

# BERWICK BANK WIND FARM

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Appendix 3  
December 2022





# APPENDIX 3. REPORT ON CONSULTATION

December 2021

03



## INTRODUCTION

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

SSER held two virtual exhibitions where members of the public could talk directly to the project team via a live chat, they also held a 'traditional' public consultation in person. The purpose of this was to provide information, inform the local community of proposed on-shore works (preferred landfall, cable route and substation location) and to seek the views of members of the public and various stakeholder bodies.

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

### Contact Details

For both the virtual and public consultation events, 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 virtual exhibition platform went live on the **6th<sup>th</sup> of November 2021** and remained live up until the **30th of December**. Members of the project team were available to answer questions via a live chat function in real time on the following dates:

- **8<sup>th</sup> November – 12:00 – 14:00**
- **8<sup>th</sup> November – 16:00 – 18:00**

In addition, the project team also hosted an in-person consultation on the following date;

- **9<sup>th</sup> November – Innerwick Village Hall – 13:00 – 19:00**

### 1.1. EXHIBITION MATERIALS

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

- A5 booklet
- Project information boards
- iPads with 3d visualisations,
- Maps showing distances to shore, maps showing Berwick Bank Windfarm in relation to other developments, maps showing the proposed onshore infrastructure and a project video
- [3D model showing offshore and on-shore infrastructure, including turbines, cable routes and substation location.](#)

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### 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 – 2/12/2021
- East Lothian Courier – Digital Package – Advertising on [www.eastlothiancourier.com](http://www.eastlothiancourier.com) and east Lothian courier facebook page.

A press release was also issued to local press regarding the event. This was picked up by the East Lothian Courier.

**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 3 miles of North Berwick, Innerwick, East Linton and Dunbar, this resulted in just over 13,000 letters being posted. The mailing contained a letter, contact details of the project stakeholder engagement manager and information on how to attend the public events.

## 2. Analysis of Consultation

At the Virtual Exhibitions, the team received X PAGE views across the X DAYS. 5 feedback forms were submitted to the project inbox and a further 9 questions were received during the live chat sessions.

At the in-person exhibition, approximately 70 persons attended the event to ask questions of the project team.

### 2.1. FEEDBACK

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

**Visual Impact** – In previous consultations and exhibitions stakeholders have requested that some form of visualisation is shown ahead of a planning consent being submitted. At this event we had the capability of presenting a full 3D model that showed the view from various points in East Lothian, the model also showed cable routes and substation options.

The size of the substation (overall footprint) has concerned some residents of Innerwick and SSER have noted the concerns over the disruption of the local view. SSER will consider what options are available to the project in terms of screening the substation and present our findings at the next public exhibition in early 2022.

Following using the 3D model, stakeholders were satisfied that visual impact from the coast would be insignificant.

**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 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 of Skateraw have been in regular contact with the project team and highlighted areas of concern. These primarily focus on construction traffic, noise, dust and light pollution, working hours. SSER have listened to local residents and at their request, are currently in dialogue with the neighbouring Tarmac cement works to assess options for accessing site via the east of Skateraw. Whilst the project team are keen to accommodate this request, they explained at the most recent consultation it does present significant challenges due to the current poor road quality, lack of space and potential health and safety risks. SSER confirmed to residents of Skateraw that discussions were still on-going. Construction traffic is also a primary concern of property owners at the Four Acres and Castledene residence. The project team have committed to continuing to communicate with local properties during the planning process and take on board feedback on the proposed Construction Traffic Management Plan.

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. However once constructed, it is not the position of SSER to have the onshore substation permanently light up. Lighting would be used as required during maintenance operations to ensure safe working, but building facades are not proposed to be illuminated during the night.

