

BERWICK BANK WIND FARM ONSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Appendix 2.3: Consultation

Document Status

Version	Purpose of Document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review Date
1.0	First Draft	Y. Dennis	S. Tullie	S. Tullie	20/12/21
2.0	Second Draft	Y. Dennis	S. Tullie	S. Tullie	02/02/22
3.0	Third Draft	Y. Dennis	S. Tullie	S. Tullie	11/03/22
4.0	Fourth Draft	Y Dennis	S Tullie	S Tullie	31/10/22

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2.3. CONSULTATION

2.3.1. INTRODUCTION

1. This appendix contains a record of all stakeholder consultation undertaken to date.
2. Table 3.1 provides a summary of all direct stakeholder consultation undertaken outwith the Scoping Opinion process and refers to where within the EIA Report the comments raised have been considered.
3. Table 3.2 provides a summary of the relevant topics raised during the EIA Scoping and refers to where within the EIA Report they have been considered.
4. A summary of the key issues raised during public consultation activities undertaken to date is presented in the standalone Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report.

Table 3.1 Summary of all Direct Consultation Undertaken for the Proposed Development

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
British Horse Society (BHS)			
21/12/2021	British Horse Society - email	Consultation issued to BHS providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment. BHS responded (31 st January 2022) to note that there is opportunity to improve countryside access and connections in the community.	Impacts to horse riders have been assessed within Volume 1, Chapter 14. The Applicant will work with stakeholders to improve access opportunities within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
Coast to Coast Surf School			
21/12/2021	Coast to Coast Surf School – email	Consultation issued to Coast to Coast Surf School providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment. Coast to Coast responded (23 rd December 2021) to advise that they have provided consultation with relation to the offshore EIA.	Noted. An assessment of offshore recreational users is provided within the Offshore EIA Report (Volume 2, Chapter 17).
Cycling Scotland			
21/12/2021	Cycling Scotland - email	Consultation issued to Cycling Scotland providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received.
Dunbar Community Council			
12/12/2021	Dunbar Community Council – email	Consultation issued to Dunbar Community Council providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received.
East Lammermuir Community Council			
20/01/2021	East Lammermuir Community Council – email	Consultation issued to East Lammermuir Community Council providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
East Lothian Council (ELC)			
07/04/2020	ELC Planning Service Manager – consultation meeting	<p>Initial kick-off meeting to discuss project and consenting strategy.</p> <p>ELC noted that they would have concerns with a combined offshore and onshore consenting approach as this would potentially remove control from ELC.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that they propose to submit separate offshore and onshore planning applications to ELC and Marine Scotland.</p>	<p>Separate offshore and onshore applications have been made to Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council respectively. See Volume 1, Chapter 3 for further detail on legislation and policy relevant to the onshore transmission works.</p> <p>A letter was sent confirming the approach to the ELC Planning Service Manager (14th April 2020).</p>
23/09/2020	<p>ELC Planning Service Manager,</p> <p>ELC Planner,</p> <p>ELC Landscape Officer</p> <p>– Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss the interlinked projects by SSE Renewables (SSER) and Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) with ELC.</p> <p>ELC Planning Service Manger noted concerns over potential cumulative visual impacts with Marr Bank.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that Torness will be considered in its current state as part of the baseline environment.</p> <p>Requested that ELC are kept involved in the site selection process for the substation locations.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that both open trench and trenchless methods are being considered and have been informed by GI works undertaken to date.</p> <p>ELC Landscape Officer noted concerns over the use of open trenches along the coastline.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4 provides details on the Applicant’s site selection process.</p> <p>The Applicant’s subsequent decision to consolidate the proposed Berwick Bank and Marr Bank onshore infrastructure has avoided the potential for cumulative impacts between the two.</p> <p>ELC have been informed of the site selection process at subsequent meetings and were informed of substation selection on 9th December 2020 (see below).</p> <p>A description of the Proposed Development is provided in Volume1, Chapter 5. This includes a works description and method by which cables will be installed. Trenchless technology will be used at cable landfall, avoiding impacts of open trenches along the coastline.</p>
09/12/2020	<p>ELC Planner,</p> <p>ELC Policy Planner,</p>	<p>Meeting on key infrastructure site selection.</p> <p>ELC queried whether Marr Bank and Berwick Bank could share infrastructure.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4 provides detail on the site selection process of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Applicant has consolidated the onshore infrastructure required for the Berwick Bank and Marr Bank offshore wind</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
	ELC Landscape Officer – meeting	Concerns that there is confusion between developers/projects in the area among the public and stakeholders. ELC request whether a combined interactive map showing what each developer is proposed/undertaking in the area can be posted on the SSER and SPT project websites.	projects (the Project), therefore reducing the onshore impacts. A plan of cumulative projects considered in the assessment is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 2.4, Figure 2.4.1.
25/02/2021	ELC Transport Planner – meeting	<p>Meeting to provide an introduction to the Project and the topics of traffic and transport.</p> <p>Noted that the Applicant should consult with Transport Scotland around the project intersecting and using the A1 trunk road.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that ELC Transport Planner will be kept informed of the selected construction access routes and any road improvement / upgrade proposals required.</p> <p>ELC noted that due to Covid-19, they do not advise using traffic data for the road network before around Spring/Summer 2021 as it would not be representative. Further communications will be had to agree what historical traffic data should be used for the traffic and transport impact assessment.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 12 provides an assessment of the traffic and transport effects of the Proposed Development and details proposed access routes and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Direct consultation has been undertaken with Transport Scotland (see below) to discuss the approach of using the A1 trunk road.</p> <p>The traffic and transport assessment has been informed by traffic counter surveys and historic data. Further details are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 12.</p>
02/03/2021	ELC Planning Service Manager, ELC Planner, ELC Policy Planner, ELC Landscape Officer – meeting	<p>Meeting to discuss Onshore Scoping Opinion with ELC.</p> <p>Following comment received within the Scoping Opinion, the Applicant confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • borrow pits would not be required. • An Outline Decommissioning Plan will be kept high level at this stage. • Applications for CAR licences will be submitted post consent at detailed design as required. • Details of restoration of landscape at decommissioning will be provided post consent subject to planning conditions. 	<p>Details of an Outline Decommissioning Plan is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 5.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts on PWS. Volume 4, Appendix 15.1 provides details of proposed mitigation pollution prevention measures.</p> <p>An Outline Site Waste Management Plan is provided within the CEMP in Volume 4, Appendix 5.1.</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Private Water Supply (PWS) study area will be maintained at 500 m as proposed in the Scoping Report. A detailed pollution prevention plan will be provided post consent at detailed design. A site management plan will be provided prior to construction. An outline Site Waste Management Plan will be provided with detailed plan provided post consent. An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will be provided with a detailed plan provided post consent. the proposed approach to the climate change assessment is for a project wide assessment, which will be confirmed following receipt offshore scoping opinion. cables will be buried to minimise impacts in the foreshore (where ELC have concerns as it is sensitive and low lying). Surveys will focus on trees of ecological value. Detailed topographic surveys will inform the LVIA. Landscape plans will be outline at this stage, and unable to commit to a legal agreement at this stage. landfall infrastructure will be assessed for flood risk. 	<p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 12.1, Appendix D.</p> <p>A project wide assessment of the climate change impact is presented in Volume 4, Appendix 5.2.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 5 provides more details of cable installation methods.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides more details of impacts on ecological receptors including woodland habitats.</p> <p>Details of outline landscape plans are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6 as are details on the information which informs the landscape and visual assessment.</p> <p>An assessment of flood risk is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 11.</p> <p>Further consultation has been undertaken with SEPA and Scottish Forestry, as detailed below.</p> <p>An outline Waste Management Plan is provided within the outline CEMP in Volume 4, Appendix 5.1. This has considered the circular economy as relevant.</p> <p>The requirement for redirection of the watercourse has been avoided through site selection process.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 4 outlines the site selection process for the Proposed Development and details the selection of the preferred substation location. Consultation has been undertaken with ELC throughout the EIA process to inform</p>
		<p>ELC advised that the request within the Scoping Opinion for excavation depths came from SEPA and that further consultation should be undertaken with SEPA.</p>	
		<p>ELC advised that Scottish Forestry are to be contacted with regards to tree felling.</p>	
		<p>ELC advised that the climate change assessment needs to include full project lifecycle and onshore and offshore impacts.</p>	
		<p>ELC advised that consideration of the circular economy should be included as much as possible.</p>	

