windfarm to the grid. This may include switchgear, transformers, harmonic filters, reactive compensation devices, protection equipment, batteries and other auxiliary equipment.

The entire footprint of the substation site to the edge of the fence line is likely to be an area of 24 hectares. The exact area of the substation building is yet to be determined. A temporary work compound is likely to require a further area of 15 hectares within the onshore substation area of search.

Additional areas may be required for screening, drainage, biodiversity net gain etc. Any additional areas shall be within the infrastructure area and clearly marked in the application.

### **Pre-application Screening Notice**

Has a Screening Opinion been issued on the need for a Proposal of Application notice by the Highland Council in respect of the proposed development?

**No**

If yes, please provide a copy of this Opinion.

---

**Community Consultation**

State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice.

<b>Community Council/s</b>	<b>Date Notice Served</b>
Caithness West	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Halkirk	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Watten	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Bower	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Castletown	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Melvich	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Strathy and Armadale	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Bettyhill, Strathnaver and Altnaharra	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Tongue	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Durness	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Dunnet and Canisbay	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Kinlochbervie	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Scourie	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023

<b>Local Elected Members</b>	<b>Date Notice Served</b>
N/A	

<b>Members of Scottish Parliament and Members of Parliament</b>	<b>Date Notice Served</b>
Maree Todd MSP	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Jamie Stone MP	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023

<b>Names / details of other parties</b>	<b>Date Notice Served</b>
Orkney Islands Council	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Details of Proposed Consultation

Offshore Wind Power Limited will hold two pre-application consultation (PAC) events at a series of venues which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the West of Orkney Windfarm, including the onshore transmission infrastructure, and make comments on the proposals. The Project team will be available to answer questions. The details of the events and venues in Caithness and Sutherland are as follows:

<b>Proposed Public Event 1</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
	Spittal Village Hall, Spittal, Caithness, KW1 5XR	28/11/22 1600-2000
	Bettyhill Village Hall, Bettyhill, Thurso, KW14 7SS	29/11/22 1500-1930
	North Coast Visitor Centre, High Street, Thurso, KW14 8AJ	30/11/22 1500-1930
<b>Proposed Public Event 2</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
<i>(at least 14 days after Public Event 1)</i>	The Pentland Hotel Princess Street Caithness KW14 7AA	21/03/23 1530-1930
	Strathy Village Hall Strathy Sutherland KW14 7RZ	22/03/23 1530-1930
	Ross Institute Bridge Street Halkirk Caithness KW12 6XZ	23/03/23 1530-1930

Comments received in relation to the Caithness onshore infrastructure will be recorded and presented in the Pre-Application Consultation Report.

**Publication of Event**

<b>Newspaper Advert</b>	<b>Name of Newspaper</b>	<b>Advert Date</b>
Proposed Public Event 1	Caithness Courier	19/10/22 and 18/11/22
	John O'Groats Journal	14/10/22 and 16/11/22
Proposed Public Event 2	Caithness Courier	01/02/23 and 08/03/23
	John O'Groats Journal	03/02/23 and 10/03/23

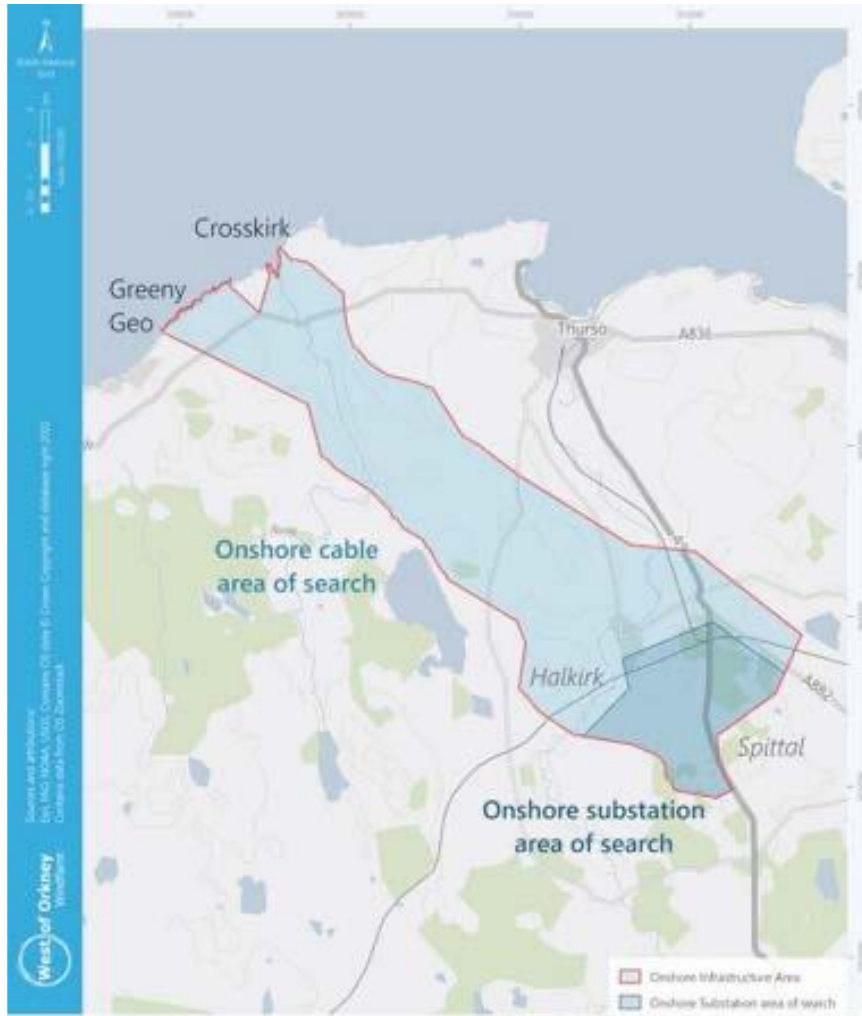
**Details of any other consultation methods (date, time and with whom)**

- EIA Scoping Report published at [www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com) 1/03/22
- A virtual public consultation commenced 21/03/22 including two live question and answer sessions on 29/03/22 between 1200-1400 and 1800-2000
- Durness Games 29/07/22
- Halkirk Games 30/07/22
- Leaflet drop week commencing the 07/11/22 across Caithness and Sutherland targeting post codes: IV27 4, KW 5, KW12 6, KW14 7 and KW14 8
- A community questionnaire has been circulated to community leaders, at community events and remains available online at [www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

Signed <Redacted>

Date **16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Base Plan**







---

## **Appendix 5a: Letter to The Highland Council re: amendments to dates of PAC events**



Alison Harvey  
Planning – Strategic Projects Team  
The Highland Council Headquarters  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX

17 March 2023

Dear Alison,

**Subject: Amendments to Proposal of Application Notice.**

**The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and Planning (Scotland) Act 2019  
Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021**

**Application Reference: 22/05500/PAN  
ePlanning Reference: 100618476-001**

I write on behalf of the West of Orkney Windfarm to amend our Proposal of Application Notice (submitted 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023). We have since changed the dates of our proposed public consultation events and our publication notices. All other aspects of the Proposal of Application Notice remain valid. The amended dates and publications for public events in Caithness and Sutherland are as follows:

**Amended public consultation**

<b>Proposed Public Event 1</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
	The Pentland Hotel Princes Street Thurso KW14 7AA	16/05/23 1530-1930
	Strathy Village Hall Strathy Sutherland KW14 7RZ	17/05/23 1530-1930
	Ross Institute Bridge Street Halkirk Caithness KW12 6XZ	18/05/23 1530-1930



<b>Proposed Public Event 2</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
<i>(at least 14 days after Public Event 1)</i>	The Pentland Hotel Princes Street Caithness KW14 7AA	20/06/23 1530-1930
	Ross Institute Bridge Street Halkirk Caithness KW12 6XZ	21/06/23 1530-1930

**Amended Publication of Events**

<b>Newspaper Advert</b>	<b>Name of Newspaper</b>	<b>Advert Date</b>
Proposed Public Event 1	Caithness Courier	15/03/23 to align with offshore PAC regulations; and 12/04/23 to align with onshore PAC regulations.
	John O'Groats Journal	17/03/23 to align with offshore PAC regulations; and 14/04/23 to align with onshore regulations.
Proposed Public Event 2	Caithness Courier	7/06/23 to align with onshore PAC regulations.
	John O'Groats Journal	9/06/23 to align with onshore PAC regulations

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Your sincerely  
<Redacted>

Jack Farnham  
Development Manager  
West of Orkney Windfarm  
<Redacted>

---

## Appendix 6: E-mail to Community Councils re: PAN

**From:** Jack Farnham  
**Sent:** 16 February 2023 19:22  
**To:** [redacted]@caithnesswestcc.co.uk; [redacted]@halkirkcommunitycouncil.org;  
[redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@gmail.com;  
[redacted]@castletowncommunitycouncil.co.uk; [redacted]@gmail.com;  
[redacted]@highland.gov.uk; [redacted]@btinternet.com;  
[redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@btinternet.com;  
[redacted]@gmail.com; [redacted]@kinlochbervie.info;  
[redacted]@scouriedevelopment.scot; Todd M (Maree), MSP; STONE, Jamie  
**Cc:** Shona Morrison; Victoria McCusker; [redacted]@orkney.gov.uk; [redacted]  
**Subject:** West of Orkney Windfarm - Proposal of Application Notice: Onshore works in  
Caithness  
**Attachments:** West of Orkney Windfarm - Proposal of Application Notice. Onshore Caithness.pdf

Dear elected members and community councils,

Please find attached a copy of the Proposal of Application Notice for the onshore transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm, on Caithness.

This year Offshore Wind Power Ltd (the Applicant) intends to submit applications to construct an offshore windfarm and the associated onshore transmission infrastructure to connect the West of Orkney Windfarm to the grid at, or near, the Spittal substation in Caithness.

The proposed offshore windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2000 megawatts of renewable energy, enough to power around 2 million homes. The project will be located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km off the north coast of Scotland, and is aiming to export first power to the grid in 2029.

The West of Orkney Windfarm is also exploring the opportunity to export power to the Flotta Hydrogen Hub and will submit the relevant applications to Orkney Island Council, in due course.

The West of Orkney Windfarm are hosting Pre-Application Consultation events at venues across Sutherland, Caithness and Orkney.

This is the second of two pre-application consultation events - the information boards remain live on our website <https://www.westoforkney.com/virtualexhibition>.

The second pre-application consultation events will commence in March 2023. Dates, time for the Caithness events are attached.

We hope you have an opportunity to visit the events in person or online. We shall be circulating leaflets via post and shall place notices in local papers at the start of March.

Kind Regards,  
Jack

**Jack Farnham**  
**Development Manager**

<Redacted> [W: westoforkney.com](mailto:w:westoforkney.com)

---

## Appendix 7: Invitation to question & answer webinars (ROUND 1)



# INVITATION TO ATTEND

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**QUESTION & ANSWER**

**WEBINARS**

12noon - 2pm

6pm - 8pm

The West of Orkney Windfarm is keen to hear the views of local communities. We invite residents to attend one of our live WEBINARS where you will have the opportunity to hear from project team and ask any questions you may have about the project.

Links to the webinar, which will be held on Zoom, are located on the table in the virtual exhibition hall. There is no need to register and you can attend these events anonymously.

As a planning application has not yet been submitted, written comments should be emailed to: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com) or posted to West of Orkney Windfarm, c/o Green Investment Group, Atria One, Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EX. Representations to Marine Scotland and the local Planning Authorities can be made when a formal planning application is made.

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## Appendix 8: Advert for launch events/ virtual exhibition (ROUND 1)





## Virtual Public Exhibition

from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March

## Online QUESTION & ANSWER sessions

12noon-2pm and 6pm-8pm, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

The West of Orkney Windfarm is keen to hear the views of local communities. We invite residents to visit our virtual public exhibition and attend one of our live question and answer sessions with the project team.

In January, a consortium comprising Macquarie's Green Investment Group, TotalEnergies, and Scottish offshore wind developer RIDG successfully secured rights in the Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind leasing round to develop a 2GW offshore windfarm around 30km west of Orkney and around 25km north of Caithness. The proposal includes two power export options: one via a grid connection agreement with National Grid at or near the existing Spittal substation in Caithness, and a second via an exclusive partnership to power the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub on Flotta, Orkney.

The virtual exhibition and online events will be accessible here from 21st March:

[www.westoforkney.com/events](http://www.westoforkney.com/events)

As a planning application has not yet been submitted, written comments should be emailed to: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com) or posted to West of Orkney Windfarm, c/o Green Investment Group, Atria One, Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EX. Representations to Marine Scotland and the local Planning Authorities can be made when a formal planning application is made.

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## **Appendix 9: Onshore Notice re: 1st PAC events published in papers (shown in situ) (ROUND 4)**

**publicnotices**

**propertynorth**

**motorsnorth**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Commercial Premises**

**CARAVANS AND MOBILE HOMES**

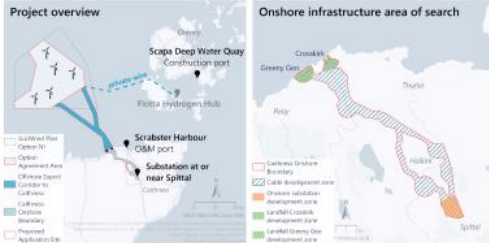


**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)  
Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments)  
(Scotland) Regulations 2009**

**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland)  
Regulations 2013 (as amended)**

Offshore Wind Power Ltd (company number SC605260 with registered office at Clava House, Cradlehall Business Park, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 5GH) intends to submit a planning application to The Highland Council for the construction of onshore infrastructure for the proposed offshore West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed transmission infrastructure will be brought onshore at two locations on the Caithness coast at Greeny Geo and Crosskirk. The proposal includes approximately 22km of underground cabling and a new substation and associated infrastructure at or near Spittal. This will constitute a 'major' development under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed onshore infrastructure and new substation:



Offshore Wind Power Limited is holding a series of pre-application public consultation (PAC) events which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the West of Orkney Windfarm Project, including the proposed onshore infrastructure and new substation, and to make comments on the proposals. Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions. The details of the events are as follows:

Date:	Tue 16th May	Wed 17th May	Thu 18th May	Tue 23rd May	Tue 23rd May	Wed 24th May	Thu 25th May
Venue:	The Pentland Hotel, Princes Street, Thurso, KW14 7AA	Strathy Village Hall, Strathy, Sutherland, KW14 7RZ	Ross Institute, Bridge Street, Halkirk, Caithness KW12 6XZ	Orkney Harbour Authority, Kiln Corner, Kirkwall, KW15 1QX	Sandwick Community Hall, Sandwick, Orkney, KW16 3JE	Pickaquooy Centre, Muddisdale Rd, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1LR	Robert Rendall Building, Franklin Rd, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3AN
Time:	3.30pm - 7.30pm	3.30pm - 7.30pm	3.30pm - 7.30pm	10am - 2pm	4pm - 8pm	3.30pm - 7.30pm	3.30pm - 7.30pm

In addition to the above, Offshore Wind Power Limited will be submitting applications for the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and its associated offshore infrastructure. These applications have been advertised separately in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

As a planning application has not yet been submitted for the proposed onshore infrastructure and new substation, written comments on the proposals should be made to Offshore Wind Power Limited by 30th June 2023. Please note that comments made to Offshore Wind Power Limited are not representations to The Highland Council. Representations to The Highland Council can be made when a formal planning application is made. To make comments or request further information, please contact:

Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)  
Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE | Phone: 01786 820 111  
Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website:  
<https://www.westoforkney.com/>

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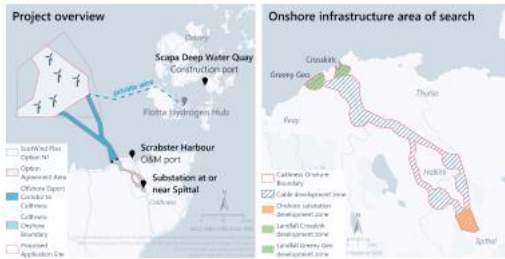
# public notices



## Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009

### Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

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Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)  
Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE | Phone: 01786 820 111  
Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website:  
<https://www.westoforkney.com/>

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS Notice under regulation 7(2)(b) Pre-application consultation by the prospective applicant

Proposal seeking detailed planning permission for the development of a 47MWH capacity battery energy storage facility consisting of containerized battery storage units and related inverters, transformers and switch room, along with proposed site access from the A9, landscaping, fencing and other required infrastructure on land immediately to the east of the A9, approximately 500m south of Mybster Inn Farm, 18km to the south of Thurso, KW1 5XR.

You are invited to a staffed public exhibition on Thursday 27th April 2023 (between 3pm and 7pm) at Spittal Community Hall, Spittal KW1 5XR.

In addition we will also be hosting the public exhibition online, which can be accessed from the following webpage [www.potenciaenergy.com/mybster\\_pan/](http://www.potenciaenergy.com/mybster_pan/)

The online public exhibition webpage will be accessible from the 6th April to 27th April 2023 and any comments / questions can be made both online on the webpages and via email. All comments to be submitted by the 4th May 2023.

It should also be noted that at the aforementioned staffed public exhibition feedback will be given to comments received as a result of the ongoing public consultation process in relation to the proposals.

Further information may be obtained from McInally Associates Ltd, 16 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DS or via [advice@mcinally-associates.co.uk](mailto:advice@mcinally-associates.co.uk)

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal should do so by 4th May 2023 to [advice@mcinally-associates.co.uk](mailto:advice@mcinally-associates.co.uk)

This notice does not relate to a planning application. Comments should not be made to Highland Council. Any representations made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted to Highland Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.

Signed Potencia Energy

Date 14/04/2023

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically by appointment at the **area planning AND BUILDING STANDARDS office, Highland Council, Caithness House, Market Place, Wick, KW1 4AB**; or electronically by appointment at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected & time period for comments
23/01374/FUL	SITE 1 - Keiss Pillbox (North), 600M Northeast Of Keiss Harbour SITE 2 - Keiss Pillbox (South), 324M Northeast Of Keiss Harbour SITE 3 - Keiss Harbour Viewpoint SITE 4 - Keiss Beach Carpark	Installation of 4 no interpretation boards at locations in the Keiss area (part of WW2 trail)	(14 days)
23/01415/FUL	Noss Head Carpark Wick Caithness	Installation of interpretative panels	(14 days)
23/01379/FUL	Reiss Car Park Reiss Wick	Installation of 2no. interpretative panels	(14 days)
23/01380/FUL	SITE 9 Ackerhill Pillbox 490M North Of Shorelands Farm Ackerhill, Wick	Installation of interpretation panels	(14 days)
23/01378/FUL	Skitten War Memorial Killinester, Wick	Installation of interpretation panels	(14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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## **Appendix 10: Onshore Notice re: 2nd PAC events published in papers (shown in situ) (ROUND 5)**

**publicnotices**



**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)  
Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments)  
(Scotland) Regulations 2009  
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)  
(Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended)**

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Date:	Tuesday 20th June	Wednesday 21st June
Venue:	The Pentland Hotel, Princes Street, Thurso, KW14 7AA	The Ross Institute, Halkirk, Caithness, KW12 6XZ
Time:	3.30pm-7.30pm	3.30pm- 7.30pm

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Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com) Postal address: **Freeport FCHANGE**  
Phone: 01786 820 111 Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website: <https://www.westoforkney.com/>

**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
Wednesday 7 June 2023  
at 19:00 hours  
Pentland Hotel (Ballroom), Thurso or via MS Teams

**generalnotices**  
**Jamie Stone MP Advice Surgery**  
Friday 9th June

www.highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected & time period for comments
23/02458/FUL	Land 40M North East Of John O' Grass Ruins Information Visitor Centre, A99 John O' Grass Sutherland, KW1 4YX	Installation of a public drinking water 'Top-up' Tap (Water Refill Station)	(14 days)
23/02455/PPP	Plot 1 300M SE Of The Old Schoolhouse Achin, Upper KVO3 8BT	Erect dwelling	(14 days)
23/01780/FUL	Land 90M SW Of Caen Aile Brough	Erection of house and lodge (for ancillary use and holiday letting), temporary siting of caravan, installation of 2 No private drainage systems and formation of access	(14 days)
23/02463/FUL	Land 55M North Of Thistle Garage, Occumaster Lybster	Erection of storage shed to incorporate existing container	(14 days)
23/02382/FUL	Land 1215M NW Of North Biblar Farm, Biblar Wick	Erection of woodland hut	(14 days)
23/02393/FUL	Empty Unit 5 Wick Retail Park South Road, Wick KW1 5N4	External alterations and change of use from Class 1 (Shops) to Class 4 (Storage or Distribution)	(14 days)
23/0274/LBC	15 Riverside Place Thurso KW14 8BZ	Erection of extension and change of use from derelict house to park shop (amendment to previous approval ref. 21/01637/LBC) (In retrospect), installation of solar panels.	Regulation 5 - affecting the character of a listed building (21 days)

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Genungarth Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [epanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epanning@highland.gov.uk)

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**DEADLINES:**  
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**FRIDAY 1 PM**  
 (except personal announcements)

**PAYMENTS:**  
 Payments can be made over the phone using Visa or Mastercard  
  
 All private advertisements must be pre-paid by noon Tuesday



**familynotices**

**DEATHS**

**COGHILL** - Peacefully, in Kingsmills Care Home, Inverness, on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023, Patricia Coghill, née Manson. Beloved wife of the late George Coghill and a dear mother, nana, great-nana and great-great-nana. Interment will take place at graveside in Orling Cemetery on Thursday, 1st June, commencing at 2.00pm.

