

Working together for a
cleaner energy future



PAC report Appendix 6: Statutory Consultation 3 -
Consultation Materials and Feedback

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

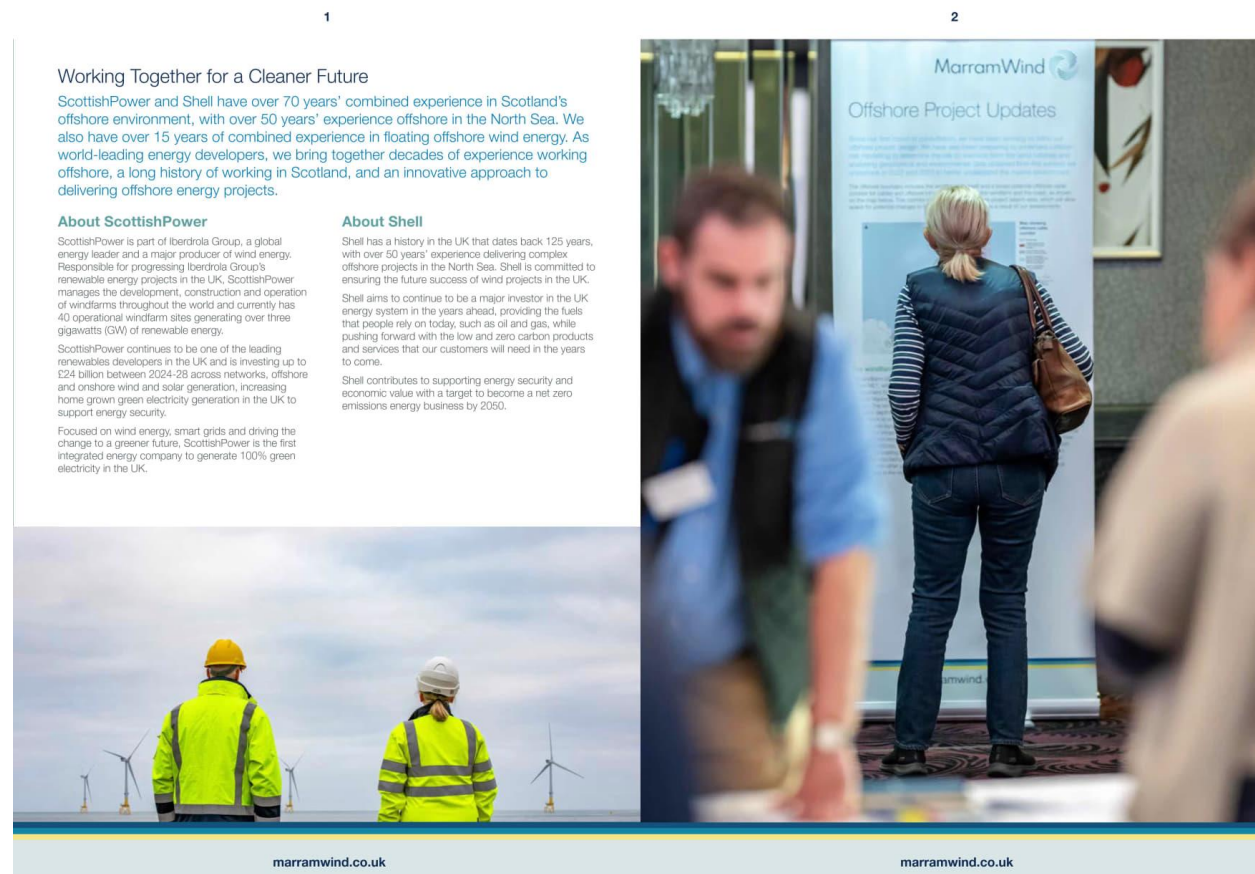
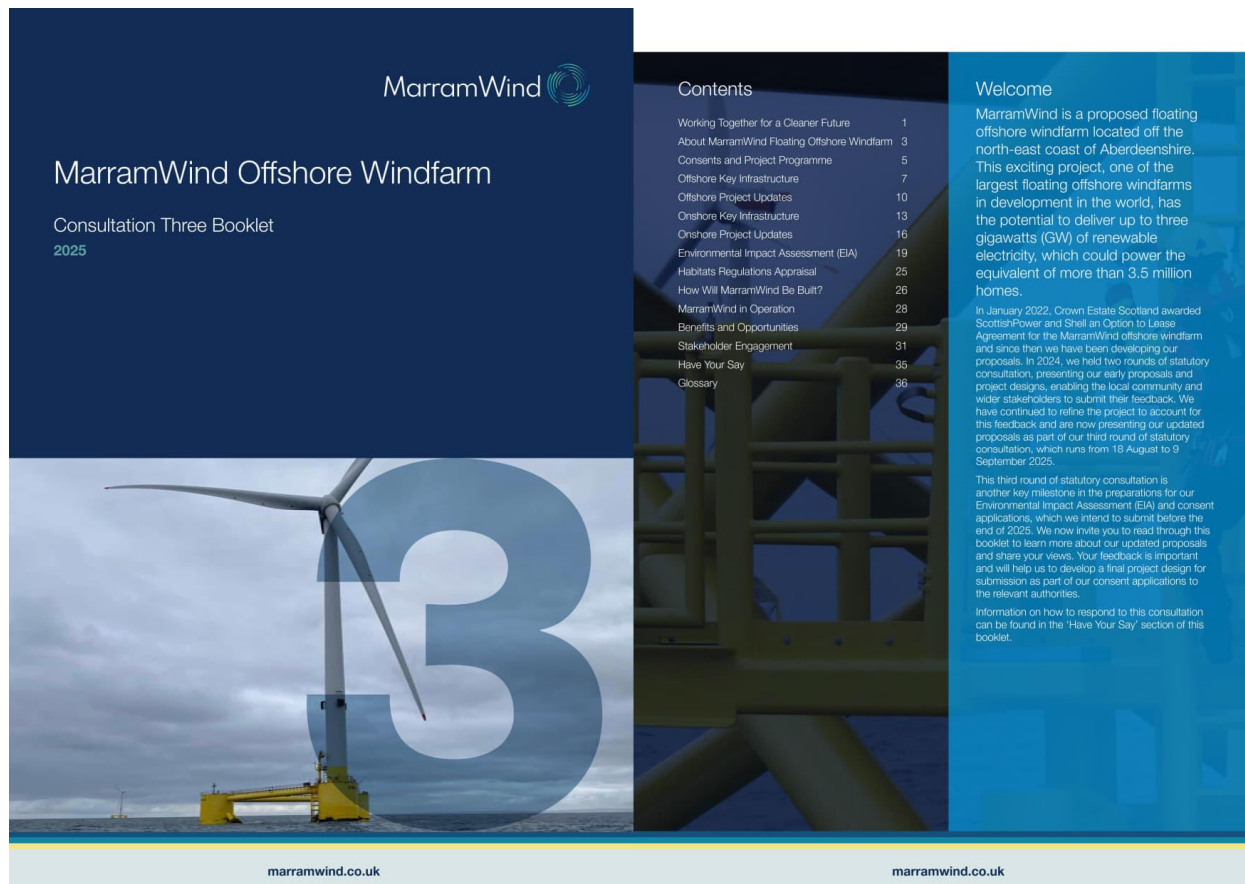
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Checked by:	WSP UK Limited
Approved by:	MarramWind Limited

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6.1 Booklet



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About MarramWind Floating Offshore Windfarm

The proposed MarramWind floating offshore windfarm will consist of between 126 - 225 floating wind turbines. Situated in deep waters approximately 75km off the north-east coast of Scotland at its nearest point, the wind turbines will be barely visible from shore.

The renewable electricity generated by MarramWind will play a pivotal role in achieving Scottish and UK net zero targets for 2045 and 2050 respectively, while also supporting energy security and promoting energy innovation.



Optimising Sustainability

We are adopting a strategic approach, reflective of ScottishPower and Shell's sustainability targets. We have identified four sustainability key priority areas:

- 1. Emissions Reduction:** we are committed to minimising, monitoring and measuring our greenhouse gas emissions where feasible.
- 2. Embedding Circularity:** our ambition is to use resources and materials efficiently and optimise reuse and recycling across the project lifecycle.
- 3. Nature Positive Development:** we are committed to ensuring negative effects on biodiversity are avoided where possible or mitigated effectively and that the project has an overall positive benefit on biodiversity.
- 4. Optimising Social and Economic Performance:** we will seek to maximise the project's net economic effect while supporting local and regional economic priorities, including employment and skills development and associated business/supply chain opportunities.

We are adopting a holistic approach to sustainability, with all key priorities considered together. For each key priority we are reviewing options for enhancing sustainability, including exploring existing design options, new technologies and partnership opportunities. We will undertake studies to further explore and select which options can be taken forward. By adopting this approach, we will strive for an optimised sustainability performance that will benefit the environment and local communities.



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MarramWind is being developed with sustainability embedded as a core value, from development through to construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning.

MarramWind has defined a project search area boundary, shown in the map below, which has been gradually refined in response to stakeholder feedback and other technical and commercial considerations over the last three years. The expectation is that the onshore boundary and the offshore cable corridor boundary will be further refined in the future, as the best locations for the infrastructure are identified.

The current project search area ensures that we can adjust the project design through our design development, environmental assessments, and stakeholder feedback. Further information about the refinements made to the offshore and onshore project area boundary can be found in the 'Offshore Project Updates' and 'Onshore Project Updates' sections of this booklet.

MarramWind, generating up to 3GW of power, will connect to the national grid via the proposed Scottish and Southern Electricity Network's (SSEN) Netherthorn Hub substation to the west of Peterhead. This was confirmed by National Grid in their Holistic Network Design (HND) report and subsequent follow up exercise. While the HND is a crucial step for renewable energy connection, it is part of a larger picture. The Beyond 2030 Report builds on the HND, aiming for a clean, secure, and affordable energy future throughout the 2030s. This ambitious plan aligns with the UK Government's ambition to have a fully decarbonised electricity system by 2035 and will support delivery of the projects leased via ScotWind.



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Consents and Project Programme

The consenting process

Under the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4, MarramWind is classified as a National Development. This means that the need for the project has been established through Government policy, but planning consent, marine licences and other permissions are still required for construction and operation. We will need to make separate applications for the following key consents for both the onshore and offshore elements of the project:

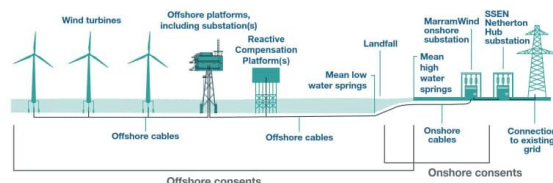
- Section 36 consent**, under the Electricity Act 1989 (S36), is required for the offshore windfarm site. Permission is granted by the Marine Directorate (on behalf of Scottish Ministers).
- Marine licences**, under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (0-12 nautical mile) and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (12-200 nautical mile), the Project is seeking marine licences. This is to undertake marine licensable activities, including the installation of cables or other infrastructure on or within the seabed. Permission is granted by the Marine Directorate.
- Onshore planning permission**, under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (TCPA) is required for all infrastructure located above the average level of low tide (known as Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)) and is granted by the local planning authority, Aberdeenshire Council.

Some consents and licences overlap between the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and MLWS - this area is known as the intertidal zone. This consultation presents the project as a whole, including onshore, intertidal and offshore infrastructure.

We held two rounds of statutory consultation in 2024 and will hold an additional two rounds of statutory consultation in 2025, fulfilling the requirements under the TCPA and relevant marine licences. Our consultation activities in 2025 provide further opportunity for stakeholders to feedback on proposed mitigations and to express their views on our refined project design.

We will also be undertaking an EIA, which is the process of assessing the likely significant effects the project could have on the environment. In addition, we will prepare reporting to support a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). Further information on our EIA and HRA can be found in the 'Environmental Impact Assessment' and 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal' sections of this booklet.

The diagram below shows the infrastructure that may be required for the onshore and offshore elements of MarramWind, as well as which sections of the project are related to the different consents we need to get. Further information on the onshore and offshore infrastructure is provided in the 'Offshore Key Infrastructure' and 'Onshore Key Infrastructure' sections of this booklet.

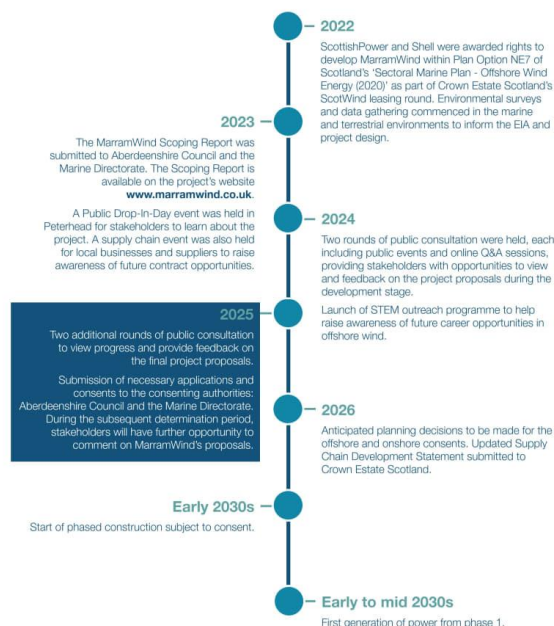


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Project programme

Developing MarramWind involves significant work, but our priority is to deliver a project that minimises effects on local communities and the environment, while delivering renewable energy. The programme below sets out the process and anticipated timeline towards developing MarramWind.



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Offshore Key Infrastructure

The offshore infrastructure includes floating wind turbines, cables that connect the turbines together, offshore platforms, and cables that transmit the power generated to shore.

Electricity transmission

The electricity generated by our wind turbines will be transmitted by cables to the shore where they will connect to the onshore infrastructure and continue to a substation site and ultimately the national grid. We are currently reviewing different options for the transmission of the electricity generated by the offshore windfarm. These include High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) and High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission technologies, or a combination of the two.