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
		<p>ELC queried if burn redirection was essential and it would need to be designed carefully.</p> <p>ELC raised concerns over short-listed substation locations and concerns with cumulative impacts. The Applicant advised that they are in regular contact with Scottish Power Transmission.</p>	<p>ELC of the site selection process undertaken (9th December 2020 and 8th June 2021).</p>
08/04/2021	ELC Biodiversity Officer – meeting	<p>Meeting to discuss sand dune and ancient woodland designations and obtain initial feedback from the ELC Biodiversity Officer.</p> <p>Discussed potential open trenching at Thorntonloch. Here, there is a sand dune habitat (annex 1 habitat). ELC noted that if the sand dune is restored and there would be long-term benefits from its restoration, open trench technique is likely acceptable.</p> <p>ELC Biodiversity confirmed trenchless technique under ancient woodland is acceptable and should be discussed with ELC landscape. Preference would be for there to be a buffer between cable route and ancient woodland but there is flexibility in decision making if the situation on the ground is identified.</p> <p>ELC Biodiversity requested that they, along with SEPA, should be engaged with on burn redirection.</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) should be referred to alongside the further advice in the technical note. Reference should also be given to the Green Network and Climate Change Strategy.</p>	<p>The method for installing cables is outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 5.</p> <p>The site selection process has avoided direct impacts on ancient woodland as far as reasonably practicable. Volume 1, Chapter 4 provides further detail on the site selection process for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides an assessment on ecology and biodiversity receptors. This includes an assessment of impacts on sensitive habitats including ancient woodland, and takes into consideration where relevant the LBAP.</p> <p>Direct consultation with SEPA and ELC has been undertaken in regard to burn direction. The requirement for redirection of the watercourse has been avoided through site selection process.</p>
20/04/2021	ELC Cultural Heritage – meeting	<p>Meeting to provide an introduction on the Proposed Development to the ELC Heritage Officer and to seek early advice on heritage matters.</p> <p>ELC Cultural Heritage outlined that within the scoping area boundary, there have been many archaeological finds. Archaeological works are ongoing, and the maps have not been updated with the recent finds.</p>	<p>Further consultation has been undertaken with the ELC Cultural Heritage officer at a meeting 4th May 2021 (see below).</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 10 provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage receptors.</p>

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		<p>The proposed traffic light system (high/medium/ low risk) for categorising HER records is acceptable, however, may need refining. Further discussions to agree on the system are required.</p> <p>Recommended that the geophysical survey is a phased approach to narrow down the survey area.</p> <p>ELC noted that from NnG surveys there are up to 82 new archaeological finds – the area reflects some of the longest history in Scotland. Enough time should be built into the programme between any works to allow for successful mitigation of finds.</p> <p>Agreed that not carrying out geophysical surveys and trial trenching pre-application was acceptable.</p>	
30/04/2021	ELC Community and Access – meeting	<p>John Muir Link does not get the promotion it used to. There has been community feedback to improve walkways and cycle paths in the area.</p> <p>There is desire from the local community to get better access to Thorntonloch Beach as the A1 is a barrier to get to coast from Innerwick. There are currently no safe crossings over the A1.</p> <p>Noted change to watercourses due to recent onshore wind developments within the area. Fluctuations in water levels have resulted in loss of three bridges and informal access during high rainfall.</p> <p>Ensure routes are protected during construction, with diversions put in place and reinstated following completion.</p> <p>Take into account soft and mobile coastline in terms of access.</p> <p>No major issues. Aside from some visual impacts, considered to be no lasting impacts. Would be good to see something come out of this to improve walkways / access within the area.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 14 provides as assessment of the tourism and recreation receptors. This provides details of proposed mitigation and enhancement measures during construction and operation.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts to the water environment including flood risk.</p>

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04/05/2021	ELC Cultural Heritage Officer – meeting	<p>Meeting to discuss availability of heritage and archaeological data which will inform the impact assessment.</p> <p>ELC advised that there are likely more undiscovered finds at Skateraw than Thorntonloch. Highlighted scheduled monuments and quarry area near Skateraw as areas of archaeological sensitivity.</p> <p>Any trenchless technique underneath a scheduled monument would need to demonstrate to HES that there would be no adverse impacts.</p> <p>ELC noted that not everything can be avoided and therefore mitigation would likely be required.</p> <p>ELC advised that geophysical surveys (prior to construction) over the whole route would not be required, but targeted trenches informed by desk based work and identification of suspected features would be acceptable.</p> <p>Skateraw area is higher risk due to a historic cemetery on the coast, however there are no records. Finds of remains assumed all along the coastline but only down as a singular dot through online mapping records. Records shown as point data often cover a much bigger area than shown but locational data is not available.</p>	Volume 1, Chapter 10 provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage receptors and details of proposed mitigation measures.
04/05/2021	ELC Environmental Health Officer – email	<p>The Applicant shared the method statement for upcoming noise survey (details of the baseline survey methodology, the proposed monitoring locations and proposed duration of measurements) for approval.</p> <p>ELC satisfied with the proposed monitoring locations, methodology and duration of baseline noise survey proposed.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 9 provides an assessment of noise receptors and provides details of noise survey methodology.</p>
14/05/2021	ELC Environmental Health Officer – meeting	<p>Engagement with ELC Environmental Health Officers (EHO) following on from ELC’s Scoping opinion on BB onshore infrastructure EIA and to discuss scope of noise assessment.</p> <p>ELC advised that the following requires consideration in terms of cumulative impacts – Scottish Power projects, NnG, A1 trunk road, east</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 9 provides an assessment of noise receptors and provides details of noise survey methodology.</p> <p>A list of the cumulative developments considered within the EIA, is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 2.4. Existing</p>

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		<p>coast mainline, and Torness power station. Also need to consider wind farms within the area (e.g. increased rural traffic from construction traffic).</p> <p>ELC noted concern with the proposed working hours of Mon-Sun 0700-1900. Advised that 0700-1900 Mon to Fri and Sat 0800-1300 are used as a standard (as per scoping opinion) with prior agreement required if works are outwith these hours.</p> <p>EHO need to be satisfied that works would not present significant impacts to sensitive receptors and any works outwith the normal hours would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>developments (i.e. Torness) are considered within the baseline environment.</p> <p>Details of construction methodology including working hours is provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5.</p>
18/05/2021	ELC Planner – meeting	<p>Meeting to discuss intertidal assessments.</p> <p>Both ELC (and Marine Scotland) confirmed that they require the assessments to be considered within the respective offshore/onshore EIA without the need to cross reference to another EIA Report.</p> <p>Suggest that it would be helpful to see other projects in the area on BB and MB figures, such as other cables/projects which are planned/proposed</p>	<p>ELC confirmed in follow up email (see below) that the onshore intertidal assessment within the onshore EIA Report can cross reference to the offshore EIA Report.</p> <p>Details of cumulative developments is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 2.4 and shown in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4, Figure 2.4.1.</p>
20/05/2021	ELC Planner, ELC Planning Service Manager – meeting	<p>Meeting to provide project update to ELC on the Project.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that they are considering designing the above ground onshore infrastructure so it can accommodate both Berwick Bank and Marr Bank connecting to Branxton. Marr Bank and Berwick Bank will have consolidated above ground infrastructure and Marr Bank would not be additional.</p> <p>ELC outlined detailed info required for advice to be given on cofferdam at Thorntonloch.</p> <p>ELC advised trees as a key topic within ELC, especially in current times of climate change. Endorse approach to avoid damage to trees and tree root protection areas.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 4 details the site selection process undertaken to date and the key considerations taken into account. ELC have been informed of the site selection process throughout (see June 2021 meeting below).</p> <p>Thorntonloch was not taken forward through the site selection process as the landfall location.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides details of impacts on ecological receptors.</p> <p>The potential landscape and visual impacts are assessed within Volume 1, Chapter 6.</p>