**DAVIS** - George Bain Davis, on 25th May, 2023, had to leave us all. He peacefully slept away in Caithness General Hospital after a long struggle with ill health and disabilities. Formerly of Key housing and lately Seaview Care Home, Wick. Deeply loved brother of Tina Sutherland and the late Margaret Cavey, brother-in-law of Don Sutherland and David Cavey. Dear uncle to Jamie, Paul and Martin and their wives Lorna and Mae Feng. Funeral service within Ormlie Lodge Service Rooms, Thurso, on Tuesday, 6th June, service commencing at 12 noon. All friends respectfully invited. No dress code, just be there. Donations, if desired, may be given in aid of the M.S. Society and Mencap. Thereafter to private cremation.

**WARNER** - It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Graeme (Gray) on Thursday, 25th May, 2023. A beloved son of Liz and the late Stewart. A loving dad of Niamb and Iainey, a much-loved brother to Kevie and uncle to Beth, a dear brother-in-law and friend to many. Funeral service within Ormlie Lodge Service Rooms, Thurso, on Friday, 2nd June, service commencing at 1.00p.m., thereafter to Thurso Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, may be given in aid of local R.N.L.I. and local Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

For help with your advertisement please telephone 01955 602424

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**4 CAMPBELL STREET, THURSO**  
 Telephone: (01847) 895514

**Caithness Courier & John O'Groat Journal**

Telephone: (01955) 602424  
 Email: [advertising@nosn.co.uk](mailto:advertising@nosn.co.uk)

**publicnotices**

**West of Orkney Windfarm**

**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009**

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Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com) Postal address: **Freeport FCHANGE**  
 Phone: 01786 820 111 Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website: <https://www.westoforkney.com/>



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## Appendix 11: Exhibition boards from 2nd onshore PAC event (ROUND 5)





# West of Orkney Windfarm



## OFFSHORE

- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with a maximum tip height of 370m
- Fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substation platforms
- Inter-array cables linking the wind turbines and offshore substation platforms
- Up to five export cables to Caithness
- Up to five export cables to Flotta (future separate application)

## ONSHORE

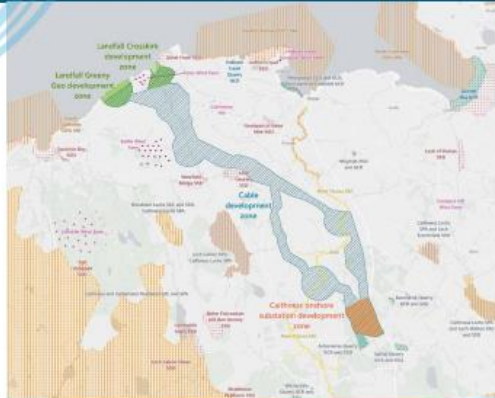
- New substation at or near Spittal
- Up to five underground cable circuits from landfall point to substation
- Orkney infrastructure subject to future separate application
- New substation near existing Flotta Oil Terminal/proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub
- Up to five underground cable circuits to Flotta substation



[www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

# West of Orkney Windfarm

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Protected sites</b>                     | <b>Development Zones</b>                     |
| Special protection area (SPA)              | Cable development zone                       |
| Site of special scientific interest (SSSI) | Cathness onshore substation development zone |
| Geological conservation review (GCR) site  | Landfall Crosskirk development zone          |
| Special area of conservation (SAC)         | Landfall Greeny Geo development zone         |
| <b>Onshore windfarm status</b>             | Scoping/Screening: In Planning               |
| Constructed                                | Under Construction                           |
| Approved                                   | Status unknown                               |



## CABLE ROUTE REFINEMENT

Following extensive assessment of six potential landfall options, it is now proposed that electricity from the West of Orkney Windfarm will be brought ashore at either Greeny Geo or Crosskirk. The onshore cable route will include up to 33km of buried cable to connect with a new substation near the existing SSEN substation at Spittal.

A range of mitigation measures has been devised to protect local environmental and archaeological features throughout the development zones illustrated above and details of these will be included in the planning submission.



In February 2023, SSEN Transmission commenced consultation about planned investments in the transmission network across the north of Scotland to support the significant growth of renewable energy forecast in the years up to 2030, particularly onshore and offshore wind. This includes upgrading existing lines, building new overhead lines, subsea cable infrastructure and a new substation in the Spittal area, and will include a new 400kV overhead line from Spittal to Loch Buidhe and on to Beaully.

More information can be found here:



[www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

## ONSHORE MITIGATIONS



All of the onshore surveys were completed in May 2023. To reduce potential impacts that may arise from the Project, mitigations measures will be put in place. The below table outlines some of the proposed mitigations for the onshore impacts.

ELEMENT AFFECTED	POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION
• Traffic and access	Damage to roads and road closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Traffic Management Plan.</li> <li>• Use dedicated haul roads to avoid using main roads.</li> <li>• Undertake road repairs as required.</li> </ul>
• Geology • Hydrology	Impact on sensitive areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid sensitive areas, such as peatland and designated areas.</li> </ul>
• Freshwater ecology	Impact on freshwater fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) under major river crossings.</li> </ul>
• Onshore ecology	Impact on terrestrial ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid sensitive areas and designated sites.</li> <li>• Adhere to a Species and Habitat Protection Plan (SHPP).</li> <li>• Ensure a qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) presence at sensitive locations.</li> </ul>
• Landscape and visual	Visual impact of substation and cables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substation will be behind a bund.</li> <li>• Screening and planting.</li> <li>• Underground cables.</li> </ul>
• Landscape and visual	Artificial lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensor controlled lighting.</li> <li>• Substation will be behind a bund.</li> <li>• Screening and planting.</li> <li>• Avoiding unnecessary lighting.</li> </ul>

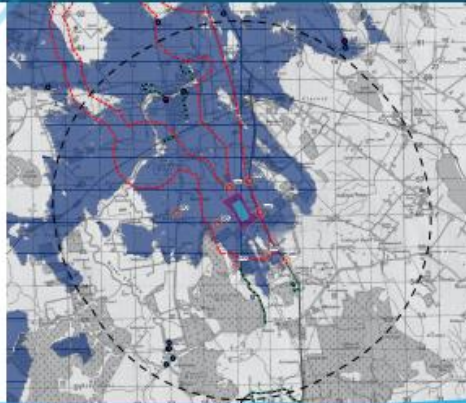
# West of Orkney Windfarm



Map  
This map is a representation of the information contained in the map and is not a substitute for the original map. The map is a representation of the information contained in the map and is not a substitute for the original map. The map is a representation of the information contained in the map and is not a substitute for the original map.

## ZTV & Visual Receptors: Substation

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Platform Location              | Listed Buildings               |
| Onshore Substation Search Area | B                              |
| Skm Study Area                 | C                              |
| Onshore Project Area           | Viewpoints                     |
| Core Paths                     | Scheduled Monuments            |
|                                | Zone of Theoretical Visibility |



## ONSHORE SUBSTATION VISUAL IMPACT

### ○ VISUAL IMPACT

The map above illustrates the likely maximum extent of the visibility of the proposed new substation based on a worse-case scenario in terms of size and scale of the substation.

The map also shows a selection of viewpoints for which photomontages have been prepared, as agreed with The Highland Council, Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot.

### ○ SUBSTATION DESIGN

Electricity substations require to be insulated using either gas or air. Gas insulated switchgear (GIS) substations are constructed inside a building and the switch gear is insulated by gas, which allows transformers to be positioned closer together, reducing the overall size of the substation. As air insulated switchgear (AIS) substations are open to the elements, the transformers have to be positioned further apart so the substation takes up a larger footprint for the same capacity. Both options are currently being considered for the West of Orkney Windfarm.

The substation will be screened behind bunding (small embankments) and planting. In response to feedback received at the Pre-Application (PAC) events in May 2023, planting will be based on native species of trees, shrubs and pollinator-friendly flora suitable for local birds, insects and other wildlife. As we are applying for 'Planning Permission in Principle', further details regarding the design of the substation and associated mitigation measures will require to be submitted for approval.

- Substation
- Preferred onshore substation location
- Proposed bunding contours
- Planting - trees
- Planting - shrubs
- Existing woodland
- Recently felled woodland
- Existing vegetation to be removed



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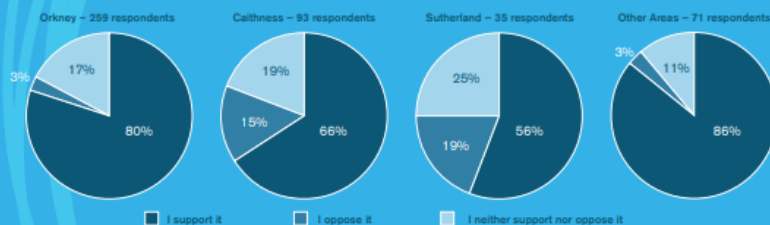
## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The West of Orkney Windfarm project team continues to undertake extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. This process began during preparation of the ScotWind bid to The Crown Estate Scotland. A summary of specialist meetings and consultation events that have been undertaken since the site was awarded in January 2022 is provided below.

MONTH/YEAR	EVENT
January 2022	West of Orkney Windfarm site awarded
March 2022	Virtual public exhibition, including live Q&A sessions
May 2022	Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Technical Working Groups established
June 2022	1st round of topic-specific consultee meetings 1st round of community panels (Orkney, Sutherland, Caithness)
July 2022	Durness Highland Gathering, Sutherland Halkirk Highland Games, Caithness
August 2022	Dounby Show, Orkney Orkney County Show
September 2022	2nd round of topic-specific consultee meetings
November 2022	1st round of public consultation events x7
January 2023	3rd round of topic-specific consultee meetings 2nd round of community panels (Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland)
February 2023	One-to-one socio-economic stakeholder interviews begin
May 2023	1st round of onshore and offshore PAC events x7
June 2023	2nd round of onshore PAC events x2

Over 450 community questionnaires have been returned and respondents' reactions to the Project by location are presented below:

### How would you describe your reaction to the West of Orkney Windfarm?



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## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Feedback from local communities continues to play a key part in shaping our engagement activities and informing our final development plans. Specific feedback has been sought on the proposed onshore infrastructure associated with the West of Orkney Windfarm. Suggestions from local people are influencing the screening proposals for the new substation and concerns around environmental impact will be reflected in our mitigation measures for the onshore infrastructure.

The table below summarises feedback received to date and our responses:

YOUR FEEDBACK	OUR RESPONSE
Why did you choose to connect at Spittal?	We did not choose the location. National Grid undertook their own internal analysis and allocated us a grid connection at or near Spittal.
Will there be any overhead lines?	No, the electricity will be brought ashore and connected to a new substation at or near Spittal using underground cabling.
How did you determine the study area for the visual impact of the substation and did you consider cumulative effects?	Our specialist landscape architect discussed the study area with NatureScot Historic Environment Scotland and The Highland Council. Our assessment includes consideration of the cumulative impact of other projects and proposals in the area.
What are you going to do about reducing the visual impact?	The transmission cable will be buried underground. The substation will be screened behind bunds (small embankments) with appropriate native trees and shrubs, pollinator-friendly flora and meadow habitats suitable for local birds and insects. We will reinstate any land that is affected by our works.
What about St Mary's Chapel and other archaeological features at Crosskirk?	There will be no direct physical impact on St Mary's Chapel although there may be temporary impacts on the setting of the Chapel during the construction phase. A comprehensive assessment has been undertaken to identify known and unrecorded historic features which will be protected during construction.
What about geological features (especially at Crosskirk)?	We will avoid sensitive areas including designated sites.
Will you spoil our dark skies?	No, we will avoid unnecessary lighting and use sensor-controlled lighting at the substation to minimise times lights are on.
Why do you want to screen the substation?/Why have bunding?	Although we have received some very limited feedback suggesting that it is not necessary to screen the substation, the majority of responses have supported the idea of screening.
Will you develop a biodiversity action plan?	We will develop a biodiversity action plan for the onshore development zone alongside local stakeholders.
What about the interesting ecology at Crosskirk?	We will avoid sensitive areas/designated sites and adhere to a Species and Habitat Protection Plan (SHPP) with an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) present, as appropriate. We will use Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to go underneath rivers and watercourses.
Why are you not using overhead cables which would substantially reduce 'losses' of electricity?	Experience indicates that the vast majority of people prefer transmission lines to be buried where they cannot be seen. This has been further evidenced in the feedback we have received.
Will there be a visitor centre or signage at the substation?	We do not plan to create a visitors' centre but we will install information boards.
Why are you not including energy storage?	The West of Orkney Windfarm has an agreement to provide electricity to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub in the future. This will be the subject of separate consent applications.

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## COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Community benefit funds (CBF) are voluntary schemes created by developers to help local communities to benefit from commercial developments. The West of Orkney Windfarm is developing a CBF which will be available when the windfarm starts generating power in 2029. The CBF will be shared across communities in Caithness, Sutherland, and Orkney. Engagement with local communities will ensure that the fund is managed effectively and fairly. Discussions to date suggest a broad range of priorities from short-term to longer term strategic goals, as outlined below:

### SUGGESTED PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING

SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Supporting existing local initiatives, e.g. through sponsorship	Digital connectivity	Natural capital
Local business grants	Affordable housing	Community ownership
Support for energy bills	Sustaining communities	Sustaining the fund after the windfarm

In the meantime, the West of Orkney Windfarm has been involved in sponsoring some community events, such as supporting students from Kirkwall Grammar School to attend a Discover Engineering course and Orkney Athletics and Running Club for equipment in preparation for the Island Games 2025.

The West of Orkney Windfarm are keen to hear your views! If you have any further suggestions on how the CBF can benefit your community, please scan the QR code and complete the online form.



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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### INVESTING IN SCOTLAND

- Targeting 60% UK content of which 40% will come from Scotland
- Committing £140m during the initial development phase to develop the supply chain.
- Committing £900,000 along with other developers to expand the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) schools Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) outreach engagement programme.
- Exclusive EMEC innovation partnership around next generation technologies.
- Multi-million-pound contracts awarded to local companies.
- Agreement to create an operations and maintenance base at Scrabster Harbour, which will create ~140 full-time jobs for 35 years.
- Working with Orkney Islands Council to develop Scapa Deep Water Quay.



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

May  
2023

First round of onshore and offshore Pre-Application (PAC) events.

June  
2023

Second round PAC events.

If you wish to respond directly to West of Orkney Windfarm, please write to Offshore Wind Power Limited by Friday 30th June 2023.

- Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)
- Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE
- Phone: 01786 820 111

Summer  
2023

Offshore consent application to be submitted to Scottish Ministers.

Autumn  
2023

Onshore consent application to be submitted to The Highland Council.

2027

Onshore construction in Caithness is due to start.  
Offshore construction to commence.

2029

First power generated.  
Community Benefit Fund available when power generation begins.

### Representations to relevant planning authority

Once the consent applications have been submitted, any representations should be made in writing to the Scottish Ministers for offshore elements and The Highland Council for onshore elements. Further details will be provided by the regulatory authorities, as appropriate.

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## Appendix 12: Community Engagement Plan (CEP)



# ***WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM***

## **Community Engagement Plan**

**June 2022**

Doc No. 100-WOW-CON-K-GA-0002-01

Rev. 1



Strictly confidential

<b>Company:</b>	West of Orkney Windfarm	<b>Asset:</b>	Whole Asset
<b>Project:</b>	Whole Windfarm	<b>Sub Project/Package:</b>	Community Engagement
<b>Document Title:</b>	Community Engagement Plan		
<b>Document Number:</b>	100-WOW-CON-K-GA-0002-01	<b>Contractor Ref:</b>	N/A

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Rev Number	Date	Status/Reason for Changing	Author	Checked by	Approved by
1	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	First Issue	VMC	LF	JF

West of Orkney Windfarm

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Strictly confidential

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West of Orkney Windfarm

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The Community Engagement Plan

This 'Community Engagement Plan' (CEP) outlines the community engagement programme for the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm. We feel that it is important that the community has an input into the plan and we would therefore invite your comments on this document. Our aim is that the document will guide our engagement, so we want to make it as relevant, useful and appropriate as possible.

The purpose of the CEP is to ensure that all relevant local communities have the opportunity to engage with the Project. The Project team believes that the best way to ensure that the consultation approach is appropriate is to involve stakeholders in its design. Existing stakeholders and community groups will typically be well aware of their own engagement and communication needs and have an understanding of what is likely to work in their communities.

We have consulted with key community leaders and representatives on the CEP design. This has involved collaborating to identify relevant stakeholders as well as consideration of the methods and timetable for engagement proposed in this document.

If you have any comments about the plan we would be grateful if you could feed them back to the Project team.

## 1.2 Aims and objectives of community engagement

This document describes how engagement with community stakeholders is arranged and facilitated to provide an opportunity for people to:

- ≠ Learn more about the proposal
- ≠ Raise any concerns they may have
- ≠ Make suggestions for improvement

It also describes how the information obtained from community engagement is recorded and taken into consideration when making Project decisions.

The key objectives of our community engagement strategy are therefore:

- ≠ To build effective long-term working relationships with communities based on mutual respect and trust
- ≠ To mitigate the risk of delays in consenting and/ or costly Project changes through timely stakeholder buy in
- ≠ To fulfil regulatory obligations in accordance with relevant consenting regimes

## 1.3 Broader engagement

In addition to engaging with communities, the Project team is also engaging with a range of other stakeholders who may have an influence over the proposals or be impacted by them. This engagement will be documented elsewhere but these stakeholders include:

- ≠ Regulatory stakeholders such as Marine Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland and Local Planning Authorities
- ≠ Landowners (in relation to onshore works)
- ≠ Statutory consultees such as NatureScot and SEPA
- ≠ Strategic organisations like the RSPB or fishing organisations
- ≠ Politicians like Members of the Scottish Parliament or locally elected Councillors
- ≠ Economic stakeholders such as companies that could be involved in the construction and operation of the windfarm, local business that may benefit from the Project and economic development bodies
- ≠ Media stakeholders such as local publications or radio broadcasters



## 2. Background

### 2.1 Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind Leasing Round

Crown Estate Scotland which is responsible for the management of marine assets in Scotland announced their intention to run a leasing round for commercial scale offshore wind energy projects in Scottish waters in November 2017. This was the first offshore wind leasing round in Scotland for over a decade and was named 'ScotWind'. To inform the spatial development of this leasing round, Marine Scotland, as Planning Authority for Scotland's seas, was required to undertake a planning exercise, in accordance with relevant EU, UK and Scottish legislation.

### 2.2 The Sectoral Marine Plan

Following more than two years of extensive analysis, consideration and engagement with stakeholders, the Scottish Government published the **Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (2020)**<sup>1</sup> in October 2020. The Plan identified 15 areas known as Plan Options (POs) for the future development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland (see Figure 1). These POs were selected based on an iterative process of opportunity and constraints analysis including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, amongst other studies.

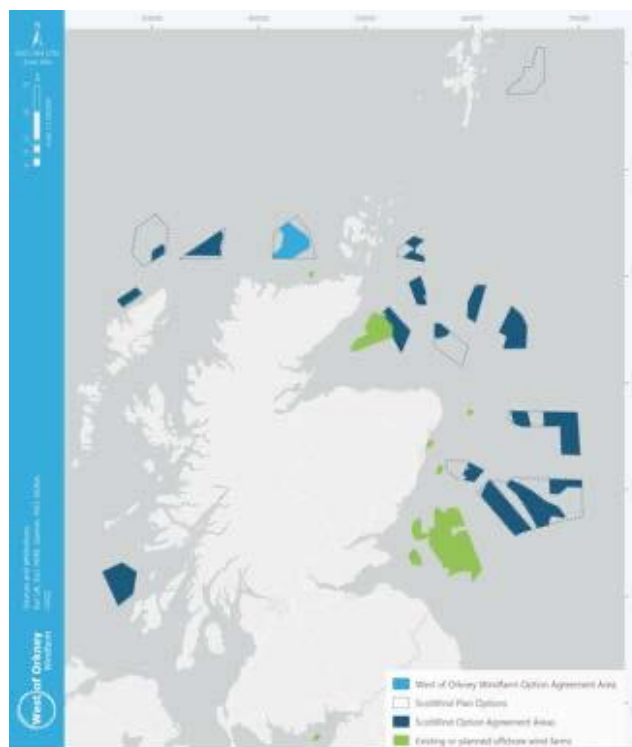


Figure 1: Location of proposed plan options

<sup>1</sup> Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore wind. Available online at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy> (Scottish Government 2020)

### 3. The Project

Crown Estate Scotland (CES) awarded OWPL the Option to Lease Agreement (OLA) in January 2022 for the development of the West of Orkney Windfarm following the ScotWind leasing round. The OLA was signed in April 2022.

The West of Orkney Windfarm Option Agreement Area (OAA) lies wholly within the “N1” PO and has an area of approximately 657 km<sup>2</sup>. The OAA is located approximately 30km off the coast of Orkney and around 25km north of the Scottish mainland (Figure 2).