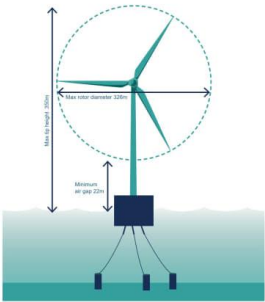
The wind turbines will generate HVAC electricity, which is the electricity distributed by the national grid. It is common for offshore windfarms closer to shore to transmit electricity using HVAC transmission. As the transmission distances get longer, electrical losses increase. At a certain point, it becomes more effective to convert the HVAC transmission to HVDC transmission as HVDC cables do not experience electrical losses of the same magnitude as HVAC cables. The electricity is then converted back to HVAC at a converter substation onshore.

The infrastructure required for both options is broadly similar, but HVDC transmission requires specific equipment for converting HVAC to HVDC electricity. This is done using an offshore converter station before being converted back to HVAC at an onshore converter station. The electricity is then connected to the national grid.

HVAC transmission in comparison may require up to two Reactive Compensation Platforms approximately midway between the offshore substation and the onshore substation site to house electrical equipment needed to stabilise the voltage of the electricity generated. Other differences include the number and size of the cables needed to deliver power to the national grid.

The floating wind turbines

The wind turbines have not yet been selected because turbine technology is advancing quickly and the models available at the time of construction will be more powerful and efficient than those available today. It is currently proposed that each wind turbine will individually have the capacity to produce up to 25 megawatts (MW) of power.



Depending on the final size of the wind turbines, the windfarm is expected to have between 126 and 225 turbines. The wind turbine specifications will vary depending on the size, as follows:

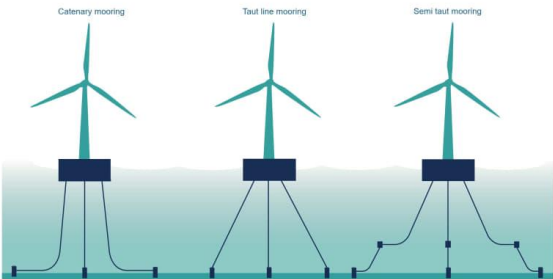
- Each wind turbine could have a **blade tip height up to 350m** from the water's surface, but as the windfarm will be located approximately 75km offshore at its nearest point, they will be barely visible from shore. The maximum rotor blade tip height depends on which turbine sizes are selected.
- The **maximum rotor diameter for a 25 MW wind turbine is expected to be around 326m**. Smaller turbine generating capacities are likely to have smaller rotor diameters. For the purposes of the EIA, MarramWind is assuming a maximum rotor diameter of 236m to 326m, depending on turbine size.
- Each wind turbine will have three blades, irrespective of turbine size. **The maximum rotor blade width is 5.1-10m and the maximum rotor blade length is 115-155m** depending on the selected turbine sizes.
- Navigational lighting will be installed** on the wind turbines and floating units to reduce navigational and aviation risk in low light conditions. The specifics of this will be in line with relevant regulations and agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency prior to installation.

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Mooring and anchoring systems

Each wind turbine will sit on a floating unit that will be held in place by a mooring and anchoring system. The design of the mooring and anchoring system will depend on the size of wind turbine and floating unit used. A maximum of eight mooring lines will be required per floating unit. The exact number will depend upon the preferred mooring design for each floating unit type. The anchor type will also depend on the soil conditions and the maximum loads that the anchor needs to be able to withstand. Studies will be undertaken to identify mooring and anchor designs suited to the site conditions and floating unit design. This will include geotechnical surveys to determine the locally specific soil conditions. Further information on the options being considered will be available in the EIA when we submit our application. The chosen mooring system will comply with regulations, including navigational safety, and consider effects on the seabed and marine life.

The mooring options currently being explored are catenary mooring, taut line mooring, and semi-taut mooring. The maximum worst case for the total mooring footprint will be calculated from the number of wind turbines, number of mooring lines, and anchor type dimensions. This will inform the assessments of benthic ecology, fish and shellfish ecology, and commercial fisheries.



Catenary moorings are more slack than other options, which make them suitable for areas where the water depth changes e.g. due to low or high tides. However, this option may involve the moorings resting directly on the seabed.

Taut line moorings are the tightest mooring lines. They take up less seabed space and are better at keeping the wind turbine stable.

Semi-taut moorings are a combination of the taut mooring system and catenary mooring system. This option has shorter mooring lines and requires less seabed space than the catenary system.

Decisions on the most appropriate anchoring and mooring solutions are yet to be made as product development is advancing quickly and the future supply chain at the time of construction will have moved on from current product availability.

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Offshore platforms and substations

Up to four offshore platforms will be necessary within the windfarm site to house electrical infrastructure, such as substation equipment or controls, and operational systems.

It is at these offshore platforms that the cables connecting the floating wind turbines connect to the cables that will transmit electricity to shore. The number of substations required for MarramWind will depend on whether the project chooses HVAC or HVDC technology (or a combination of both), and the layout of the windfarm site. If HVAC technology is used, additional equipment might be required to support electricity transmission. This equipment will be located on a maximum of two offshore platforms located at the approximate mid-point between the offshore substation and the onshore substation site.

Offshore accommodation options are being considered for project and operational personnel. This could be provided in a number of different ways, for example in a module within the offshore substation, on a walk to work vessel, or an accommodation barge/jack-up vessel.



Offshore and landfall cables

Electricity will be transmitted through offshore cables that connect the offshore windfarm with the onshore substation site and then the national grid. The voltage, number and size of the cables required will depend on whether HVAC or HVDC technology (or a combination of both) is used.

The offshore cables will be protected by burying them below the seabed for most of their length to landfill. In the few areas where cable protection cannot be achieved by cable burial, other methods will be used to protect them. This may include rock armour or concrete mattresses, the type, location and dimensions of which are yet to be determined and will be detailed in the EIA and marine licence application.

The maximum grid transmission route length offshore is 130-140km, depending on the precise locations of the landfall(s) and the offshore substation. The offshore cable corridor surveyed to date is typically 1-2km wide along most of its length. However, the final cable corridor width is dependent on the water depth and will therefore be narrower in shallower water depths closer to the shore. The cables will be laid by a cable laying vessel in sections and joined together. The cable laying vessel buries the cables 1-2m beneath the seabed wherever possible.

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Offshore Project Updates

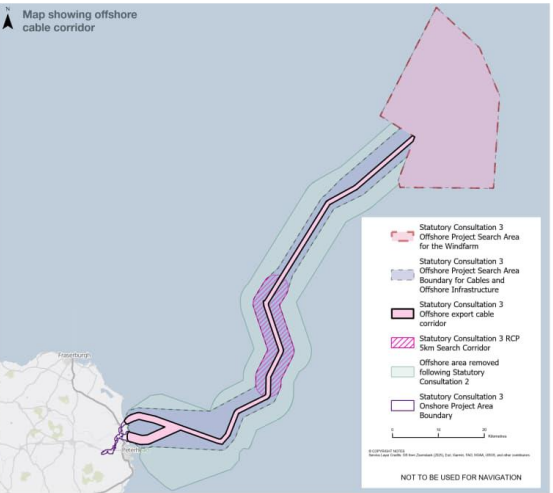
Since our first round of consultation, we have been working to refine our offshore project design. We have also been preparing to undertake collision risk modelling to determine the risk to seabirds from the wind turbines and analysing geophysical and environmental data obtained from the surveys we undertook in 2022 and 2023 to better understand the marine environment.

The offshore boundary includes the windfarm site itself and a broad potential offshore cable corridor for cables and offshore infrastructure between the windfarm and

the coast, as shown on the map below. This corridor sits within a wider offshore project search area, which will allow space for potential changes to the offshore cable corridor as a result of further assessments.

The windfarm site

The windfarm site covers the area of Plan Option NE7, which was identified for development by the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan - Offshore Wind Energy in 2020. The windfarm site is 684km² and has water depths ranging between 67m and 134m. Work is ongoing to determine the windfarm site layout and exact locations of the required infrastructure. We are considering environmental sensitivities, marine users, seabed conditions, water depths, and the presence of existing infrastructure. The layouts are also being reviewed to enable co-existence with other planned windfarm / infrastructure projects in the region.



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Offshore cable corridor

Cable routing work is also ongoing to identify the optimal route for the offshore cables between the windfarm site and landfall(s) on the coast. This considers environmental sensitivities that need to be avoided as well as factors that could limit the technical feasibility of installation. We are engaging closely with technical stakeholders, such as NatureScot, commercial fisheries groups, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to understand how MarramWind's construction and operation could interact with other marine users in Scottish waters and what we can do to reduce effects and maintain navigational safety.

Landfall

At our first round of consultation, three potential search areas were presented where landfall(s) could be located:

- Scotstown Beach, north of Peterhead;
- Lunderton, north of Peterhead; and
- Sandford Bay, south of Peterhead.

Taking into consideration stakeholder feedback and the results of additional environmental and technical assessments, we discounted the Sandford Bay landfall option and the onshore and offshore cable routing associated with Sandford Bay. This is due to the proximity of the landfall to the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) - a designated breeding ground for seabirds. Another key consideration that also informed this decision is the number of other projects in the vicinity that will limit space for routing the offshore and onshore cables and associated landfall infrastructure.

The offshore project search area boundary has also been refined further since our second round of consultation. A southerly cable corridor route that could connect to the Lunderton landfall near Peterhead was assessed further. This involved a feasibility assessment, that included, but not limited to associated impact of routing cables parallel to the shore, alongside a more detailed review of the survey output at Lunderton and Scotstown nearshore locations to better understand the constraints (incl competitive landscape).

Following the review, Scotstown Beach and Lunderton continue to be viewed as suitable locations for landfall(s) from environmental and technical perspectives, enabling the routing of the offshore and onshore cables and associated infrastructure.

The preferred solution is a single landfall site, however it is not possible to confirm this at this time. A final decision will be based on:

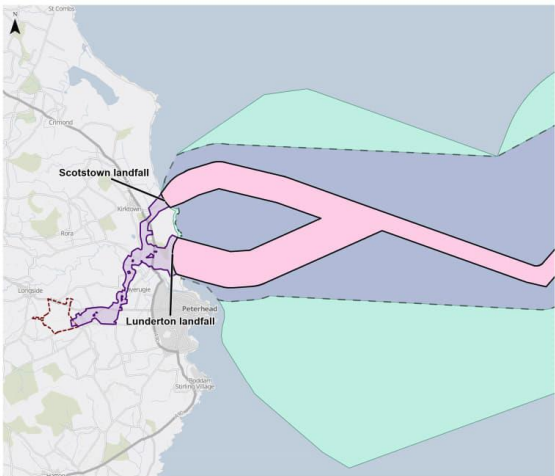
- competing needs (or coordination) across different developments in the area
- consideration of adequate space for cables coming onshore
- adequate space for onshore infrastructure required for the onward power transmission, such as construction compounds
- further engineering, environmental considerations and technical surveys
- stakeholder engagement.

The inclusion of multiple landfall options is intended to provide the project with the flexibility needed to secure sufficient space, in appropriate locations, to construct the landfall and associated onshore and offshore export cables necessary to facilitate a 3GW Project, whilst ensuring any cumulative environmental impact is kept to a minimum.



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Map of potential offshore cable corridors and landfall zones

- Statutory Consultation 3 Offshore export cable corridor
- Statutory Consultation 3 Offshore Project Search Area Boundary
- Statutory Consultation 3 Offshore Project Search Area Boundary for Cables and Offshore Infrastructure
- Offshore area removed following Statutory Consultation 2
- SSEN Netherton Hub Site Boundary

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

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Onshore Key Infrastructure

The onshore infrastructure includes an onshore substation site and onshore cables. The onshore cables run from landfall(s) to the onshore substation site and subsequently to the point of connection at the SSEN Netherton Hub substation.

The Project requires three onshore substations co-located on one site. There will be one onshore substation for each of the three Project phases.

Onshore cables

The cables will be laid underground within a cable corridor up to a maximum depth of 1.5m. Points of access will be required along the cable route for maintenance of the cables during operation. It is expected that the width of the temporary onshore cable construction corridor for the underground cable from landfall to the onshore substation site will be approximately 80m. From the onshore substation site to the point of connection at SSEN's Netherton Hub, the width of the temporary onshore cable construction corridor will be approximately 90m. Where HDD crossings are required, work areas will be up to 300m wide. Following cable installation the project will require permanent access rights for maintenance purposes.



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Onshore substation site

The onshore substation site is a key part of the project's transmission system. This is the point where the voltage level of the electricity generated by MarramWind is transformed to the voltage level required for the national grid.

The substations will be either fully or partially enclosed; the final configuration will be determined based on ongoing stakeholder consultation, detailed engineering design, and the outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Illustrative images of a fully and a partially enclosed substation site are shown on page 15. These images are not site specific and are illustrative only indicating the project requirements. The final design and layout will be determined as the project design evolves.

The substation infrastructure will comprise permanent access roads(s), outdoor and/or indoor high voltage electrical equipment, such as transformers, switchgear and, if necessary, equipment to convert HVDC into HVAC.

A transformer is electrical equipment that helps change the level of electricity voltage. Switchgear is electrical equipment that helps connect and disconnect the circuits from the electricity network.

The substation infrastructure will vary in height, with a maximum approximate height of up to 30m. Indoor equipment will be installed in several buildings. Work is ongoing to identify the best technical and environmental solutions, which will determine final equipment requirements and the substations' size.

The substation site could cover up to 15 hectares of land. A temporary construction area of approximately three hectares will also be required. Subject to the substation design, additional land will be required for drainage, environmental mitigation and landscaping.