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08/06/2021	ELC Planner, ELC Planning Service Manager – meeting	<p>ELC request to be involved in site selection process as there are concerns about potential landscape and visual impacts.</p> <p>Meeting to summarise site selection process and discuss alternative sites.</p>	Volume 1, Chapter 4 details the site selection process undertaken to date and the key considerations taken into account.
10/08/2021	ELC Planner, ELC Planning Officer – email	<p>HRA screening note provided to ELC and NatureScot (NS).</p> <p>Biodiversity officer confirmed the proposed scope of the HRA is acceptable. Agreed with recommendations made by NS to scope in potential receptor species. Request consideration of impact on geese within the Firth of Forth SPA.</p>	The Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) is provided within a standalone document.
26/08/2021	ELC Planner, ELC Policy Planner – email	Follow up email after intertidal meeting held on 17 th May 2021. The Applicant requested ELC confirm their position on approach to the presentation of intertidal assessment in the EIA Reports.	Noted.
04/10/2021	ELC Planner, ELC Landscape Officer – email	<p>ELC Policy Planner confirmed that the onshore EIA Report can cross reference to the offshore EIA Report.</p> <p>ELC Planner confirmed that they agreed with the proposed amendment to the significance of effect matrix as presented in the EIA Scoping Report to include 'very high' sensitivity of receptors, to align with the offshore EIA methodology.</p>	Noted. Volume 1, Chapter 2 provides details on the EIA methodology.
08/10/2021	ELC EHO – email	<p>Requested the inclusion of summary tables of significance for the LVIA viewpoints in the EIA Report.</p> <p>The Applicant shared the results of the noise survey in order to reach agreement on the background noise level at the nearest sensitive receptors for use within the Noise Assessment for the Proposed Development onshore substation.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 7 includes details of the LVIA viewpoints and the significance of impacts.</p> <p>Details of the noise assessment undertaken can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 9.</p>
18/01/2022	ELC Access Officer, ELC Economic	<p>EHO agrees with the findings.</p> <p>Meeting with ELC to discuss the approach for the tourism and recreation assessment and present the receptors identified so far.</p>	Details of the tourism and recreation assessment can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 14, and includes details of proposed mitigation and enhancement.

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
	Development, ELC – meeting	ELC noted that they would welcome improvement of access within the area and recommended East Lammermuir Community Council were consulted.	Consultation was issued to East Lammermuir Community Council (see below).
19/01/2022	ELC Landscape Officer – email	ELC Landscape officer confirmed agreement of the six LVIA viewpoints proposed for the assessment.	Noted. Details of the viewpoints assessed are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6.
20/01/2022	ELC Planner – meeting	The Applicant provided an update on the Proposed Development and the layout proposed to be taken forward for application including further details of site selection.	Volume 1, Chapter 4 provides details of the site selection process and analysis of alternatives.
21/01/2022	ELC Cultural Heritage Officer – email	ELC Cultural Heritage Officer confirmed agreement of proposed reduction to the Cultural Heritage Inner Study Area as proposed in the Cultural Heritage methodology as set out in the EIA Scoping Report. The revised Inner Study Area proposed to incorporate a 100m buffer around the construction footprint micro-siting buffer.	Noted. The agreed Cultural Heritage Inner Study Area is shown in Volume 2, Figure 10.1 and defined in Volume 1, Chapter 10.
27/01/2022	ELC Cultural Heritage Officer – email	ELC Cultural Heritage Officer confirmed agreement of the proposed cultural heritage viewpoints. Requested that those viewpoints that are also considered within the LVIA are properly assessed for Heritage impacts if they are included in the Heritage assessment.	Noted. Details of the viewpoints assessed within the cultural heritage assessment are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 10.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)			
16/07/2020	HES – meeting	Introductory meeting HES noted the concern around the size of the substation and its impact on the setting of assets outside of the 5 km study area. HES recommended to use the ZTV in the onshore scoping report to inform the boundary of the setting study area. HES noted that a lot of the prehistoric assets in the area such as forts and Innerwick Castle, are situated around watercourses and relatively tucked away. Consider their visibility during the site visit.	Volume 1, Chapter 10 provides an assessment of impacts on cultural heritage assets and sets out the methodology taken. A ZTV has informed the study area and selection of viewpoints.

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20/07/2021	HES – meeting	<p>Advice is sought on trenchless techniques to lay cables, particularly Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) under the scheduled monument (SM).</p> <p>HES noted that it is unlikely that the process with the mentioned design measures would be a problem – Currently the area is subjected to agricultural use with vehicles going over the scheduled monument, so a 10mm settlement is probably a reasonable measurement.</p> <p>In relation to the HDD proposal, HES preferred avoidance of the SM. If avoidance is not feasible there would need to be a strong reasoning submitted (e.g. technical reasons).</p> <p>HES's remit cover the SM designated site, not any buffer zones around those.</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) and GI works will be undertaken prior to construction to minimise impacts.</p> <p>HES expressed concerns regarding cumulative impacts.</p>	<p>The proposed construction methodology is detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 5.</p> <p>The site selection process and justification for routing of the cable route with cumulative constraints is detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 4.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 10 provides an assessment of the potential impacts on cultural heritage assets including the SM and provides details of the proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>Follow up from 20 July meeting, the Applicant provided a reference plan showing the HDD route under Hadrian's Wall, for which SM consent was required.</p>
10/02/2022	HES – email	<p>Following email correspondence, HES agreed proposed final list of viewpoints for inclusion in the assessment.</p>	<p>Relevant visualisations are presented within Volume 3.</p>
Marine Scotland			
18/05/2021	Marine Scotland, ELC, NatureScot – meeting	<p>Meeting to discuss intertidal assessments – aim was to split assessments into the most relevant EIA with cross referencing.</p> <p>Both ELC (and Marine Scotland) confirmed that they require the assessments to be considered within the respective offshore/onshore EIA without the need to cross reference to another EIA Report.</p>	<p>ELC confirmed in follow up email to the meeting (see above) that they are content for the onshore EIA to cross reference to the offshore EIA Report.</p> <p>The approach to the EIA methodology is outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 2.</p>
Ministry of Defence (MoD)			
06/05/2021	MoD – meeting	<p>Meeting to introduce onshore elements of the Project following MoD's response to the offshore scoping opinion request.</p> <p>Requested landfall co-ordinates for review and to provide advice.</p>	<p>Follow up email provided with information requested by MoD (see below).</p>

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06/05/2021	MoD – email	<p>Applicant provided scoping report and landfall co-ordinates.</p> <p>MoD confirmed no safeguarding zones identified for Skateraw; Thorntonloch is a threat radar site but as this area is not related to the turbines it can be scoped out for onshore.</p>	Noted.
NatureScot			
31/03/2020	NatureScot – email	Summary of ecology and ornithology survey schedule provided to NatureScot.	Noted.
03/12/2020	NatureScot – meeting	<p>Agreement on survey proposal.</p> <p>Meeting to discuss the onshore EIA scoping opinion. The Applicant advised that wintering bird surveys (WBS) were ongoing which will inform HRA screening.</p> <p>Open cut trenching at Skateraw landfall would be a key concern for NatureScot with trenchless the preferable method.</p> <p>NatureScot would only have concerns on the burn redirection at Thorntonloch if protected species were likely to be present. The Applicant confirmed that no evidence was recorded by the surveys.</p>	<p>HRA screening provided to NatureScot and ELC (see below).</p> <p>Proposed construction methodology is detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 5.</p> <p>The requirement for redirection of the watercourse has been avoided through site selection process.</p>
01/04/2021	NatureScot – meeting	<p>Purpose of meeting was to discuss an ancient woodland shape file and sand dune habitat designation.</p> <p>NatureScot agreed that there are reinstatement options and sand dune habitat would be recoverable.</p> <p>NatureScot confirmed the ancient woodland designation was under ELC's remit and outside of NatureScot's national remit. No concern with trenchless techniques under ancient woodland.</p>	<p>Consultation undertaken with ELC Biodiversity officer (see above).</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides an assessment of impacts on ecological receptors.</p>
30/06/2021	NatureScot – email & meeting	<p>NatureScot recommended that the Applicant consult with ELC.</p> <p>Meeting to provide project update and discuss approach to bats and great crested newts. Pre-meeting note on proposed bat survey approach and great crested newt (GCN) assessment strategy provided by email.</p>	Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides details on the methodology used in bat survey and GCN assessments.