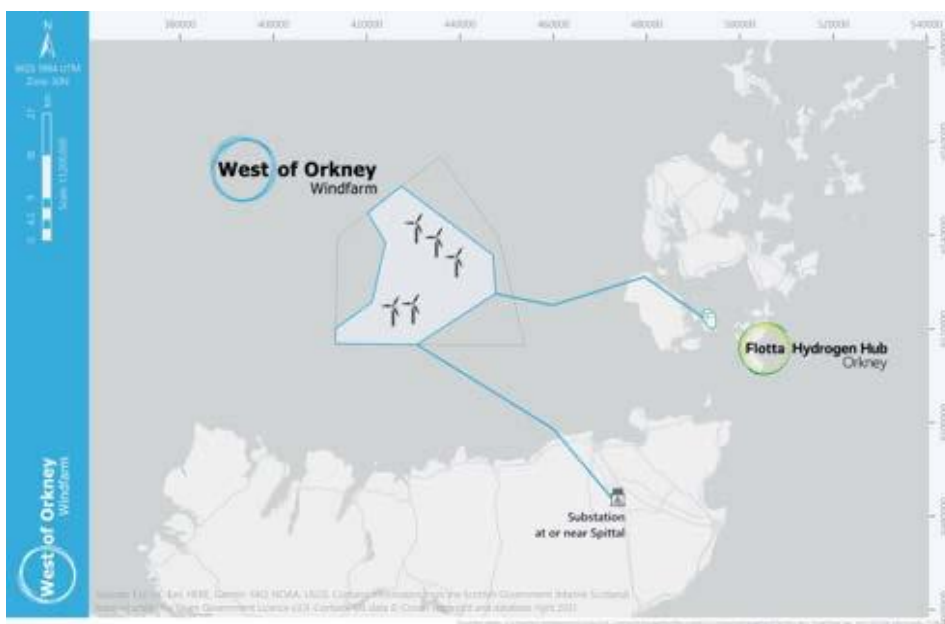


Figure 2: Location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm

The proposed OAA was developed through an iterative mapping exercise avoiding key constraints, supplemented by consultation with key stakeholders. The constraints analysis resulted in an OAA that both maximises the potential for renewable energy production, whilst retaining flexibility to accommodate technical and environmental considerations.

#### 3.1 Offshore works

The West of Orkney Windfarm will have a nominal capacity of 2GW. The wind turbine layout and export cable route will be determined following design optimisation to balance a range of factors including turbine choice and spacing, foundation structure, wind direction, seabed characteristics, metocean and navigational safety and fisheries considerations amongst other constraints.

The Project is currently considering both fixed-bottom foundations and floating substructures for the wind turbines. While this will not be determined until seabed surveys are completed, the offshore infrastructure associated with the Project is expected to comprise:

##### Offshore array area:

- ≠ Up to 125 wind turbine generators with a maximum tip height of 370 metres.
- ≠ Turbine foundations/ supporting structures – fixed and/ or floating.
- ≠ Up to five offshore substation platforms.
- ≠ Inter-array cables linking the wind turbines and offshore substation platforms.

---

#### **Infrastructure for the export of power from the offshore array area:**

- ≠ Up to five export cables to Caithness.
- ≠ Up to five export cables to Flotta, Orkney. These will cross both the offshore area west of Orkney and Scapa Flow and include onshore elements across the island of Hoy and potentially Fara.

### **3.2 Onshore works**

The Project has a grid connection agreement with National Grid for a connection at or near the existing Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) substation at Spittal in Caithness. Additionally, the Project has an exclusive agreement to power the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub<sup>2</sup> in Orkney.

There is potential for both the above power export options to be utilised and each will require a new onshore substation. The onshore substations will include electrical equipment required to connect the Project to the grid and/ or the Flotta Hydrogen Hub. In addition to the area required for the footprint of the onshore substations, temporary working areas will also be required during construction.

No overhead power lines are planned for this Project as all cables will be installed underground. It is anticipated that open-cut trenching will be the primary installation method, however this will be reviewed once the onshore cable routes are finalised following completion of onshore site investigation works. Horizontal directional drilling may be required at the cable landfalls and if obstacles are encountered, including sensitive features such as watercourses and crossings with railways.

To summarise, onshore infrastructure associated with the Project is expected to comprise:

#### **Caithness**

- ≠ Onshore substation located at or near to the existing SHE Transmission Spittal substation
- ≠ Up to five underground cables

#### **Orkney**

- ≠ Onshore substation located near to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub at the existing Flotta Oil Terminal
- ≠ Up to five underground cables to Flotta, across the island of Hoy and potentially Fara.

---

<sup>2</sup> The Flotta Hydrogen hub is a separate project to the West of Orkney Windfarm and will be the subject of a separate planning application. More information can be found at: [www.flottahydrogenhub.com](http://www.flottahydrogenhub.com).

## 4. Consenting Procedures

### 4.1 Climate change legislation

The proposed West of Orkney Windfarm has the potential to make a significant contribution to the Scottish Government's commitment to reach net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045, as stated in the **Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019** and supported in the **Scottish Energy Strategy: The future of energy in Scotland** which "envisages further offshore wind developments as playing a key role in Scotland's future energy mix".

In delivering this contribution, OWPL is fully committed to fulfilling and exceeding the requirements of the legislation in relation to community stakeholder engagement. This section outlines these requirements with brief reference to the wider consenting procedures. More detailed information about the consenting regime can be found in the West of Orkney Windfarm Scoping Report which can be accessed on the Project website at [www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com).

### 4.2 Project consents

The consenting process for the West of Orkney Windfarm and its associated infrastructure is quite complex as it spans a number of jurisdictions and regulatory frameworks as shown in Figure 3:



Figure 3: Map showing relevant consenting areas

#### 4.2.1 Offshore Consenting

Energy proposals of this type are covered by the **Electricity Act 1989**<sup>3</sup> and the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010** and the **Coastal Access Act 2009** which require applications for relevant consents and licenses to be made to Marine Scotland's Licensing and Operations Team (MS-LOT) acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

In addition to the above, **The Orkney County Council Act 1974** requires a Works Licence to be secured from Orkney Islands Council for works within the Orkney Harbour Area.

<sup>3</sup> Planning applications for this type of energy development are often referred to as Section 36 applications as they relate to Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

#### 4.2.2 Onshore Consenting

Onshore planning applications are determined in accordance with the **Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)**. The onshore works related to the proposed grid connection at Spittal in Caithness will require planning consent from The Highland Council. The proposed power export to Flotta and associated substation will require planning consent from Orkney Islands Council.

### 4.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The application for the proposed windfarm requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to identify and assess the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of the development. It informs the design of the Project from an environmental perspective and identifies mitigation measures to minimise and manage the impacts of the Project on the surrounding environment.

One of the first tasks in the EIA process is to prepare a Scoping Report outlining the surveys and studies proposed, based on initial assessments. A Scoping Report for the Project was submitted to Marine Scotland, The Highland Council and Orkney Islands Council in March 2022 and is available to view on the Project website. Table 1 outlines the topics proposed for consideration during the EIA. The outcome of the EIA will be detailed in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) which will be publicly available for comment and submitted with the planning application.

Table 1: EIA Topics

Assessment		Offshore EIA Report		Onshore EIA Report
Physical Environment	≠	Physical & Coastal Processes	≠	Geology & Hydrology
	≠	Water & Sediment Quality	≠	Air Quality, Noise & Vibration
Biological Environment	≠	Benthic & Intertidal Ecology	≠	Freshwater Ecology
	≠	Fish & Shellfish Ecology	≠	Terrestrial Non-Avian Ecology
	≠	Ornithology	≠	Terrestrial Ornithology
	≠	Marine Mammals & Megafauna		
Human Environment	≠	Commercial Fisheries		
	≠	Shipping & Navigation		
	≠	Archaeology & Cultural Heritage	≠	Land-use & Other Users
	≠	Military & Aviation	≠	Archaeology & Cultural Heritage
	≠	Seascape, Landscape & Visual	≠	Traffic & Access
	≠	Other Sea Users	≠	Landscape & Visual
	≠	Socio-economics		

### 4.4 Community engagement policy

The **Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)**, the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010** and **Scotland's National Marine Plan: A Single Framework for Managing Our Seas** all make provision for pre-application consultation in relation to planning and Marine License applications. The Acts are supported by the **Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013** and **The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended)** which provide specific regulations relating to statutory pre-application consultation.

#### 4.4.1 Statutory Pre-Application Consultation

Within the context of the above Regulations, the prospective applicant's obligations in terms of statutory pre-application consultation can be summarised as shown in Table 2:

**Table 2: Summary of statutory pre-application consultation requirements**

In relation to offshore consents, the Applicant must...	In relation to onshore consents, the Applicant must...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) of intention to apply at least 12 weeks prior to submission.</li> <li>≠ Submit a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report with the application describing the consultation undertaken.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) of intention to apply at least 12 weeks prior to submission.</li> <li>≠ Wait no more than 18 months before submitting a planning application following submission of PAN.</li> <li>≠ Submit a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report with the application describing the consultation undertaken.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Notify the following stakeholders that an application for a Marine Licence is to be submitted:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses</li> <li>0 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency</li> <li>0 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency</li> <li>0 Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)</li> <li>0 any delegate for a marine region where the application for a Marine Licence is for an activity which is to be carried out wholly or partly in that region.</li> </ul> </li> <li>≠ Hold one event where stakeholders can comment.</li> <li>≠ Publish a notice with details of the event and associated consultation in a local newspaper.</li> <li>≠ Wait at least 6 weeks after the notification of stakeholders and appearance of the advert before holding the event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Describe proposed the consultation activities in the PAN.</li> <li>≠ Consult all Community Councils whose area is within or adjacent to the development site.</li> <li>≠ Provide a copy of the PAN to above.</li> <li>≠ Hold two public events (with the second event no less than 14 days after the first event).</li> <li>≠ Publish notices in a local newspaper at least 7 days prior to each event.</li> <li>≠ Provide feedback to the public on comments received at a final public event.</li> </ul>

#### 4.4.2 Best Practice Guidance

The West of Orkney Windfarm is committed to significantly exceeding its statutory obligations as it seeks to build effective and long-term working relationships with the Project's stakeholders, including local communities. The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note **PAN3/ 2010 Community Engagement** provides advice to applicants on ways to effectively engage with communities on planning matters. It links directly to the Scottish Government's **National Standards for Community Engagement**<sup>4</sup> and endorses the **PAS SP=EED Framework (Successful Planning Equals Effective Engagement and Delivery)**.

Developed by Planning Aid for Scotland (now PAS), the **SP=EED Framework** provides a practical guide to undertaking effective engagement and is the primary model for this engagement strategy. It is based around eight criteria for effective engagement. Full details of the framework can be seen in Table 3.

The Scottish Government's Scottish Community Development Centre has recently produced updated guidance on how to engage with communities during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. It highlights issues which may be affecting communities that might make it more difficult for people to take part in engagement activity. The guide, called **National Standards for Community Engagement: Engaging with our communities to support recovery and renewal**<sup>5</sup> directs users to online tools and resources to help address these issues and these sources have been consulted in devising this plan.

<sup>4</sup> National Standards for Community Engagement

<sup>5</sup> National Standards for Community Engagement: Engaging with our communities to support recovery and renewal

**Table 3: Summary of engagement approach using SP=EED Framework**

Criterion	Giving Information	Consulting and Listening	Actions by West of Orkney Windfarm
Transparency and Integrity	The purpose of the engagement is clear and people can find out about it easily.	Rights to participate are clearly explained and opportunities to express opinions are publicised.	Plans for engagement clearly articulated in CEP.
Co-ordination	The timetable for the engagement process published and relevant relationships explained.	The timetable for the engagement process includes adequate periods for meetings, public events and discussions with stakeholders.	Draft timetable included in CEP and based on Project timeline and extensive experience on other projects.
Information	Information will be relevant, accurate and comprehensible to the target audience.	Information will be communicated and shared, aiming to invite feedback.	Range of formats and communication channels. Use of clear, unambiguous and jargon-free language.
Appropriateness	Information will be presented to suit its intended audience and can be accessed by all stakeholders at each stage of the process.	Engagement processes to fit the situation to be used, with opportunities for discussion and for answers to be raised and answered.	Consultation with community leaders on draft CEP to ensure approach is appropriate to local context(s).
Responsiveness	Relevant information will be provided at every stage of the process.	Findings from the engagement process will be analysed, disseminated, and potentially incorporated.	Iterative programme of engagement to allow for responding to feedback and re-engaging as necessary.
Inclusiveness	Relevant representative groups/ organisations identified and information designed and disseminated to reach them.	Emphasis on allowing the voices of seldom heard groups and those most likely to be affected to be heard.	Analysis of local stakeholder landscape and consultation with community leaders to ensure representativeness and identify potential issues and communication needs.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Distribution of information and feedback received on the engagement process will be analysed after the process is completed.	Monitoring and evaluation of the engagement process will take place on an on-going basis.	Ongoing monitoring and review of engagement including alterations to approach as required. Full reporting in line with planning legislation.
Learning and Sharing	Lessons from the engagement process will be identified and lead to on-going improvements in quality.	Lessons from the engagement process will be reviewed and shared with a focus on learning and training.	Lessons from previous engagement programmes have already informed CEP. Ongoing review to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

**4.4.3 Verifying Engagements**

An ongoing review process will ensure compliance with the principles of the SP=EED framework. For example, by comparing the demographic profiles of community participants against profiles of the target population we will be able to assess whether the responses received are representative of the community as a whole. This will help to verify whether the engagement is appropriate and inclusive in line with the SP=EED model or whether changes to the approach are required.

**4.4.4 Main Areas to be Consulted on**

At the outset, we have consulted on the consultation process itself to establish the ways in which communities wish to be engaged. Feedback from stakeholders, including community leaders and representatives, has been used to refine this community engagement plan to make it as effective as possible in delivering the consultation objectives. This will be an iterative process throughout the life of the Project. Key topics for the engagement are expected to include those illustrated in Figure 4.



**Figure 4: Topics to be Consulted on**

#### 4.5 Community benefits

From the outset, the Project team is considering ways in which the Project can benefit communities. Engaging local communities and other interested stakeholders in discussions surrounding community benefit will help to direct any potential expenditure to areas of greatest need. The Project team proposes to discuss the timing and format of these discussions with community leaders. Suggested community benefits could include actions to:

- ≠ Reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- ≠ Improve the stability of the electricity supply
- ≠ Support energy efficiency programmes (eg: through the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme)
- ≠ Enhance employability through skills development
- ≠ Create employment opportunities
- ≠ Support affordable housing initiatives

#### 4.6 Proposed timeline for development

An indicative Project timeline has been prepared, as illustrated in Figure 5. It may be subject to change and refinement as the Project develops. The indicative timeline has been used as the basis for developing the community engagement plan and the key engagement activities are timed to reflect when information will become available as the Project evolves.





Figure 5: Indicative Project Timeline

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## 5. Stakeholder Analysis

### 5.1 Stakeholder identification

The process of stakeholder identification and mapping follows best practice guidelines with the aims of inclusiveness and equality, giving stakeholders the opportunity to determine how they wish to be consulted. It is understood that many stakeholders will be interested in the Project and will want to be engaged in dialogue. The aim is to provide broad and fair access to enable stakeholders to participate as equals in the engagement process by delivering a consultation plan which respects the different needs and expectations of stakeholders.

### 5.2 Needs analysis

Each stakeholder group will have a different degree of interest in the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm which will inform the engagement methods to be used. For example, it may sometimes be appropriate to supply regular one-way information updates to some stakeholders, while others will be involved in more interactive discussions. Engagement with community stakeholders requires a range of different approaches to enable and encourage effective engagement. The most effective way of engaging all stakeholders will be to allow them to influence the direction their involvement takes.

### 5.3 Accessing seldom-heard groups

The Project team is seeking assistance from a range of stakeholders with a view to accessing seldom-heard groups more effectively. Organisations that specialise in promoting inclusiveness and relevant local authority staff such as Equalities Officers, Youth Engagement Officers, Access Panels, Community Planning Partnerships, etc are being consulted.

Discussions with community leaders and representatives have highlighted key contacts in this regard, such as the Ormlie Community Association which works in an area of high deprivation supporting single mothers, those experiencing unemployment and older members of the community. These groups are typically less well represented during community consultations and the Project team will work with the Association to identify ways to engage with them effectively.

During the consultation process, data is recorded on factors relevant to representativeness such as age and residence, etc. It will then be possible to compare the profile of participants against the profiles for those communities most likely to be affected by the proposals to ensure that the engagement is appropriately representative. If it appears that the engagement is failing in this regard, measures will be taken to revise the approach to improve inclusivity.

### 5.4 Stakeholder landscape

For the purposes of this document, the focus is on community stakeholders. This group includes organisations or individuals which the Project may affect because they live, work, or pursue other activities in the area. Although the engagement process enables statutory consultees (such as NatureScot) to comment on behalf of community stakeholders, it is essential that the people whom the Project will affect are informed about the activity and have the opportunity to be included directly in the consultation. Specific community groups who typically may be consulted are:

- ≠ People who have formed themselves into any group or groups for the purpose of objecting to or supporting the proposals
- ≠ People who are identified as 'hard to reach' or 'seldom heard'
- ≠ People with a particular perspective (e.g. school students and young people)

### 5.5 Community stakeholders

Impacted individuals and communities will include residents living in Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland. However, people from outside these areas may also have an interest in the Project, particularly tourists and visitors to the area. Our aim is to develop a comprehensive list of stakeholders and groups as the Project develops. By registering on the Project website we will be able to keep you up-to-date with any developments and invite you to attend any upcoming events.

### 5.6 Community Councils

Figure 6 illustrates the relevant Community Councils to be targeted during the engagement.

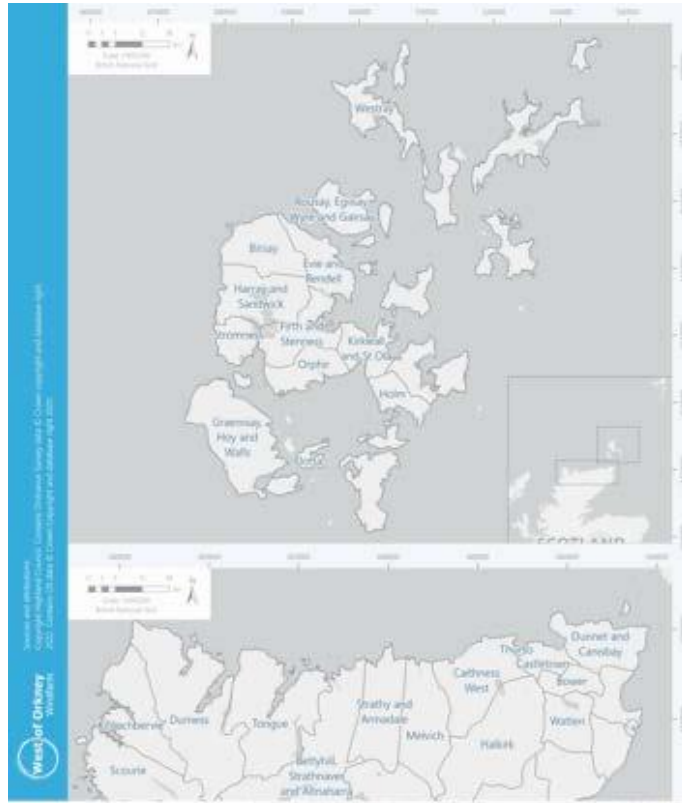


Figure 6: Relevant Community Councils - Orkney & Highland

## 5.7 Other community organisations

Many communities also feature other community groups or local organisations set up around a particular interest or to address a specific need within the community. A number of these groups and organisations have been identified including local Development Trusts and community renewable energy initiatives.

## 5.8 Education/ young people

Young people often have an interest in what is going on their local area and may also benefit from learning opportunities associated with a project of this nature. We aim to contact secondary schools to ascertain how best to engage with pupils and opportunities to engage with young people will be investigated and followed through where appropriate.

Early discussions with community leaders have suggested other channels for engagement which we will explore including:

- ≠ Young Farmers
- ≠ Youth Café
- ≠ Youth Forum
- ≠ Developing the Young Workforce

## 6. Tools Selected for Engagement

### 6.1 Criteria for selecting tools

The effectiveness of the CEP will ultimately depend upon the appropriateness and robustness of the tools used to engage. A number of key criteria have been considered when determining which methods to employ as detailed in Table 4. Based on these criteria and the Project team's experience of engaging with communities on other projects, the tools outlined below are proposed for the engagement.

**Table 4: Criteria for selecting engagement tools**

Criteria	Options
Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Very early stages require more informative techniques to establish a knowledge base amongst stakeholders</li> <li>≠ Subsequent stages will be more participative and interactive as the consultation seeks to canvass the views and comments of stakeholders</li> <li>≠ Late stages are likely to involve further informative elements to disseminate the findings and evaluate the effectiveness of engagement</li> </ul>
Stakeholder needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Language</li> <li>≠ Accessibility</li> <li>≠ Support services (e.g. for those with caring responsibilities)</li> </ul>
Type of data required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ Quantitative – used for categorising, measuring, profiling</li> <li>≠ Qualitative – gathering opinions, feelings, and suggestions</li> <li>≠ Balance to be struck between capturing more complex, in depth responses from fewer stakeholders and less detailed input from a larger number of participants</li> <li>≠ How the data will be analysed and reported</li> </ul>

### 6.2 'Formal' public exhibitions

Formal public exhibitions play a key part in effective statutory pre-application consultation and provide real benefits as interested members of the general public are given direct access to the Project team to discuss technical, social and environmental issues. Given issues around social distancing and evolving preferences for remote engagement, we are adopting a hybrid approach to formal public exhibitions.

