

BERWICK BANK WIND FARM

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Appendix 1
December 2022



APPENDIX 1. REPORT ON CONSULTATION

November 2020



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Appendix 1. Report on Consultation – November 2020

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of activity and high-level analysis following an introductory public virtual exhibition event which was conducted by SSE Renewables (SSER) in relation to the proposed development of the Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm.



SSER held a three-week virtual exhibition in November 2020. The purpose of this exhibition was to provide information, introduce the project and to seek the views of members of the public and various stakeholder bodies.

The event format involved the display of exhibition banners, information brochures, large scale maps and design schematics and the attendance of the Project Development Team. The events were held as free to attend, virtual online exhibition as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic which prevented the ability to host face to face consultations. The exhibition also included four separate dedicated live-chat sessions.

This short Consultation Report Summary is to provide an update to interested residents, community groups and elected representatives on the online consultation and main themes raised during it.

Contact Details

For the virtual exhibition, the first point of contact for all queries from stakeholders was managed by the appointed Stakeholder Engagement Manager (SEM) – Gary Donlin. The SEM's details were included on information brochures and materials given out at the virtual exhibition

Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Gary Donlin	07384 798 101
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1. Summary of events

The virtual exhibition platform went live on the **16thth of November** and remained live up until the **7th of December**. Members of the project team were available to answer questions via a live chat function in real time on the following dates:

- **23rd November – 12:00 – 14:00**
- **24th November – 12:00 – 14:00**
- **25th November – 18:00 – 19:00**
- **26th November – 18:00 – 19:00**

1.1. CONSULTATION MATERIALS

The project team compiled a variety of materials during the exhibition, which included the following;

- Exhibition boards – material traditionally found at a village hall exhibition event
- Team summary – short picture biographies to introduce some of the team to the community

- 3D digital Visualisations of proposed on-shore works
- 3D video fly through of proposals
- Feedback forms
- Brochures - hardcopy summary document sent to all households within 3km of the onshore works plans
- Dedicated email address and phone number for residents to contact Project Team

Following the end of the virtual exhibition, the exhibition materials have been placed on the dedicated project website – www.sserenewables.com/berwickbank

1.2. ADVERTISING

SSER understands that advertising the public consultation events is critical to gaining valued feedback. Details of the efforts made to highlight the events are as follows:

Local Newspapers - Advertisements were taken out in the following publications;

- **The Courier - 19/11/2020**
- **East Lothian Courier – 19/11/2020 and 26/11/2020**
- **St Andrew's Citizen - 20/11/2020 and 27/11/2020**
- **Berwickshire News - 19/11/2020 and 26/11/2020**

In addition, a press release was issued to the Press Association by SSER 13th November.

Project Webpage - A dedicated webpage was set up by SSER to host information about the project and provide updates as the project progresses - www.sserenewables.com/berwickbank

Social Media - The events were publicised via the SSER Facebook and Twitter feed. In addition, a sponsored Linked In campaign was arranged, information on this can be found in Appendices section.

Email - Emails were sent to multiple organisations, affected stakeholders, elected councillors, MSPs, MPs and Community Councils informing them of the events. All parties were invited to share notice of our events through their own contacts and channels. See the Appendices section for further information

Mail Drop – A mail drop containing information was sent to all properties situated 3km of the proposed on-shore landfall location in East Lammermuir. The mailing contained a letter, contact details of the project stakeholder engagement manager and a brief information brochure on the project.

Weatherboard – An A0 sized information weatherboard was planned to be placed in the East Lothian area to help advise local residents of the virtual exhibition. This was discussed in partnership with East Lammermuir Community Council. With the change in Levels for local authorities due to Covid-19 and adverse weather in the week before the live consultations, it was decided to postpone the weatherboard and use it for future consultation events.

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2. Analysis of Virtual Exhibition

The virtual exhibition received 641-page views during the three week period. Across the four live chat sessions the project team were asked a total of 29 questions which came from 12 individuals. In addition, three feedback forms were submitted to the project inbox.

Due to current restrictions in place following the COVID-19 Pandemic, this exhibition was held virtually. The online platform was free to access and allowed for visitors to submit written feedback via feedback forms or ask questions to the project team via a live chat function in real time during the times previously stated.

