

# BERWICK BANK WIND FARM

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Appendix 4  
December 2022



# APPENDIX 4. REPORT ON CONSULTATION

March 2022



## 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 four 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 build on information presented at the December 2021 consultation and confirm for stakeholders the proposals which SSER intend to submit as part of the planning process.

This short summary has been designed to summarise the events 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.

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

The virtual exhibition platform went live on the **7<sup>th</sup> of March 2022** and remained live up until the **31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**. Members of the project team were available to answer questions via a live chat function in real time on the following dates:

- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 12:00 – 14:00
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 16:00 – 18:00
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 12:00 – 14:00
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 16:00 – 18:00

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

- 8<sup>th</sup> March – Innerwick Village Hall – 13:00 – 19:00

At the request of the local Parish Council, the Project team also returned to Innerwick Village Hall to host an open forum Q&A event with interested members of the public. The aim of this was to allow community members to ask further questions once they have had sufficient time to examine the recent consultation information. This occurred on the following date;

- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Innerwick Village Hall – 19:00 – 21:00

### 1.1. EXHIBITION MATERIALS

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

- A4 booklet

## Appendix 4. Report on Consultation – March 2022

- 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.](#)

### 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 – 24/2/2022 and 3/3/2022**
- **East Lothian Courier – Digital Package – Advertising on [www.eastlothiancourier.com](http://www.eastlothiancourier.com) and East Lothian courier facebook page.**

Advertising was placed in the main body of the paper and in the Public Notices section to comply with PoAN legislation. The public notice was also placed in the East Lothian Courier on **20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**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 SSER social media 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, East Linton and Dunbar, this resulted in just over 11,000 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.

**Q&A** – For the Town Hall Q&A on 29<sup>th</sup> March, this was advertised by the Parish Council via a local newsletter and word of mouth. Following discussion with the Parish Council, the Project SEM also extended an invitation to both Dunbar and East Lammermuir Community Council

## 2. Analysis of Consultation

At the Virtual Exhibitions, the team received 384 page views across the duration of the consultation. 3 feedback forms were submitted to the project inbox and a further 8 questions were received during the live chat sessions.

At the in-person exhibition, approximately 50 persons attended the event to ask questions of the project team.

### 2.1. FEEDBACK

The main issues addressed at the consultation event 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.

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

Local residents commented on the size of the proposed onshore substation and that this caused concern, with particular focus on loss of view locally. SSER commented that we are currently assessing screening options to mitigate potential visual impacts associated with the site.

**Noise** – Attendees raised concerns regarding both construction noise and operational noise that could be omitted as part of the proposals. Noise relating to onshore infrastructure was the primary concern. The team confirmed that a detailed noise assessment is being completed and will be included in full within the on-shore EIA, however that initial modelling is indicating that noise levels are expected to fall within accepted limits. One stakeholder asked for further information on this and the Project team has committed to giving an update once the draft noise chapter of the onshore EIA has been reviewed. SSER specifically commented that more investigations on this potential impact are on-going and that where required, mitigation measures will be implemented.

**Construction 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, working hours and light pollution. SSER have listened to residents and at their request, are currently in dialogue with the neighbouring Tarmac cement works to asses' 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.

Since initial discussions, the Project team have entered into discussions with Tarmac and conducted a site visit to assess suitability, this work is on-going, however images of the current size were available to view at the consultation. Skateraw residents did not attend the consultation to receive an update on this matter, due to previous concern mentioned, the Project SEM has written directly to a local resident offering a follow up meeting.

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. One local resident also mentioned that their property acts as a postcode for the local area and they do not want construction traffic and deliveries to visit their house. The Project team has committed to investigating ways (such as a separate substation postcode, the use of what3words and additional signage) to ensure that the on-shore substation is not confused for the local residents house.

## Appendix 4. Report on Consultation – March 2022

Regarding 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, 24 hour 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. 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. At the March consultation SSER confirmed the above position, however residents of Skateraw were not in attendance at the exhibition. The project SEM has written directly to a local resident offering a meeting to discuss these matters.