At the time of Project launch, face-to-face meetings were still restricted and the decision was taken to hold our first public event in March 2022 as a virtual exhibition. This exhibition sought to replicate much of the traditional public event experience with similar display materials and feedback forms on our virtual exhibition portal and live question and answer webinars, hosted by the Project team.

Going forward, the virtual exhibition will be updated at key stages and will be augmented with face-to-face drop-in public exhibitions at suitable accessible locations in the vicinity of the proposals to provide an opportunity for broad stakeholder involvement. The drop-in format encourages participation by people who may be discouraged from contributing in the forum of a conventional public meeting. The events will continue to incorporate methods for capturing opinions and views on the development, such as the feedback form used at the first virtual exhibition.

As was the case in the virtual event in March 2022, the face-to-face exhibitions will be held over the course of a day and evening, providing greater accessibility to more people than a meeting whose audience is restricted to only those who can attend at a given time. These will be held in a variety of appropriate venues (community halls, libraries, etc.) with guidance from local community leaders. Potential venues have been identified and discussed with community leaders who have also been invited to suggest additional or alternative venues. The current list of potential venues is as follows:

**Table 5: Potential venues for public events**

Orkney	Caithness & Sutherland
≠ Stromness Community Centre	≠ Spittal Village hall
≠ Graemsay Village Hall	≠ North Coast Visitor Centre, Thurso
≠ Kirkwall & St Ola Community Centre	≠ Bettyhill Village hall
≠ Flotta Community Centre	≠ Strathy Hall
≠ North Walls Community School	≠ The Kyle Centre, Tongue
≠ Pickaquooy Centre, Kirkwall	≠ Thurso Library
	≠ Armadale Village Hall
	≠ Reay Centre
	≠ Village halls in Dumess, Kinlocherry, Scourie

In terms of timings, it is expected that drop-in public exhibitions relating to the development of the offshore windfarm will be held in:

- ≠ March 2022 (already held) - following the award of exclusivity agreements through the ScotWind Leasing Round
- ≠ 2022 Q4/ 2023 Q1 - as part of the formal pre-application consultation process during development of the consent and planning applications to be submitted in 2023
- ≠ 2023 Q3/ Q4 - as part of the formal pre-application consultation process for the onshore planning application for Caithness
- ≠ Subsequent events will also be required ahead of the Marine Licence and Planning applications for the export cables and substation associated with export to the Flotta Hydrogen Hub

The dates for these events will be dependent upon how the Project progresses and will be widely publicised to maximise attendance.

### 6.3 'Informal' community events

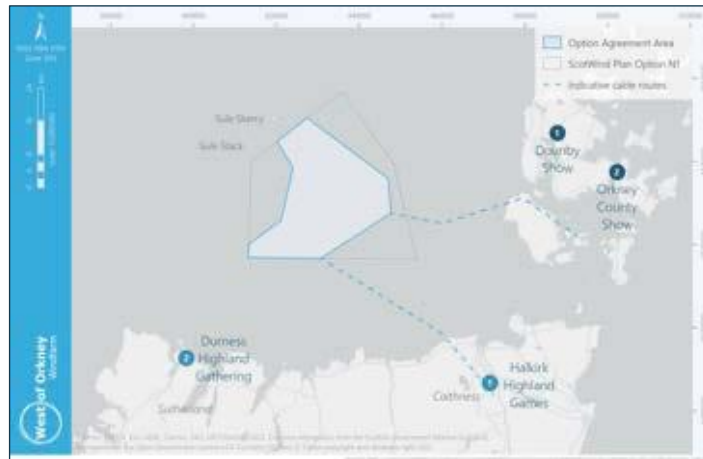
Our experience indicates that those who attend traditional public exhibitions typically fall into a relatively narrow demographic group which is not necessarily representative of the community as a whole. As a result, we are working with communities to identify and deliver events that are more inclusive and reach a wider audience than traditional approaches by capitalising on engagement opportunities that may emerge.

We have previously conducted very successful engagement at summer fetes and galas, agricultural shows, festivals and air shows. Our approach typically involves setting up a marquee at these events to accommodate a mobile exhibition which is delivered by members of the Project team supported by specialist facilitators who help to initiate dialogue and engage visitors. Starting in 2022, we will attend four of these types of events in Orkney and Highland. Events booked for 2022 are highlighted in Figure 7.

During meetings with community leaders and representatives, we have invited suggestions for future events to attend and the following have been proposed:

**Table 6: Potential community events to attend**

Orkney	Caithness & Sutherland
≠ Stromness Shopping Week (July)	≠ Highlands Climate Festival (June/ July)
≠ The Tractor Light Show	≠ Caithness County Show (July)
≠ Vintage Rally at the Auction Mart (August)	≠ Thurso Town Market
≠ Orkney International Science Festival (September)	≠ Kyle & Tongue Fun Weekend
	≠ Scrabster Lifeboat Day
	≠ Thurso Lifeboat Day



**Figure 7: Informal Events Booked for 2022**

## 6.4 Community Panels

The Project team has established three Community Panels covering Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland. Community Councils and other relevant community-based organisations such as Development Trusts have been invited to participate and inaugural meetings of each panel were held in June 2022. The purpose of the Community Panels is to bring community leaders and representatives together to discuss the proposals. The first meetings involved presentations about the project and the associated stakeholder engagement strategy. Attendees were asked to provide feedback on the proposed approach to engagement and to make suggestions for improvements. The discussions were thought provoking and insightful and the input provided has been incorporated into this Community Engagement Plan. Subsequent meetings are proposed for October 2022.

## 6.5 Working groups

The Project team is establishing a number of topic specific Working Groups to discuss particular aspects of the proposal and inform the Environmental Impact Assessment. These Working Groups involve local and technical experts with relevant experience and knowledge of the local area.

## 6.6 Content of exhibitions

The exhibitions will typically include:

- ≠ A project 'story board' display featuring details of the project and associated visual aids such as photomontages
- ≠ An explanation of the purpose of this consultation
- ≠ An outline of the consenting process for this project
- ≠ Summaries of key documents and signposting to relevant sources
- ≠ Video displays and visual simulations
- ≠ Information leaflets to take away, where appropriate
- ≠ Questionnaires and comments forms which offer the opportunity for feedback

Project team contact details

## 6.7 Engagement portal & social media

A dedicated Project website provides an engagement portal for anyone wishing to find out more about the proposals. This is already playing a vital role in our engagement activities in response to restrictions and concerns relating to Covid-19. The main access points are the website and associated virtual exhibition which will run throughout the duration of the development.

These tools provide access to:

- ≠ Key Project documents and information
- ≠ Community questionnaires
- ≠ Information about webinars/ 'virtual town hall events' (specific online events where the Project team will be available)
- ≠ Signposting to the Project's social media channels and other sources of information, where appropriate. Social media interactions are expected to form an important form of engagement with local communities to meet the needs of a broad demographic spectrum

## 6.8 Communications

Channels for communicating with community stakeholders will likely include:

- ≠ Newsletters, leaflets and flyers (providing details of the proposals and promoting specific engagement events)
- ≠ Posters (as above)
- ≠ Exhibition materials (storyboards to be displayed at public events and on the engagement portal)
- ≠ Press releases/ newspaper articles
- ≠ Project updates via the engagement portal (including downloadable newsletters and other relevant documents)
- ≠ Project information such as leaflets left in public places (eg: libraries, community halls, post offices and local businesses)
- ≠ Static exhibitions in public places (either independently or alongside other displays such as local Charrettes)

## 6.9 Project questionnaire

Obtaining feedback from stakeholders is the overarching aim of the engagement process and it is critical that the data collected is managed and analysed effectively. To this end, a standard question set has been created which can be used in a variety of formats and settings.

At the public drop-in exhibitions and community events, participants will be invited to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire is also available electronically on the virtual exhibition via the website. Posters featuring details about where to complete the questionnaire (including QR codes, web addresses, telephone number to receive by post) will be displayed in key locations within the local areas of Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland. Discussions have also been held with the Community Panels to identify ways to maximise completion rates and the following suggestions have been made:

**Table 7: Suggested promotion of community questionnaire**

Locations for posters/ adverts	Locations for printed questionnaires	Groups/ contacts to target
≠ Village shops	≠ Visitor accommodation	≠ Community Planning Partnerships
≠ Community notice boards	≠ Visitor attractions (eg: North Coast Visitor Centre)	≠ Community Conversations
≠ Post offices	≠ Village shops	≠ Ormlie Housing Association
≠ Libraries	≠ Libraries	≠ North Coast Connection
≠ Doctors surgeries	≠ Community centres	≠ Sutherland Resilience Group
≠ Community centres	≠ Schools	≠ Caithness Resilience Group
≠ Social media		≠ Portskerra Harbour Association
≠ Caithness FM		≠ Transport for Tongue
≠ Radio Orkney		≠ The British Legion
≠ Downreay Public Information Unit		≠ Caithness Poverty Action Group
≠ Empty shop windows		

## 6.10 Supply chain engagement

The Project team is fully committed to ensuring that the Project benefits the local economy by making a positive contribution to employment and business opportunities for local people. We propose to work with local agencies involved in capacity building and skills development with a view to identifying ways in which we can support these objectives.

We will also engage with the potential supply chain for the Project at the earliest opportunity. Supply chain events will allow those who are interested in supplying goods and services to the Project to find out how to get involved.

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## 7. Reporting and Recording

### 7.1 Data processing

With such a comprehensive programme of engagement, it is important to record any data collected accurately and securely and to act on feedback received. Our process for collecting and storing data is fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and ensures that all consultation responses are processed and considered appropriately. This includes reviewing proposals in light of feedback and producing a processing log which shares our responses to the consultation output in terms of specific actions taken or changes made to the proposals.

### 7.2 Reporting on engagement

Pre-Application Consultation with Communities (PAC) Reports, or equivalent, will be produced as required for each consent/planning application, and are expected to include:

- ≠ Summaries of the consultation and engagement activities undertaken
- ≠ Responses received from community stakeholders
- ≠ An explanation of those changes that have been made to the proposals as a result of stakeholder feedback
- ≠ The outcome of the SP=EED audit of the community engagement



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## A1. Appendix 1: Acronyms

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Acronym	Definition
CEP	Community Engagement Plan
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EU	European Union
GW	Gigawatt
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
MS-LOT	Marine Scotland's License and Operations Team
OAA	Option Agreement Area
OLA	Option to Lease Agreement
OWPL	Offshore Wind Power Limited
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PAN	Proposal of Application Notice
PO	Plan Option
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SHE	Scottish Hydro Electric
SP=EED	Successful Planning Equals Effective Engagement and Delivery
UK	United Kingdom

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## Contacts

**Name:** Jack Farnham  
**Title:** Development Manager

<Redacted>  
<Redacted>

**Name:** Victoria McCusker  
**Title:** Stakeholder Manager

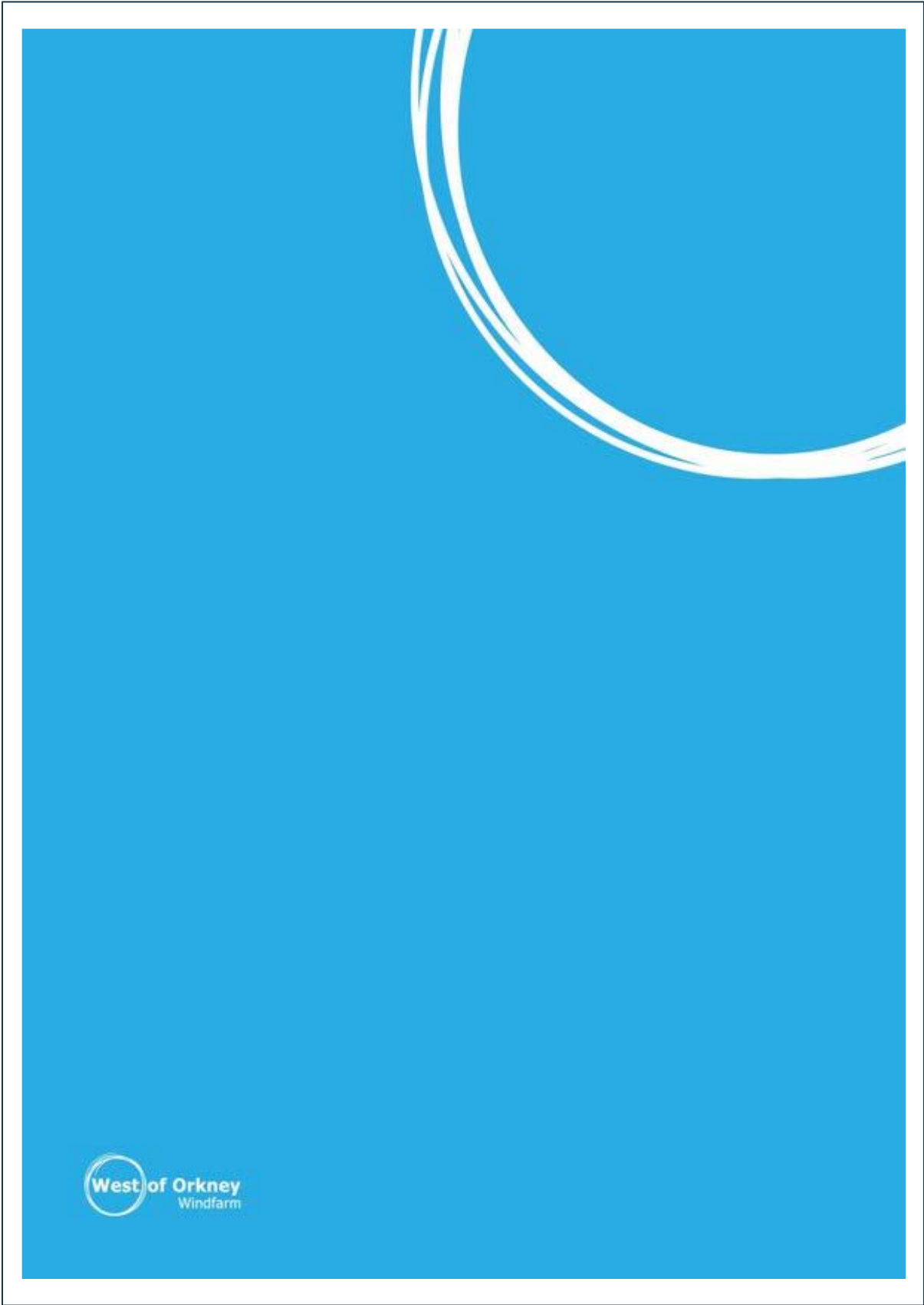
<Redacted>  
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<Redacted>

**Name:** Liz Foubister  
**Title:** EIA Manager

<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<Redacted>

**Name:** Shona Morrison  
**Title:** Stakeholder Assistant

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<Redacted>



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## Appendix 13: Exhibition boards from virtual exhibition (ROUND 1)



## WELCOME

Welcome to the virtual public exhibition and consultation for the West of Orkney Windfarm.

This is the first of a number of public consultation events designed to keep local residents and other interested stakeholders up-to-date and obtain feedback as the Project progresses. As this is our first public event, we would like to introduce the Project and its partners, illustrate the work we have done to date, and outline the surveys and studies ahead.

We are committed to working with local communities and stakeholders to help shape our proposal and we invite you to join one of our live Question & Answer sessions or make comments through our feedback form.

This consultation is virtual to minimise the risk of transmitting COVID-19 in the local community. However, the exhibition layout is similar to a traditional public exhibition with information boards about the proposal and instructions on how to provide feedback or find out more information.

## WHO ARE WE

The West of Orkney Windfarm is being developed by Offshore Wind Power Limited (OWPL) which is a joint venture owned by three companies:



**GREEN INVESTMENT GROUP**

Owned by Macquarie, the world's largest infrastructure investor, with ownership of over 40% of UK's operational offshore wind farms.



**TOTALENERGIES**

One of the largest offshore operators on the UK continental shelf, majority owner of Seagreen Offshore Windfarm and the Shetland Gas Plant.



**RIDG**

Scottish offshore wind project developer with over 40 years' experience in the sector, set up to deliver high value projects alongside strategic partners.

### LIVE QUESTION & ANSWER SESSIONS

The Project team will be available to answer any further questions you may have via live webinars which will be held on:

- ♥ Tuesday 29th March, 12noon-2pm
- ♥ Tuesday 29th March, 6pm-8pm

### FEEDBACK

You can provide feedback on the proposal through the feedback form in this virtual exhibition which is located on the table in the middle of the hall. This is the first of a series of events that we will hold at key stages during the development of the proposal. This will include pre-application community consultation events which will take place before we submit planning and associated consent applications.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Our website [www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com) provides further information about the Project and will be updated with details about upcoming events. We would love to hear from you so please do not hesitate to get in touch, either by completing the feedback form or emailing us at [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)

## WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM

### THE PROJECT

The West of Orkney Windfarm is located approximately 30km off the coast of Orkney and around 25km north of the Scottish mainland. The expected capacity of the windfarm will be 2GW with first power generated in 2029.



The Project has a grid connection agreement with National Grid for a connection in Caithness. Additionally, the Project partners are exploring an option to power the Flotta Hydrogen Hub. There is a potential for both power export options to be utilised. The map illustrates the areas within which project infrastructure may be located.

The windfarm will be located in the N1 Plan Option (PO) area which was identified as a potential site for offshore wind development by the Scottish Government through its marine planning process.

The area proposed for deployment of the wind turbines, known as the Option Agreement Area (OAA), was developed through an iterative mapping exercise avoiding key constraints, supplemented by consultation with key stakeholders. The constraints analysis resulted in an OAA that both maximises the potential for renewable energy production, whilst retaining flexibility ahead of final design to accommodate technical and environmental considerations.

With a maximum capacity of 2GW, the West of Orkney Windfarm will require around half of the total option agreement area which extends to 657km<sup>2</sup>. The wind turbine layout will be determined once the design optimisation process has been completed.

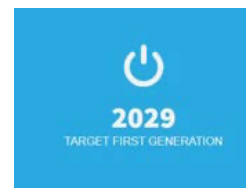
The Project is currently considering both fixed-bottom foundations and floating substructures for the wind turbines. This will be determined once seabed surveys are completed.



### INVESTING IN SCOTLAND

The West of Orkney Windfarm is targeting 60% UK content throughout the Project's lifetime, with 40% coming from Scotland. This will be achieved by:

- ▼ Committing £140 million during the initial development phase to develop the supply chain and ensure high levels of content from Scottish and UK companies.
- ▼ Supporting significant employment opportunities and helping Scotland meet their net zero targets.
- ▼ Providing the renewable power necessary to generate green hydrogen at the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub on the island of Flotta in Orkney.



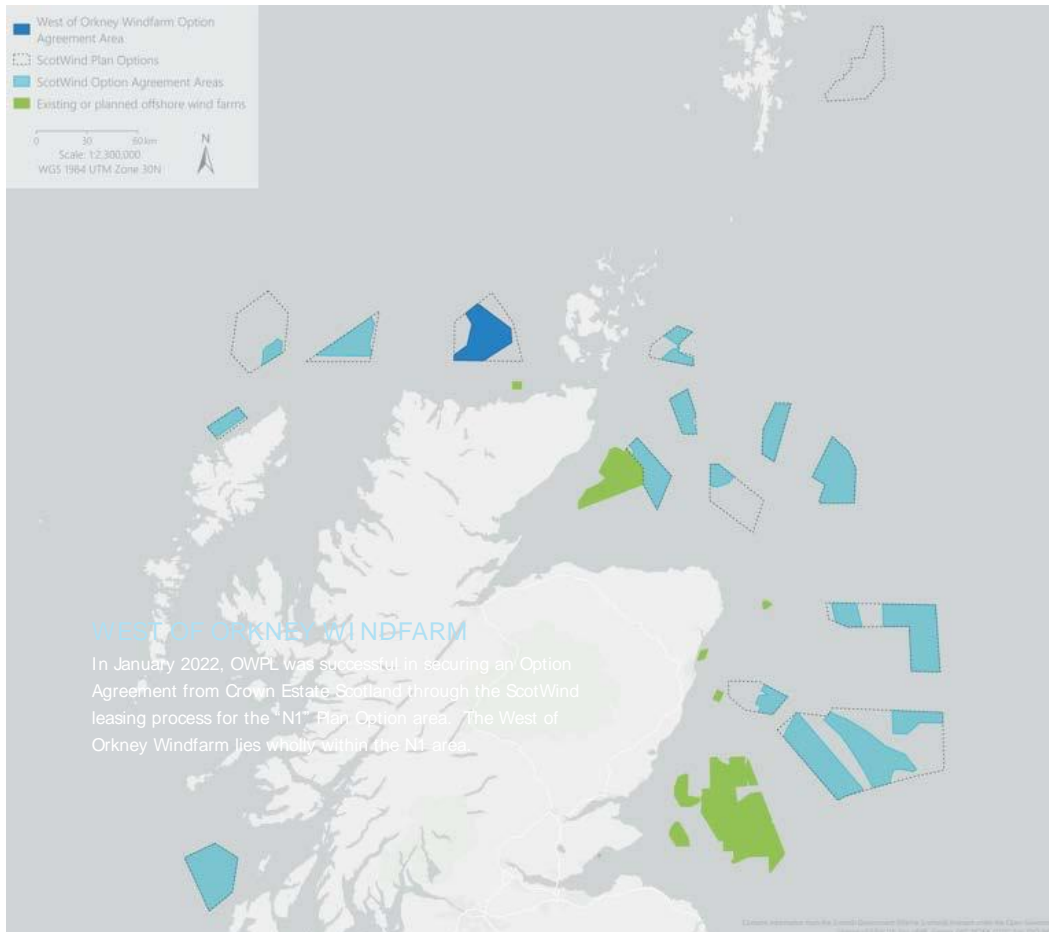
## THE SECTORAL MARINE PLAN & SCOTWIND

### THE SECTORAL MARINE PLAN

Following more than two years of extensive analysis, consideration and engagement with stakeholders, the Sectoral Marine Plan was published in October 2020. The Plan identified 15 areas known as Plan Options (POs) for the future development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland. These POs were selected based on an iterative process of opportunity and constraints analysis including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment, amongst other studies.