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10/08/2021	NatureScot – email	<p>NatureScot agreed to proposed bat survey and GCN assessment approaches.</p> <p>HRA screening note issued to NatureScot and ELC.</p>	Noted. The Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) is provided within a standalone document.
09/12/2021	NatureScot – email	<p>NatureScot confirmed that they agree to an HRA being undertaken. Requested inclusion of golden plover (Firth of Forth SPA) and herring gull (St Abbs Head SPA & Forth Island SPA) should be scoped in for consideration.</p> <p>Request NatureScot to supply recent monitoring data for the following SPAs and specific features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firth of Forth SPA – pink-footed goose • Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex – eider, herring gull (breeding and non-breeding), black-headed gull, common gull • Firth of Forth SPA – golden plover • St Abb’s Head to Fast Castle SPA – herring gull • Forth Islands SPA – herring gull (specifically on Bass Rock) 	No records of relevance to the Proposed Development provided.
24/03/2022	Nature Scot – meeting	<p>Meeting to provide update on the OnTWS and on progress of the EIA in respect to ecology and ornithology.</p> <p>NatureScot confirmed they were pleased that trenchless techniques (e.g. HDD) are proposed at Skateraw Landfall.</p> <p>NatureScot confirmed that they are content with the ornithology and ecology surveys that have been undertaken.</p> <p>NatureScot advised that NatureScot Licensing Team should be engaged in regards to advising on whether a Great Crested Newt (GCN) Species Protection Plan would need to be provided.</p> <p>In regards to tree loss as a result of the Proposed Development, NatureScot confirmed that they are satisfied with approach of</p>	<p>Consultation was undertaken with NatureScot regarding the GCN requirements (see below).</p> <p>Details of the ecology and ornithology surveys are provided in Volume 4, Appendix 7.2, 7.3, 8.1 and 8.2.</p> <p>An assessment of potential effects on ecology including tree loss and hedgerow removal is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 7.</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
		<p>compensatory planting and investigation into how to restore affected habitats.</p> <p>NatureScot noted that they have no concern in regard to approach to otter surveys being undertaken due to minimal change in scoping boundary.</p> <p>NatureScot advised that it is likely ELC will comment on hedgerows through the planning application and not NatureScot.</p>	
May 2022	NatureScot – email	Discussions held with regards to Great Crested Newts and relevant survey results. NatureScot advised that as great crested newts are unlikely to be present within the footprint of the works, a licence and further survey would not be required. However, they advised that a Species Protection Plan (SPP) should be produced, detailing measures to prevent great crested newts moving into the works area (e.g. newt fencing) as well as a contingency plan in the unlikely event that great crested newts are encountered during works.	A Species Protection Plan is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 7.4.
Network Rail			
23/06/2021	Network Rail – meeting	<p>Meeting to provide an introduction to the project, specifically in terms of the onshore transmission works (OnTWS).</p> <p>The Applicant confirmed that potential crossing locations of the East Coast Main Line. Confirmed a construction traffic assessment will be undertaken as per scoping opinion.</p> <p>Network Rail advised that a separate land and property process will to be completed prior to construction works.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The cable crossings of the ECML will be via trenchless technology, therefore there will be no direct impacts on the ECML.</p> <p>An assessment of construction traffic is provided within Volume 1, Chapter 12.</p>
Scottish Borders Council			
21 st December 2021	Scottish Borders Council – email	Consultation issued to Scottish Borders Council providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment. Scottish Borders Council requested Southern Upland Way and Berwickshire Coastal Path be included in the list of tourism receptors for the assessment.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Details of the tourism and recreation assessment can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 14.</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Ramblers Scotland			
21/12/2021	Ramblers Scotland – email	Consultation issued to Ramblers Scotland providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received.
Scottish Canoe Association			
21/12/2021	Scottish Canoe Association – email	Consultation issued to the Scottish Canoe Association providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)			
28/07/2020	SEPA – meeting	<p>Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development.</p> <p>SEPA advised that the EIA Report should consider substation drainage.</p> <p>SEPA noted that one of the potential landfalls is within a bathing water protected area and impacts on that would need to be considered.</p> <p>Advised that watercourse crossings should be avoided as much as possible, and that where required, a CAR licence will be required.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts on the water environment, including details of proposed drainage.</p> <p>Impacts on the bathing water protected area at Thorntonloch have been avoided through the site selection process.</p>
10/12/202	SEPA – meeting & email	<p>The Applicant responded to points raised within the Scoping Opinion, proposing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Private Water Supply (PWS) study area will be maintained at 500 m as proposed in the Scoping Report. • Applications for CAR licences will be submitted post consent at detailed design as required. • A detailed pollution prevention plan will be provided post consent at detailed design. • A detailed table of volumes and timings of groundwater abstractions will be provided post consent following detailed design. • impacts on coastal processes will be assessed within the offshore EIA Report, which will be shared with SEPA. 	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts on the water environment, including details of PWS assessment.</p> <p>The requirement for redirection of the watercourse has been avoided through site selection process.</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
10/06/2021	SEPA – meeting	<p>Discussion on redirection of minor watercourse at Thorntonloch. SEPA noted that there would be concerns with this proposal.</p> <p>Provided an update on the Proposed Development. Discussed the potential diversion of a watercourse at Thorntonloch landfall, Bathing Water designation at Thorntonloch beach, Onshore and Offshore Scoping Opinion Responses and potential option of a cofferdam near Thorntonloch beach.</p>	<p>Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts on the water environment.</p> <p>The requirement for redirection of the watercourse , impacts on the bathing water protected area, and requirement for cofferdams has been avoided through site selection process.</p>
21/09/2021	SEPA – email	SEPA provided advice on requirements for potential culverting of watercourse.	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts on the water environment including impacts on watercourses.
24/03/2022	SEPA - meeting	Meeting with SEPA to provide update on the OnTWs and the progress of the EIA in regards to flood risk and a watercourse crossing proposal.	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of impacts on the water environment.
		SEPA noted that the infrastructure at Skateraw landfall would be underground and not susceptible to flood risk.	A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been undertaken and is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 11.1. This has taken account of feedback provided by SEPA in pre-application engagement.
		SEPA queried whether dynamic coast 2 data has been considered as it could have potential impacts especially on erosion.	
		SEPA acknowledged that the Applicant is undertaking a Climate Effects and Vulnerability Assessment.	
		SEPA highlighted the importance of including the potential impact of climate change on all aspects of the project including potential impact sit may have on the Braidwood Burn.	
		SEPA recommended future proofing all work as it is predicted that NPF4 would be published in the summer of 2022.	
		SEPA confirmed they would review the FRA during pre-application engagement stage with the aim to highlight and discuss any queries prior to being consulted on the planning application.	