Visual screening

In our ongoing efforts to minimise the visual effects of the substation on sensitive views, we have carefully considered the use of tree planting as a natural screening method. By strategically planting trees around the substation site, it would be possible to create a green buffer that blends with the surrounding landscape as the trees grow. This approach not only helps to soften the industrial appearance of the substation site but also enhances the overall aesthetic of the area.

For this approach we would select native tree species that are well-suited to the local environment, ensuring that they thrive and contribute positively to the ecosystem. These trees would grow over time to provide an effective visual barrier, reducing the substation site's visibility from key viewpoints. Additionally, the introduction of these green spaces would also support local wildlife and improve air quality, further demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship.



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Illustrative conceptual design for a partially enclosed substation site (without visual screening)



Illustrative conceptual design for a fully enclosed substation site (without visual screening)

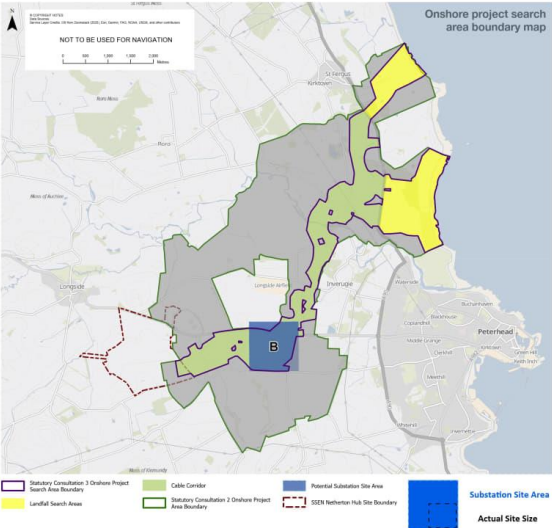


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Onshore Project Updates

We have been engaging closely with technical stakeholders, such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, and Aberdeenshire Council to understand the potential effects from MarramWind's construction and operation on the local area and what we can do to avoid or reduce these effects.

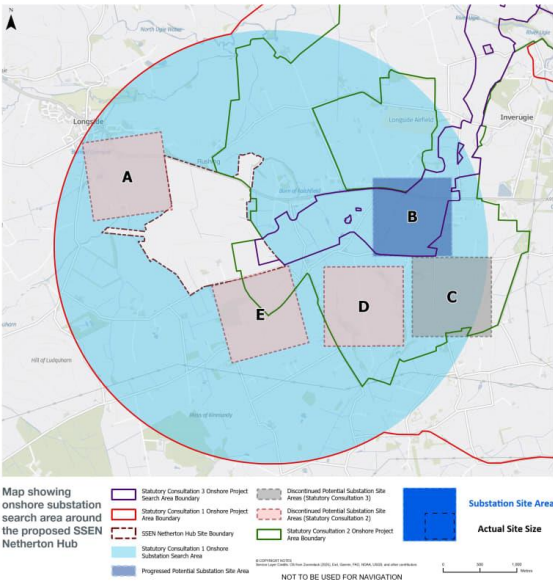
- The current onshore project search area boundary has been significantly refined following two rounds of public consultation in 2024. This reflects:
- that onshore substation site B has been selected from the five options presented in the first round of consultation;
 - the removal of Sandford Bay as a possible landfill;
 - confirmation that the project grid connection point will be in the southeastern corner of the SSEN Nethererton Hub site; and
 - refinement of the onshore cable corridor connecting landfill(s) to the substation site and subsequently to the SSEN Nethererton Hub.



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The map below shows the extent of the search area around the grid connection point at the proposed SSEN Nethererton Hub, as well as the previous five site options. The actual land required for the substation site will be smaller in size than shown by the dark blue square. Substation sites A, D and E were removed as potential locations following our first round of statutory consultation in 2024 taking into consideration stakeholder feedback and environmental and technical assessments.

Substation site C has now been discounted following the second round of statutory consultation in 2024 and further work to identify the most appropriate site. Option B is being taken forward as the preferred onshore substation for construction and operation. The outcome of this iterative design and site selection process will be reported on in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

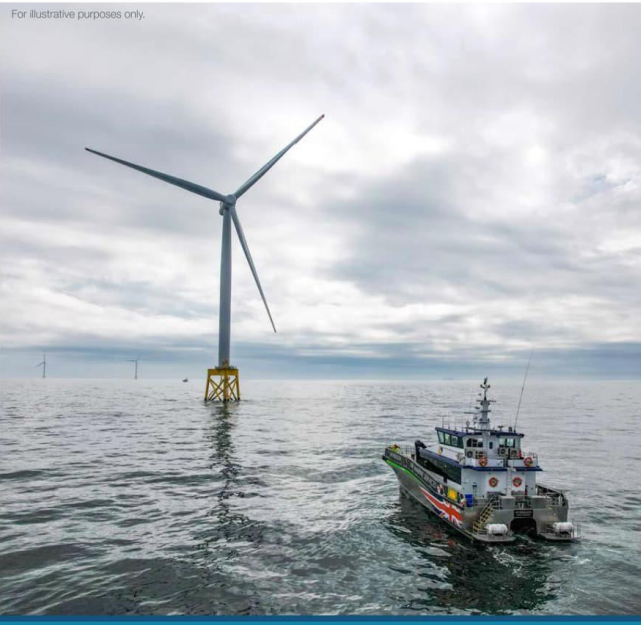


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Onshore cable corridor

With the removal of Sandford Bay as a landfill, there is no requirement for an onshore cable corridor from Sandford Bay to the onshore substation. The decision to use onshore substation site B has resulted in an cable corridor connecting the two landfill options to the north of Peterhead to onshore substation option site B. This is shown in green and brown respectively on the onshore project search area boundary map on page 16.

The preferred cable corridor takes into consideration stakeholder feedback and further assessment of local environmental and technical constraints. This allows us to develop a design that connects the chosen landfill(s) and the SSEN Nethererton Hub substation, via the chosen MarramWind onshore substation site.



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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment?

Before we can build MarramWind, we need to carefully consider the potential effects on the environment and local communities. To do this, we are completing a detailed EIA that will be presented within two EIA Reports – one focusing on onshore infrastructure (including onshore cables and onshore substations) and the other focusing on offshore infrastructure (including wind turbines, subsea cables, and any ancillary offshore equipment).

The EIA helps us understand any potential environmental effects from MarramWind, and how we can avoid or reduce them. The EIA is essential to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate, so that they can understand what is proposed before making their determination on the necessary consents.

Approach to assessments

In January 2023, we submitted our EIA Scoping Report to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate, which outlined the environmental assessments we proposed to undertake to identify the potential significant effects from the project. The Council and Scottish Ministers consulted with specialist stakeholders on the Scoping Report, covering various environmental topics and their feedback in their Scoping Opinion has been used to refine our assessment approach. The Scoping Report can be found on the MarramWind website at www.marramwind.co.uk.

We have undertaken an extensive programme of surveys to better understand current environmental conditions. Where available, we have provided information on the emerging baseline data findings in the section below. Alongside our surveys, we are also engaging with key stakeholders, including government and statutory consultees, on the various assessments

we are undertaking (as detailed in the following section). This allows these stakeholders to influence how we undertake the assessments so that the EIA meets their expectations.

The EIA assesses the likely significant effects of MarramWind for all project phases, including construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning. This is informing the siting and design of the onshore and offshore infrastructure. We are considering all potential significant effects to ensure that they are either avoided where possible or mitigated.

Full details of the survey work, the approach and findings of the assessments, and the proposed mitigation measures will be published in the publicly available EIA Reports that will form part of our application. The EIA Reports will allow Aberdeenshire Council and Marine Directorate, who will consider our applications, to make a well-informed decision on whether the project should be given permission to go ahead.

Approach to mitigation

From the outset, the environment has been central to the design of the Project. MarramWind is seeking to achieve a sustainable and environmentally appropriate design, one that will meet operational requirements at the same time as limiting the environmental effects of the Project as far as practicable.

In line with best practice MarramWind is applying the 'mitigation hierarchy' to address likely environmental impacts in sequential order: avoid, prevent, reduce/ mitigate or, lastly, offset impacts. The resulting embedded environmental measures are being incorporated within the Project and will be detailed in a Commitments Register which will be submitted in support of the consenting applications. These measures are being developed with input from key stakeholders, technical standards, policies and guidance. Relevant commitments will be secured through conditions attached to any consents and licences granted for the Project.



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Commercial Fisheries

Respondents to our first round of statutory consultation rated commercial fisheries in the top five most important offshore topics that we should be considering.

To understand the activities of commercial fishing operations in the region and the views of fishing representatives, the project meets on a quarterly basis with various fishing organisations. We also met with the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association, and individual inshore fishers during our first and second round of statutory consultation. These meetings highlighted an interest in understanding the potential for electro-magnetic fields around buried cables to influence crustacean distribution. The fishing representatives shared their knowledge of certain areas that are good grounds for scallopers, lobster pots, and trawling for white fish and prawns.

We continue to engage with fishing organisations on a regular basis to provide project updates and invite feedback on our approach.



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Shipping and navigation

We carried out vessel traffic surveys in August 2022 and January 2023. To keep our data up to date, we also completed additional surveys in July, August and November 2024. These surveys have helped us understand the patterns of other maritime users who pass through the windfarm site. This information is important as we prepare our Navigational Risk Assessment, following the guidelines set by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The assessment will include detailed baseline data from our vessel traffic surveys, ensuring the safety and coordination of all maritime activities in the area.

We will be engaging with key stakeholders to understand any potential hazards to users of the sea, including commercial, fishing and recreational vessel operators. The Navigational Risk Assessment will provide mitigation measures required to ensure the project is safe for all users. Additionally, during construction and later during decommissioning, exclusion zone(s) will be used to protect operations and other marine users. The extent of the exclusion zone(s) will be subject to operational needs and stakeholder engagement at the time of exclusion zone(s) application.

Onshore landscape and visual

Respondents to our first two rounds of consultation rated onshore landscape and visual considerations as a key topic that we should be considering.

We have undertaken onshore landscape and visual surveys in the project area boundary to better understand the local landscape character, key characteristics, landscape elements and visually sensitive areas.

We are moving forward with onshore substation site B as our preferred location. This site was chosen because it sits closer to existing infrastructure, which helps it blend more naturally into the surrounding landscape and reduces its overall visual impact. Site B also offers better opportunities for planting and landscaping, both on and off the site, which will help screen the substation site from view over time, with most effects expected to be significantly reduced within 10 to 15 years. The layout of the site allows for careful placement of buildings to minimise visibility from nearby roads and homes, using thoughtful design and landscaping techniques.

Offshore wildlife and habitats

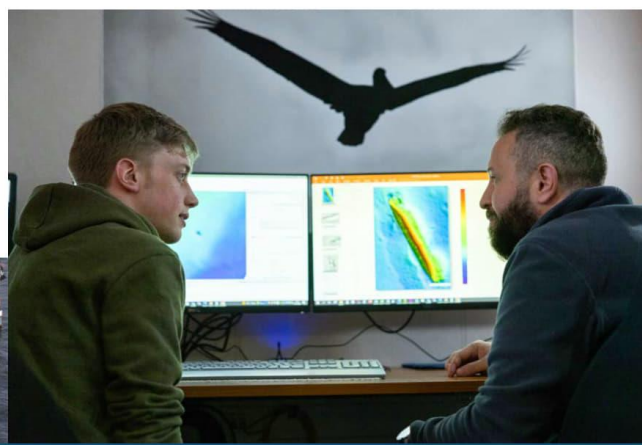
We have already undertaken various offshore surveys and studies to understand the distribution of marine habitats and local marine wildlife. This has included:

- Digital Aerial Surveys to better understand the seasonal distribution of birds and marine mammals. This involved two years of offshore surveys using planes equipped with ultra-high-definition cameras;
- a Marine Environmental Survey to map seabed habitats and species. We will design the offshore wind turbines layout and cables to avoid environmentally sensitive areas; and
- as part of our environmental surveys, we've been trialling new techniques like environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. By testing water for traces of DNA, we can detect a range of species – including fish, vertebrates, and invertebrates – without needing to capture them.

We have further studies to undertake to inform the EIA, which include:

- underwater noise modelling, undertaken in the coming year to study sound levels during construction and operation, helping us minimise effects on marine mammals;
- fish and shellfish data analysis which, along with engagement with key organisations, will ensure our EIA is comprehensive;
- wave modelling to model potential changes to waves caused by the windfarm; and
- working with experts to understand the effects of electro-magnetic fields (EMF) on marine species like fish, crabs, and lobsters, to help us develop mitigation measures if needed. EMFs are invisible areas of electrical energy associated with the use of electrical power.

Good practice measures will be followed to minimise potential effects on water quality during construction. Measures will be described in bespoke environmental management documents which provide details on how to manage, monitor, control and report any incidents.



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Onshore wildlife and habitats

Respondents to our first round of consultation rated onshore wildlife, including birds and environmental protection (for both onshore and landfall), as important topics for consideration.

Over the past two years, we have conducted a comprehensive ecological study, including both desk research and field surveys, to inform the potential siting of onshore infrastructure. Surveys have been undertaken to identify local habitats and animal species, including two years of breeding and winter geese surveys, and collation of protected species data for otter, water vole, bats, and fish habitats.

Wherever possible, we will avoid identified resting, roosting, commuting or foraging sites of protected or notable species, as well as sensitive seasonal periods for wildlife. For instance, seasonal restrictions could be implemented to restrict our works if they are considered to cause significant disturbance to waterbirds that use agricultural land close to landfalls). Habitats of high value, such as certain types of woodland, wetland or river habitats, and dune habitats will be avoided wherever possible.

In addition to these measures, a Nature Positive Strategy (NPS) has been developed, which sets out how MarramWind intends to measure, monitor and enhance biodiversity. The NPS will be used to develop a Nature Positive Plan (NPP), which will describe the measures to be developed, implemented, monitored and reported throughout the project life cycle.