### SCOTWIND LEASING ROUND

In November 2017, Crown Estate Scotland which is responsible for the management of marine assets in Scotland announced their intention to run a leasing round for commercial scale offshore wind energy projects in Scottish waters. This was the first offshore wind leasing round in Scotland for over a decade and was named 'ScotWind'. To inform the spatial development of this leasing round, Marine Scotland, as Planning Authority for Scotland's seas, was required to undertake a planning exercise, in accordance with relevant EU, UK and Scottish legislation.



## OFFSHORE PROPOSAL

Offshore infrastructure associated with the Project will comprise:

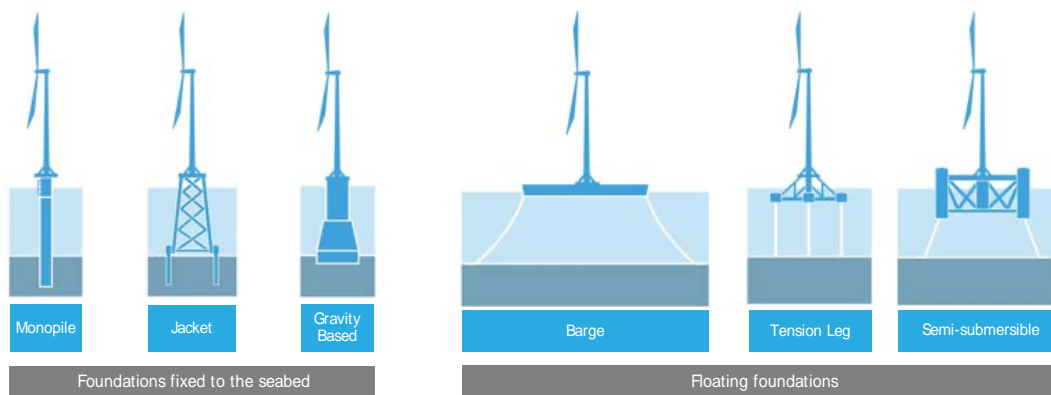
- ♥ The offshore array area which will include:
  - ✓ Up to 125 wind turbine generators occupying approximately 50% of the Option Agreement Area and with a maximum tip height of 370 metres
  - ✓ Turbine foundations/ supporting structures – fixed or floating
  - ✓ Up to five offshore substation platforms
  - ✓ Inter-array cables linking the wind turbines and offshore substation platforms
- ♥ Infrastructure associated with the export of power from the offshore array area which will include:
  - ✓ Up to five export cables to Caithness
  - ✓ Up to five export cables to Flotta, Orkney. These will cross both the offshore area west of Orkney and Scapa Flow and include onshore elements across the island of Hoy and potentially Fara

### WIND TURBINE LAYOUT & EXPORT CABLE ROUTES

The wind turbine layout and export cable routes will be determined once the design optimisation process has been completed.

This process will balance a range of key factors including wind turbine choice, foundation structure, wind turbine spacing and wind direction, seabed characteristics, metocean conditions, benthic habitats navigational safety and fisheries considerations amongst other constraints.

#### Foundation options under consideration





## ONSHORE PROPOSAL



Orkney coastline

Onshore infrastructure associated with the Project will comprise:

♥ Caithness:

- ✓ Onshore substation located at or near to the existing Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) Spittal substation
- ✓ Up to five underground cables

♥ Orkney:

- ✓ Onshore substation located near to the existing Flotta Oil Terminal and proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub
- ✓ Up to five underground cables to Flotta, across the islands of Hoy and potentially Fara

No overhead lines are planned for the Project.

It is anticipated that open-cut trenching will be the primary installation method, however this will be reviewed once the onshore cable routes are finalised. Horizontal directional drilling may be required, if obstacles are encountered, including sensitive features such as water courses and crossings with railways.

The onshore substations will include electrical equipment required to connect the project to the grid and/or the Flotta Hydrogen Hub. In addition to the area required for the footprint of the onshore substations, temporary working areas will also be required during construction.

Through the Environmental Impact Assessment process, and in consultation with the public and stakeholders, the locations of the Project infrastructure will continue to be refined. Further site selection work will be undertaken following the completion of survey work and additional technical, environmental, and commercial discussions and studies.

### THE FLOTTA HYDROGEN HUB

- ♥ The Flotta Hydrogen Hub is a proposed green hydrogen production and export facility on the island of Flotta in Orkney.
- ♥ The Project would utilise a repurposed area of the Flotta Oil Terminal to create a green hydrogen hub which would offer new employment possibilities, a maritime low carbon refuelling port and significant inward investment.
- ♥ The electricity generated from the offshore windfarm will be used to power the Hydrogen Hub.
- ♥ The Flotta Hydrogen hub is a separate project to the West of Orkney Windfarm and will be the subject of a separate planning application.



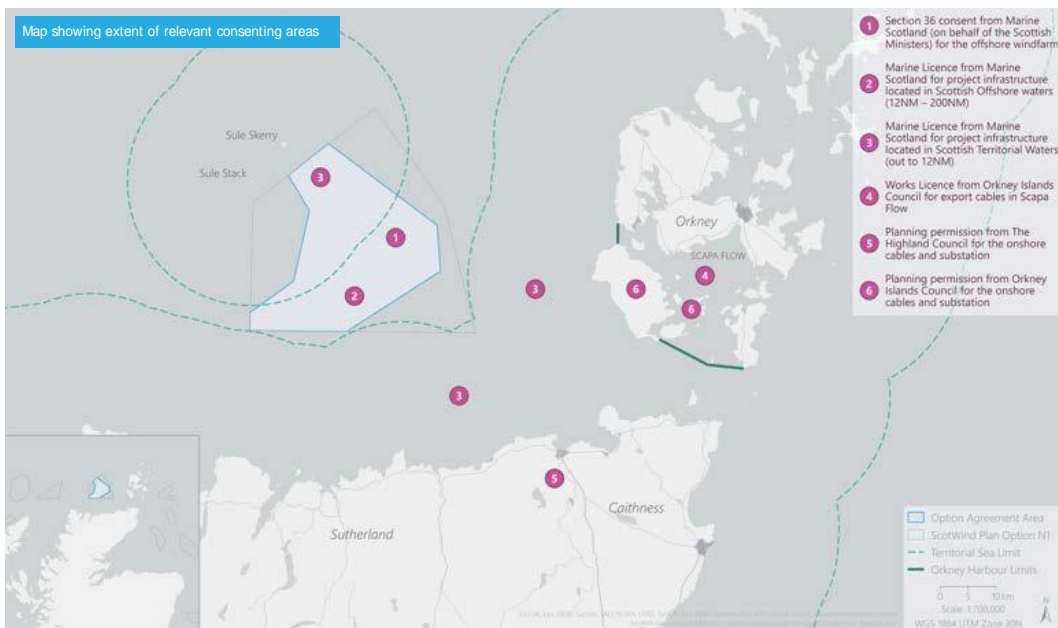
Photo credit: © Colin Keldie

Location of proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub at the existing Flotta Oil Terminal

## CONSENTS & ASSESSMENTS

### PROJECT CONSENTS

The consenting process for the West of Orkney Windfarm and its associated infrastructure is quite complex as it spans a number of jurisdictions and regulatory frameworks. Scottish Ministers, through Marine Scotland, are the relevant decision makers for the offshore consents and licences. The Highland Council (THC) and Orkney Islands Council (OIC) are the decision makers for the relevant onshore consents.



### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

EIA is a process which identifies and assesses the potential environmental effects of a development. It informs the design of the Project from an environmental perspective and identifies mitigation measures to minimise and manage the impacts of the Project on the surrounding environment.

One of the first tasks in the EIA process is to prepare a Scoping Report outlining the surveys and studies proposed, based on initial assessments. The Scoping Report for the West of Orkney Windfarm was submitted at the beginning of March 2022. The table outlines the topics proposed for consideration during the EIA.

Assessment	Offshore EIA Report	Onshore EIA Report
Physical Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Physical &amp; Coastal Processes</li> <li>♥ Water &amp; Sediment Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Geology &amp; Hydrology</li> <li>♥ Air Quality, Noise &amp; Vibration</li> </ul>
Biological Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Benthic &amp; Intertidal Ecology</li> <li>♥ Fish &amp; Shellfish Ecology</li> <li>♥ Ornithology</li> <li>♥ Marine Mammals &amp; Megafauna</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Freshwater Ecology</li> <li>♥ Terrestrial Non-Avian Ecology</li> <li>♥ Terrestrial Ornithology</li> </ul>
Human Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Commercial Fisheries</li> <li>♥ Shipping &amp; Navigation</li> <li>♥ Archaeology &amp; Cultural Heritage</li> <li>♥ Military &amp; Aviation</li> <li>♥ Seascape, Landscape &amp; Visual</li> <li>♥ Other Sea Users</li> <li>♥ Socio-economics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Land-use &amp; Other Users</li> <li>♥ Archaeology &amp; Cultural Heritage</li> <li>♥ Traffic &amp; Access</li> <li>♥ Landscape &amp; Visual</li> </ul>

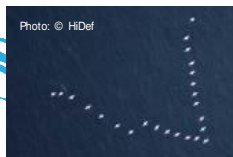
## PROJECT SURVEYS

To further understand the local environment, guide the design of the Project, and inform the extent of any potential impacts it may have, a broad variety of surveys are being undertaken.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report will present the findings of these surveys along with proposed mitigation and management measures. The table below outlines the key surveys associated with the Project.



Survey	Purpose	Status
Geosciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Geophysical and geotechnical surveys to understand the physical characteristics and technical stability of the seabed.</li> <li>▼ These surveys inform wind turbine foundation / substructure design and offshore cable routing.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Metocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Variety of equipment installed offshore and onshore to understand the wind resource and wave and tidal characteristics of the offshore array area.</li> <li>▼ These surveys inform turbine layout and foundation / substructure design.</li> </ul>	Planned
Benthic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Visual and sediment samples of the seabed to characterise habitats and species in the offshore array area and along potential cable routes to shore.</li> </ul>	Planned
Seabirds & marine mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Offshore aerial surveys to identify species present in the offshore array area and how their distribution and abundance varies across the site and between different seasons of the year, and between years.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Fish ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Surveys to characterise those seabed habits and offshore areas important for fish spawning and juvenile fish.</li> </ul>	Planned
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Engagement with the fisheries stakeholders to understand how the offshore array area and potential cable routes to shore are used.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Marine traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Surveys of the offshore array area during the summer and winter to understand shipping activities and patterns.</li> </ul>	Planned
Seascape, landscape & visual amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Surveys to corroborate desk-based research, capture baseline photography from agreed viewpoint locations and undertake the assessment of potential effects.</li> </ul>	Planned
Onshore ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Surveys to assess the impacts on protected and sensitive habitats and species such as peat bog, freshwater habitats, birds and otters amongst others.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Offshore geophysical data will be assessed by marine archaeologists.</li> <li>▼ Walkover surveys onshore to identify any previously undiscovered archaeological interests.</li> </ul>	Planned
Other onshore surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Walkover surveys to confirm land use and other constraints.</li> <li>▼ Potential traffic counts and baseline noise surveys depending on final project locations.</li> </ul>	Planned
Socio economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ Engagement with the local and national supply chain, and wider industry in order to ascertain positive and negative impacts which may result from the Project.</li> </ul>	Planned



## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Effective engagement with stakeholders is the best way to deliver a sustainable Project that maximises economic and environmental benefits. The Project team is fully committed to engage early and regularly with stakeholders to build long-term relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

Whilst a key objective is to secure relevant consents with minimal delays, our ultimate aim is to create the best possible Project by sourcing expert technical knowledge alongside local insights and views.

We will not engage for the sake of engaging and instead will engage more intensively when new information is available or specific approval is required. The engagement schedule will therefore be aligned with the overall Project timeline.

Early discussions with certain stakeholders started during preparation of the ScotWind bid and EIA Scoping Report and ahead of the offshore geophysical surveys. The Project team is now keen to meet with local communities and strategic stakeholders to share information about the proposals and find out your views which is why we have devised this virtual exhibition and associated live Question and Answer sessions.

Our initial understanding of the West of Orkney Windfarm's key stakeholders



Indicative West of Orkney Windfarm Project timeline



We are very interested in hearing your views and would encourage you to complete a feedback form (located on the table in the 'virtual exhibition hall') or send us an email to: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)

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## Appendix 14: Exhibition boards from summer shows (ROUND 2)

## West of Orkney Windfarm



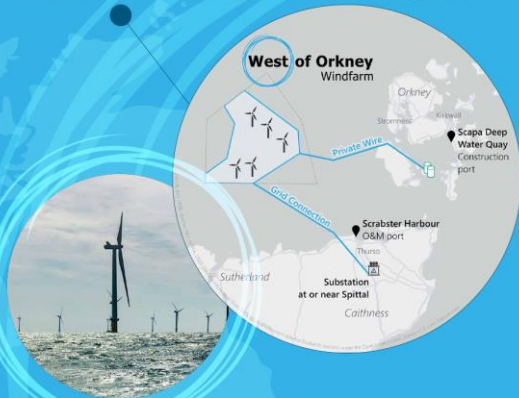
### WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM

The West of Orkney Windfarm is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The project is being developed by Corio Generation, TotalEnergies and RIDG, a consortium with deep Scottish roots, a commitment to delivery and a clear vision for the project.

**2 MILLION**  
HOMES SUPPLIED  
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**2029**  
TARGET FIRST  
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**2000MW**  
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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### OFFSHORE

- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with a maximum tip height of 370 metres
- Fixed or floating turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substation platforms
- Inter-array cables linking the wind turbines and offshore substation platforms
- Up to five export cables to Caithness
- Up to five export cables to Flotta

### ONSHORE

- New substation at or near existing substation at Spittal
- Up to five underground cables from landfall point to substation at Spittal
- New substation near existing Flotta Oil Terminal/ proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub
- Up to five underground cables to Flotta substation



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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### PROJECT CONSENTS

The consenting process for the West of Orkney Windfarm and its associated infrastructure is quite complex and spans a number of jurisdictions and regulatory frameworks. Scottish Ministers, through Marine Scotland, are the relevant decision makers for the offshore consents and licences. The Highland Council (THC) and Orkney Islands Council (OIC) are the decision makers for the onshore consents.

1. Section 38 consent from Marine Scotland (on behalf of the Scottish Ministers) for the offshore windfarm
2. Marine Licence from Marine Scotland for project infrastructure located in Scottish Offshore waters (13/14 – 2009/16)
3. Marine Licence from Marine Scotland for project infrastructure located in Scottish Territorial Waters (04/10 – 13/13)
4. Works Licence from Orkney Islands Council for support cables in Orkney Firth
5. Planning permission from The Highland Council for the onshore cables and substation
6. Planning permission from Orkney Islands Council for the onshore cables and substation



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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

EIA is a process which identifies and assesses the potential environmental effects of a development. It informs the design of the Project from an environmental perspective and identifies mitigation measures to minimise and manage the impacts of the Project on the surrounding environment.

The topics being considered during the EIA include:

#### OFFSHORE

##### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Physical and coastal processes
- Water and sediment quality

##### BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Benthic and intertidal ecology
- Fish and shellfish ecology
- Ornithology
- Marine mammals and megafauna

##### HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

- Commercial fisheries
- Shipping and navigation
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Military and aviation
- Seascape, landscape and visual
- Other sea users
- Socio-economics

#### ONSHORE

- Geology and hydrology
- Air quality, noise and vibration

- Freshwater ecology
- Terrestrial non-avian ecology
- Terrestrial ornithology

- Land-use and other users
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Traffic and access
- Landscape and visual

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## West of Orkney Windfarm

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Effective engagement with stakeholders is the best way to deliver a sustainable Project that maximises economic and environmental benefits. The Project team is fully committed to engaging regularly with stakeholders to build long-term relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

Whilst a key objective is to obtain relevant consents with minimal delays, our ultimate aim is to create the best possible Project by securing local insights and views alongside expert technical knowledge.

#### West of Orkney Windfarm's key stakeholders

##### Community

- Community Council
- Development Trusts
- Community Associations
- Community Panels
- Other community groups
- Local residents
- Media

##### Grid

- Scottish Hydro Electric
- Transmission
- National Grid
- Ofgem

##### Regulators

- Scottish Government
- Marine Scotland Licensing & Operations Team (MS-LOT)
- The Highland Council
- Orkney Islands Council

##### Flotta Hydrogen Hub

- Repsol Storage
- Uipac
- EREC

##### Political

- Scottish Government
- UK Government
- Local Councils
- Transboundary bodies

##### Supply Chain & Skills

- Orkney Harbour Authority
- Bowdler Harbour Trust
- Port of Cromarty Firth
- Energy Skills Partnership
- Global Energy Driver
- JOC Publications
- Baird & Watt
- University of Highlands & Islands

##### Stakeholder Working Groups (WGs)

- Commercial Fisheries WG
- Social Economic WG
- Recreational specific consultations

##### EIA Consultees

- NatureScot
- Scottish Environment
- Pollution Agency (SEPA)
- Marine Scotland Science
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Northern Lighthouse Board
- Marine & Coastal Agency
- The Highland Council
- Orkney Islands Council
- Non-Mandatory consultees



Please let us know your thoughts about the West of Orkney Windfarm by asking a member of the team for a copy of the **COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE** or scanning the QR code with your smartphone to complete it online.

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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### INVESTING IN SCOTLAND

- Targeting 60% UK content with 40% coming from Scotland
- Committing £140m during the initial development phase to develop the supply chain
- Investing in local port and harbour infrastructure
- Creating significant skills and employment opportunities
- Helping Scotland meet net zero targets
- Providing renewable power to generate green hydrogen at proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub



To register your interest in getting involved in the West of Orkney Windfarm, please use the QR code.

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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

### INDICATIVE WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM PROJECT TIMELINE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	YEAR/DATE	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) & SUBSETS		SCOPING & CONSENTS APPLICATIONS
	2022			
SCOPING EIA Public Consultation	Q1			MARCH Pre-licensing consultation
	Q2			MAY/JUNE Final EIA consultation Finalising scoping
	Q3	EA 1001 Detailed scoping and preliminary scoping complete	EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed scoping complete	JULY Final EIA scoping Finalising scoping
EA 101 Final scoping public consultation complete	Q4	EA 1002 Detailed scoping complete		EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	2023			
	Q1	EA 1002 Detailed scoping complete		
EA 102 Final scoping public consultation complete	Q2			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q3			
	Q4			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	2024			
	Q1			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q2			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q3			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q4			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	2025			
	Q1			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q2			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q3			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q4			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	2026			
	Q1			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q2			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q3			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q4			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	2027			
	Q1			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q2			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q3			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q4			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	2028			
	Q1			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q2			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q3			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation
	Q4			EA 1002 - EA 1004 Detailed EIA preparation

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## Appendix 15: Exhibition boards from autumn events (ROUND 3)

## West of Orkney Windfarm



### WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM

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**RIDG**

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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### OFFSHORE

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- Fixed turbine foundations
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- Inter-array cables linking the wind turbines and offshore substation platforms
- Up to five export cables to Caithness
- Up to five export cables to Flotta (future separate application)

### ONSHORE

- New substation at or near Spittal
- Up to five underground cable circuits from landfall point to substation
- Orkney infrastructure subject to future separate application
- New substation near existing Flotta Oil Terminal/proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub
- Up to five underground cable circuits to Flotta substation



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## ONSHORE PROPOSAL

West of Orkney Windfarm originally received an offer from National Grid in August 2019 to connect to the electricity network at either Dounreay or Spittal. In November 2020, National Grid confirmed that West of Orkney Windfarm's grid connection would be 'at or near Spittal'. The proposed onshore infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm will include:

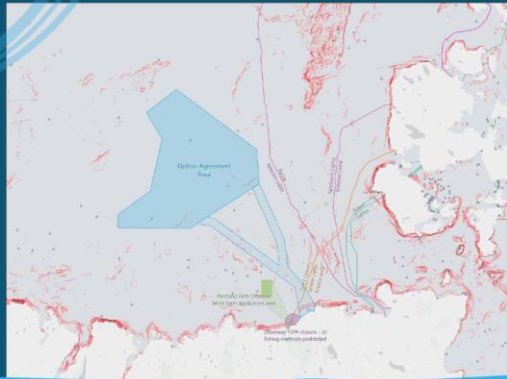
- Cable landfalls – at Greeny Geo and/or Crosskirk
- One cable transition joint bay at each landfall
- Up to 5 underground onshore cables, buried to a depth of 1m, subject to ground conditions. The onshore cables shall extend for a distance of approximately 22km
- A new onshore substation, at or near the existing Spittal substation. This location was deemed suitable by National Grid and Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Limited. The exact location and size will depend on ground conditions, landowner agreement and grid requirement
- Temporary construction compounds for the onshore substation and onshore export cables, subject to landowner agreements
- Potential new access tracks for the onshore export cables, landfalls and onshore substations, subject to agreement with land owners and The Highland Council.