2.1. FEEDBACK

The main issues addressed at the virtual exhibitions centred around the following themes:

Supply Chain – Several stakeholders requested information on our procurement and supply chain process for the project, with emphasis on how local businesses can become involved in tendering for works associated with the proposal. The project team took each person's details and explained that there is a set process in place for becoming an approved vendor with SSE and that our procurement and commercial team were best placed to respond. As of 8/12/2020, all participants have been formally contacted by a member of the procurement and commercial team to explain this process further.

In addition, the team explained that as the project progresses, we will host a series of Meet The Developer events. Contact details for prospective suppliers have been kept on file and they will be personally invited to specific supply chain events.

Visual Impact – Local stakeholders commented that they would like visualisations of the view of the site from the shore. There is limited local concern that the view from the coast will be adversely impacted. SSER commented that the Berwick Bank turbines will be around 54km from the East Lothian coast which is a far greater distance than other offshore wind developments in the Outer Firth of Forth area. The visual impact of the turbines will be determined in the offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); however, it is our preliminary understanding as part of the scoping exercise that this impact would be considered non-significant.

In addition, SSER has committed to producing offshore visualisations for the next round of public consultation.

Noise and Light Pollution – Local residents near our proposed on-shore works site commented on what impact they can expect as result of noise and light pollution. SSER commented that generally, construction of the onshore substation would involve clearing and preparing the site, groundworks, and establishing the foundations for the electrical plant and buildings. In addition to this, landscaping, security fencing, car parking and drainage in the land around the substation will be developed. This will be detailed in the Onshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and will be discussed with stakeholders prior to making the planning application. Regarding noise and light pollution, SSER specifically commented that more investigations on this potential impact and on-going and that where required, mitigation measures will be implemented.

Birds Protection – Bird welfare is a key consideration on the project. Local residents commented specifically on the impact our proposals may have on the gannet population that nests on Bass Rock. SSER commented that there is potential for the wind turbines to cause a direct impact on birds,

including the Bass Rock gannets, through collision and an indirect impact through displacement. We are currently undertaking collision risk modelling of the wind farm to determine this and have regular meetings with stakeholders such as Marine Scotland and NatureScot to discuss ongoing methodology approaches and analysis. Preliminary results are anticipated to be presented in the formal public exhibition in Spring 2021 and assessed as a part of the Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. In addition, we are continuing to engage and liaise with the RSPB on this matter.

3. Conclusion & Next Steps

This Report on Consultation documents the virtual exhibition which has been undertaken for the Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm in November 2020. The exhibition was designed to engage with key stakeholder groups, including the local community, landowners and individual residents, in order to invite feedback on the proposals.

This exhibition was completely voluntary and arranged by the project team to ensure stakeholders receive as much information as possible at this early stage of project development. The project team intend to enter the formal planning process in Spring 2021, at which point further mandatory consultations will take place. Before this point, the project team will continue to engage with stakeholders and intend to arrange a series of meetings with key stakeholders ahead of the next round of formal consultation.

The approach has ensured that the local community have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals before the final design stage has been reached. This has enabled a number of locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently taken into account by the Project Development Team. Consultation with key stakeholders and the local community will continue as the project progresses.

For future exhibitions and consultations, the project team will evaluate the guidance issued by the Scottish Government in relation to COVID-19 and ensure that all exhibitions comply with this guidance.

SSER would like to thank all residents, elected representatives, community groups and organisations for their time and input into the consultation events.

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4. Appendices

Materials presented at Virtual Exhibition

Please visit our project website where you can find links to materials presented within the Library Downloads section of the website – www.sserenewables.com/berwickbank

Adverts issued in press

The following ad was placed in both print and digital media

FOR SCOTLAND FOR THE GREEN RECOVERY FOR EVERY ONE OF US

Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm
Public Consultation and Online Exhibition
open until 7 December

SSE Renewables lead the way in offshore energy and now we're introducing plans for our new Berwick Bank project. The plans show how we can power the green recovery and help us all achieve a net-zero carbon future.

We want to know what you think.

To see more and give feedback, visit our virtual public exhibition at www.sserenewables.com/berwickbank

Our project team will be available there for live chats:

- Mon 23 and Tues 24 Nov, 12-2pm
- Weds 25 and Thurs 26 Nov, 6-7pm



Letters issued as part of maildrop

The following letter was sent to all properties within 3km of our prospective on-shore site area.