Onshore water environment

The project area features various water bodies, including rivers, ditches and ponds. It is also home to a Drinking Water Protection Area, and the River Ugie, whose tributaries are designated as important surface water bodies. These water bodies must maintain a good status by addressing ecological and chemical conditions.

We have identified several private water supplies, such as springs and wells, as well as flood risk zones and Water Framework Directive (WFD) water bodies. We have also undertaken ecological surveys to map aquatic habitats.

During construction, we will follow industry good practice for pollution prevention and will avoid construction works close to watercourse channels. For sensitive areas, such as the River Ugie, we will use techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to install cables below watercourses. HDD is a trenchless construction method for installing cables used where it is necessary to cross sensitive features, such as watercourses or roads without disturbing them. The cables are then pulled through via entry and exit pits. We are also committed to maintaining the existing field drainage systems during construction and reinstating them once work is complete.

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Cultural heritage

Archaeology and cultural heritage continue to inform the ongoing design changes. We are dedicated to protecting cultural heritage assets and aim to avoid or minimise any potential harm to these important sites, both onshore and offshore. Any new discoveries we make will be shared with the public, contributing to a better understanding of Scotland's history and archaeological resources.

We have been undertaking surveys to obtain data crucial for identifying and protecting cultural and heritage assets offshore, ensuring that sensitive and significant sites are avoided. Our survey methods include the use of sound waves to create detailed images of the seabed and what lies on and below it.

We also monitor magnetic fields (magnetometry) to detect objects containing iron, such as shipwrecks. Additionally, sub-bottom imaging helps us uncover environmental information about submerged landscapes before sea levels rose thousands of years ago.

As we move closer towards our construction phase, we will conduct a more detailed survey of the offshore cable route and wind turbine site to further identify and avoid cultural heritage and archaeological assets. Our surveys have already discovered several previously unknown shipwrecks, which we will carefully avoid. When significant wrecks are found, we notify Historic Environment Scotland to ensure appropriate management strategies are put in place for their preservation.

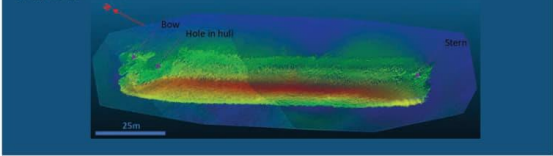


An underwater discovery

Data gathered by sonar scans carried out during geophysical and environmental surveys for MarramWind has identified the likely resting place of the SS Tobol, which was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1917.

The shipwreck believed to be that of Tobol was among several discovered during the survey works for the 3GW windfarm being developed by ScottishPower and Shell. The ship was built in Sunderland at the turn of the 20th century and was operated as the SS Cheltenham by a steamer company until it was captured by Russian warships in 1904. A year later, it was transferred to the Russian Imperial Navy and renamed SS Tobol after the river in Russia, before being relocated to the Russian Volunteer Fleet in 1916. It was torpedoed by the German U-boat U-52 on 11 September 1917 while sailing from Blyth to Arkhangelsk.

After its discovery, an exclusion zone of 250 metres was put in place around the wreck – which is 100m long, 22.5m wide and 10.5m high and appears to be in good condition – to protect it during the MarramWind survey works.



Traffic and transport

As part of our substation site selection process, we have reviewed the local road network to understand effects from our construction and operation vehicles. The substation site is located near the A950. The A950 provides good access to the substation construction site from the A90. By choosing this substation site, construction traffic will use the A90 and A950 which will minimise effects on the road network and nearby communities as the access routes primarily pass through sparsely populated rural areas.

We will work with Transport Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council to assess and develop measures to mitigate any short-term effects on the road network to be used for construction access. Management and mitigation plans will be developed and will include a commitment to working with other contractors to manage effects of MarramWind and other sites being developed at the same time. The plans will include enforcement of any restrictions on delivery timings to minimise the effect on people, wildlife, and buildings located nearby the proposed construction access route.

Operation, maintenance and decommissioning of MarramWind are not expected to have any noticeable long-term effects on the local road network.

Air quality

The air quality in Peterhead and the wider Aberdeenshire area is very good. Aberdeenshire Council has been monitoring air quality across the region for many years, and the results consistently show that air quality levels are well within safe limits.

Potential effects on air quality from MarramWind could arise from temporary construction activities, including construction traffic and dust along the exposed cable route and excavation points. These activities will be short-term only and appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to address any issues.

Noise and vibration

The construction and decommissioning phases of MarramWind could generate noise and vibration, such as construction traffic and excavation points. These activities will be relatively short-term and appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place through a Construction Environmental Management Plan to reduce the levels of noise and vibration.

The operational phase of MarramWind has the potential to generate noise, particularly those in the vicinity of the onshore substation site. As part of the operational phase noise assessment, baseline sound surveys will be undertaken at sensitive locations around the onshore substation site. The operational noise levels likely to be generated by MarramWind will be predicted and, where necessary, mitigation measures to reduce the noise emissions will be considered.

Greenhouse gases and climate change

During our first round of consultation, the majority of respondents agreed that offshore windfarms are an important part of the solution for addressing climate change.

Although MarramWind will be providing renewable energy, some greenhouse gas emissions will be emitted during the construction and installation of the infrastructure, as well as from the maintenance and decommissioning of the project. A full project life cycle assessment of greenhouse gas emissions will be undertaken to identify appropriate mitigation measures. As part of our project's commitment to sustainable development and environmental enhancements, we will be continuously looking for opportunities to incorporate measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions during construction and maintenance where feasible. Measures such as these will be reported within a carbon assessment as a part of the EIA.

Aviation

As part of our commitment to responsible development, the project is undertaking a comprehensive aviation and radar impact assessment. We have commissioned a leading consultancy in aviation and renewable energy to conduct this crucial work. They will assess the potential effect of the windfarm on both civil and military aviation, including airspace users and radar systems. This will involve in-depth research, analysis, and engagement with key stakeholders to develop effective mitigation strategies that ensure the safe coexistence of the windfarm with aviation operations. The findings of this assessment will be incorporated into the EIA.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

A HRA is legally required to be undertaken where there is potential for a project to affect certain types of nature conservation sites of national or international importance.

The conservation sites considered in HRA are:

- **Special Areas of Conservation** (including those proposed but not yet formally designated), which are designated for the presence of "qualifying features". These may include specific habitats, combinations of habitats, species or groups of species, or combinations of these;
- **Special Protection Areas (SPA)** (including those proposed but not yet formally designated), which are designated for the presence of "qualifying features". These may include bird species that are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or requiring protection due to their habitat needs. Migratory bird species are also included as qualifying features in some SPAs; and
- **Ramsar Sites**, which are designated for wetland habitats that support important communities of birds. The presence of "qualifying features" are defined by criteria set out in the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention). These are typically wetland habitats that support important communities of birds. In July 2025 the Scottish Government formally included Ramsar Sites within the HRA regime.

What we have already done?

On 16th August 2024 the project team submitted the HRA Screening Report to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate for review and consultation as the competent authorities with responsibility for HRA. This report explains the HRA process and identifies the sites that could be affected by the project.

Consultation responses were received from organisations including NatureScot and RSPB Scotland and the Project received the HRA Screening Opinion on 5th November 2024.

Next steps

The Screening Opinion from Aberdeenshire Council and Marine Directorate helps to inform the next stage of the HRA.

Where HRA Screening identifies the potential for "likely significant effects" on relevant designated sites, it is necessary for an Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken to assess whether the project would have an "adverse effect" on these designated sites. The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment must be reached beyond scientific doubt.

We have started to prepare a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment, which will be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate alongside the EIA to support the consenting applications. We also intend to submit a Without Prejudice Derogation Case to address the implications of any predicted adverse effects on relevant designated sites, including the provision of ecological compensation measures if required.

The Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment and Without Prejudice Derogation Case will be made publicly available upon submission.

This report explains the HRA process and identifies the sites that could be affected by the project.

Consultation responses were received from organisations including NatureScot and RSPB Scotland and the Project received the HRA Screening Opinion on 5th November 2024.



How Will MarramWind Be Built?

Project Programme

Construction works are anticipated to start in the early 2030s, subject to consent. Given the scale of the project, construction may involve phased installation of both the onshore and offshore infrastructure over the course of the construction phase. It is anticipated that the infrastructure necessary for each phase will be installed sequentially. For example, each of the three onshore substations will be constructed to align with the phased energisation of the wind turbines and the associated installation of the onshore export cables. We will consider all options to minimise the impacts of a phased construction.

The total construction phase for the offshore infrastructure within the windfarm site, including the offshore wind turbines, is anticipated to be between eight and twelve years, but the timeline will be refined as details emerge about the project phasing design and supply chain availability. The offshore cables and landfalls associated with each phase of the wind farm will be installed towards the beginning of that phase's construction.

Offshore

Offshore cables

Before the installation of any offshore cables, the seabed will be prepared and cleared of obstacles, such as debris and boulders. The offshore cables will then be laid 1-2m beneath the seabed wherever possible by cable laying vessels in sections and joined together. Burial protects the cables from damage, with other protection methods such as concrete mattresses or rock berms used where burial is not possible.

Wind turbine installation

It is expected that the wind turbines will be assembled onto their floating unit at a port and then towed to site and connected to the pre-installed anchor and mooring system. Should there be advances in wind turbine installation it may be that turbines could be installed on the floating unit offshore.

Offshore substations

The foundations for the offshore substations will be built near to a port and transported to site for installation, which is likely to require the use of specialist heavy lift vessels. Once the foundations are installed to the seabed, the platform topsides, i.e. the substations and associated infrastructure, can be lifted into place.

Offshore worker accommodation

The accommodation of crew will typically be on onboard vessels, such as construction vessels and service operation vessels (SOVs), but may also be housed on walk-to-work vessels or jack-ups, more likely associated with substation commissioning, operation and maintenance.

The role of ports

Ports are central to the development of offshore wind, serving as a location for component manufacturing, assembly, storage and/or marshalling ahead for transit to the wind turbine site. Operation and maintenance activities are also dependent upon suitable ports.

We continue to engage with a range of key stakeholders, including port operators, local authorities, the Scottish Government and its agencies, to explore options for port utilisation and stay abreast of plans for port expansion. We are considering a range of port facilities that may be required for the installation and operation of MarramWind. Once the project designs are further developed, we will have a clearer understanding of our port requirements.

Port infrastructure improvements or expansion may be necessary to support MarramWind's construction and operation, which will be determined by the technologies selected by the project. These, along with other effects from port operations related to MarramWind, will be subject to assessment and will be authorised under separate consenting exercises.

Landfall

Landfall is the connection point between the offshore cables and onshore infrastructure. How landfall is constructed depends on the chosen landfall(s), coastline features, and other technical or environmental constraints.

How landfall is constructed depends on the chosen landfall(s), coastline features, and other technical or environmental constraints.

The cables at landfall(s) will be buried and installed using a trenchless method, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). Open cut construction requires a visible trench along the surface of the ground. This approach was included in previous statutory consultation rounds, but has now been discounted due to environmental considerations.

At the shoreline, the maximum width of land required to install the cables will be 345m. The onshore part of the landfall(s) will include up to six underground transition joint bays where the offshore and onshore cables are joined together. The offshore cable laying vessel will approach the shore then the marine cables will be pulled into the transition joint bays by machinery within a temporary onshore construction compound.

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This compound will be located above M-HWS at the landfill(s). The land will be reinstated after completion of the construction phase. An inspection chamber or equivalent permanent access arrangement may be left in place at the transition joint bays. The location of the compound at the landfill/s is still to be determined.

Access to landfill construction site(s) may require temporary access routes and/or the strengthening of existing roadways. Construction vehicles accessing the temporary landfill construction areas will require access routes from the A90 for delivery and removal of construction materials.

Onshore

Onshore cables

The temporary cable construction corridor is expected to be 80m wide from landfill to the onshore substation (accommodating up to six underground cables) and 90m wide from the onshore substation to the national grid (up to seven underground cables). This will provide access to construction traffic, and space for cable assembly, trench excavation and storage space for excavated soil. The temporary corridor may require extending beyond this width in certain locations to provide space for access at crossings, avoidance of obstacles, and up to 300m wide at HDD crossings.

Up to three primary and six secondary construction compounds will be required close to the onshore cable corridor. These will be logistic hubs and will include welfare facilities, storage, accommodation building materials, parking, and site offices. We will identify where these will be located through environmental and technical assessments and stakeholder engagement.

A number of temporary construction compounds will be required to enable the construction of joint bays and installation of underground cables.

Underground cables and associated ducts may be laid in either a single operation in trenches, or ducts may be installed in the trenches to allow the cables to be subsequently pulled through at a later stage. The trench is then backfilled. This approach requires the need to undertake repeat excavations. Following cable installation, haul roads and any construction compounds will be removed. Where it is necessary

to cross sensitive features, such as watercourses, roads and railways crossings, trenchless construction methods such as HDD will be used to install ducts under the crossed feature. The cables are then pulled through via entry and exit pits.

The underground cables will be installed in sections. Joint bays will therefore be required at intervals along the cable route to enable the cable installation and connection process. These joint bays will be underground structures with a link box located at or above ground level. Link boxes enable electrical checks and testing to be carried out during operation.

We will develop temporary access routes along the cable corridor from existing roads so that construction vehicles can deliver and remove construction materials.

Onshore substation site infrastructure

The onshore substation site infrastructure will require site preparation works, installation of foundations for cables, pipes and equipment, construction of substation buildings, installation and commissioning of electrical equipment, drainage, environmental mitigation and landscaping. The onshore substation infrastructure will be built within the designated site boundary over an anticipated construction period of approximately nine years. Site access will be required, including for the delivery of construction materials and electrical components, so an access road(s) will be constructed. Up to three primary and six secondary construction compounds will also be required but will be dismantled and the land reinstated when the construction work is complete.

Most construction vehicles accessing the substation site will include HGVs, concrete mixer trucks, and vans. However, there will be a small number of abnormal loads to enable the delivery of large electrical equipment such as the electrical transformers.