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# West of Orkney Windfarm

- ▲ Wreck/obstruction
- Seabed slope (degrees)
- 0-2
- 2-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- >30



## CABLE ROUTE REFINEMENT

Potential locations for offshore substations have been a key factor in identifying suitable cable routes to bring the electricity to the shore. Other significant factors affecting the selection process for the offshore cable routes include:

- Shipwrecks
- Protected species and habitats
- Commercial fisheries
- Recreational users

The study area for the onshore cable route is illustrated below. Discussions and assessment to refine the route are ongoing and consideration is being given to a broad range of features including:

- Physical features, such as geology and hydrology
- Peatland areas
- Private water supplies
- Wildlife and their habitats, including protected sites
- Archaeology
- Existing and planned infrastructure, e.g. onshore windfarms



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## OFFSHORE SURVEY RESULTS SHIPPING & NAVIGATION

Extensive work has been undertaken to understand the windfarm's potential impact on shipping and navigation. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) is an automatic tracking system that tracks the location of vessels. Analysis of data for the period from January 2021 to December 2021 show an average of 22 vessels per day through the study area, 4 of which were within the West of Orkney Option Agreement Area (OAA). The most frequent types of vessel present were cargo vessels followed by fishing vessels.

### ○ VESSEL DENSITY FROM JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021

The AIS data analysis clearly indicates that there is a high density of vessel traffic that passes to the south of the Project's OAA, with lower volumes of traffic passing through the OAA itself.

The analysis shows that there is little seasonal variation in terms of shipping and navigation with an average of 22 vessels per day passing through the

survey area and 4 vessels per day in the OAA throughout the year. These values broadly align with a dedicated vessel traffic survey undertaken in August 2022.



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## OFFSHORE SURVEY RESULTS

### BENTHIC SURVEYS

An environmental survey was undertaken from August-September 2022 over the West of Orkney Option Agreement Area (OAA) and Export Cable Corridor (ECC) to Caithness. This included a benthic survey to understand the composition of the seabed and identify any potential habitats that could be disturbed during construction. The seabed survey data will be analysed alongside geophysical data in order to characterise and map the habitats and species that could be impacted by the Project.

Photographs, videos and samples of the seabed and water were taken, as follows:

- Grab samples and drop down video taken from 82 seabed locations
- Targeted video transects conducted at 17 locations
- 20 water samples for suspended sediments and environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis

Environmental DNA (eDNA) sequencing is a rapidly emerging method for studying biodiversity. As organisms shed DNA into their environments, eDNA analysis can provide clues about the species present without disrupting the ecosystem. The West of Orkney Windfarm is one of the first offshore wind projects to apply this survey method.

Out of the 17 video transects that were conducted, 13 of these were found to contain potential Annex 1 habitats, including stony and bedrock reef:



Stony reef



Bedrock reef

#### ○ PRIORITY MARINE FEATURE (PMF) HABITATS

PMF Habitats are habitats that are listed as a priority for conservation. Some of the PMFs observed during the survey included:

- Atlantic offshore (deep) circalittoral habitats with fine sands or non-cohesive muddy sands
- Offshore (deep) circalittoral habitats with coarse sands and gravel or shell

PMF species observed included:

- Sandeels
- Blue Skate
- Ocean quahog
- Norway pout
- Cod
- Whiting
- Ling



Atlantic offshore



Offshore

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Image of ocean sunfish leaping during digital video aerial survey

## OFFSHORE SURVEY RESULTS ORNITHOLOGY & MARINE MAMMALS/MEGAFAUNA

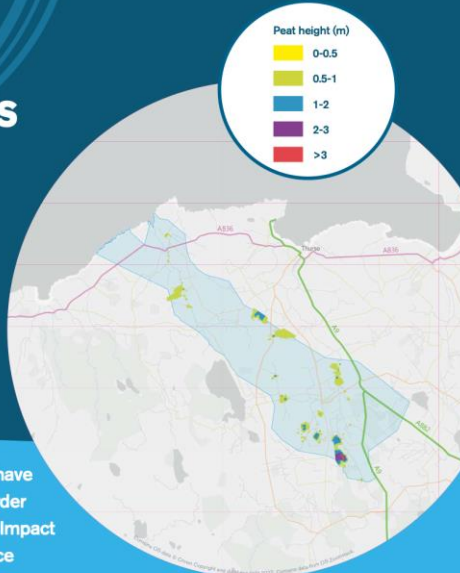
Digital video aerial surveys were conducted from July 2020 to September 2022 over the West of Orkney OAA, plus a 4 km buffer. The digital aerial surveys were supplemented by visual observations by Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) during the geophysical and benthic surveys. The video footage is being analysed for birds, marine mammals, and basking sharks. The surveys analysed from July 2020 to June 2022 have recorded a total of 27,278 birds of 32 species and 415 non-avian, animals of 12 species, as listed in the table below. Over 97% of species were positively identified with 35 seals and 11 cetaceans unidentified.

SPECIES	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS
Common guillemot	10,011
Other bird species	17,267
Harbour porpoise	124
White beaked dolphin	96
Lion's Mane jellyfish	94
Common dolphin	42
Seal (unidentified)	35
Risso's dolphin	20
Grey seal	13
Cetacean (unidentified)	11
<Redacted>	4
Ocean sun fish	4
Barrel jellyfish	3
Minke whale	3
Bottlenose dolphin	1
Porbeagle shark	1

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## ONSHORE SURVEYS



An extensive programme of surveys have been undertaken or are ongoing in order to inform the onshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Project. Once surveys are complete, impact assessment studies will be undertaken in order to identify potential impacts and assess their significance. The results of the surveys and studies will be communicated in subsequent consultation meetings and events. Impacts will be assessed for all phases of the Project from construction, operations and maintenance, through to decommissioning.

### LAND USE, AGRICULTURE & SOILS

A site walkover survey was undertaken to ground truth receptors including soils, land use, property and recreational areas present within the onshore project area and its surrounds. A separate woodland and forestry study is also being undertaken in order to identify woodland areas that could be impacted from the onshore Project.

### VISUAL AMENITY AND LANDSCAPE

A range of viewpoints have been identified through site surveys and consultation which will be used to illustrate potential impacts on visual amenity through the use of wireline images and photomontages. The Project has also developed a 3-D model which can be interrogated by the public on what the Project will look like from different locations. Impacts on landscape character from the introduction of new infrastructure to the environment will also be assessed. The landscape character baseline is informed by publicly available reports, commissioned by The Highland Council and NatureScot, that have characterised the landscapes present in Caithness and Sutherland.

### GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

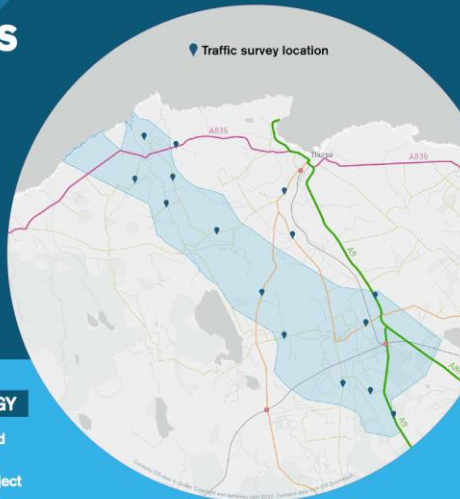
A field walkover survey was initially undertaken to identify the main topographical, hydrological and hydrogeological features within the project area and its surrounds, including drainage patterns, watercourse crossings, water catchments and supplies and peatlands. The survey was supplemented by a land owner questionnaire in order to identify private water supplies, amongst other things. Peat depth surveys have also been completed for areas where peat was considered likely or possible within the onshore Project area.

### FRESHWATER ECOLOGY

Several watercourses in the Thurso and Forss catchments are present in the onshore Project area. As these are assumed to contain suitable habitats for Atlantic salmon, trout, eels, lamprey, and other important aquatic species, it was necessary to undertake surveys to understand the possible species distribution and any potential risk posed by the Project. An initial reconnaissance walkover survey was undertaken in May 2022, followed by detailed habitat surveys during July and August 2022. The results indicated the widespread distribution of good in-channel habitat, along with several channels with reduced habitat quality.

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## ONSHORE SURVEYS



### ○ TERRESTRIAL NON-AVIAN ECOLOGY

Initially a 'Phase 1' desk study was completed using aerial photography to characterise the habitats present throughout the onshore Project area and identify target areas for survey work. This was followed by a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey to map sensitive habitats and to classify ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems. Other surveys undertaken have identified the presence / absence of protected species and habitats and include: Scottish Primrose; badger; otter and water vole; pine marten and red squirrel; bat roost potential; reptile habitat and great crested newt habitat suitability. A separate deer study is also being undertaken in order to identify potential impacts on this species from the onshore Project.

### ○ TRAFFIC AND ACCESS

A desk study traffic survey data has been undertaken and project specific surveys commissioned to characterise the existing traffic network. The map below indicates the locations where traffic count data is being collected.

### ○ TERRESTRIAL ORNITHOLOGY

A programme of bird surveys is ongoing to identify local ornithological features. Breeding bird surveys have been completed between March – September 2022 and wintering bird surveys started in September 2022 and will continue through to March 2023. Specifically, the following have been surveyed: breeding raptors and owls; targeted breeding birds, excluding habitats of low suitability (improved grassland and commercial forestry); <Reda> seabirds; <Reda> goose; wintering birds; and wetland birds.

### ○ ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Initially a desk study was undertaken to identify known archaeological and cultural heritage features within and surrounding the onshore Project area, this included data collected from record centres and archives. A walkover survey was then undertaken to evaluate the current state of any known sites and to determine whether there were any previously unrecorded historic features visible or present in the onshore Project area. Survey work will also assess potential impacts on the setting of historic features due to the presence of the onshore substation.

### ○ NOISE AND VIBRATION

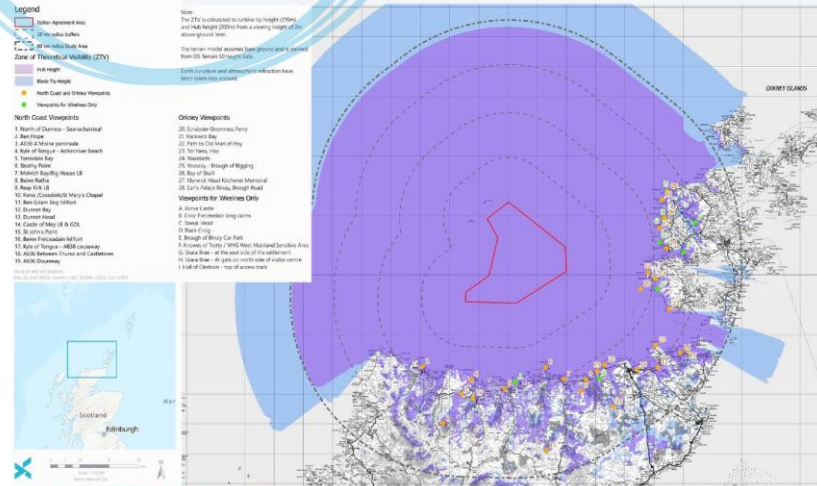
The main source of noise from the Project is likely to come during the construction phase. Whilst noise during operations and maintenance is unlikely to cause significant disturbance, noise from the operational elements of the Project, such as the substation, does need assessed. A background noise survey has been commissioned in the area around the proposed substation location.

### ○ OTHER TOPICS

Although no Project specific surveys are required, the EIA will also study the potential impacts on air quality and climate change.

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# West of Orkney Windfarm



## SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE, AND VISUAL (SLVIA)

The potential visibility of the Project and subsequent effects on the coastal and landscape character, landscape designations, and on the visual amenity of people are being considered and assessed as part of the design and EIA process.

The initial SLVIA study area extends to 60 km from the outermost turbines which includes the Caithness and Sutherland coastlines, and the west mainland of Orkney and Hoy. The Study Area is informed by a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV). A ZTV is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely maximum extent of the visibility of a proposed development and enables key visual receptors and agreed viewpoints from which the impact of the development would be assessed to be identified. A ZTV based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the SLVIA.

The ZTV illustrates that potential visibility would be along the north coast of Caithness and Sutherland, and the west coast of Hoy, mainland Orkney, Rousay and Westray. It is not continuous visibility along the north coast of the Scottish mainland due to the fissured and rocky cliff character with many sheltered inlets and bays.

Inland in Sutherland, the visibility is very fragmented, largely within approximately 20km from the coastline and limited to the north facing elevated areas. This includes around Kyle of Tongue and north-west Sutherland. In the east, inland visibility is very limited, to within approximately 10 km from the coast, due to the lower moorland and flows landscape in this area which has very limited intervisibility with the sea. Inland on the Orkney Isles, potential visibility is illustrated along the moorland hills between Kirkwall in the south and Evie in the north.

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## SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE, AND VISUAL (SLVIA)

A selection of viewpoints has been considered through desk and site survey and agreed with NatureScot, The Highland Council and Orkney Islands Council. These represent a variety of landscape and visual receptors, distances and directions from the Proposed Project. Wirelines and photomontages of the Project from these agreed viewpoints will be produced to accompany the SLVIA.

Early examples of these are shown here from a selection of locations across the Study Area to illustrate the likely appearance of the West of Orkney Windfarm. This is based on an indicative turbine layout and size. The photographic panoramas reflect an indicative worst case layout which is subject to change ahead of consent application.

## WORKING GROUPS AND CONSULTEE MEETINGS

The Project team has established several Working Groups and has an ongoing programme of consultee meetings to discuss particular aspects of the proposed Project. The groups involve local and technical experts with relevant experience and knowledge of the area.

There is also an ongoing programme of meetings with specialist consultees to discuss the scope of the surveys and studies and share early results.

The key objective is to ensure that consultees are aware of all potential impacts and proposed mitigation ahead of application submission and that the application doesn't include any unexpected information. Topics discussed include, but are not limited to:

- Seascape, landscape and visual impact
- Shipping and navigation
- Ornithology
- Marine mammals and megafauna
- Marine habitats and species
- Archaeology
- Terrestrial ecology

### ○ COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Local associations, federations and Independent Fisheries Groups representing local fishermen have been attending the Commercial Fisheries Working Group and liaising with the Project team. Topics discussed have included the cable corridor route, potential options for landfalls and mitigation measures, and the sharing of up-to-date relevant data.

### ○ SOCIO-ECONOMIC

The Socio-Economic Working Group was established to ensure that socio-economic activities within the region are represented and considered. The Group works collaboratively to share knowledge, exchange data sources and discuss ways in which the Project's potential benefits can be maximised.

### SPECIALIST CONSULTEES INCLUDE:



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ARAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA



The Highland  
Council  
Comhairle na  
Gaidhealtachd



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## COMMUNITY PANELS

Three Community Panels have been established to bring community leaders and representatives from Orkney, Caithness, and Sutherland together to discuss the proposals. The Panels include 26 Community Councils and 7 Development Trusts representing those areas most likely to be impacted by the Project.

The Panels have been discussing how best to engage with local people and how the Project can benefit local communities. Future discussions are likely to focus on the community benefit fund which will be established to provide financial contributions to local communities once the windfarm is operational.

Recurring themes have emerged during these conversations with particular interest in directing the fund towards initiatives which:

- Support affordable housing initiatives
- Improve the stability of the electricity supply
- Enhance employability through skills development
- Create employment opportunities

## SUMMER EVENTS

Following discussions with the Community Panels, the West of Orkney Windfarm Project team attended the following summer events in July and August 2022:

Community Summer Events	Date
Durness Highland Gathering	29 July
Halkirk Highland Games	30 July
Dounby Show	11 August
Orkney Show	13 August

Over 1,100 people visited the stand where they were able to hear more about the Project, ask questions and provide feedback through our community questionnaire.

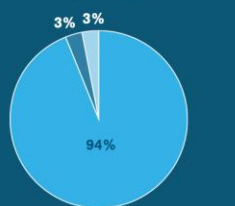


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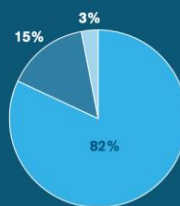
## COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

To date, over 250 questionnaires have been completed. The charts and quotes below illustrate responses to some of the key questions asked. More detailed interviews are planned to explore these issues in greater depth.

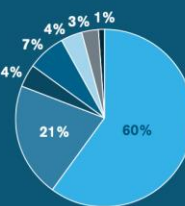
In general, what is your attitude towards climate change



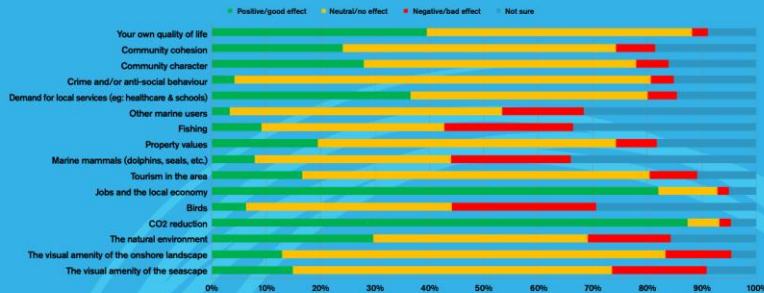
How would you describe your reaction to the West of Orkney Windfarm?



Where do you live?



### IF THE PROJECT GOES AHEAD, WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, DO YOU THINK IT WILL HAVE ON:



- "Investment in renewables should urgently speed up."
- "This is an important and exciting development for Orkney, I hope the positive sustainable development and economic impact are promoted."
- "I am most concerned about the impacts of seabird, cetaceans and other marine life."
- "Need this to tackle climate crisis - but would be good if it helped fuel poverty locally."
- "How does it benefit local people?"
- "Curious about job creation."
- "Go for it!"
- "I support offshore development, just have concerns about environmental impact and how it will directly affect Orkney residents (for good or bad)."

### Community Benefit

Community benefit funds (CBF) are a voluntary payment provided by developers to local communities to benefit from commercial developments. The West of Orkney Windfarm is in the early stages of developing a CBF which will likely be available when the windfarm starts generating power in 2028. The CBF will potentially be split into three areas: Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney and early engagement will ensure that the fund is managed efficiently and fairly amongst the communities. Previous discussions have outlined some potential ideas on what to fund, ranging from short to longer term initiatives.

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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### INVESTING IN SCOTLAND

- Targeting 60% UK content with 40% coming from Scotland
- Committing £140m during the initial development phase to develop the supply chain
- Investing in local port and harbour infrastructure
- Creating significant skills and employment opportunities
- Helping Scotland meet net zero targets
- Providing renewable power to generate green hydrogen at proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub



To register your interest in getting involved in the West of Orkney Windfarm, please use the QR code.

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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

#### INDICATIVE WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM PROJECT TIMELINE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	TIMELINE	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) & SURVEYS	SCOPING & CONSENTS APPLICATIONS
	2022		
MARCH 2022 Public Consultation	Q1		MARCH Scoping Reports submitted
	Q2		MAY/JUNE Receipt of onshore Scoping opinions
	Q3	Q3 2022 Onshore aerial bird and mammal surveys complete	JULY Receipt of offshore Scoping opinions
Q4/Q1 Pre-application public consultation events	Q4 2022	Q4 2022 Seabed surveys complete	Q4 2022 - Q1 2023 Offshore EIA preparation
	2023		
	Q1	Q1 2023 Onshore surveys complete	
Q2/Q3 Pre-application public consultation events	Q2		Q2 - Q3 2023 Onshore EIA preparation
	Q3		JUNE Offshore consent application
	Q4		Q4 Onshore consent application
	2024		Offshore consent determination
	2027	Commence construction	
	2029	First power	

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## Appendix 16: Exhibition boards from 1st onshore/ offshore PAC event (ROUND 4)

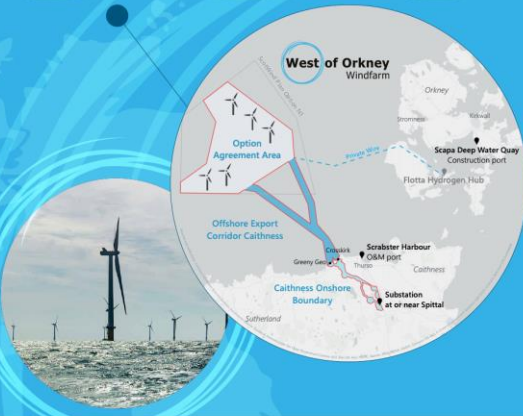
## West of Orkney Windfarm



### WEST OF ORKNEY WINDFARM

The West of Orkney Windfarm is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The project is being developed by Corio Generation, TotalEnergies and RIDG, a consortium with deep Scottish roots, a commitment to delivery and a clear vision for the project.

-   
**2 MILLION**  
HOMES SUPPLIED  
WITH ELECTRICITY
-   
**2029**  
TARGET FIRST  
GENERATION
-   
**~2000MW**  
OF POWER WILL BE  
GENERATED



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## West of Orkney Windfarm



### OFFSHORE

- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with a maximum tip height of 370m
- Fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substation platforms
- Inter-array cables linking the wind turbines and offshore substation platforms
- Up to five export cables to Caithness
- Up to five export cables to Flotta (future separate application)

### ONSHORE

- New substation at or near Spittal
- Up to five underground cable circuits from landfall point to substation
- Orkney infrastructure subject to future separate application
- New substation near existing Flotta Oil Terminal/proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub
- Up to five underground cable circuits to Flotta substation



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## ONSHORE PROPOSAL

In November 2020, National Grid confirmed that the West of Orkney Windfarm's grid connection would be 'at or near Spittal'. The onshore cables will run from the two potential landfall locations Greeny Geo and/or Crosskirk. The onshore route has been split into three development zones: landfall, onshore cable route, and substation. The figure below indicates which activities will occur within each of the zones.