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
21/06/22	SEPA – email	<p>SEPA requested that between the pre-application stage and consultation on the planning applications, any changes in the information should be highlighted to SEPA.</p> <p>SEPA engaged in formal pre-application consultation, confirming that on A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been undertaken and review of the draft FRA, they would have no objection to the application on the ground of flood risk.</p>	<p>is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 11.1. This has taken account of feedback provided by SEPA in pre-application engagement.</p>
Scottish Forestry			
11/05/2021	Scottish Forestry – meeting	<p>Purpose of the meeting was to introduce BB and MB to Scottish Forestry and to gain early advice on designated areas of Ancient Woodland and potential to HDD under these.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry advised that ancient woodland designations should be afforded the same level of protection as Scheduled Monuments. When going around ancient woodland there is no standard buffer to apply for buried cables, but if development is 5m from the woodland then it is expected that this would be outwith any root areas of the trees.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry confirmed that further engagement is required if the project moves forward with a cable route option that would potentially impact ancient woodland.</p>	<p>The site selection process has avoided direct impacts on ancient woodland as far as reasonably practicable.</p> <p>Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides an assessment on ecology and biodiversity receptors. This includes an assessment of impacts on sensitive habitats including ancient woodland.</p>
Scottish Surfing Federation (SSF)			
25/01/2021	Scottish Surfing Federation (SSF) – email	<p>Request to pass on details to consenting team to formally log SSF's preference for Thorntonloch rather than Skateraw.</p> <p>Request to be kept informed of decisions and would be happy to provide further information and discussions.</p>	<p>Further consultation has been undertaken with SSF and are detailed within the offshore EIA Report.</p>
Scottish Wildlife Trust			
21/12/2021	Scottish Wildlife Trust – email	<p>Consultation issued to Scottish Wildlife Trust providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.</p>	<p>At the time of writing, no response has been received</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
ScotWays			
21/12/2011	ScotWays - email	Consultation issued to ScotWays providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	<p>At the time of writing, no response has been received.</p> <p>Details of the tourism and recreation assessment can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 14, and includes details of proposed mitigation and enhancement.</p>
Sustrans			
21/12/2021	Sustrans - email	<p>Consultation issued to Sustrans providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment. Sustrans noted Route 76 of the National Cycle Network that runs through the vicinity of the site now terminates and proposed mitigation and enhancement. realignment of Route 76 is currently underway at White sands Quarry.</p> <p>Sustrans requested whether the Applicant would be willing to support a safe crossing of the A1.</p>	<p>Details of the tourism and recreation assessment can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 14, and includes details of proposed mitigation and enhancement.</p> <p>The Applicant will work with stakeholders to improve access opportunities within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.</p>
Thorntonloch Caravan Park			
21/12/2021	Thorntonloch Caravan Park – email	Consultation issued to Thorntonloch Caravan Park providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received.
Thurston Manor Leisure Park			
21/12/2021	Thurston Manor Leisure Park – email	Consultation issued to Thurston Manor Leisure Park providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received
Transport Scotland			
26/02/2021	Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland	<p>Meeting to provide an introduction to the Project.</p> <p>BEAR Scotland noted concerns around road safety along the section of the A1 near Thorntonloch.</p>	<p>Noted. Volume 1, Chapter 12 provides an assessment of transport and traffic impacts.</p> <p>BEAR Scotland will be informed of construction process.</p>

Date	Consultee & Type of Consultation	Issue(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
		Confirmed standard notification would be issued to BEAR re abnormal loads (police also need to be informed).	
		Once the cable crossings of the A1 are established, SSE Renewables would need to engage with BEAR Scotland	
19/10/2021	Transport Scotland – email	Request for Transport Scotland’s advice on the principle of forming a temporary construction access off the A1.	Further consultation held with Transport Scotland (see below).
		Transport Scotland identified a number of challenges associated with an access at this location and suggested alternative.	
15/07/2022	Transport Scotland – meeting	Meeting with Transport Scotland to discuss access options and provide an update on the application.	Volume 1, Chapter 12 provides an assessment of transport and traffic impacts.
		Confirmed that the temporary access off the A1 will be limited access and directional, with further construction traffic entering the area of the site under the ECML.	
		Confirmed that a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be provided.	
Visit Scotland			
21/12/2021	Visit Scotland - email	Consultation issued to Visit Scotland providing details of the proposed tourism and recreation assessment.	At the time of writing, no response has been received.

Table 3.2 Summary of Key Scoping Comments for the Proposed Development

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
General EIA Issues		
General	The development is part of a larger project (Berwick Bank offshore windfarm). Scottish Government circular 2017.1 notes that the ES should be a "single and accessible compilation". There should be clear reference to within the OnTW EIAR to the offshore works and where the offshore EIAR can be found.	Reference to the offshore elements of the project, the offshore EIA and relevant interfaces have been provided throughout the EIA Report as required.
General	<p>As per Regulation 5(5)(a), the developer must ensure the EIAR is carried out by competent experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EIAR should include a statement outlining the relevant expertise and qualifications of those involved - where surveys or assessments are done, the qualifications and experience of the person(s) undertaking the works should be included. 	A summary of the person(s) undertaking each of the assessments and the required surveys, including qualifications and relevant experience, is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 1.
General	When considering potential significance of effects, mitigation measures in the Outline Schedule of Environmental Commitments (OSEC) (EIA Scoping Report, Annex A) will be taken into account. This approach is accepted where it is considered that the mitigation is plainly and easily achievable. Where the outcome of the mitigation is more uncertain the issue should be examined through the EIA process.	The Schedule of Mitigation is outlined in Volume 4, Appendix 15.1 of the EIA Report. This details all the tertiary mitigation measures and any additional specific mitigation measures identified through the EIA process. Volume 1, Chapter 2 sets out the approach to mitigation.
Project Description	A description of the development must be given under Regulation 5(2) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations	Volume 1, Chapter 5 provides a description of the Proposed Development.
Project Description	Where the size, type or position of any structure or cable route is not yet fixed, the description should include the worst case scenario (the Rochdale Envelope approach) including the total height, length and width of any structure or route	Each EIA topic has assessed the "realistic worst-case" under the parameters of the Proposed Development provided within Volume 1, Chapter 5.
Project Description	All maps must be to an adequate scale and the maps must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure. This includes all tracks, excavations, buildings, borrow pits, pipelines, cabling, site compounds, laydown areas, storage areas and any other built elements.	Accompanying Volume 1, Chapter 5, figures demonstrating the different aspects of the project are presented in Volume 2. The scale of figures is considered adequate for the respective information displayed.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Project Description	Expected lifetime should be included.	Expected project lifetime is detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 5.
Project Alternatives	Details of alternatives considered, including reasons for chosen option and comparison of environmental effects, should be provided.	Details of alternatives considered through the site selection process, including reasons for the chosen option and comparison of environmental effects, are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 4.
Decommissioning	Proposals for decommissioning and restoration of the landscape, including a detailed method statement on the restoration of the landscape should be included.	The assessment has considered impacts of decommissioning where relevant through the technical chapters. Volume 1, Chapter 5 provides a high-level decommissioning plan. A detailed method statement will be provided prior to decommissioning, it is anticipated this will be secured via a suitably worded condition.
Methodology	EIA to include description of likely significant effects.	Volume 1, Chapter 2 details the overview methodology of assessing significance and further detail is provided in each technical chapter.
Project Design		
Project Design	Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible. The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground.	The project design process has aimed to minimise environmental impacts as far as reasonably practicable, including consideration of the re-use of existing infrastructure where feasible.
	A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements, such as tracks, may be required.	Volume 1, Chapter 4 and Volume 1, Chapter 5 provide details on the site selection process and the project design respectively.
Project Description	EIAR should include method(s) for installing the cables through the intertidal zone at the landfall. Full details of minor structures to remain above ground should be given if they are located on or close to the foreshore or intertidal area. Alternative methods should be included in the EIAR, however, it is preferable that a single construction method is identified and described.	Installation methods and details of all infrastructure (including above ground) are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 5 and have been assessed accordingly.
Information Gaps	An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information should be given, including any data that has not been available.	Details of any assumptions or limitations to assessments are included in the technical chapters as required. General assumptions are detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 2.
Non-technical Summary	A summary of the information provided in the EIAR should be given. This should be written in plain English and accurately summarise the main points of the ES. It must accurately reflect the findings of the full ES. Any significant environmental impacts should be included, along with proposed mitigation.	A Non-Technical Summary has been submitted with the EIA Report (Volume 6).