Onshore worker accommodation

The accommodation requirements for onshore construction workers will be carefully considered but are not yet determined. However, the potential effects on accommodation as well as local community facilities and services will be assessed as part of a socio-economic impact assessment. This approach ensures any potential effects on the community are identified and managed.

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MarramWind in Operation

MarramWind is expected to begin generating electricity in the 2030s, with energisation occurring in line with the project's grid connection agreement and up to the maximum connection capacity of 3GW.

Operational maintenance

When MarramWind is in operation, periodic testing of the onshore cables is likely to be carried out. This will require access points to the link boxes along the cable route, which will involve attendance by light vehicles. The vehicles will gain access using existing field access points.

The onshore substation site is unlikely to be permanently staffed, although some maintenance and operational visits will be required. Infrequently, equipment may need to be maintained or replaced and HGVs may be used.

For the offshore elements of MarramWind, maintenance requirements will depend on the infrastructure used, the type of wind turbine, floating platforms, electrical transmission infrastructure, and final layout of the windfarm.

Maintenance will typically be undertaken via an SOV. Helicopters or other specialised vessels may also be used where necessary to prevent damage to equipment, prevent and repair corrosion, and carry out all necessary repairs to maintain safe operation of the windfarm. For major component repair, it may be necessary to tow turbines to port, although technologies are being developed to prevent the need for this.

Approach to decommissioning

Decommissioning MarramWind will begin at the end of its operational life. It is anticipated that each phase of the MarramWind project will operate for up to 35 years.

Decommissioning MarramWind is anticipated to involve the removal of all offshore infrastructure above the seabed. The cables could be removed or left in place to minimise environmental effects and offshore navigational safety risks associated with their removal. The onshore substation site is likely to be removed and the site then reinstated.

We will develop the project in a sustainable manner and will consider both operation and decommissioning during design and development. The decommissioning works are likely to be undertaken in reverse of the construction process of MarramWind. A decommissioning programme will be developed to define the decommissioning methodologies that might be used. It will be updated prior to construction and updated during the operational phase of the project to account for any changes to industry best practice, relevant legislation and policy, or developments in technology.



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Benefits and Opportunities

MarramWind presents an opportunity to generate social, economic, and environmental value, particularly for communities in the North-East of Scotland.

As one of the world's largest floating offshore wind farms, MarramWind will play an important role in decarbonising the Scottish and UK economies, and generating renewable power equivalent to the demand of 3.5 million homes. This nationally significant energy project also offers a sizable opportunity to generate regional and local socioeconomic value, particularly for communities in the North-East of Scotland. This value will be in the form of:

- The contracts made by the project throughout its development, construction, and operations;
- Investments made in any infrastructure enhancements needed by the project (e.g., ports), which deliver wider benefits to other users; and
- Community benefit funding once the project enters into operation.

We are committed to developing MarramWind in a manner that sees as much of the value of the wind farm retained within the North-East, Scotland and wider UK, while also balancing the need to maintain cost-competitiveness, manage risk and ensure we have reliable supply chains. MarramWind's £25m Supply Chain Stimulus fund was created in recognition of the potential that exists within Scottish businesses to support offshore wind development, but also the need to grow Scotland's supply chain capabilities and capacity to realise this potential.

To date, over 90% of MarramWind's total supply chain expenditure been with UK registered companies, including over 40% with Scotland registered companies. The project's intentions to maintain ambitious levels of Scottish and UK supply chain expenditure are set out in the MarramWind Supply Chain Development statement, an updated version of which is due for submission to Crown Estate Scotland in 2026.

Supporting Supply Chain Development

Since being awarded development rights for the MarramWind site in 2022, we have undertaken a range of activities to help raise awareness of future supply chain opportunities and support supply chain development more broadly. These include:

- Running a supply chain opportunities event in Peterhead in December 2023 with the DeepWind cluster;
- Meeting supply chain companies at national and regional industry conferences;
- Launching the enhanced MarramWind Supplier Interest Portal in July 2024, used to help companies target future events, activities and contract opportunities;
- Providing ongoing support to Scotland's Strategic Investment Model, which seeks to build the case for investment in vital new supply chain facilities and port infrastructure;
- Supporting the development of a new Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council study into the socioeconomic opportunities from Scottish offshore wind;
- Engaging with Scotland's enterprise agencies; and
- Continued engagement with public and private sector partners to explore opportunities to support the growth of Scotland's offshore wind industry

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Employment and skills

The growth of Scottish offshore wind will create opportunities for people entering the workforce or pursuing a new career, particularly those from the oil and gas sector. MarramWind will provide more information on increased demand for local labour when the opportunities from MarramWind are better known.

Jobs opportunities and skills development were highlighted as high priorities by respondents to consultation rounds 1 and 2, when asked how MarramWind could leave a positive legacy for the area.

To help local communities take advantage of these opportunities, we will continue working with education facilities to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects to encourage interest from young people. We are exploring opportunities to support STEM and skills outreach activities, focussed on raising awareness of future offshore wind career opportunities within North-East Scotland. These will build and expand upon our ongoing support for the National Energy Skills Accelerator.

Community Benefit Fund

ScottishPower and Shell take pride in being part of the communities surrounding our energy projects and we want the communities in North-East Scotland to benefit from a future powered by renewable energy.

Feedback received during our first round of statutory consultation ranked the creation of a Community Benefit Fund as the most important opportunity to support community projects and groups in the local area.

Over the coming months and years, we will work with stakeholders to determine how such benefits will be delivered.



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Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement and consultation is a critical part of the development of MarramWind. We are committed to developing an offshore windfarm in a considered way that is sensitive to the needs and expectations of local stakeholders and communities whilst creating long-lasting benefits and opportunities on a local and national level.

From the early stages of the development of MarramWind, we have been engaging extensively with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders across the north-east of Scotland, as well as members of the local community. Some of the engagement activities we have undertaken to date include:

- hosting a drop-in day for the local community to learn about the project and meet the team;
- attending the Floating Offshore Wind conference in Aberdeen to build stronger coordination with other developers;
- hosting a supply chain event with the DeepWind cluster in Peterhead;
- meetings with local Councillors;
- attending a fisheries awareness day with the Scottish Fishermen's Federation;
- organising an OffshoreWind4Kids event with Clerkhill Primary School;
- engaging with Buchan Development Partnership, which is an independent, community-led initiative working with communities across Buchan;
- supporting Aberdeenshire Council's 2040 vision business development event;
- meeting with Community Councils; and
- working in partnership with Aberdeen Science Centre to fund 142 pupils from Peterhead to learn more about the floating offshore wind industry.

Statutory consultation

In 2024, we conducted two rounds of consultations for the MarramWind project. These included online presentations and in-person events in Peterhead and Longside. We also created a virtual exhibition space on our website. These platforms allowed local community members and other interested parties to share their thoughts and help shape the project.

Nearly 300 people from Aberdeenshire, representing various backgrounds, participated and provided valuable feedback. Our project team has reviewed and analysed this feedback to guide the next steps in refining and developing the project.

A summary of the feedback we received and our responses can be found on pages 32 and 33.

Engaging with other developers

We are aware of the scale of energy developments planned for the Peterhead area. As such, we are taking a proactive approach to engagement with other developers to discuss current plans and consider opportunities where we can work together as a collective to coordinate development. Where potential overlaps in proposed infrastructure are emerging, we are initiating discussions with these developers so that plans are taken forward sensitively and to ensure potential effects on the surrounding communities and environment are minimised as much as possible.

We are also actively involved in the Peterhead Developers Forum. The Forum consists of a variety of consists of a variety of energy projects involved in floating offshore wind, carbon capture and storage, and electricity transmission. Being a member allows us to meet regularly to coordinate plans, share best practice and address stakeholder issues. We are committed to open communication and will continue to work with other developers to identify potential synergies and optimise the project infrastructure development process while ensuring the technical viability and integrity of each project.

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Summary of feedback from statutory consultation 2

Issues raised	MarramWind response
1. Landfall The potential for local villages being cut off due to onshore infrastructure, with suggestions to use Lunderton for landfall to minimise impact on fishing and to employ Horizontal Directional Drilling for the shore.	A construction traffic management plan will be implemented to minimise impacts on local roads, and the landfall and onshore export cable infrastructure will be underground, ensuring no restriction of access to the coast. Landfall selection considers various factors, with Scotstown remaining an option despite near shore constraints. A trenchless method of installation will be employed, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). The final trenchless method of drilling will be dependent on ground conditions, particularly in the nearshore area where this is known bedrock.
2. Offshore infrastructure Suggestions that offshore power remain offshore via switching stations, with trenching and rock dumping over cable corridors to mitigate magnetic fields' effects on wildlife. Additionally, avoiding sonar surveys is recommended to prevent whale breaches.	Offshore power must come onshore to meet demand, with grid connection locations determined by NESO and TSOs. While offshore switching stations are still in development, the project plans to bury cables to protect marine habitats, using other protection methods where burial isn't possible. Environmental surveys will be risk-assessed to mitigate impacts on sensitive marine species.
3. Benefits and opportunities Suggestions that MarramWind offers reduced energy prices for local residents and invests in new and existing community facilities.	We are in the early stages of designing our Community Benefit Fund, which is likely to launch when the wind farm becomes operational in the 2030s. We value the suggestions received during the statutory consultation process and will use them to shape the fund. MarramWind believes local people know best what their communities need. Therefore, we will continue to engage and consult with local stakeholders to ensure the fund addresses local priorities and delivers tangible benefits.
4. Construction Suggestion to occasionally open the landfall site for community viewing. Questions regarding the impact of the project workforce on local services like housing and healthcare.	We will consider opening the landfall site for community viewing and keep locals informed throughout the project. A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed with Aberdeenshire Council to manage construction traffic and minimize disruption. The Socio-Economic Chapter of the EIA will assess the demand for community facilities, and a Socio-Economic Action Plan will outline our commitments, including local needs assessments and opportunities for supply chains and skills development. MarramWind is dedicated to enhancing local employment, offering apprenticeships and trainee roles, and advertising jobs early to ensure local participation.

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5. Landscape and visual

The potential for proposed infrastructure to impact on the rural landscape and affect tourism, agriculture, and forestry.

We are conducting a landscape design and visual impact assessment to minimise proximity to properties and fit better with the existing landscape along the A950 corridor. Mitigation techniques, including planting and architectural strategies, will screen the substation site and enhance the area's ecology and visual quality. We aim to design, construct, and operate the onshore infrastructure sensitively, improving biodiversity and creating a clean and coordinated appearance that enhances the area.

6. Fishing

Short and long-term effects of offshore cables on the local inshore fishing industry and seabed habitats, including impacts on lobster, crab, and velvet crab. It is suggested to conduct fishing assessments before and after cable installation to monitor these effects.

The EIA will evaluate the effects of the project on the local inshore fishing industry, including the cumulative impacts of offshore cabling on marine habitats and species. This assessment will cover:

- Habitat disturbance
- Sediment release
- Invasive species
- Electro-magnetic fields (EMF)

We are actively engaging with fishing organisations to gather insights on productive fishing grounds and the effects of EMF on crustaceans.

A Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring, and Communication Plan (FMMCP) will be developed. This plan will include:

- Monitoring fisheries statistics and data
- Consulting with the fishing industry
- Conducting species-specific surveys based on advice from the Marine Directorate and NatureScot

7. Wildlife and habitats

Cumulative impact of offshore cables on seabed habitats. It is suggested to use trenching and rock dumping over the cable corridor to reduce the effect of magnetic fields on wildlife and habitats.

The EIA Report will assess the cumulative effects of offshore cabling on marine habitats. The project plans to bury offshore cables to protect them and avoid disrupting marine habitats, using other protection methods only when burial isn't possible. The EIA will consider an option for rock placement instead of burial in the nearshore areas and will be subject to further discussions with fishing groups during the design phase.

8. Consultation and engagement

The need for ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, knowledgeable of the local community's needs.

We've been working closely with local experts and stakeholders since we started developing the project. In 2024, we held two rounds of public consultations to shape the project's design at an early stage, and we are conducting two further consultation rounds to discuss environmental measures and enhancing the project's benefits for Peterhead's communities.

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Have Your Say

Providing your feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read through our proposals. Now that you have more information on the proposed MarramWind offshore windfarm, we want you to share your feedback with us and let us know what you think. Your feedback is important to us and all feedback received will be considered. You can provide your feedback through one of the following ways:

- Using the feedback form within the virtual exhibition space on our website www.marramwind.co.uk.
- Email us your comments at stakeholder@marramwind.com.
- Fill in a paper feedback form. These will be available throughout the consultation period at Aberdeenshire Council's Buchan House building in Peterhead.
- Write to us at **FREEPOST MarramWind**.

This consultation will run from **18 August 2025 to 11:59pm 9 September 2025**. Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered. We cannot respond to every response received individually.

We believe transparency in our decision making is important and we want to ensure that local stakeholders can see how their feedback has been considered in the development of the project's final design. We will present feedback from all our statutory consultation activities in 2024 and 2025, and provide information on how it was considered, in a Pre-Application Consultation Report covering both onshore and offshore elements of the project. This will be published as part of our consent application.

Comments made to us at this stage are not formal representations to the Planning Authority or the Scottish Ministers. Following the submission of our planning applications, which we intend to submit in late 2025, you will have further opportunity to make representations to Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate, who will determine whether to grant planning permission and other required consents for the Project.

Consultation event

We will be holding one public consultation event during the consultation period, which we welcome members of the local community and other stakeholders to attend. Members of our project team will be available to provide more information and answer any questions you may have.