### CABLE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

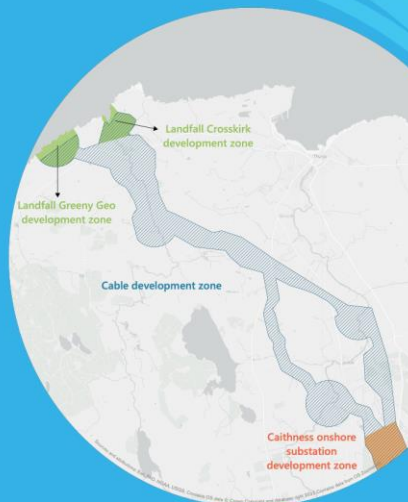
- Establishment of compounds
- Enabling works
- Horizontal directional drilling/main crossing works
- Cable trenching (including foreseen crossings)
- Ducts/duct bank installation
- Joint bay excavation and installation
- Cable installation
- Cable jointing and testing
- Cable trench backfilling
- Reinstatement of joint bay sites
- Removal of compounds and final reinstatement works

### SUBSTATION DEVELOPMENT ZONE

- Enabling works
- Onshore substation civil works
- Onshore substation mechanical and electrical works
- Onshore substation cold commissioning
- Onshore substation energised and hot commissioning
- Grid connection enabling works
- Grid connection civil works
- Grid connection mechanical and electrical works
- Grid connection commissioning
- Final reinstatement and landscaping works

### LANDFALL DEVELOPMENT ZONES

- Enabling works
- Horizontal directional drilling works
- Transition joint bay construction
- Pull in and jointing of offshore export cables

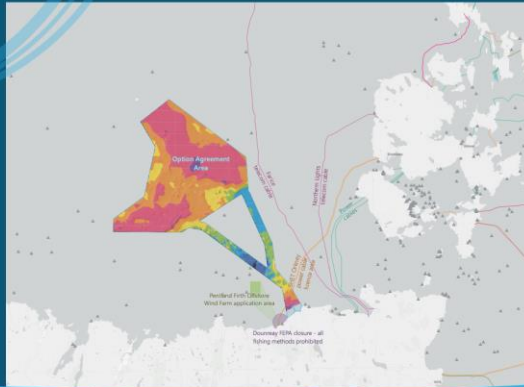


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# West of Orkney Windfarm

- ▲ Wreck/obstruction
- Offshore Project Area
- Water depth (m)
- 31-40
- 41-60
- 61-80
- 61-70
- 71-80
- 81-90
- 91-100
- 101-110
- 111-120

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## CABLE ROUTE REFINEMENT

There are two shallow banks located within the OAA referred to as Stormy Bank and Whiten Head Bank. A combination of water depth, seabed composition and environmental constraints will determine the turbine layout. The Project will have turbines which will be fixed to the seabed.

The onshore cable corridor continues to be refined and has been influenced by the following features:

- | Protected sites         |  | Development Zones |   |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
|                         | Special protection area (SPA)              |                   | Cable development zone                        |
|                         | Site of special scientific interest (SSSI) |                   | Calthness onshore substation development zone |
|                         | Geological conservation review (GCR) site  |                   | Landfall Crosslink development zone           |
|                         | Special area of conservation (SAC)         |                   | Landfall Greeny Geo development zone          |
| Onshore windfarm status |  |                   |   |
|                         | Constructed                                |                   | Scoping/Screening, In Planning                |
|                         | Under Construction                         |                   | Status Unknown                                |
|                         | Approved                                   |                   |   |



In February 2023, SSEN Transmission commenced consultation about planned investments in the transmission network across the north of Scotland to support the significant growth of renewable energy forecast, particularly onshore and offshore wind. This includes upgrading existing lines, building new overhead lines, subsea cables and a new substation in the Spittal area.

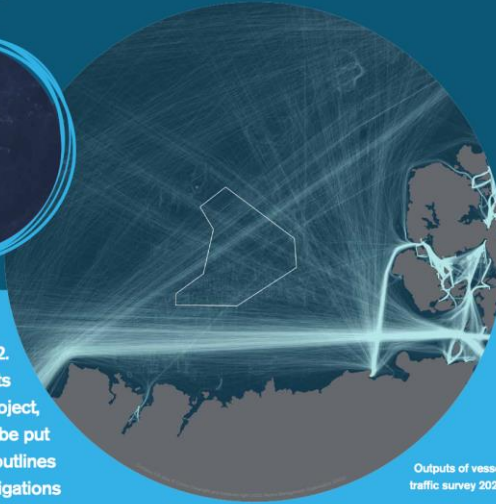
Scan this QR code for more information from SSEN



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## OFFSHORE MITIGATIONS

The offshore surveys were all completed in 2022. To reduce potential impacts that may arise from the Project, mitigations measures will be put in place. The below table outlines some of the proposed mitigations for the offshore impacts.



Outputs of vessel traffic survey 2021

ELEMENT AFFECTED	POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine mammals</li> </ul>	Noise from pile-driving during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Marine Mammal Observers (MMO).</li> <li>• Soft-start piling to reduce potential underwater noise.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birds</li> </ul>	Collision with turbine blades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use larger and more widely spaced turbines to decrease risk of collision.</li> <li>• Blade clearance of at least 24.7m above sea level to reduce collision risks.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish</li> <li>• Shellfish</li> </ul>	Sub-sea cable Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury cables to reduce the potential impact of EMF.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial fisheries</li> <li>• Boat users</li> </ul>	Gear damage from cable snagging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury cables and conduct burial risk assessment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial fisheries</li> <li>• Boat users</li> </ul>	Disruption from construction in Project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute Notice to Mariners for effective communication of Project works in the area.</li> <li>• Construct in sections to avoid total exclusion</li> <li>• Allow vessels to transit area after construction.</li> <li>• Results from data collected show that very few vessels pass through the windfarm site.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aviation</li> <li>• Military</li> <li>• Commercial fisheries</li> <li>• Boat users</li> </ul>	Collision with turbine structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply construction safety zones up to 500m around structures during construction activities.</li> <li>• Inform Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of locations, heights and lighting status of the wind turbines, including dates of construction.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impacts</li> </ul>	Artificial light pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid excess lighting/ minimise lighting, where feasible.</li> <li>• Locate turbines at least 25km offshore.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine archaeology</li> </ul>	Impact on marine archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid identified seabed heritage assets by a minimum of 30m.</li> </ul>

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## ONSHORE MITIGATIONS

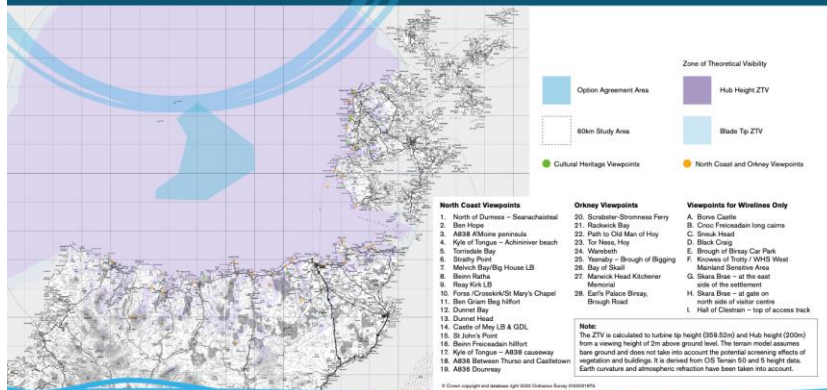


All of the onshore surveys were completed in May 2023. To reduce potential impacts that may arise from the Project, mitigations measures will be put in place. The below table outlines some of the proposed mitigations for the onshore impacts.

ELEMENT AFFECTED	POTENTIAL IMPACT	MITIGATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic and access</li> </ul>	Damage to roads and road closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Traffic Management Plan.</li> <li>Use dedicated haul roads to avoid using main roads.</li> <li>Undertake road repairs as required.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geology</li> <li>Hydrology</li> </ul>	Impact on sensitive areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid sensitive areas, such as peatland and designated areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshwater ecology</li> </ul>	Impact on freshwater fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) under major river crossings.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onshore ecology</li> </ul>	Impact on terrestrial ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid sensitive areas and designated sites.</li> <li>Adhere to a Species and Habitat Protection Plan (SHPP).</li> <li>Ensure a qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) presence at sensitive locations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape and visual</li> </ul>	Visual impact of substation and cables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substation will be behind a bund.</li> <li>Screening and planting.</li> <li>Underground cables.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape and visual</li> </ul>	Artificial lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensor controlled lighting.</li> <li>Substation will be behind a bund.</li> <li>Screening and planting.</li> <li>Avoiding unnecessary lighting.</li> </ul>

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# West of Orkney Windfarm



## VISUAL IMPACTS

The map above illustrates the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) which is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely maximum extent of the visibility of the proposed windfarm. The map also shows the key viewpoints agreed with NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland, Orkney Islands Council and The Highland Council. To see the most up-to-date visual information available, please speak to a member of staff.

The visual impact of the onshore substation is also being considered and mitigation measures are proposed to screen the substation using a combination of earth bunds and planting, as illustrated in the map.



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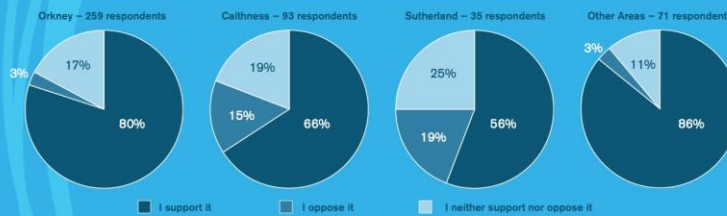
## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The West of Orkney Windfarm project team continues to undertake extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. This process began during preparation of the ScotWind bid to The Crown Estate Scotland. A summary of specialist meetings and consultation events that have been undertaken since the site was awarded in January 2022 is provided below.

MONTH/YEAR	EVENT
January 2022	West of Orkney Windfarm site awarded
March 2022	Virtual public exhibition, including live Q&A sessions
May 2022	Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)
June 2022	Technical Working Groups established
July 2022	1st round of topic-specific consultee meetings 1st round of community panels (Orkney, Sutherland, Caithness)
August 2022	Dumess Highland Gathering, Sutherland Halkirk Highland Games, Caithness
September 2022	Dounby Show, Orkney Orkney County Show
November 2022	2nd round of topic-specific consultee meetings 1st round of public consultation events x7
January 2023	3rd round of topic-specific consultee meetings 2nd round of community panels (Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland)
February 2023	One-to-one socio-economic stakeholder interviews begin
May 2023	1st round of onshore and offshore PAC events x7
June 2023	2nd round of onshore PAC events x2

Over 450 community questionnaires have been returned and respondents' reactions to the Project by location are presented below:

### How would you describe your reaction to the West of Orkney Windfarm?



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## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The community questionnaire asked respondents about the impact that they felt the West of Orkney Windfarm might have on a range of factors, from the natural environment to their own quality of life. A summary of the output was presented at the project consultation events held in November and is available on the website. More detailed interviews were then held to explore in greater depth the issues raised through the questionnaire and at the events. The final consent applications will be accompanied by a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report which will present the findings of this consultation along with how it has been used to shape the Project.

The table below shows a summary of the key questions asked and our actions in response to date.

YOU SAID	WE DID
Will you come to Orkney West Mainland?	Pre-Application Consultation event in Sandwick Hall.
Will you come to the Strathly/Melvich area?	Pre-Application Consultation event in Strathly Hall.
Will you undertake STEM projects?	£900k funding of UHI STEM outreach programme.
Can you share more detail on the outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessment?	Details added to online display materials and at subsequent consultation events. The full EIA Report will be published alongside our submitted consent applications.
Can you have events at times when working folk can attend?	Events scheduled across daytimes and evenings plus all materials replicated online. Dedicated phonenumber, email address and freepost address for those who can't attend.
How are you ensuring that public are informed at all the various stages of the project?	Regular consultation events, leaflet drops, online updates, public notices, and ongoing engagement with Community Panels, local business forums and education providers.
What are you going to do about the impact on roads in Caithness?	Our Traffic Management Plan includes plans for: dedicated haul roads, delivering materials by sea where possible, and post-construction reinstatement and repair programmes.
What will the benefit be to local communities?	Creation of jobs and other training and supply chain opportunities. The Project is committed to a Community Benefit Fund to support communities in Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney for the duration of the Project.
Will there be local jobs?	Once built, the windfarm will require around 140 full-time, well-paid jobs for approximately 35 years.
Can you reduce my energy bills?	Offshore wind projects will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and, ultimately, energy bills as the cost of producing electricity from offshore wind is significantly lower than producing it from gas. Communities will also be able to direct their Community Benefit Fund expenditure to reduce local energy bills, should they choose to.
What are you doing to protect birds?	Comprehensive assessment of potential impacts. Use larger and more widely spaced turbines to decrease the risk of birds colliding with blades. Blade clearance of at least 24m above sea level to reduce collision risks.
What are you doing to protect sea life?	Comprehensive assessment of potential impacts. Use Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) during construction. Soft-start piling to reduce potential underwater noise.
Will there be any overhead lines?	No, the Project will be connected to a new sub-station at or near Spittal using underground cabling.
What about our dark skies?	Avoid unnecessary lighting offshore and onshore. Use sensor-controlled lighting at sub-station to minimise times lights are on.

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## COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Community benefit funds (CBF) are voluntary schemes created by developers to help local communities to benefit from commercial developments. The West of Orkney Windfarm is developing a CBF which will be available when the windfarm starts generating power in 2029. The CBF will be shared across communities in Caithness, Sutherland, and Orkney. Engagement with local communities will ensure that the fund is managed effectively and fairly. Discussions to date suggest a broad range of priorities from short-term to longer term strategic goals, as outlined below:

### SUGGESTED PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING

SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
Supporting existing local initiatives, e.g. through sponsorship	Digital connectivity	Natural capital
Local business grants	Affordable housing	Community ownership
Support for energy bills	Sustaining communities	Sustaining the fund after the windfarm

In the meantime, the West of Orkney Windfarm has been involved in sponsoring some community events, such as supporting students from Kirkwall Grammar School to attend a Discover Engineering course and Orkney Athletics and Running Club for equipment in preparation for the Island Games 2025.

The West of Orkney Windfarm are keen to hear your views! If you have any further suggestions on how the CBF can benefit your community, please scan the QR code and complete the online form.



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## INVESTING IN SCOTLAND

- Targeting 60% UK content of which 40% will come from Scotland
- Committing £140m during the initial development phase to develop the supply chain.
- Committing £900,000 along with other developers to expand the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) schools Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) outreach engagement programme.
- Exclusive EMEC innovation partnership around next generation technologies.
- Multi-million-pound contracts awarded to local companies.
- Agreement to create an operations and maintenance base at Scrabster Harbour, which will create ~140 full-time jobs for 35 years.
- Working with Orkney Islands Council to develop Scapa Deep Water Quay.



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# West of Orkney Windfarm



## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

May  
2023

First round of onshore and offshore Pre-Application (PAC) events.

June  
2023

Second round PAC events.

If you wish to respond directly to West of Orkney Windfarm, please write to Offshore Wind Power Limited by Friday 30th June 2023.

- Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)
- Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE
- Phone: 01786 820 111

Summer  
2023

Offshore consent application to be submitted to Scottish Ministers.

Autumn  
2023

Onshore consent application to be submitted to The Highland Council.

2027

Onshore construction in Caithness is due to start.  
Offshore construction to commence.

2029

First power generated.  
Community Benefit Fund available when power generation begins.

### Representations to relevant planning authority

Once the consent applications have been submitted, any representations should be made in writing to the Scottish Ministers for offshore elements and The Highland Council for onshore elements. Further details will be provided by the regulatory authorities, as appropriate.

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## Appendix 17: Adverts for summer shows (ROUND 2)




**West of Orkney Windfarm**

Proud sponsor of the Dounby Show

We would love to hear your thoughts on the proposed West of Orkney offshore windfarm. To learn more about the project and tell us what you think, please come and visit us on our stand at the Show.



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**West of Orkney Windfarm**

Proud sponsor of the Durness Highland Gathering

We would love to hear your thoughts on the proposed West of Orkney offshore windfarm. To learn more about the project and tell us what you think, please come and visit us on our stand at the Gathering.



[westoforkney.com](http://westoforkney.com)





**West of Orkney Windfarm**

Proud sponsor of the Orkney County Show

We would love to hear your thoughts on the proposed West of Orkney offshore windfarm. To learn more about the project and tell us what you think, please come and visit us on our stand at the Show.



[westoforkney.com](http://westoforkney.com)





**West of Orkney Windfarm**

Proud sponsor of the Halkirk Highland Games

We would love to hear your thoughts on the proposed West of Orkney offshore windfarm. To learn more about the project and tell us what you think, please come and visit our stand at the Games.



[westoforkney.com](http://westoforkney.com)



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## Appendix 18: Advert for autumn events (ROUND 3)



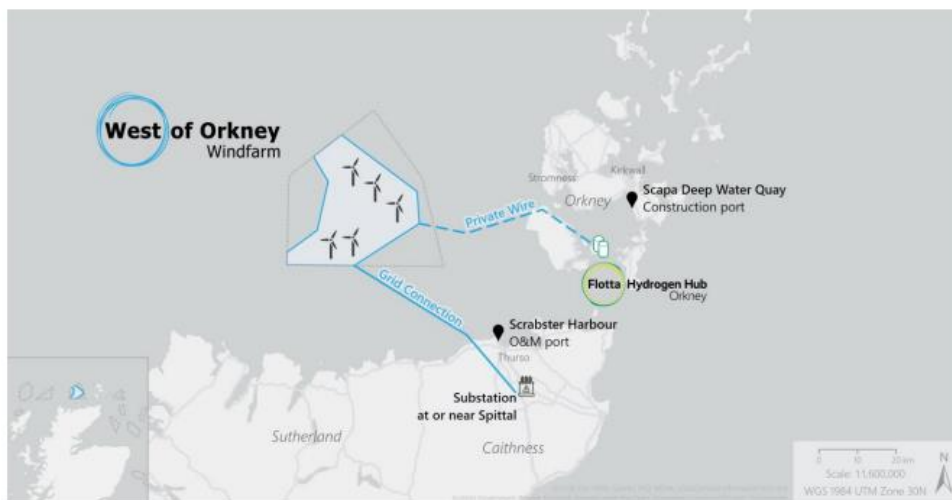
**Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013**

Offshore Wind Power Ltd (company number SC605260 with registered office at Clava House, Cradlehall Business Park, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 5GH) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The key offshore components of the Project are:

- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substations linked to the wind turbines via inter-array cables
- Up to five export cables to Caithness

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated transmission infrastructure:



Offshore Wind Power Limited is holding a series of pre-application public consultation (PAC) events which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, including local residents, to hear more about the Project and make comments on the proposals. Members of the Project team will be available to answer questions. The details of the events are as follows:

Date:	Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tue 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Venue:	Orkney Harbour Authority, Kiln Corner, Kirkwall, KW15 1QX	Stromness Community Centre, Church Rd, Stromness, KW 16 3BA	North Walls Community School, Lyness, Hoy, KW16 3NX	Pickaquooy Centre, Muddisdale Rd, Kirkwall, KW15 1LR	Spittal Village Hall, Spittal, Caithness, KW1 5XR	Bettyhill Village Hall, Bettyhill, Thurso, KW14 7SS	North Coast Visitor Centre, High Street, Thurso, KW14 8AJ
Time:	10am - 2pm	4pm - 8pm	4pm - 8pm	3pm - 7.30pm	4pm - 8pm	3pm - 7.30pm	3pm - 7.30pm

In addition to the above, Offshore Wind Power Limited will be submitting subsequent applications for Section 36 consent and onshore planning permission for the infrastructure required to connect the windfarm to the National Grid at or near the existing Spittal substation in Caithness. Marine licence, planning permission and Section 36 consent applications will also be required to connect the windfarm to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub (please see map above). Notification of these applications will be advertised separately and will be subject to additional pre-application consultation at a later date, in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.

As marine licence applications have not yet been submitted, written comments should be made to Offshore Wind Power Limited by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Please note that comments made to Offshore Wind Power Limited are not representations to Scottish Ministers. Representations to Marine Scotland can be made when formal marine licence applications are made. To make comments or request further information, please contact:

Email: [info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)  
 Postal address: Freepost FCHANGE  
 Phone: 01786 820 111

Further information can also be obtained by visiting the project website:

<https://www.westoforkney.com/>



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## Appendix 19: Leaflets for events



# INVITATION TO ATTEND

## PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION EVENTS



# West of Orkney Windfarm

Offshore Wind Power Limited plans to submit marine licence and planning applications to construct offshore wind turbines and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland.

