

# BERWICK BANK WIND FARM

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Appendix 2  
December 2022



# APPENDIX 2. REPORT ON CONSULTATION

October 2021



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## Appendix 2. Report on Consultation – October 2021

### INTRODUCTION

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

SSER held a weeklong Community Roadshow in October 2021. The purpose of this was to provide information, re-introduce the project to the local community and to seek the views of members of the public and various stakeholder bodies.

The event format involved members of the Berwick Bank Wind Farm project team visiting various locations across East Lothian to distribute project information to interested members of the public.

This short Consultation Report Summary is to summarise the roadshow and detail the key themes discussed with members of the public.

#### Contact Details

For the Community Roadshow, 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 in advance of the roadshow.

<b>Stakeholder Engagement Manager</b>	Gary Donlin	07384 798 101
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### 1. Summary of events

The roadshow began on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and finished on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Members of the project team were available to answer questions at a variety of locations across the week, as detailed below.

#### 25th October

9.30AM - 12.00PM - North Berwick High Street

1.00PM - 5.00PM - North Berwick Community Centre, 8 Law Road, EH39 4PN

#### 26th October

9:30AM - 12.30PM Tesco, Tantallon Rd, North Berwick EH39 5NF

2.00PM - 3.00PM Dirleton, Main Road, EH39 5EP

3.00PM - 4.00PM Gullane, Main Street

4.00PM - 5.30PM - North Berwick Sports Centre, Grange Rd, Eh39 4QS

#### 27th October

9.30AM - 12.00PM - Dunbar High Street

1:15PM - 2:15PM - Skateraw

2:30PM - 3:30PM - Thorntonloch

3:45PM - 6:00PM - Innerwick, Village Hall

#### 28th October

9:00AM - 12:00PM - Melbourne Rd, outside Scottish Seabird Centre

1.00PM - 3.00PM - Aldi, Dunbar Rd, North Berwick EH39 4DQ

3.15PM - 4.15PM - Whitekirk

4.30PM - 5.30PM - East Linton, Community Hall

#### 29th October

10.30AM - 12.30PM Hallhill Sports Centre, Kellie Road, Dunbar, EH42 1RF

2.00PM - 3.00PM Broxburn, Main Street

3:00PM - 4:00PM West Barns, Edinburgh Road

### 1.1. EXHIBITION MATERIALS

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

- Information leaflet – accessible [here](#)
- iPads with [3d visualisations](#), maps showing [distances to shore](#), [maps showing Berwick Bank Windfarm](#) in relation to other developments and a [project video](#)

### 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.

- East Lothian Courier** – [20/11/2021](#)

**Project Webpage** - A dedicated webpage was set up by SSER to host information about the project and provide updates as the project progresses - [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com)

**Social Media** - The events were publicised via the SSER Facebook, Linked In and Twitter feeds. .

**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 3miles of North Berwick, Innerwick and Dunbar, this resulted in just over 10,000 letters being posted. The mailing

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contained a letter, contact details of the project stakeholder engagement manager and a brief information brochure on the project.

### 2. Analysis of Roadshow

Across the week the team visited a total of 17 different locations across 5 days and engaged with approximately 200 individuals during this period.

#### 2.1. FEEDBACK

The main issues addressed at the roadshow centred around the following themes:

**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 40km 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.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October, the project team presented a 3D model that showed the view from various points in East Lothian. This model will also be used at future consultations.

**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. There was a key focus on the larger elements of the supply chain such as blade and turbine manufacturing. Several community members commented on a desire of having these elements constructed within Scotland and the UK. The team confirmed it is our desire to create as much local and Scottish supply chain content as possible. The team noted that by consenting projects on the scale of Berwick Bank, it could create confidence in the supply chain to manufacture elements of the project within the UK. The project team also confirmed that a socio-economic report confirming our supply chain content aims is in the final stages of review.

**Construction, Noise and Light Pollution (Skateraw)** – Local residents near our proposed on-shore works site at Skateraw commented on what impact they can expect as result of noise and light pollution, but mainly traffic was the primary concern. Residents commented that they were keen to work alongside SSER and create a construction traffic route that works for the local community. SSER confirmed they are happy to aim to work alongside the local community to find a solution.