**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 25 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 provided literature at the March consultation introducing the potential environmental mitigation and compensation measures the Project team are considering – specifically with a view to mitigating any impacts on birds.

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.

**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. Since the December 2021 consultation, SSER have visited Mr Black and conducted further flood risk assessments to provide reassurance that the matter is being taken seriously.

**Fishing** – A representative from a local shellfish supplier visited the consultation to raise concerns that the Project could lead to a negative impact on his business. The SEM took note of these concerns and has arranged a follow up meeting, in person at the stakeholder's factory with relevant members of the team to discuss the matter further on 17/3/2022

**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.

**Turbines**– 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. Additional questions were asked regarding the average speed of turbines, the Project team confirmed retrospectively that on average this could be expected to be 7-9 RPM. There were also general questions on average turbine life expectancy.

**Grid Connection** – Queries were made regarding the location of a potential secondary grid connection for the Project. The team confirmed that it is our current expectation for a secondary grid connection cable to connect at Blyth, Northumberland. However this is not confirmed and is subject to change until such point as it has been confirmed with the National Grid.

**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.

**Town Hall** - The main issues that were raised at the follow up Town Hall event on the 29<sup>th</sup> March mirrored the above, however there was a strong focus on the impacts of the proposed on-shore substation, particularly due to the proposed size of the site. The Project SEM and Project Director (both present at the event) explained that a detailed site selection chapter will be included within the on-shore EIA and encouraged those present to register for project updates so that they will receive direct communication on when this document can be viewed in full.

An additional point was raised that local community members would appreciate viewing a physical model of our substation and also that within the design of the substation, the local community would like to see a 'green-eco' roof incorporated as this has been done on other similar proposals in Scotland. The Project team are currently assessing the potential to include this within the design and will consider the inclusion of a physical model for any future public consultation/information evenings.

## Appendix 4. Report on Consultation – March 2022

### 3. Conclusion & Next Steps

This Report on Consultation documents the Public Consultation which has been undertaken for the Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm in March 2022. 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 engagements which were held in November 2020, October 2021 and December 2021.

This fourth exhibition was arranged by the project team to ensure stakeholders receive as much information as possible at this stage of project development.

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

The collage consists of three distinct advertisements. On the left is a Swinton Insurance ad with a car image and text: 'WIN £1000 SHOPPING VOUCHERS! Meet yourself or someone you love, CALL 0333 035 9722 TO GET YOUR CAR INSURANCE QUOTE'. The middle ad is for Courier, featuring a woman at a desk and text: 'KEEP UP TO DATE no matter where you are'. The right ad is for Garolla Roller Shutters, showing a garage door and text: 'Now only £895\* for a fully fitted electric garage door. WASH £1364 INCLUDING VAT'. It also lists features like 'FREE EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING' and '2 REMOTE CONTROLS'.



**BERWICK BANK WIND FARM**  
 Scotland's Global Offshore Opportunity  
 Public Exhibition  
 Join members of the Berwick Bank project team to discuss our proposals in more detail.  
 Innerwick Village Hall,  
 Tuesday 8th March 2022  
 13:00 – 19:00  
 Further details can be found at [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com)



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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 & THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (MISCELLANEOUS TEMPORARY MODIFICATIONS (CORONAVIRUS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2020**

**NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 7(2) (B) PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION BY THE PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT:**

Berwick Bank Wind Farm

Onshore Electricity Transmission Infrastructure

**PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Proposal: Full planning permission for an onshore electricity substation/converter station, underground electricity cables and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure to export electricity from the Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm into the national electricity transmission system network on land between Mean Low Water Mark near Skateraw and surrounding Branxton Substation, Dunbar, East Lothian.