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Noise		
Noise	Population and human health is scoped in due to potential for noise at nearby residential properties.	Volume 1, Chapter 9 provides an assessment of noise impacts to sensitive receptors.
Noise	The proposed hours of working are Mon-Sun 0700-1900 hours with any noisy work required to be undertaken outwith these hours subject to prior agreement with the Planning Authority. The planning authority is likely to seek that standard working hours be amended to Mon-Fri 0700-1900 hours and Sat 0800-1300 hours as mitigation.	Volume 1, Chapter 5 provides details of proposed working hours. Due to the nature of the works required and the constraints present, certain elements require to be longer working hours (24/7). It is anticipated that these will be secured by a suitably worded condition.
Noise	Other developments that may need to be considered depending on the stage they are at include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • onshore works related to Neart Na Gaoithe windfarm • any grid strengthening works in the area, including the Eastern Link • Any work relating to the decommissioning of Torness nuclear power station • Sundry smaller applications 	Volume 1, Chapter 9 provides an assessment of cumulative impacts on noise receptors. Volume 4, Appendix 2.4 provides a list of all cumulative developments considered within the EIA, as agreed with ELC.
EMF		
EMF	Request the EIA should include a brief explanation of why EMF is scoped out.	Included in the scoping summary provided in the Volume 1, Chapter 2. Relevant mitigation measures are included within Volume 4, Appendix 15.1.
Land Use, Tourism and Recreation		
Recreation	Receptors should include both tourists and local people. The EIAR should consider whether recreational experience of the area around the proposal, including Core Paths, the John Muir Way, Thortonloch Beach and Skateraw, will be affected and whether users will be displaced to other areas, or deterred. If it is anticipated there will be displacement to other areas, consideration should be given to whether that displacement has any	Volume 1, Chapter 14 provides an assessment of impacts on land use, tourism and recreation receptors. This has considered impacts on identified local receptors.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
	significant effects on the area to which that recreational use has been displaced.	
Ecology		
Biodiversity	Other projects that may need to be considered together include onshore works related to Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm, the Eastern Link grid strengthening works, and potentially proposed recycling facilities at Oxwellmains	Volume 1, Chapter 7 provides an assessment of cumulative impacts on ecological receptors. Volume 4, Appendix 2.4 provides a list of all cumulative developments considered within the EIA, as agreed with ELC.
HRA	Planning application should be supported by a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) or clear rationale as to why it is not required. The assessment should be coordinated with the EIA process.	The Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) is provided within a standalone document.
Local Biodiversity Sites	There are several Local Biodiversity Sites in the study area, in particular Dryburn Valley and Bilsdean Coast, but also Thurston Burn Valley and Dunglass Burn. These areas should be considered as there may be significant impacts during construction.	Information on local biodiversity sites was provide by ELC. Information was used to inform the ecology assessment of impacts on ecology receptors provided in Volume 1, Chapter 7, which details those sites scoped into the assessment.
Non-designated biodiversity	Priority habitats (coastal habitats, woodland and field boundaries) should be scoped in for construction impacts, and field habitats scoped in for the decommissioning stage.	Potential impacts on biodiversity receptors are outlined and assessed in the assessment provided in Volume 1, Chapter 7, which details those habitats which are scoped into the assessment.
Decommissioning	An outline of any significant effects that may reasonably occur given current knowledge of the project and proposals for decommissioning, and likely evolution of biodiversity in the area should be given.	Potential impacts of decommissioning on biodiversity receptors are outlined and assessed in the assessment provided in Volume 1, Chapter 7.
Trees	A tree survey and arboricultural constraints plan should be carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist. Tree removal plans are requested to be shown alongside any landscape mitigation proposals. The EIAR should set out how project engineers will be made aware of the existence of a tree survey at the earliest stage in the design process. Where there is a likely adverse impact on trees the tree constraints plan information should be shown on the engineering layout.	Scottish Forestry have been consulted, as detailed in Table 1.1 above. Potential impacts on biodiversity receptors, including trees, are outlined and assessed in the assessment provided in Volume 1, Chapter 7. The project design process has considered existing woodland features and sought to minimise impacts as far as possible. No mature trees are proposed to be removed. Mitigation to protect habitats, including woodland, is set out within Volume 4, Appendix 15.1.
Soil		
Soil	Agree that soil is scoped in - located partly on prime agricultural land, may affect sites designated for geodiversity value	Assessment of potential impacts on land use including agriculture is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 14.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Contamination	<p>If any significant contamination is encountered during ground investigations this should be reported in the EIAR (or where appropriate as supplementary information).</p> <p>If required, the relevant contaminated land conditions can be applied to any grant of planning consent in order to properly assess the contamination issues that may affect the development.</p>	Ground investigation works within the site found no concerns regarding contaminated land in the area.
Geodiversity	Noted that the Skateraw landfall option is not in the vicinity of the three habitat features of the Barns Ness SSSI. As long as this location doesn't change then there is a negligible risk of impacts on these features.	Noted. The landfall option has not materially changed from that proposed at Scoping.
Geodiversity	Whichever cable installation method is used (HDD or open cut) the impacts on the SSSI must be assessed in the EIAR.	Cable installation methods are outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 5 and are assessed within the EIA (Volume 1, Chapter 11).
Geodiversity	Impacts on Local Geodiversity Site at Thorntonloch should be considered within the assessment.	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on geodiversity.
Prime Agricultural Land	Any loss of prime agricultural land should be considered and the impact of this included. Where agricultural land is lost, the EIAR should include any proposals for mitigation such as re-use of the topsoil.	Volume 1, Chapter 14 provides an assessment of potential impacts on land use receptors and proposes mitigation measures.
Minerals	Parts of the study area may also contain mineral reserves in particular limestone and sand and gravel, and any impact on this should be described in the EIAR and the impact assessed.	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on mineral reserves.
Water		
Water	Agree that water is scoped in - potential increase in flood risk, potential impact on WFD objectives.	A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been undertaken and is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 11.1. Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of hydrological impacts, with reference to the WFD as relevant.
Drinking Water and PWS	There are several registered private water supplies (PWS) within the 5km study area. It is not expected that these will be impacted by the development however they fall within the 5km area of interest. The locations should be checked to ensure there is no impact.	Proposed original study area of 500m was discussed and agreed with ELC at post scoping meeting. Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on identified PWS.
Bathing Waters	The EIAR should include information on whether the proposed works will affect the water quality of this bathing water. If so, any mitigation such as carrying out works outwith the Bathing Water Season (1 June to 15 September) should be included.	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on water quality and proposed mitigation measures.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Flood Risk	Water and Drainage Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment and SuDS Strategy Reports should be provided as part of the EIA	A drainage strategy and details of the proposed SuDS are provided within Volume 4, Appendix 11.2, an FRA is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 11.1.
Flood Risk	The development should have an appropriate buffer from watercourses to avoid development in the floodplain. Depending on the confirmed location of the proposed development, a Flood Risk Assessment may be needed to identify the functional floodplain and inform an appropriate buffer distance	An FRA is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 11.1. A buffer of 50 m has been maintained to watercourses where practicable, with the exception of required crossings.
Flood Risk	All built development should be located above this level to ensure it is at low risk of coastal flooding. The EIAR should include information to show whether or not this has been done. Appropriate regional climate change allowances are recommended for the development	An FRA is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 11.1, which takes account of requested information and feedback from SEPA.
Water Environment	The Simple Index Tool (SIA) should be used to ensure the types of SUDS proposed are adequate and ensure that all the key points behind any design are considered: Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity SUDS ponds can be incorporated into blue/green networks as focal points along active transport routes	Suitably designed SuDS are included within the Proposed Development. Details of these are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 11.
Water Environment	In addition to the Construction Site Licence (outlined in the scoping report), the applicant will also require authorisation under CAR for construction run off. The Pollution prevention Plan should be included in the EIAR.	As discussed in post-scoping meetings with ELC, the Pollution Prevention Plan will be submitted to SEPA as part of the construction site licence application post-consent.
Water Environment	SEPA states the site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and appropriate mapping	Volume 1, Chapter 4 provide details of the site selection process. Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of the potential impacts on hydrological receptor, supported by appropriate figures and appendices.
Water Environment	If water abstractions or dewatering are proposed, a table of volumes and timings of groundwater abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided	As discussed in post-scoping meetings with SEPA and ELC, details of abstraction volumes will be provided post-consent. Proposed mitigation measures are set out within Volume 1, Chapter 11.
Water Environment	Potential impacts on coastal processes should be considered. For example the EIAR should show whether there will be any temporary or permanent changes to sediment transport along the coastline as a result of the proposal (this is also an impact on soil). If there is no	Coastal processes are considered as required within the Offshore EIA., Physical Processes Chapter