Reports & Analytics

For further information on the analytic reports carried out following the virtual exhibition, please contact the project Stakeholder Engagement Manager on gary.donlin@sse.com



SSE Renewables
1 Waterloo Street
Glasgow
GA2 6AY

NAME
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2
POSTCODE

Dear Resident,

Berwick Bank Wind Farm Virtual Exhibition

SSE Renewables is bringing forward the Berwick Bank Wind Farm proposals, alongside our plans for the neighbouring Marr Bank Wind Farm. These are two separate projects with different timescales, and we are currently hosting a virtual exhibition focusing on introducing our proposals for Berwick Bank. Please find an information brochure enclosed with this letter with some further information.

We are currently following Scottish Government guidance in line with Covid-19 and as such are unable to introduce our plans in a traditional face to face method. Our virtual exhibition has been designed to be as interactive as face to face events, allowing for presentation of key project information and plans, as well as providing an opportunity to ask questions about the project.

Visitors will be able to engage directly with members of the project team, via a live chat function, where they can ask any questions they might have about the project and share their feedback on the current proposals at the following times:

Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th November 2020 – 12:00 – 14:00
Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th of November 2020 – 18:00 – 19:00

The exhibition will be live from Monday 16th November and you can view the exhibition at <https://www.sserenewables.com/berwickbankmarrbank>

The formal public exhibition for Berwick Bank is anticipated in Spring 2021. Here, the public will also be able to ask questions and comment.

If you have any questions, or are unable to access our exhibition, but would still like to know more information on our proposals then please do not hesitate to contact me at the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Donlin
Stakeholder Engagement Manager
M: (0)7384 798 101
E: Gary.Donlin@sse.com

SSE Renewables is a trading name of SSE Renewables Limited which is a member of the SSE Group.

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Stakeholder list invited

Stakeholders from the following groups were all directly contacted and invited to attend the virtual consultation event

East Lothian Community Councils

- Gullaine Area
- North Berwick
- East Linton
- Dunbar
- East Lammermuir
- Cockenzie and Port Seton
- Longidry

Fife Community Councils

- Tayport Ferryport on Craig
- Leuchars
- Royal Burgh of St Andrews
- Boardhills & Dunino
- Kilrenny, Anstruther & Cellardyke
- Royal Burgh of Pittenweem & District
- St Monans
- Elie & The Royal Burgh of Earlsferry
- Largo Area
- Leven
- Methil
- Buckhaven and Denbeath
- East Wemyss and McDuff
- West Wemyss
- Dysart
- Bennoch & Hayfield
- Kirkcaldy West
- Royal Burgh of Kinghorn

Scottish Borders Community Councils

- Cocksburnpath & Cove
- Coldingham
- St Abbs
- Eyemouth
- Burnmouth

- Foulden, Mordington & Lamberton

Angus Community Councils

- Broughty Ferry
- Carnoustie
- Arbroath
- Murroes & Wellbank
- Ferryden & Craig
- Montrose
- Monifieth
- Monikie & Newbiggin
- Fintry
- Letham & District
- Tealing

Political Stakeholders

Area MP's and MSPs were invited, this included

- Kenny Mackaskill MP – East Lothian
- Wendy Chamberlain MP – East Fife
- John Lamont MP – Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk
- Dave Doogan MP – Angus
- Stewart Hosie MP – Dundee East
- Iain Gray MSP - East Lothian
- Willie Rennie MSP – North East Fife
- Rachel Hamilton MSP – Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire
- Graeme Dey MSP – Angus South

All elected local ward councillors for the following areas were invited, a total of 61 local councillors

East Lothian

- Preston Seaton and Gosford
- North Berwick Coastal
- Dunbar & East Linton

Fife

- Tay Bridgehead
- St Andrews
- East Neuk & Landward
- Cupar
- Leven Kennoway & Largo

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- Buckhaven Methil & Wemyss Villages
- Kirkcaldy East
- Kirkcaldy Central
- Burntisland Kinghorn & West Kirkcaldy

Scottish Borders

- East Berwickshire

Angus Councillors

- Montrose & District
- Arbroath East & Lunan
- Arbroath West Letham & Friokheim
- Monifieth & Sidlaw
- Carnoustie & District

Additional Stakeholder Groups

SSER also invited along representatives from the following stakeholder groups

- Nature Scot
- SEPA
- Historic Environment Scotland
- RSPB
- Network Rail
- Invest in Angus
- Fisheries (various) & Port Authorities.