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. SSER confirmed that the probable substation site was across the A1, further towards Innerwick, but that a construction and laydown compound had not been arranged yet.

Regarding noise and light pollution, SSER specifically commented that more investigations on this potential impact are on-going and that where required, mitigation measures will be implemented.

**Birds Protection** – Bird welfare is a key consideration on the project. Residents commented specifically on the impact our proposals may have on the gannet population that nests on Bass Rock. SSER confirmed that we have just finished 18 months' worth of aerial and boat based Ornithology studies to help inform our design with regards to birds. Initially, this survey work has allowed us to reduce our overall site boundary by approx. 10 percent and identified average flight heights for the prevailing birds in the array area (kittiwake and guillemot), this has allowed the team to increase the height of turbines to minimise collision risks.

SSER also confirmed we have regular meetings with stakeholders such as Marine Scotland, RSPB, The Scottish Seabird Centre and NatureScot to discuss ongoing methodology approaches and analysis.

**Energy Storage** – Local stakeholders were keen to discuss the capacity of the proposal being 4.1GW and there was concern over the risk we generate too much electricity that becomes wasted. The project team commented that a blend of technologies would be key to the success of the push towards Net Zero and that there is great work that has been done on schemes such as battery storage and pumped hydro storage, with specific reference to the SSER Coire Glas scheme.

**Onshore Assets Location** – Local stakeholders, particularly those near on-shore works, were keen to know the location of proposed onshore assets, mainly substation and cable route locations. The project team confirmed that it is our intention to finalise our preferred design solution in November 2021 and return to consult on this with members of the public.

**Community Benefit** – SSE Renewables and the Berwick Bank team have already to date supported various local initiatives and it is the intention of the team to continue this as the project progresses. Stakeholders commented on what local benefits the project could create locally (out-with supply chain content.) The team confirmed that we are willing to engage with local community members to discuss various proposals.

**Turbine number** – The total number of turbines was queried several times. The project team confirmed that our design envelope currently ranges from approximately 175 turbines (minimum) to 307 (maximum) and that the final number of turbines will likely sit in the middle of this range. The project team also confirmed that turbine numbers will be dependent on the capacity that can be generated per turbine, which is yet to be determined.

**Landfall** – Residents in Skateraw, Innerwick and Thorntonloch were keen to discuss the preferred landfall option for the project. The project team confirmed that following a design freeze in November a preferred location would be confirmed and that we will return to consult with local communities on this in late 2021/early 2022.

**Project timelines** – Construction periods for the project was raised on several occasions. The project team confirmed that we could not currently confirm this due to variables regarding the planning process. However, the earliest realistic time frame for the project would involve beginning construction in 2024, first generation of energy in 2027, with an overall project completion and full energisation in

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2030. The project team did stress that this timeline is indicative and subject to change depending on the planning process.

### 3. Conclusion & Next Steps

This Report on Consultation documents the Community Roadshow which has been undertaken for the Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm in October 2021. The roadshow 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 event follows a series of virtual exhibition which were held in November 2020

This roadshow was completely voluntary and arranged by the project team to ensure stakeholders receive as much information as possible at this stage of project development. The project team intend to continue engaging ahead of submitting a full planning application in Spring 2022, at which point further mandatory consultations will take place. The project team have committed to carrying out a further two formal public exhibitions ahead of submitting this planning application.

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 several 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.

## 4. Appendices

### Materials presented at Virtual Exhibition

### Adverts issued in press

The following ad was placed in both print and digital media

The collage features a newspaper article on the left and a promotional poster on the right. The article, from a local news outlet, reports on the success of foundation students at East Lothian and Midlothian schools who completed their courses despite the challenges of the COVID-19 lockdown. It highlights the resilience and determination of the students and the support provided by their schools and the local community. The poster, on the right, is for the 'Scotland's Global Offshore Opportunity' roadshow, organized by SSE Renewables and Berwick Bank Wind Farm. It announces the dates of the roadshow (25th October to 29th October) and provides the website berwickbank.com for more information. The poster also features the logos of SSE Renewables and Berwick Bank Wind Farm, along with a scenic image of the Berwick Bank offshore wind farm.