SSE Renewables Ltd (SSE) (the "Applicant") intends to seek full planning permission for onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to connect into the national electricity transmission network at Branxton. Separately, the Applicant intends to submit applications for two marine licences in relation to the offshore electricity transmission infrastructure: one in respect of the offshore generating infrastructure and the other in respect of offshore transmission infrastructure.

An in person public exhibition on the proposals will be held on **Tuesday 8th March 2022 between 13:00 – 19:00** at Innerwick Village Hall, EH42 1SE.

Members of the Project team will be available to discuss the proposals and answer questions at the event. Comment/feedback forms will be available at the event or can be submitted following the event as outlined below.

A virtual public exhibition on the proposals will be available online from **Monday 7th March 2022 to Friday 11th March 2022** on the project website at [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com).

Members of the Project team will be available through a live chat function in the virtual public exhibition, for a live question and answer session on **Wednesday 9th March 2022 and Thursday 10th March 2022**, between 12:00 – 14:00 hrs and 16:00 – 18:00 hrs.

If you have questions or comments on the proposals, we request that these are submitted via feedback form by 5pm on 31st March 2022. Feedback forms will be available on the Project website, [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com). You can also submit your feedback directly to the Project Stakeholder Engagement Manager at 07384 798 101.

Please note that a formal planning application has not been submitted and any comments made on the proposals to Berwick Bank Wind Farm at this stage are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted to East Lothian Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity then to make formal representations.

**Other Notices**

**SALTOUN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
Charity No. SC012159

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

All residents of Saltoun Parish (aged 18 and over) are invited to attend a Special General Meeting, to be held at Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun, at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 15 March 2022**. The sole purpose of this meeting will be to seek approval of the following Resolution: Saltoun Community Association (charity no. SC012159) resolves to proceed to dissolve the existing charity and to transfer its property and other assets to the new charity, Saltoun Community Association (charity no. SC051262).

For further background information, visit our website at [www.saltouncommunityassociation.com](http://www.saltouncommunityassociation.com)

Alastair Whyte  
Chair  
21 February 2022

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Thursday, March 3, 2022 East Lothian Courier 13

**WIN FRONT ROW VIP TICKETS TO AN AUDIENCE WITH LINE OF DUTY: AC-12**

As well as cast members Martin, Vicky and Adrian, writer Jed Mercurio will join the group at Port Glasgow Town Hall on Saturday, March 19 from 5pm until 8pm. The star-studded event sold out in less than one minute, but we have two front row VIP tickets to be won in our silent auction, with all the money going straight to Ardgowan Hospice.

To be in with a chance of winning the two front row VIP tickets please email your bid, name and contact details to [charityevents@scotnet.co.uk](mailto:charityevents@scotnet.co.uk)

You can also see this notice to post your bid to us. Please post this to: Newspaper Media Group, Line of Duty Ticket Auction, 100 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 0JF.

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Ardgowan Hospice

**BERWICK BANK WIND FARM**

Scotland's Global Offshore Opportunity

**Public Exhibition**

Join members of the Berwick Bank project team to discuss our proposals in more detail.

Innerwick Village Hall,  
Tuesday 8th March 2022  
13:00 – 19:00

Further details can be found at [www.berwickbank.com](http://www.berwickbank.com)

**Digital Ads placed online**

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External Feed:

SSE Renewables Berwick Bank Wind Farm

Public Exhibition  
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PHOENIX123456789 - 111 - ADP - 240307 - CE - 1000000 - 1000000

External Feed:

SSE Renewables Berwick Bank Wind Farm

## Appendix 4. Report on Consultation – March 2022

**Letters issued as part of maildrop**

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

**Stakeholder list invited**

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

**East Lothian Community Councils**

- Gullane 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
- Bennochly & Hayfield
- Kirkcaldy West
- Royal Burgh of Kinghorn

**Scottish Borders Community Councils**

- Cocksburnpath & Cove
- Coldingham
- St Abbs
- Eyemouth
- Burnmouth
- Foulden, Mordington & Lamberton

## Appendix 4. Report on Consultation – March 2022

**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.