The event will take place on:

- **Wednesday 27 August 2025, 2pm – 7pm**, Palace Hotel, Prince St, Peterhead AB42 1PL

Next steps

1. The feedback received as part of this consultation will be used to further refine detailed design considerations, approaches to mitigating effects of the project, and maximising the socio-economic opportunities of the project.
2. A further period of statutory consultation will take place between **14 October – 4 November 2025**, with an in-person event on **28 October 2025** at Longside Football Club.
3. We will submit our consent applications at the end of 2025 to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate who will determine whether to grant permission for the project. During the representation period of the determination, you will have further opportunity to comment on our proposals for MarramWind.

Staying updated

For the latest information on MarramWind or to stay up to date with future engagement events, please

- Visit our website www.marramwind.co.uk
- Follow us on X at [@MarramWind](https://twitter.com/MarramWind), or
- Email us at stakeholder@marramwind.com if you have any questions not covered in the consultation materials

Glossary

Accommodation platform: an offshore platform that supports living quarters for offshore personnel.

Crown Estate Scotland: manages the Scottish Crown Estate on behalf of Scottish Ministers, including most of the seabed off Scotland's coasts.

Decommissioning plan: a plan describing the removal of offshore infrastructure at the end of its useful life, plus disposal of equipment.

Digital aerial surveys: photography taken from a plane to collect data on a variety of wildlife including birds, marine mammals and fish.

Ecological: relating to the environments of living things or to the relationships between living things and their environments.

Electricity transmission: the transmission of electricity via cables from the turbines to the substations.

Energy security: Having a reliable and diverse supply of energy to meet demands.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): the evaluation of how the planned project might affect the natural surroundings, living organisms, and people throughout its construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning.

Floating unit: a floating structure on which the wind turbine is installed, providing it with buoyancy and stability.

Gigawatt: a gigawatt (GW) is a unit of power equal to one billion watts. It is a measure of the rate at which energy is generated or consumed per unit of time.

Habitat: the natural environment in which an animal or plant usually lives.

High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC): a type of high voltage electrical current, in which the direction of the flow of charge changes back and forth at regular intervals or cycles. In the UK it works at 50 cycles per second. The majority of the UK electricity grid is HVAC.

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC): a high voltage electrical current that flows in the same direction.

Holistic Network Design (HND): a coordinated network design exercise completed by the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) that provides a recommended offshore and onshore design for connection of offshore wind projects to the UK electricity network. This is an NGESO process that has been established to facilitate the UK Government's ambition for 50GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD): a trenchless method of installing underground cables using a drill.

Intertidal zone: the area where the sea meets the land between high and low tides.

Landfall: the point at which the cables transferring power from an offshore windfarm reach the shore.

Life cycle: the sequence of phases through which a project progresses. It includes initiation, planning, execution, and closure.

Marine Directorate: responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Mean high water springs (MHWS): the average tidal height throughout the year of two successive high waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its greatest.

Mean low water springs (MLWS): the average tidal height throughout the year of two successive low waters during those periods of 24 hours when the range of the tide is at its least.

Net zero emissions: a position where total greenhouse gas emissions would be equal to the emissions removed from the atmosphere, with the aim of limiting global warming and resultant climate change.

Offshore cables: these are electrical power cables that are installed offshore, buried in or laid on the seabed between the wind turbines, and then run the electrical power cables from the wind turbines to the offshore substation and from there to the landfall(s).

Offshore platform: a concrete, steel or hybrid substructure that is fixed to the seabed and supports offshore infrastructure above the sea surface.

Offshore substation: an offshore platform containing electrical equipment that collects energy generated from wind turbines and prepares it for transmission to shore via cables.

Onshore substation: the substation on land that connects the power transmitted from the offshore substation to the national grid. The onshore substation may change the electricity voltage to the voltage level required for the national grid connection.

Renewable electricity: also known as green electricity or clean electricity, it is electrical power generated from renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro or solar.

Scoping Report: a document that sets out the project's understanding of consenting requirements and what the project intends the Environmental Impact Assessment report to cover.

ScotWind leasing process: process led by Crown Estate Scotland to enable developers to apply for seabed rights to plan and build windfarms in Scottish waters.

Service Operation Vessel (SOV): a specialised ship designed to support the maintenance and operation of offshore wind farms. These vessels act as a floating base, providing accommodation, workshops, and transportation for technicians and equipment to and from wind turbines.

Socio-economic benefits: the positive outcomes from the project for society and the economy, such as job creation, local investment, reduced carbon emissions and environmental improvement.

Supply chain: the network of companies and activities involved in producing and delivering everything needed for the windfarm, from manufacturing the wind turbines and cables to construction and maintenance.

Supply chain stimulus fund: helps to stimulate economic growth and job creation within the supply chain by encouraging investment and development.

Transformer: an item of electrical equipment, contained in a substation that is used to change the voltage for power transmission and distribution at different levels.

Switchgear: the electrical equipment used in substations to manage and control the flow of electricity.

Water Framework Directive (WFD): is a European Directive which introduces a planning process to manage, protect and improve the water environment. Under the WFD, water bodies are defined as discrete and significant elements of surface water (like rivers, lakes, and estuaries) or groundwater, used as the basic units for assessing and improving water quality.

Wind turbines: the infrastructure that collects the wind energy and converts it into electricity for connection to the power networks. Each wind turbine consists of a number of blades that connect to a rotor hub, which rotates an electrical generator.



For illustrative purposes only.



6.2 Banners

Welcome

Welcome to MarramWind's third round of statutory consultation.

This is an opportunity to find out more about the project's progress and share your views. The consultation is open from 18 August until 11:59pm on 9 September 2025.

About MarramWind

ScottishPower and Shell have joined forces to develop MarramWind, a proposed floating offshore windfarm.

- MarramWind is located approximately 75km off the north-east coast of Aberdeenshire.
- The wind turbines will be easily visible from shore.
- One of the world's largest floating offshore windfarms in development.
- It has the potential to deliver up to 3 gigawatts (GW) of renewable electricity enough energy to power the equivalent of more than 3.5 million homes.
- The project will be built in three phases. If approved, phase one would go in operation by the early to mid 2030s.

As world-leading energy developers, we bring together decades of experience working offshore, a long history of working in Scotland, and an innovative approach to delivering offshore energy projects.

Supporting net zero targets

The energy generated by MarramWind will play an important role in achieving Scottish and UK net zero targets for 2045 and 2050 respectively. Renewable energy produced by MarramWind will also support the UK's energy security and resilience.

About ScottishPower and Shell

ScottishPower and Shell have over 70 years' combined experience in Scotland's offshore environment, with over 50 years' experience offshore in the North Sea. We also have over 15 years of combined experience in floating offshore wind energy.

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Project Programme

Our priority is to deliver a project that increases renewable energy generation for Scotland and the UK while minimising impacts on local communities and the environment.

2022
ScottishPower and Shell were awarded rights to develop a wind farm in the North Sea, 75km off the north-east coast of Aberdeenshire. The project is now in the planning and consent stage.

2023
The MarramWind Supply Chain was announced. The Supply Chain is available on the project website: www.marramwind.co.uk

2024
A Public Consultation was held to hear about the project. A Supply Chain was also announced. A Supply Chain was also announced to hear about the project. A Supply Chain was also announced to hear about the project.

2025
Two additional rounds of public consultation to hear about the project. A Supply Chain was also announced to hear about the project. A Supply Chain was also announced to hear about the project.

2026
Submission of final project consent applications to the relevant authorities. A Supply Chain was also announced to hear about the project. A Supply Chain was also announced to hear about the project.

2028
First generation of power from phase 1.

Early 2030s
Start of phase 2 construction subject to consent.

Early to mid 2030s
First generation of power from phase 1.

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The Consenting Process

MarramWind is a National Development, which means the need for the project has been identified through government policy. As with all developments of this kind, planning permissions, consents, and licences are required for the project's construction and operation.

We will need to make separate applications for the following parts of the project:

Offshore

- Windfarm site - Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. Granted by the Marine Directorate on behalf of Scottish Ministers.
- Installation of cables or other infrastructure on or within the seabed - Marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (6-12 nautical miles, Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (12-200 nautical miles).

Onshore

- Planning permission - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (TCPA), granted by Aberdeenshire Council.

We are also undertaking:

- An **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**, which assesses how the project will affect the environment and outlines proposed mitigations.
- A **Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)** to understand the project's impact on protected wildlife habitats and the species these support.

More information on the EIA and HRA can be found in the consultation booklet.

We are dedicated to undertaking engagement and consultation to help us understand your views, refine the project's design and inform our ongoing EIA work, as well as fulfilling relevant planning requirements.

The diagram below shows the different consents we need to apply for along with the associated offshore and onshore infrastructure.

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Offshore Infrastructure

The offshore infrastructure includes floating wind turbines, mooring and anchoring systems, offshore platforms, and cables.

Electricity transmission

Energy generated by our turbines will be transferred by cable to the onshore substation site and the national grid. We are currently reviewing different technology options including:

- High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)
- High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)
- A combination of the two.

Floating wind turbines

The turbine models have not been chosen yet because turbine technology is advancing quickly. In total, the windfarm is expected to have:

- Between 126 and 225 turbines.
- Turbines with an individual capacity of between 14MW and 25MW.
- A blade tip height up to 360m from the water's surface.
- A minimum 22m clearance between the blades and Mean High Water Springs.

Lighting will be installed on the turbines and floating units for navigational and aviation safety.

Offshore platforms and substations

Offshore platforms house electrical infrastructure and connect the cables between the turbines with the cables that will transmit electricity to shore.

Up to four substations within the array area could be needed, depending on the type of energy transmission (HVAC or HVDC) and the layout of the windfarm site.

Offshore cables

Cables will transmit electricity from the windfarm to the onshore substation site to connect to the national grid. The maximum offshore export cable length is 130-140km, depending on the precise locations of the landfall and the offshore substation. These cables will be buried 1-2m (where possible) below the seabed.

In the few areas where cables cannot be buried, other methods will be used to protect them. This may include rock armour or concrete mattresses.

Mooring and anchoring systems

Each turbine will sit on a floating unit, held in place by a mooring and anchoring system, possible options include (as shown in Figure below):

- Catenary moorings are more slack than other options, which is good for an area where the water depth changes but this option can affect the seabed more.
- Taut line moorings are the tightest, which is good for stabilising the turbine and they take up less seabed space.
- Semi-taut moorings are a combination of both.

The decision on the most appropriate options will take place after further design development.

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Offshore Project Updates

Since our last public consultation, we have been working to refine our offshore project design. Key updates include refinement of the project boundary as well as further assessment of the landfall options.

Windfarm site

The windfarm site is 694km² and has water depths ranging between 67m and 134m. Work is ongoing to determine the size, layout and location of the required infrastructure. We are considering environmental sensitivities, marine users, seabed conditions, water depths, and the presence of existing infrastructure. The layouts are also being reviewed to enable co-existence with other planned energy projects in the region.



Offshore cable corridor

Since our last consultation, the offshore search area for cables and infrastructure has been refined to an offshore export cable corridor.

Work is ongoing to identify the best route for the offshore cables between the windfarm site and landfall on the coast. We are engaging closely with stakeholders to understand what we can do to reduce effects and maintain navigational safety.

We have also introduced a search area for up to two Flexible Compensation Platforms (FCPs). If HVAC technology is chosen, FCPs could be required at the approximate mid-point between the offshore substation and the onshore substation site to house electrical equipment needed to stabilise the voltage of the electricity generated over long distances.



Landfall

Sandford Bay was removed as a landfall option following stakeholder feedback and further environmental and technical assessments. Key reasons include its proximity to the Buran Ness to Collieston Coast SPA, a protected seabird breeding area, and the presence of other nearby projects limiting space for cable routing and infrastructure.

The landfall options being considered are:

- Lunderston, north of Peterhead
 - Scotsway Beach, north of Peterhead
- Our preferred option is to have one landfall for the project however both Scotsway and Lunderston landfall locations will be considered in the EIA, and a final decision on the preferred solution will be based on:
- coordination with other developments in the area; and
 - space for cables and onshore infrastructure.
- Once the preferred landfall(s) have been confirmed, the landfall site(s) will be further refined to identify where the offshore cables will come onshore.



Onshore Infrastructure

The onshore infrastructure includes an onshore substation site and onshore cables. The onshore cables run from landfall(s) to the onshore substation site and subsequently to the point of connection at the proposed SSE Netherthorn Hub substation. This point of connection was confirmed by National Grid in their Holistic Network Design (HND) report.

Onshore cables

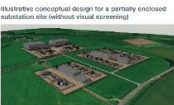
- Laid underground within a cable-carrying duct to a maximum depth of 1.5m.
- Access points along the route for maintenance during operation.
- Temporary cable construction corridor width.
- Approximately 60m, from landfall to the onshore substation site.
- Approximately 3km, from the onshore substation site to SSE's Netherthorn Hub.
- After construction, permanent access rights will be required for future maintenance.

Onshore substation site

The onshore substation site is a key part of the project that helps get the electricity generated from the windfarm onto the national grid. The substation changes the voltage of the electricity to the level required for the national grid.

The Project requires three onshore substations co-located on one site. There will be one onshore substation built for each of the three project phases. Each onshore substation will be constructed to align with the phased energisation of the windfarm.

Work is ongoing to identify the best technical and environmental solutions, which will determine final equipment requirements and the substation's size.



What will it look like?

The substation site will be fully or partially enclosed, as shown by the illustrative images below (images are not site specific and indicative only and will include electrical equipment outdoors or indoor buildings).

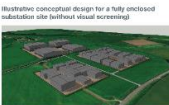
- Some of the main equipment includes:
- Transformers - changes the voltage level.
 - Switchgear - helps connect and disconnect the circuits from the electricity network.
 - Converters - if needed, to convert HVDC electricity to HVAC.

Anticipated substation site layout and dimensions

- Infrastructure height: up to 30m high, although the infrastructure will vary in height across the site.
- Site: up to 15 hectares of land.
- Temporary construction area: up to 31 hectares.
- Additional land may be needed for drainage, environmental mitigation and landscaping subject to substation site design.