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**Letters issued as part of maildrop**

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



**SSE Renewables**  
1 Waterloo Street  
Glasgow  
G26AY


**Dear Resident**

**Berwick Bank Wind Farm – Scotland’s Global Offshore Opportunity**

I hope this letter finds you well, I am writing to make you aware of some exciting developments we have made to our proposals for Berwick Bank Wind Farm, situated in the outer Firth of Forth

In August, the message from the UN scientists at the IPCC could not have been clearer – the threat of climate change is increasing, and we must accelerate the action we are taking to decarbonise our world to address this challenge. It is for this reason I am delighted to re-introduce to you our proposed plans for the Berwick Bank Wind Farm. I have included a map of the site below for illustration purposes:





This single site represents an opportunity capable of generating up to 4.1 GW of clean, renewable energy; capable of powering more than 5 million homes and removing 8 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide each year, which is the equivalent of removing all of Scotland’s annual car emissions.

Ahead of submitting our planning applications to Marine Scotland and East Lothian Council in May 2022, the Project team has been hosting a series of engagement and consultation events in the local area. The next of these events will be a Community Roadshow across East Lothian between 25<sup>th</sup> October-29<sup>th</sup> October. During this week members of the project team will be travelling around the community, and we would love to meet as many local people as possible to discuss our plans in some more detail and hear your feedback. The dates and locations for the roadshow will be as follows:

- 25<sup>th</sup> October – North Berwick High Street (AM), North Berwick Community Centre (PM)**
- 26<sup>th</sup> October – Tesco, Tantallon Rd, North Berwick (AM). Dirleton, Gullane & North Berwick Sports Centre (PM)**
- 27<sup>th</sup> October – Dunbar High Street (AM), Skateraw, Thorntonloch & Innerwick Villages (PM)**
- 28<sup>th</sup> October – North Berwick Harbour (AM), Aldi, Dunbar Rd, North Berwick (PM)**
- 29<sup>th</sup> October – Hallhill Sports Centre, Dunbar (AM), Broxburn & West Barns (PM)**



If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly. You can also find out more information on our proposals and our upcoming roadshow (including timings) at our project website, [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com)

We really hope you can join us and hear more about this world-leading project – a project that will help put East Lothian at the forefront of the growing global offshore wind sector.

Yours sincerely,

**Gary Donlin**  
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

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M: (0)7384 798 101

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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
- Longiddry

**Fife Community Councils**

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

- Paul McLennan MSP – East Lothian
- Willie Rennie MSP – North East Fife
- Rachael Hamilton MSP – Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire
- Angus Dey MSP – Angus South
- Mairi Gougeon MSP – Angus North & Means
- Craig Hoy MSP – South Scotland Regional List
- Martin Whitfield MSP – South Scotland Regional List
- Michael Matheson MSP – Cab Sec Net Zero, Energy & Transport
- Lorna Slater MSP – Minister Green Skills, Circular Economy, Biodiversity
- Mairi McAllan MSP – Minister for Env & Land Form
- Ivan McKee MSP – Minister Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise
- Richard Lochhead MSP – Minister Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work
- Liam Kerr MSP – Shadow Cab Sec, Net Zero, Energy & Transport (Cons)
- Monica Lennon MSP – Shadow Cab Sec, Net Zero, Energy & Transport (Lab)
- Dean Lockhart MSP – Convenor of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Fiona Hyslop MSP – Depute Convenor of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Natalie Don MSP – Member of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Jackie Dunbar MSP – Member of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Mark Ruskell MSP – Member of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Collette Stevenson MSP – Member of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Mercedes Villabla MSP – Member of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Brian Whittle MSP – Member of Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Finlay Carson MSP – Convenor of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Beatrice Wishart MSP – Depute Convenor of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Karen Adams MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee

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- Alasdair Allan MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Ariane Burgess MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Jim Fairlee MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Jennie Minto MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Emma Harper MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Liam McArthur MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Edward Mountain MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee
- Colin Smyth MSP – Member of Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Env Committee

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
- 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

### Local community members

SSER also invited along various local community members and stakeholders that have directly signed up to the Berwick Bank mailing list. The details of these persons cannot be disclosed due to GDPR regulations.