The key components of the Project are:

## OFFSHORE

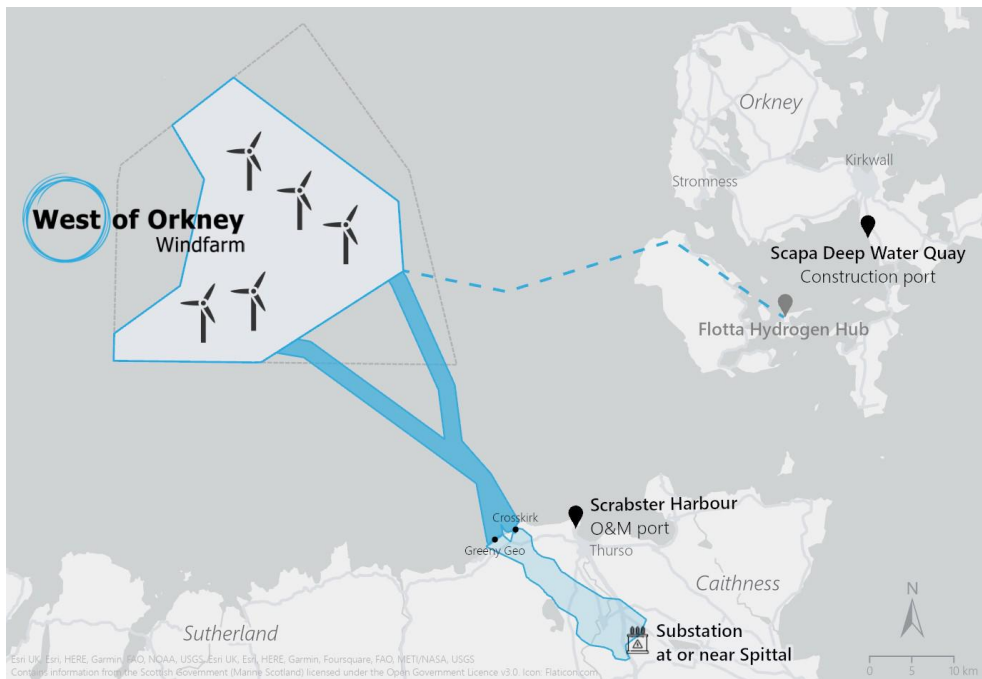
- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substations linked to the wind turbines via inter-array cables
- Up to five export cables to Caithness

## ONSHORE

- New substation at or near the existing Spittal substation
- Up to five underground cables from the landfall point to the substation

Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted later and will be subject to further consultation.

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure:



# Community consultation

As part of our mission to deliver a world-leading offshore windfarm, we are keen to communicate openly with communities across the north of Scotland and offer multiple opportunities for us to meet and hear your views.

We've already attended a number of local events including the Durness Gathering, the Halkirk Games, the Dounby Show and the Orkney County Show. It was great to meet so many local residents and visitors alike and to hear your views on the project.

We have now analysed the feedback we have received to date and would like to share with you an overview of that analysis. We would also like to provide you with a Project update and some more detailed insights into a number of the environmental assessments we have been undertaking.

We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to attend one of our local pre-application consultation events, where you will get a chance to meet the development team, ask questions and offer feedback.

The dates and venues of the community consultation events are as follows:

## Kirkwall

Orkney Harbour Authority,  
Kiln Corner  
Tue 22nd Nov

**10am - 2pm**

## Stromness

Stromness Community Centre  
Tue 22nd Nov

**4pm - 8pm**

## Hoy

North Walls Community School  
Wed 23rd Nov

**4pm - 8pm**

## Kirkwall

Pickaquoyle Centre  
Thu 24th Nov

**3pm - 7.30pm**

## Spittal

Spittal Village Hall  
Mon 28th Nov

**4pm - 8pm**

## Bettyhill

Bettyhill Village Hall  
Tue 29th Nov

**3pm - 7.30pm**

## Thurso

North Coast Visitor Centre  
Wed 30th Nov

**3pm - 7.30pm**



# What happens next?

We are continuing to prepare our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be submitted with our marine licence and planning applications. We plan to submit the applications for the wind turbines and offshore infrastructure in the summer of 2023. Applications for the onshore infrastructure on Caithness will be submitted later in 2023. Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted at a later date and will be subject to further consultation.

We are continuing to receive your feedback, which we are using to inform the development of the West of Orkney Windfarm. If you can't make it to one of our events or would rather not attend, there are a number of ways you can find out more or provide your feedback. You can get in touch by phoning, emailing or writing to us using the contact details below.

We have also developed a short community questionnaire as another way for you to express your opinion about the project. Every person who completes a questionnaire will have the opportunity to enter into a monthly prize draw to win a £50 voucher. (Contact details provided for the prize draw will only be retained for that purpose and will be deleted thereafter.)

In addition, we have developed a virtual public exhibition which remains open and can be visited via our website. The questionnaire can also be accessed via our website or by using the QR code below.

[www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

## Please note

As marine licence/ planning consent applications have not yet been submitted, written comments submitted on this questionnaire will be received by West of Orkney Windfarm only.

Representations to Marine Scotland and the local planning authorities can be made when formal marine licence/ planning applications are made.



Please scan the QR code to access the community questionnaire

## Contact us

01786 820 111

[info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)

Freepost FCHANGE





## INVITATION TO ATTEND

PRE-APPLICATION  
CONSULTATION EVENTS  
(REVISED DATES ENCLOSED)



# West of Orkney Windfarm

Offshore Wind Power Limited plans to submit consent applications to construct offshore wind turbines and associated transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland.

The key components of the Project are:

## OFFSHORE

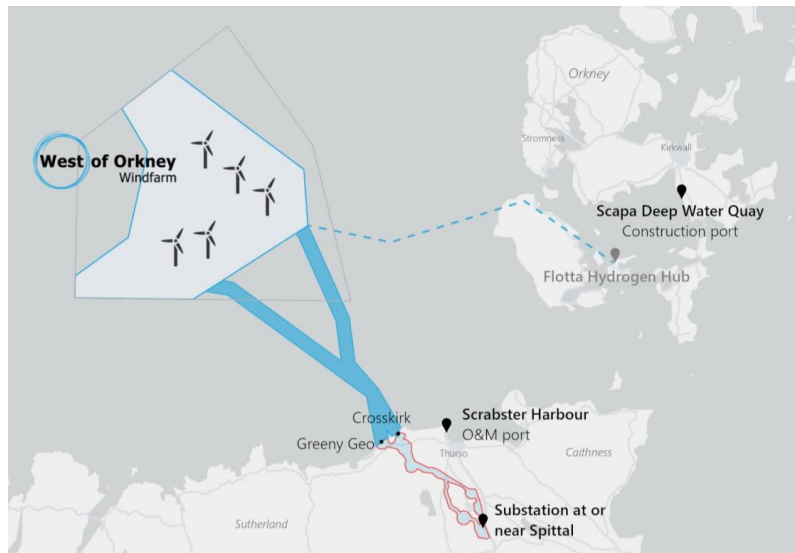
- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substations linked to the wind turbines via inter-array cables
- Up to five export cables to Caithness

## ONSHORE

- New substation at or near the existing Spittal substation
- Up to five underground cables from the landfall point to the substation

Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted later and will be subject to further consultation.

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure:



# Community consultation

As part of our mission to deliver a world-leading offshore windfarm, we are keen to communicate openly with communities across the north of Scotland and offer multiple opportunities for us to meet and hear your views. We've already attended a number of local events including the Durness Gathering, the Halkirk Games, the Dounby Show and the Orkney County Show. In November, we organised a Project specific consultation event in seven venues across Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney which were well attended.

We have now analysed the feedback we have received to date and would like to share with you an overview of that analysis. We would also like to provide you with a Project update and some more detailed insights into a number of the environmental assessments we have been undertaking.

We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to attend one of our local pre-application consultation events, where you will get a chance to meet the development team, ask questions and offer feedback.

You may have received a leaflet advising of future consultation events commencing in March 2023. We have decided to delay these events for a few weeks and extend the date by which comments should be submitted. The planned pre-application consultation events will now take place in May 2023 on the dates and in the venues detailed below:

## Thurso

The Pentland Hotel  
Tue 16th May

**3.30pm - 7.30pm**

## Strathy

Strathy Village Hall  
Wed 17th May

**3.30pm - 7.30pm**

## Halkirk

Ross Institute  
Thu 18th May

**3.30pm - 7.30pm**



## Kirkwall

Orkney Harbour Authority, Kiln Corner  
Tue 23rd May

**10am - 2pm**

## Sandwick

Sandwick Community Hall  
Tue 23rd May

**4pm - 8pm**

## Kirkwall

LPVG Room, Pickaquooy Centre  
Wed 24th May

**3.30pm - 7.30pm**

## Stromness

Robert Rendall Building, ICIT  
Thu 25th May

**3.30pm - 7.30pm**



# What happens next?

We are continuing to prepare our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be submitted with our applications. We plan to submit the applications for the wind turbines and offshore infrastructure in the summer of 2023. Applications for the onshore infrastructure on Caithness will be submitted later in 2023. Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted at a later date and will be subject to further consultation.

We are continuing to receive your feedback, which we are using to inform the development of the West of Orkney Windfarm. If you are unable to attend our events or would rather not attend, there are several ways you can find out more or provide your feedback. You can get in touch by phoning, emailing or writing to us using the contact details below. We have also developed a short community questionnaire as another way for you to express your opinion about the project. This can be accessed by scanning the QR code or visiting the website.

We have also developed a virtual public exhibition which remains open and can be visited via our website. This replicates the information displayed at the most recent events.

[www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

## Please note

As marine licence/ planning consent applications have not yet been submitted, written comments on the proposals should be made to Offshore Wind Power Ltd (OWPL) by **30th June 2023**.

Please note that comments made to OWPL are not representations to Marine Scotland or The Highland Council. Representations to Marine Scotland and/ or The Highland Council can be made when formal marine licence/ planning applications are submitted.



Please scan the QR code to access the community questionnaire

## Contact us

01786 820 111

[info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)

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# INVITATION TO ATTEND

PRE-APPLICATION  
CONSULTATION EVENTS  
ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE  
JUNE 2023



# West of Orkney Windfarm

Offshore Wind Power Limited plans to submit consent applications to construct offshore wind turbines and associated onshore transmission infrastructure for the West of Orkney Windfarm. The proposed windfarm will have the potential to generate around 2GW of renewable energy and is located around 30km west of Orkney and 25km from the north coast of Scotland. The onshore infrastructure will include up to 33km of buried cables and a new substation at or near Spittal.

The key components of the Project are:

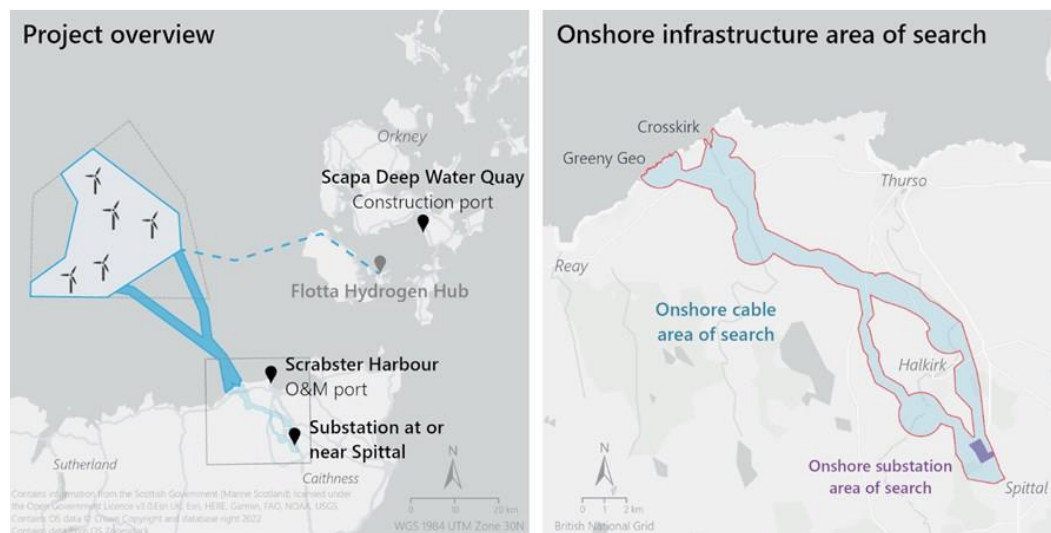
## OFFSHORE

- Up to 125 wind turbine generators with fixed turbine foundations
- Up to five offshore substations linked to the wind turbines via inter-array cables
- Up to five export cables to Caithness

## ONSHORE

- New substation at or near the existing Spittal substation
- Up to five underground cables from the landfall point to the substation

The plan below identifies the location of the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and associated offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure:



# Community consultation

As part of our mission to deliver a world-leading offshore windfarm, we are keen to communicate openly with communities across the north of Scotland and offer multiple opportunities for us to meet and hear your views. We attended local events such as the Durness Gathering and the Halkirk Games in July 2022. In November, we organised a Project specific consultation event in seven venues across Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney. We subsequently hosted a series of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events in three venues in Thurso, Strathy, and Halkirk in May 2023.

We will now be hosting further onshore-specific PAC events in June 2023 to discuss the onshore infrastructure related to the Project, including the associated substation and onshore cable route.

We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to attend one of our local Pre-Application Consultation events, where you will get a chance to meet the development team, ask questions and offer feedback on our proposals.

## Thurso

The Pentland Hotel  
Tuesday 20th June  
**3.30pm - 7.30pm**

## Halkirk

Ross Institute  
Wednesday 21st June  
**3.30pm - 7.30pm**

If you are unable to attend our events or would rather not attend, there are several ways you can find out more or provide your feedback. The virtual public exhibition remains open and can be visited via our website. This replicates the information displayed at the most recent events.

You can get in touch by phoning, emailing or writing to us using the contact details overleaf.

We have also developed a short community questionnaire, which is focused on the proposed onshore infrastructure of the Project as another way for you to provide feedback. This can be accessed by scanning the QR code or visiting the website.



# What happens next?

We are continuing to prepare our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be submitted with our applications. We plan to submit the applications for the wind turbines and offshore infrastructure in the summer of 2023. Applications for the onshore infrastructure on Caithness will be submitted later in 2023.

Consent applications associated with connecting to the proposed Flotta Hydrogen Hub will be submitted at a later date and will be subject to further consultation.

[www.westoforkney.com](http://www.westoforkney.com)

## Please note

As planning consent applications have not yet been submitted, written comments on the proposals should be made to Offshore Wind Power Ltd (OWPL) by **30th June 2023**.

Please note that comments made to OWPL are not representations to The Highland Council. Representations to The Highland Council can be made when formal planning applications are submitted.

## Contact us

01786 820 111

[info@westoforkney.com](mailto:info@westoforkney.com)

Freepost FCHANGE



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## Appendix 20: Community questionnaire – whole project



## Community Questionnaire

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
(office use only)

We are keen to receive your feedback which we will use to inform the development of the West of Orkney Windfarm. This short questionnaire is one of the ways in which you are able to express your opinion about the project. We would also welcome your feedback on our consultation and any suggestions you may have for future engagement activities.

This is an anonymous survey and the results will be summarised.

Please note: as consent applications have not yet been submitted, written comments submitted on this form will be received by West of Orkney Windfarm only. Representations to Marine Scotland and the local Planning Authorities can be made when formal applications are made.

Your views... (Please ~~tick~~ **one box only**)

**Q1** In general, what is your attitude towards climate change?

I think it's something we need to take action on now

I don't believe that climate change is an issue of concern

I don't have a view on climate change

**Q2** In general, what is your attitude towards offshore wind projects?

I support them

I oppose them

I don't have a view on offshore wind projects

**Q3** How would you describe your knowledge of the West of Orkney Windfarm development?

I am very well informed

I know a lot

I know a little

I know very little

I know nothing at all

The proposed West of Orkney Windfarm...

**Q4** If the West of Orkney Windfarm goes ahead what effect, if any, do you think it will have on:

<b>Please <del>tick</del> one box only for each category below</b>	<i>Positive/ good effect</i>	<i>Neutral/ no effect</i>	<i>Negative/ bad effect</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
The visual amenity of the seascape				
The visual amenity of the onshore landscape				
The natural environment				
CO <sub>2</sub> reduction				
Birds				
Jobs & the local economy				
Tourism in the area				
Marine mammals (dolphins, seals etc.)				
Property values				
Fishing				
Other marine users				
Demand for local services (eg: healthcare & schools)				
Crime and/ or anti-social behaviour				
Community character				
Community cohesion				
Your own quality of life				

**Q5** How would you describe your reaction to the West of Orkney Windfarm? (Please ~~tick~~ **one box only**)

I support it

I neither support nor oppose it

I oppose it

 Please turn over

**Q6** Do you have any specific COMMENTS or QUESTIONS about the proposed West of Orkney Windfarm and its onshore infrastructure?

**Your experience of our engagement...**

It is important that we take into account the views of local people when developing this windfarm proposal and we would value your input on how best to engage with local communities.

**Q7** Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Please ✓ one box only for each statement	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
The event or online information has enhanced my knowledge of the West of Orkney Windfarm						
The event or online information has given me a good opportunity to participate in the planning process.						
The level of information is appropriate to my needs.						
I prefer to attend face-to-face consultation events.						
I prefer to attend online virtual consultation events.						

**Q8** Do you have further comments about how we engage with the local community?

**About you...**

So that we are able to ensure that we include the views of people from across the community, please tell us a bit about yourself. (This information will only be used for reporting purposes to indicate the reach of this engagement and will not be used to identify you.)

**Q9** Which local authority area do you currently live in?

- Orkney Islands Council     
  The Highland Council (Caithness area)     
  The Highland Council (Sutherland area)

- Other     
  If you are a visitor, please state the reason for your visit

(please specify)

**Q10** What is your postcode?

**Q11** How old are you?

- Under 16yrs     
  16-29yrs     
  30-44yrs     
  45-59yrs     
  60-74yrs     
  75yrs & over

**Project updates...**

**Q12** In future, how would you like us to keep you updated on the progress of the Project?

- Email     
  Post/ leaflet through the door     
  Website/ virtual exhibition     
  Face-to-face events     
  Press/ media coverage     
  Social media     
  I do NOT want updated

**Q13** To receive Project updates, please provide an email or postal address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire**

All the information that you have provided will be processed in accordance with your rights under the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulations in line with our privacy policy which can be accessed here: <https://www.westoforkney.com/privacy-policy>. By providing us with your contact details, you are giving us your consent to use your data to keep you updated on the West of Orkney Windfarm only. We will not use your data for any other purpose without first seeking further consent from you.



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## Appendix 21: Community questionnaire – onshore only



## Community Questionnaire Proposed ONSHORE Elements

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
(office use only)

We are keen to receive your feedback which we will use to inform the development of the ONSHORE elements of the West of Orkney Windfarm. This short questionnaire is one of the ways in which you are able to express your opinion about the project. We would also welcome your feedback on our consultation.

This is an anonymous survey and the results will be summarised. Contact details provided for the purposes of receiving Project updates will only be retained for that purpose and will be deleted thereafter.

Please note: as a planning application has not yet been submitted, written comments submitted on this form will be received by West of Orkney Windfarm only. Representations to The Highland Council, as the local planning authority, can be made when a formal application is made.

### Your views...

**Q1** Do you have any comments to make on the proposed ONSHORE elements for the West of Orkney Windfarm?


**Q2** Do you have any suggestions for 'screening' the onshore substation?

**Q3** In general, what is your reaction to the proposed ONSHORE elements for the West of Orkney Windfarm?

I support it

I neither support nor oppose it

I oppose it

 Please turn over

**Your experience of our engagement...**

It is important that we take into account the views of local people when developing these proposals and we would value your input on how best to engage with local communities.

**Q4** Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Please ✓one box only for each statement	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
The event or online information has enhanced my knowledge of the West of Orkney Windfarm						
The event or online information has given me a good opportunity to participate in the planning process.						
The level of information is appropriate to my needs.						
I prefer to attend face-to-face consultation events.						
I prefer to attend online virtual consultation events.						

**Q5** Do you have further comments about how we engage with the local community?

**About you...**

So that we are able to ensure that we include the views of people from across the community, please tell us a bit about yourself. (This information will only be used for reporting purposes to indicate the reach of this engagement and will not be used to identify you.)

**Q6** Which local authority area do you currently live in?

- The Highland Council (Caithness area)
  The Highland Council (Sutherland area)
- Other (please specify)
  If you are a visitor, please state the reason for your visit
- .....
- .....

**Q7** What is your postcode (we will NOT use this to identify you)?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Q8** How old are you?

- Under 16yrs
  16-29yrs
  30-44yrs
  45-59yrs
  60-74yrs
  75yrs & over

**Project updates...**

**Q9** In future, how would you like us to keep you updated on the progress of the Project?

- Email
  Post/ leaflet through the door
  Website/ virtual exhibition
  Face-to-face events
  Press/ media coverage
  Social media
  I do NOT want updated

**Q10** To receive Project updates, please provide an email or postal address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire**

All the information that you have provided will be processed in accordance with your rights under the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulations in line with our privacy policy which can be accessed here: <https://www.westoforkney.com/privacy-policy>. By providing us with your contact details, you are giving us your consent to use your data to keep you updated on the West of Orkney Windfarm only. We will not use your data for any other purpose without first seeking further consent from you.

---

# Contacts

**Name:** Jack Farnham  
Title: Development Manager  
<Redacted>

**Name:** Liz Foubister  
Title: EIA Manager  
<Redacted>

**Name:** Victoria McCusker  
Title: Stakeholder Manager  
<Redacted>

**Name:** Shona Morrison  
Title: Stakeholder Assistant  
<Redacted>

<Redacted>