Substation site screening

Strategic tree planting will be used to reduce the visual impact of the substation site. This will create a green buffer, helping to support local wildlife and improve air quality.



Onshore Project Updates

We have been carrying out work to identify the onshore cable corridor and onshore substation site. Since our last consultation, we have selected a preferred onshore substation site which has enabled refinement of the possible cable corridors.

Onshore cable corridor

Selection of onshore substation site B means that the onshore cable corridor will run north of Peterhead from either or both remaining landfalls.

At our last consultation in 2024, we presented two onshore cable corridor search areas – a preferred route and an alternative route. We have since discounted the alternative cable corridor route following stakeholder feedback and further assessment of local environmental and technical constraints.

This is shown on the onshore project search area boundary map.



Onshore project search area boundary map showing primary and alternative cable corridor

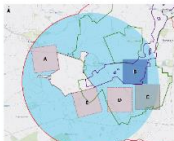
Engaging with other developers

We're aware of the scale of energy projects planned around Peterhead and so we're actively working with other developers to coordinate efforts and reduce impacts on local communities and the environment.

Onshore substation site

During our last public consultation period in 2024, we presented two shortlisted substation site options B and C. Based on stakeholder feedback and other environmental and technical factors, such as reducing proximity to properties and better access to the A950, we have now selected site B as the preferred site for the construction and operation of the onshore substation.

During our next round of statutory consultation and in the EIA, we will provide a detailed overview of the steps taken at each stage of the landfall site selection process, and why site B is our preferred option.



Map showing onshore substation search area around the proposed SSE Netherthorn Hub

Our approach includes:

- Early collaboration with other developers to align plans and avoid overlapping infrastructure.
- Proactive discussions to ensure developments are sensitive to local communities and the environment.

We're also part of the Peterhead Developers Forum, which brings together projects in offshore wind, carbon capture and storage and electricity networks. This helps us share ideas, align plans, and address local issues. We're committed to open communication and working together to make sure all projects are technically sound and benefit the region.



How will MarramWind be built?

Construction is anticipated to start in the 2030s, subject to consent. Due to the project's size, construction will involve a phased approach over 8-12 years. This timeline will be refined as the project progresses.

Our priority is to minimise the effects of construction on communities and the environment.

Offshore

Windfarm site

- An exclusion zone(s) will be established during construction and decommissioning to protect operations and other marine users. The extent will depend on operational needs and input from stakeholders. Since the project will be built in phases, the full site won't be closed off during construction.

Cables

- Before installation, the seabed will be prepared and cleared of obstacles.
- The cables will be laid 1-2m beneath the seabed by cable laying vessels.
- The cables will be buried where possible or protected using other methods, such as rock armour or concrete mattresses.

Wind turbine installation

- It is expected that the wind turbines will be assembled onto their floating unit at a port and then towed to site, although advanced technology could mean they are installed directly onto the floating unit offshore.

- Once on site, the turbine will be connected to the pre-installed anchor and mooring system.

Worker accommodation

- Crew will typically be accommodated on onboard vessels, such as construction vessels & service operation vessels, but may also be housed on walk-to-work vessels or jack-ups, more likely associated with substation commissioning, operation and maintenance.

Substation

- Offshore substation foundations will be built near a port and transported to site using specialist heavy lift vessels. Once installed on the seabed, platform topologies (substations and infrastructure) will be filled into place.

Landfall

- Cables at landfall(s) will be installed using a trenchless method, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise environmental impacts.
- Maximum width of and use at shoreline to install the cables: 345m.
- Up to six underground transition point bays (concrete chambers), where the offshore and onshore cables connect.
- A temporary onshore construction compound (location to be determined).

Onshore

Cable infrastructure will include:

- Temporary cable construction corridor for construction traffic access, assembly, trench excavation and storage (typically up to 60m wide and up to 300m for access at crossings and avoidance of obstacles).
- Up to three primary and six temporary construction compounds for the construction of joint bays and underground cable installation, consisting of welfare facilities, storage, accommodation building materials, parking, and site offices.
- Underground cables and ducts will either be installed directly in trenches or placed as ducts first, allowing cables to be pulled through later without re-excavation.
- Trenchless construction methods such as HDD to cross sensitive features, (e.g. watercourses, roads or railways).
- Temporary access routes for construction vehicles.

Substation site infrastructure will include:

- Site preparation works, installation of various infrastructure, drainage, environmental mitigation and landscaping.
- Permanent access roads and temporary construction compound, which will be dismantled and the land reinstated when the construction work is complete.
- Construction vehicles include HGVs, concrete mixer trucks and vans. There will be a small number of abnormal loads for large electrical equipment.
- Worker accommodation
- Accommodation requirements are not yet determined but the potential effects on local community facilities and services will be assessed as part of a socio-economic impact assessment to mitigate any potential effects on the community.



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Feedback from Statutory Consultation 2

We held two rounds of statutory consultation in 2024, with approximately 300 people participating in our in-person events, virtual exhibition space, and online Q&As. Our project team has reviewed and analysed the feedback from our last round of consultation held between 9 October and 19 November 2024 to guide the next steps in refining and developing the project. A summary of the feedback and our responses is included below.

Key themes & our responses	MarramWind response
Localities & Access <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Offshore Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Benefits and Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Construction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Landscape and Visual <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Wildlife and Habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.
Consultation and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.• Clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery, to help local communities understand the project and its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.• A dedicated team to provide local communities with clear information on the project and its location, including maps and aerial imagery.



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MarramWind

Creating a Lasting Legacy for Communities

As one of the world's largest floating offshore wind farms in development, MarramWind presents an opportunity to generate social, economic, and environmental value, particularly for communities in the North-East of Scotland.

Clean Energy, Local Benefits

The value to the local area will be in the form of:

- Jobs and contracts during development, construction, and operation.
- Investment in local infrastructure and skills.
- A Community benefit fund once the wind farm is operational.

We're committed to leaving as much of the project's value as possible in Scotland and the UK, while ensuring cost-effective delivery.

To date, over 50% of MarramWind's total supply chain expenditure goes with UK regulated companies, including over 40% with Scotland registered companies. The project intends to maintain ambitious levels of Scottish and UK supply chain expenditure, as set out in our Supply Chain Development Statement, which is due to be updated in 2025.

Supporting Supply Chain Development

Since securing development rights for MarramWind in 2022, we've taken several steps to promote supply chain opportunities and broader development, including:

- Hosting a supply chain event in Peterhead with DecWind in May 2023.
- Engaging with companies at national and regional industry conferences.
- Launching the enhanced MarramWind Supplier Interest Portal (July 2024).
- Supporting Scotland's Strategic Investment Model for infrastructure investment.
- Contributing to a SCWEC study on offshore wind socioeconomic benefits.
- Collaborating with Scotland's enterprise agencies.
- Ongoing engagement with public and private sector partners to grow the offshore wind industry.



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MarramWind

Environmental Impact Assessment

Before building MarramWind, we must assess how it could affect the environment and local communities.

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

The EIA helps identify and reduce potential impacts and is essential for Aberdeen City Council and the Marine Directorate to make informed decisions on project approval. Our detailed EIA will be split into two reports:

- **Onshore:** covering cables and substations
- **Offshore:** covering turbines and electrical transmission infrastructure and related equipment.

Approach to Assessments

In January 2025, we submitted our EIA Scoping Report to Aberdeen City Council and the Marine Directorate. This outlined the environmental assessments we plan to carry out. Feedback from the Council, Scottish Ministers, and other stakeholders has helped refine our approach.

Key steps we've taken:

- Submitted Scoping Report - available at www.marramwind.co.uk
- Conducted extensive surveys to understand current environmental conditions
- Shared emerging baseline data where available
- Engaged with key stakeholders to shape our assessments and meet expectations

We aim to:

- Identify and minimise significant effects
- Avoid impacts where possible
- Propose mitigation measures

More details can be found in our consultation booklet.



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MarramWind

Have Your Say

Stakeholder engagement and consultation is a critical part of the development of MarramWind. We are committed to developing an offshore wind farm in a considered way that is sensitive to the needs and expectations of local stakeholders and communities.

Consultation event

We will be holding a public consultation event. Members of our project team will be available to provide more information and answer any questions. The event takes place on:

- **Wednesday 27 August 2025, 2pm-7pm**
Palace Hotel, Prince St, Peterhead AB42 1PL

Providing your feedback

We want to hear your views as your feedback is important to us and will help inform our plans for the project.

You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

- Online, using the feedback form on our website: www.marramwind.co.uk
- Email us your comments at: stakeholder@marramwind.com
- Fill in a paper feedback form, available at our in-person event and at Peterhead Library.
- Write to us at FREEPOST MarramWind.

The consultation is open from **18 August 2025 until 9 September 2025**. Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered. We cannot respond to every response received individually.

Next steps

Feedback from this consultation will help further refine the project:

- design considerations
- approaches to mitigating likely effects; and
- socio-economic opportunities.

After a final statutory consultation period planned for later this year, we intend to submit consent applications to Aberdeen City Council and the Marine Directorate by the end of 2025.

Finding out more

All information related to the proposals is on our website: www.marramwind.co.uk.

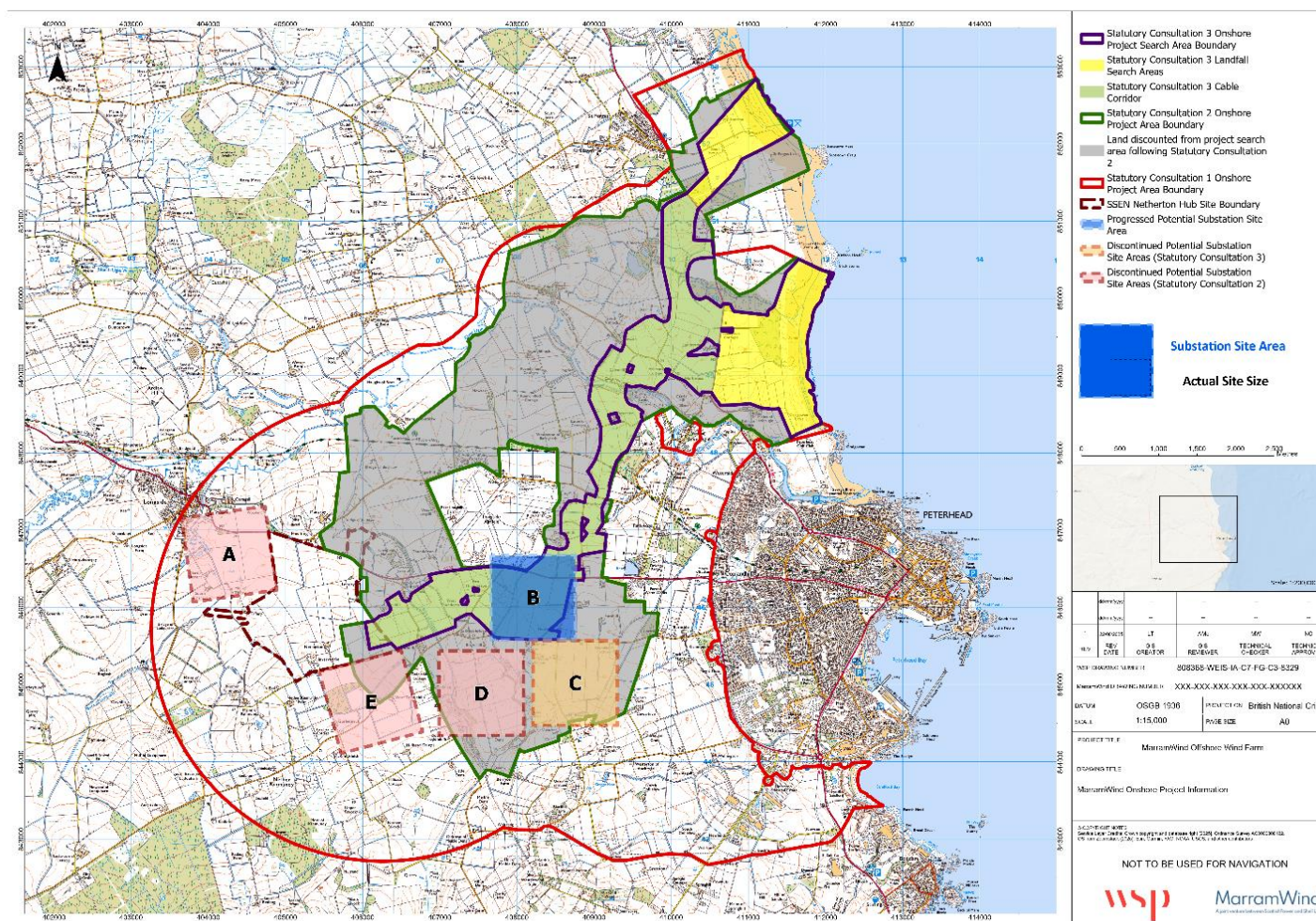
If you have any questions, including requesting materials in an alternative format, you can email stakeholder@marramwind.com.