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
	significant impact it is sufficient to include a paragraph in the EIAR to that effect to show that this issue has been considered	
Groundwater	SEPA recommend that the EIA should confirm the absence of nearby PWS by undertaking a detailed assessment identifying whether any PWS sources are nearby the proposed development activities and undertaking risk assessments where applicable	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on identified PWS.
Groundwater	The EIA should also risk assess the potential impact to the nearest groundwater abstraction near Skateraw house	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on hydrological receptors.
Existing Groundwater Abstractions	The submission must include a map demonstrating that all existing groundwater abstractions are outwith a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and outwith 250m of all excavations deeper than 1m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it. If the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and/or quantitative risk assessment will be required. SEPA are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all existing groundwater abstractions affected.	Volume 1, Chapter 11 provides an assessment of potential impacts on identified PWS, and provides details where relevant of identified groundwater abstractions, and proposed mitigation measures.
Borrow Pits	The submission must provide sufficient information on borrow pits in line with Scottish Planning Policy paragraph 243.	No borrow pits are required within the Proposed Development.
Borrow Pits	A site management plan should be submitted in accordance with PAN 50 paragraphs 52-57	As discussed in post-scoping meetings with ELC, a site management plan, will be provided post-consent. No borrow pits are proposed.
Water	Authorisation under CAR to carry out engineering works in the vicinity of inland surface waters (other than groundwater) or wetlands may be required. Management of surplus peat or soils may require an exemption. Crushing or screening will require a permit under the PPC Scotland Regs 2012	Noted. This will be considered post planning permission as required.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Water	Site design may be affected by pollution prevention requirements and hence we strongly encourage the applicant to engage in pre-CAR application discussions with a member of the regulatory services team in your local SEPA office	Consultation post-scoping undertaken with SEPA, as detailed above in Table 1.1.
Water	If below CAR construction site licence thresholds, CAR general binding rule 10 should be complied with. Details of how this will be achieved may be required through a planning condition	Noted. This will be considered post planning permission as required, and work will be undertaken in accordance with CAR licencing as required.
Waste	All wastes should be handled in accordance with the “waste management duty of care”	An outline Site Waste Management Plan has been prepared and is provided within the outline CEMP in Volume 4, Appendix 5.1.
Scottish Water	Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into their combined sewer system.	Noted.
Scottish Water	Materials assets scoped in - potential for impacts on Scottish Water infrastructure. Potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets should be identified.	Noted. Identified assets have been assessed within the relevant technical chapter (Volume 1, Chapter 11) and considered in design of drainage strategy.
Scottish Water	Scottish Water currently have sufficient capacity in the Castle Moffat Water Treatment Works, however, further investigations may be required once a formal planning application has been made.	Noted.
Scottish Water	Scottish Water cannot confirm if there is current capacity at the Innerwick Waste Water Treatment plant. Any conflict with Scottish Water assets may be subject to restrictions on proximity of construction.	Noted. Identified assets have been considered and assessed in the EIA Report (Volume 1, Chapter 11).
Air		
Air quality	A brief explanation of the issues considered and reasons for scoping out should be included in the EIAR.	Volume 1, Chapter 2 provides an explanation of the reasons why air was scoped out of the assessment. Relevant mitigation measures are provided within Volume 4, Appendix 15.1.
Climate		
Climate	Climatic Factors should be scoped in as the climate is a sensitive receptor.	Project wide assessment of impacts on climatic factors are provided in Volume 4, Appendix 5.2.
Mitigation	The EIAR should include information on the climate impacts of the proposal, in construction, operation and decommissioning. Including:	Project wide assessment of impacts on climatic factors are provided in Volume 4, Appendix 5.2.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
	<p>1. What the most important climate change mitigation issues are for this project, considering circular economy, use of materials and what happens to them after use, soil and vegetation removal or disturbance, traffic and transport emissions</p> <p>2. Are there alternatives to how or where the proposal is constructed that would affect climate less?</p> <p>3. How the proposal aligns with the East Lothian Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>4. Any proposals for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Volume 4, Appendix 5.1 contains an outline site waste management plan within the outline CEMP.</p> <p>Alternatives considered are detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 2.</p> <p>The standalone Planning Statement considers the Proposed Development against relevant planning policy.</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix 15.1 provides a schedule of mitigation measures.</p>
Adaptation	The EIAR should include a brief summary of how the climate is expected to change in this area.	Project wide assessment of impacts on climatic factors are provided Volume 4, Appendix 5.2. Technical chapters have considered the potential future baseline where relevant.
Adaptation	The EIAR should cover any measures that are included to allow the project to be resilient to predicted changes.	Project wide assessment of impacts on climatic factors are provided Volume 4, Appendix 5.2. The FRA provided in Volume 4, Appendix 11.1 considers project resilience to flood risk.
Traffic and Transport		
Traffic and Transport	Material assets should be scoped in - potential for impacts to Network Rail infrastructure.	A traffic and transport assessment is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 12 which includes impacts on Network Rail's assets.
Traffic and Transport	A Traffic Assessment should be included to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network.	Volume 1, Chapter 12 provides an assessment of traffic and transport effects and a Transport Statement has been prepared to support the planning application.
Traffic and Transport	Near na Gaoithe (NnG) construction activities are, currently, only the development that should be considered for the cumulative traffic and transport assessment.	Volume 1, Chapter 12 provides an assessment of traffic and transport and potential cumulative effects. No cumulative effects are anticipated with NnG as there is no overlap in construction timescales.
Traffic and Transport	The following should be covered in the EIAR / Transport Statement / CTMP:	Details of construction methods are outlines in Volume 1, Chapter 5, in the Transport Assessment (Volume 4, Appendix 12.1), and in the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) provided in Appendix D to Volume 4, Appendix 12.1.

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
	<p>1. Detail of all construction delivery vehicle types and loads to and from the sites including number of trips.</p> <p>2. Detail of all site traffic (i.e. employees) including construction traffic and delivery of equipment for all onsite works (i.e. cranes, excavators etc.). This will need to be specific to each area and include details of all access/egress connection to the public road.</p> <p>3. Number and type of vehicle movements for day-to-day operation of the onshore aspects.</p> <p>4. Timescales and construction period for all works and management of abnormal loads including traffic management on the public road. Potential road closures may be required for road crossings.</p> <p>5. Detailed and accurate swept path analysis of the construction routes (i.e. to/from the A1 from the site) to include vertical and horizontal alignments of the existing public roads for the 'worst case' delivery vehicles. This will inform the required remedial works.</p> <p>6. Accurate layout plans for any required remedial works to the public road and any required access junctions.</p> <p>7. Proposed mitigation must include a detailed condition survey of the road to be undertaken by the developer to cover the full construction route from/to the A1</p>	<p>A condition survey on key routes will be undertaken by contractor prior to and following completion of construction activities.</p>
Traffic & Transport	<p>Damage to the route during the period of construction (and decommissioning) shall be repaired by the applicant at no expense to the Council as Roads Authority</p>	<p>Repairing extraordinary damage to roads caused by the construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is standard practice and requires surveying of baseline road conditions. These measures are included in the outline CTMP.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>		