**Working Hours (Skateraw)** – Local residents of Skateraw have stated they would like to see SSER apply for a Monday – Friday working hours arrangement. SSER commented that it is most likely the project will apply for 7 days a week, 7 - 7 working permissions, however this is due to the nature of HDD techniques and that once a HDD begins, it must be completed, which could result in working irregular hours. Therefore 24 hour working will be applied for in relation to HDD works. SSER also commented that in the event of unexpected delays in construction, it is common practise for working to then occur on weekends, which is why we may apply for 7 day permissions in our application. Local residents made clear they would not be in favour of these proposals. The project team will provide a further update regarding working hours at the next public exhibition

**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 24 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. 9 percent and identified average flight heights for the prevailing birds in the array area (kittiwake and gannets this has lead the team to increase the height of turbines to minimise collision risks.

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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. The ability to convert heat emitted from Transformers to provide local district heating was also raised by a member of the public. The SEM has taken this onboard and is in contact with the member of public that has requested further information on this.

**Drainage** – There are concerns that the project will lead to increased flooding in the area, particular concern was raised by local property owner Mr Black, Railway Cottage. SSER commented that we do not envisage our plans to increase flood risk in the area or impact local drainage networks negatively and that a flood risk & drainage assessment is currently underway. Given the local concern, SSER have committed to speaking with environmental consultants ITPE to ensure that further study is undertaken

**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 on an AD-HOC basis and that long term a formal Community Benefit Fund (CBF) would be established, however this would most likely only occur following the decision of the planning process (decision expected 2023-2024)

A specific request was made to the project team to consider whether we could construct a crossing of the A1 to enhance the local cycling network and provide a safe crossing for residents. SSER commented that they have already been involved in high level discussions with East Lothian Council and other developers on this. The project SEM has committed to revisiting this conversation with East Lothian Council as any arrangement would require the council to construct, maintain and operate a crossing, but in principle, SSER are open to discussing potential funding mechanisms for the proposal.

**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.

**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 2026, with an overall project completion and full energisation in 2030. The project team did stress that this timeline is indicative and subject to change depending on the planning process.

Residents to Skateraw and Innerwick were particularly keen for further information on how long the onshore construction period in this area could be. The project team could not commit to a final answer, but did indicate that construction in the area could be on-going for approximately 2 years.

### 3. Conclusion & Next Steps

This Report on Consultation documents the Public Consultation which has been undertaken for the Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm in December 2021. The exhibition was designed to engage with key stakeholder groups, including the local community, landowners and individual residents, in order to invite feedback on the proposals. This event follows a series of virtual exhibition which were held in November 2020 and a Community Roadshow which was held in October 2021.

This exhibition was 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 and will return with further public consultation events in early 2022.

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 considered 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

All materials and exhibition boards presented at the Public Exhibition can be accessed at the following link; <https://www.berwickbank.com/library-downloads>

### Adverts issued in press

The following ad was placed in both print and digital media

### Digital Ads placed online

### Coverage of press release

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**Letters issued as part of maildrop**

The following letter was sent to all properties within 3 miles of North Berwick, Dunbar, Innerwick & East Linton.



**SSE Renewables**  
1 Waterloo Street  
Glasgow  
G26AY

**Dear Resident****Berwick Bank Wind Farm – December Consultation**

I hope this letter finds you well, I am writing to make you aware of an upcoming Public Exhibition regarding our proposals for the Berwick Bank Wind Farm.

In October 2021 we wrote to the local community and attended various outdoor venues to speak with interested residents on our proposals for Berwick Bank Wind Farm. Following these engagements, we will be hosting a traditional public exhibition, the details of which are as follows.

**Date – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Time – 13:00 – 19:00**

**Location – Innerwick Village Hall, EH42 1SE**

We intend to submit a planning application for our proposals in Spring 2022. We would like to use this upcoming opportunity to present our proposals in more detail and gain feedback from the local community, we will then return to host a further exhibition in early 2022 before submitting our planning application.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic we will also be hosting an online session. The virtual session will be running on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, the project team will be available to answer any questions via a Live Chat function between **12:00 – 14:00 and 16:00 – 18:00**. Please visit [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com) for further information on how to access our virtual platform.

Yours sincerely,

**Gary Donlin**  
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

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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

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**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

- 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.