Topic	Summary of Response/ Issues(s) Raised	Response to Issue Raised and/or Where Considered in the EIA Report
Cultural Heritage	Agreed that Cultural Heritage is scoped in due to potential impacts on designated cultural heritage assets	Volume 1, Chapter 10 provides an assessment of potential impacts on cultural heritage receptors.
Cultural Heritage	HES requested that ZTV information overlaid on a map of historic environment assets such as at Figure 11.1 of the Scoping Report should be provided. This allows identification of assets from where there is visibility of the proposal and assets where the development and heritage asset may be captured in the same view	Volume 2, Figure 10.2 provides a plan of historical assets considered within the assessment and a ZTV.
Landscape and Visual		
Landscape	Agreed that Landscape should be scoped in - proposal likely to be highly visible to many people, could affect Special Landscape Areas, local landscape designation and the wider landscape	Assessment of potential impacts on landscape and visual receptors are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6.
Landscape	NatureScot have not given advice on landscape and visual as the proposal does not raise landscape issues of national interest. The following, therefore, does not require to be considered in the EIAR: 1. significant adverse effects on the integrity and objectives of designation of a National Scenic Area 2. significant adverse effects on Special Landscape Qualities of a National Park 3. significant adverse effects on the qualities of a Wild Land Area	Noted.
Landscape	Both landfall locations have significant visual amenity. A LVIA must be carried out for the site	An LVIA has been conducted and the assessment is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6.
Landscape	Detailed topographical survey of the cable route corridor, landfall and substation site including existing and proposed contours of 0.5m intervals has been requested to be included as the base for landscape plans of the site	The landscape plans contained within Volume 3 have considered detailed topographic data of the site.
ZTV	ZTV requirements include a full survey and proposed finished level plan must be carried out to enable an accurate ZTV for the proposed development	The ZTV shown on Volume 3, Figure 6.8 has considered the worst case parameters of the Proposed Development as detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 5.
Viewpoints	Viewpoints and photomontages to be presented as set out in Section 3.87 & 3.88 of the Scoping Opinion	Viewpoints have been agreed with ELC (January 2022) and are shown on Figures within Volume 3.

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Landscape	LVIA should include a table that summarises impacts in the format outlined in Section 3.89 of the Scoping Opinion	An LVIA has been conducted and the assessment is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6. This contains a table as requested.
Intertidal Zone	<p>In terms of minimising potential adverse landscape and visual impacts, it appears that HDD could result in less surface disturbance than open trench.</p> <p>The EIAR should address the impact of the proposed open trench method on the sand dune landscape above the high tide mark.</p> <p>The EIAR should explore how the trenching equipment will gain access onto the intertidal zone without damaging or disturbing existing soft coastal defences such as sand dune and shingle habitat, both of which are susceptible to damage and disturbance from heavy tracked machinery. The proposed access routes to the intertidal zone should be shown.</p>	<p>Installation methods have been outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 5.</p> <p>Assessment of potential impacts on landscape receptors are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6.</p> <p>Assessment of potential impacts on habitats is provided within Volume 1, Chapter 7.</p>
Intertidal	Mitigation measures to reinstate any disturbed landscape and associated habitat from open trenching should be included.	Potential mitigation and landscape enhancement strategies have been proposed as appropriate in Volume 1, Chapter 6 and Volume 1, Chapter 7.
CLVIA	In addition to infrastructure that is already in the area (the Dunbar Cement works, Torness Power Station, the A1 road and East Coast mainline railway in particular) the assessment should take account of the onshore works related to Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm, and the proposed grid strengthening proposals known as the Eastern Link, if these latter proposals are at a sufficiently advanced stage to be included. The proposed plastic recycling facilities at Oxwellmains should also be considered.	Information provided has been used for the cumulative database and assessment. The Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6. Justification for those developments screened in and out of the cumulative assessments is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 2.4.
Mitigation	Landscape mitigation for likely direct landscape and visual impacts should be shown. A detailed landscape plan will be required. It should show how the proposals tie in the with aims and objectives of the East Lothian Green Network Strategy SPG and East Lothian Local Development policies DP1 and DP2.	<p>As discussed in post-scoping meeting with ELC, a high level landscape mitigation plan is provided in Volume 3, Figure 6.12.</p> <p>The standalone Planning Statement discusses the Proposed Development in relation to relevant policy.</p>
Mitigation	ELC strongly recommends that a legal agreement between ELC and the agents of current development and future development should work jointly with ELC to address the overall landscape mitigation measures in order that a consistent and cohesive landscape measures are taken forward.	It is anticipated that the mitigation measures proposed will be secured by a suitably worded planning condition.

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Night Lighting	Lighting for safety or security purposes may be unavoidable however may give rise to significant adverse visual effects. In such cases, consideration should be given to different ways of minimising light pollution and reference should be made to appropriate guidance, such as that provided by the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP 2011).	Mitigation measures including those related to the appropriate control of lighting, are provided within Volume 4, Appendix 15.1.
Lighting	Assessment of the impact of permanent or long term (over a year) lighting should be included in the EIAR, if such lighting is included in the proposal. Where the lighting may give rise to significant effects visual material to represent the impact on the night time landscape should be included, and further viewpoints may require to be identified to represent the night time landscape.	Potential impacts of lighting have been considered within Volume 1, Chapter 6 where relevant. No significant effects are anticipated.
Major Accidents & Disasters		
Major Accidents & Disasters	Should include how the applicant will ensure ELC will be contacted if any work is undertaken within a 3km radius of Torness Nuclear Power Station, including vessels landing within this area, known as the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ).	Contact details of relevant parties, and relevant contingency plans will be provided within the CEMP. An outline CEMP is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 5.1.
Major Accidents & Disasters	The EIAR should show that the proposed development meets the HSEs land use planning criteria with regard to public protection through use of their Land Use Planning Web App and pre-application advice service. This should be used to check the current position at the time the EIAR is produced for all parts of the onshore works. If the service identifies that a hazardous installation could present a risk to the proposal or otherwise, this should be considered in the EIAR. If the proposal does not present a risk, the EIAR need report only that the service has been used and the issue considered.	<p>Volume 4, Appendix 2.4 provides a list of all cumulative developments considered within the EIA, as agreed with ELC.</p> <p>Existing utilities, including cabling and pipelines, have been identified and taken into consideration during the design process.</p>
Major Accidents & Disasters	If the project is sanctioned the contractors must make contact with ELC ASAP before work starts to ensure factual information can be captured in the overall Torness Nuclear Emergency Response plan.	Noted.
Cumulative Impacts		
Cumulative Impacts	Other projects that should be considered for cumulative and/or in combination effects are Neart na Gaoithe offshore windfarm, the Eastern Link grid strengthening works, and potentially proposed recycling facilities at Oxwellmain noting that these proposals are not yet planning applications.	<p>Information provided has been used for the cumulative database and assessment provided at the end of each technical chapter.</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix 2.4 provides a list of all cumulative developments considered within the EIA, as agreed with ELC.</p>

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Cumulative Impacts	<p>There are other potential offshore windfarm sites in the area, which have not yet as far as the Council is aware been offered a connection point, including Marr Bank. These may also require to be taken into account depending on the stage they are at when application is made. NPF3 expects developers to work together to minimise impacts by combining infrastructure where possible. The EIAR should set out how this has been done.</p>	<p>Information provided has been used for the cumulative database and assessment provided at the end of each technical chapter.</p> <p>Since the submission of Scoping, the Project has combined the previously considered Berwick Bank and Marr Bank extents to a single development, therefore avoiding cumulative impacts between the two.</p> <p>Volume 4, Appendix 2.4 provides a list of all cumulative developments considered within the EIA, as agreed with ELC.</p>
Mitigation		
Mitigation	<p>A description of any measures envisaged preventing, reducing and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment should be given.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures for potential impacts are provided in each technical chapter where appropriate. The general approach to mitigation is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 2.</p> <p>A schedule of all mitigation measures is presented in Volume 4, Appendix 15.1</p>
Mitigation	<p>Pollution prevention measures during the periods of construction, operation, maintenance, demolition and restoration are a key issue. A schedule of mitigation supported by the site specific maps and plans noted above must be submitted.</p>	<p>A schedule of mitigation measures is presented in Volume 4, Appendix 15.1.</p> <p>Pollution prevention measures during construction will be contained within the CEMP. An outline CEMP is provided within Volume 4, Appendix 5.1. Details of the proposed drainage strategy are provided within Volume 4, Appendix 11.2.</p>