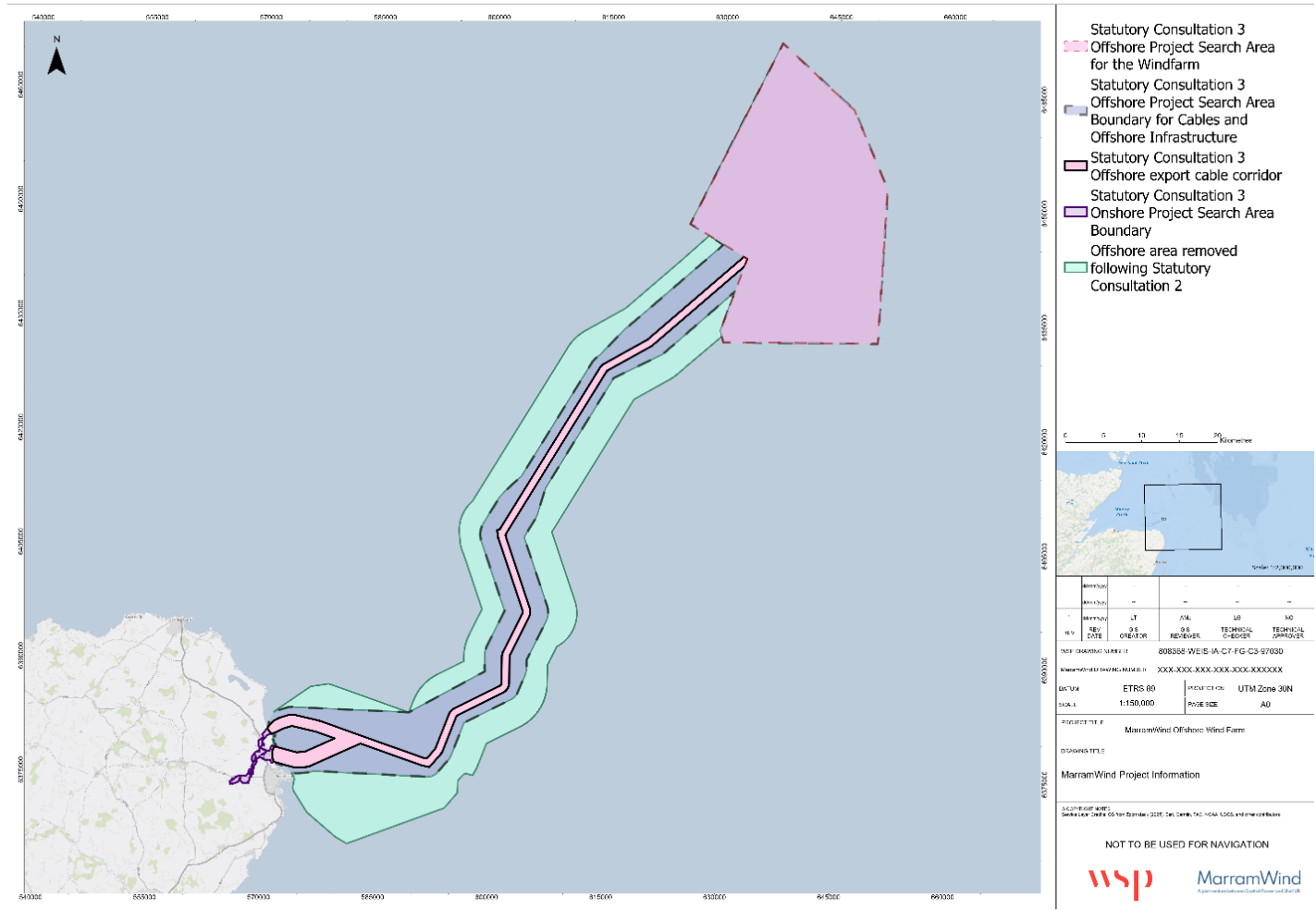
marramwind.co.uk

6.3 Maps

6.3.1 MarramWind Onshore Project Information



6.3.2 MarramWind Project Information



6.4 Questionnaire

02/09/2025, 15:06

MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Statutory Consultation Three Feedback Form



MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Statutory Consultation Three Feedback Form

Thank you for taking the time to consider our updated proposals for the MarramWind Offshore Windfarm. Please read the MarramWind Consultation Booklet as a supporting document before you complete this feedback form; this booklet is available from the MarramWind website (www.marramwind.com). Please complete this feedback form by **11:59pm on 9 September 2025**

Following the submission of our consent applications, you will have further opportunity to make representations to Aberdeenshire Council and the Marine Directorate, who will determine whether to grant permission and other required consents for the Project. If you have any further questions or feedback about this consultation or the project, please email: stakeholder@marramwind.com

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

MarramWind Onshore and Offshore project considerations

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Offshore wind will play a crucial role in addressing the worst impacts relating to climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offshore wind can bring a range of economic benefits to Scotland and the UK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

02/09/2025, 15:06

MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Statutory Consultation Three Feedback Form

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Offshore wind has a significant role to play in the future of Scotland and the UK's energy security and affordability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. What impact do you think the MarramWind could have on the below topics? Please explain your reasoning in the box provided in Q3

	Positive impact	No impact	Negative impact	Not sure
Commercial fisheries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife and natural environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jobs and the local economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Landscape views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community wellbeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local infrastructure and transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Please explain the reason/s for your answers to Question 2

Enter your answer

02/09/2025, 15:06

MarramWind Offshore Windfarm Statutory Consultation Three Feedback Form

4. Do you have any comments to make on the offshore aspects of our proposed project?

Enter your answer

5. Depending on the technology used, the project may require up to two Reactive Compensation Platforms (RCPs) located at the approximate mid-point between the offshore substation and the onshore substation site. What considerations should we take into account if we need to install this infrastructure?

Enter your answer

6. Do you have any comments to make on the onshore aspects of our proposed project?

Enter your answer

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6.5 Applicant's Response to Feedback received

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
Offshore Infrastructure	Asked why the onshore substation cannot be kept offshore as well.	Offshore-generated power must come onshore to meet demand. The onshore grid connection location was determined by the National Electricity System Operator (NESO) through its Holistic Network Design study, which identified the most efficient and cost-effective grid entry points for offshore wind developers. Offshore HVDC interconnectors will then route power from Peterhead to North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, removing the need for extensive onshore infrastructure to be built.
Benefits and Opportunities	Concern that post construction, the project will create minimal jobs and community benefit long term.	The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the wind farm delivers long-term value to the North East of Scotland and the wider UK. The growth of offshore wind will create new career opportunities for those entering the job market or pursuing a new career, especially for those transitioning from oil and gas. We are actively working with educational institutions to promote STEM subjects and raise awareness of offshore wind careers. We also plan to expand our support for initiatives like the National Energy Skills Accelerator and explore partnerships to offer re-skilling and training opportunities for local residents.
	Suggestion that local people should be offered the chance to re-skill or train in order to gain employment in the construction or operating phase. Partnerships should be entertained sooner rather than later.	<p>We recognise the importance of early engagement with education and skills providers to help ensure that communities can benefit from the long-term opportunities the project may bring.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to delivering local value, we have signed an MoU with the National Energy Skills Accelerator and are exploring partnerships with skills and education institutions to identify relevant pathways. We agree that these partnerships should be developed early, and we are actively working to establish connections that will support workforce readiness ahead of the project's delivery phase.</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
	Request that MarramWind work with the neighbourhood board and Port Authority	<p>The Applicant is committed to building strong relationships with local organisations and stakeholders to ensure the project is developed in a way that reflects community priorities and supports regional infrastructure.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with key local bodies to explore opportunities for collaboration throughout the planning, construction, and operational phases of the project. Early and ongoing dialogue will be essential to identifying shared goals and ensuring that local expertise informs decision-making.</p>
Construction	Concern that the roads surrounding the substation cannot handle construction traffic.	<p>We understand concerns about the capacity of local roads to accommodate construction traffic associated with the proposed onshore substations. A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council. This plan will outline measures to mitigate temporary traffic impacts, particularly during peak morning and evening periods.</p> <p>These measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating acceptable access routes for construction traffic; • Identifying restricted time windows for HGV deliveries to avoid peak traffic periods; • Implementing a delivery booking system to prevent convoy arrivals; • Providing a suitably sized on-site storage area to reduce delivery frequency through material stockpiling; • Establishing access arrangements to minimise delays and disruption; and • Encouraging car sharing among construction workers to reduce the number of employee vehicles.
	Request that infrastructure is built on wasteland, turning something useless into something beneficial. Request not to destroy farmland.	<p>As part of our comprehensive site selection process, we carefully assessed a range of factors, including environmental impact, land use, and technical feasibility. We understand the importance of preserving productive farmland and share the community's interest in making use of underutilised land</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
		where possible. Accordingly, we remain committed to minimising the footprint of the onshore substations and implementing robust mitigation measures to reduce environmental effects, including any potential impact on farmland.
Landscape and visual	Concern that 30m high buildings and 40+ acres of infrastructure will damage the landscape.	<p>The Applicant is undertaking a full landscape and visual impact assessment, with input from experienced landscape architects who have helped guide both site selection and design.</p> <p>The proposed onshore substation site location has been chosen to minimise proximity to residential properties. In addition, the A950 corridor—characterised by a mix of development and industrial features—offers a more compatible setting for the infrastructure compared to other site options.</p> <p>Importantly, the site also presents strong potential for visual screening. A detailed viewpoint analysis has been carried out to inform design decisions aimed at avoiding or reducing landscape and visual effects. As part of our mitigation strategy, we will implement a landscape masterplan that includes native planting to screen the development. This will not only help integrate the onshore substations into the surrounding environment but also enhance local biodiversity and landscape character over time.</p> <p>Architectural techniques will also be employed to ensure the onshore substations' appearance complements their surroundings, through careful selection of colour, materials, and detailing. These design choices aim to present a coordinated, high-quality visual response that reflects the project's modern and responsible approach.</p>
	Concern that the development is large and intrusive. Concern about the noise generated by the onshore infrastructure. Request for serious effort to mitigate the impact on local amenity.	<p>During the construction and decommissioning stages of the Project, activities such as excavation and construction traffic may generate noise and vibration. These phases will be relatively short-term, and the Applicant will implement appropriate mitigation measures through a Construction Environmental Management Plan to minimise disruption.</p> <p>In addition, we are undertaking a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment to understand and address potential effects on local amenity. As</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
		part of our commitment to reducing visual impact, we are exploring the use of tree planting and other natural screening methods to help integrate the onshore substations into the surrounding environment. Strategically placed vegetation can create a green buffer that softens views and enhances the landscape over time.
	Concern about the cumulative impacts of substations and Battery Energy Storage Sites (BESS) sites. Asked if the accumulated effects are being considered.	<p>The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Project will include a thorough evaluation of cumulative effects, considering other existing and proposed infrastructure projects in the area.</p> <p>In line with best practice, the Applicant is applying the 'mitigation hierarchy' to address potential environmental impacts in a structured and responsible way—starting with avoidance, followed by prevention, reduction/mitigation, and, where necessary, offsetting. These embedded mitigation measures are being integrated into the project design and will be detailed in a Commitments Register, which will accompany the consenting applications.</p>
Fishing	Concerns about how the cables might affect lobster, velvet crab and brown crab fishing with cables coming ashore around Peterhead.	The EIA will evaluate potential effects on marine species along the offshore cable corridor, including habitat disturbance, sediment release, and electromagnetic fields. We are engaging with fishing groups to understand concerns and will develop a Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP) to guide monitoring and mitigation efforts. This plan will be informed by data from vessel tracking, guard vessel observations, and stakeholder input.
	Concern that the project will disturb the seabed and pollute the waters.	<p>The mooring and anchoring systems for MarramWind are being carefully selected to minimise environmental impact. These systems will comply with all relevant regulations, including those related to navigational safety, and will take into account potential effects on the seabed and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Prior to the installation of offshore cables, the seabed will be surveyed and prepared to remove obstacles such as debris and boulders. Wherever feasible, cables will be buried 1–2 metres beneath the seabed using specialised cable-laying vessels. This approach helps to minimise disruption to marine habitats.</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
		<p>The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also consider alternative methods, such as rock placement in nearshore areas, where burial may not be suitable. These options will be discussed further with fishing groups and other stakeholders during the design phase to ensure that local knowledge and concerns are fully considered.</p>
	Request that landing data be collected before and after cables are laid to see if there is any effect on fishery.	<p>To ensure a thorough understanding of commercial fishing activity in the region, MarramWind has maintained structured and ongoing engagement with the fishing industry. This includes meetings with the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA), and individual inshore fishers. These discussions have provided valuable insights into productive fishing grounds for scalloping, lobster potting, and trawling for white fish and prawns. Stakeholders have also raised specific interest in the potential influence of electromagnetic fields (EMF) from buried subsea cables on crustacean distribution.</p> <p>To support continued collaboration and address potential impacts, a Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP) will be developed and submitted alongside the Application for Consent. This plan will outline the approach to monitoring and mitigating potential effects on commercial fisheries from both the export cable and the offshore wind farm.</p> <p>The FMMCP will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of fisheries landing statistics; • Analysis of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data; • Incorporation of inshore VMS (iVMS) data as it becomes available across Scottish vessels; • Records of observation from Guard Vessels, where available; • Information gathered by the Fisheries Liaison Officer; • Additional data sources identified through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. <p>The impact assessment will inform the development of further mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the fishing sector. The FMMCP will</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
		<p>be prepared in close consultation with industry representatives, including the SFF, the Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA), and the SPFA, to ensure that industry perspectives are fully considered.</p> <p>Any requirement for species-specific surveys—before or after construction—will be guided by advice from the Marine Directorate and NatureScot, and may be included as part of the consent conditions.</p>
	Concern that the seabed will be disturbed and may impact shellfish populations and fishery activity and request to survey shellfish beds.	<p>MarramWind recognises the need for robust data to monitor potential cumulative effects on shellfish stocks and catch rates. To understand more about the potential impact of subsea cables on shellfish populations, the Applicant has commissioned a strategic creel study focused on the Peterhead nearshore area. The aim of the study is to establish a high-resolution baseline of crab and lobster fisheries to provide a credible evidence base for future assessments of potential impacts of offshore wind on inshore fisheries activity.</p> <p>We will look to engage other developers and local fisheries groups to shape the survey design, identify priority grounds, participate in data collection, and validate results. This ensures local knowledge directly informs the process. MarramWind is committed to transparency, with regular updates, feedback opportunities, and joint review sessions so fishers can see their input reflected in outcomes.</p>
Wildlife and Habitats	<p>Concern that 40+ acres of land will permanently be lost due to the construction of the substation.</p> <p>Concern that wildlife will be affected.</p>	<p>Over the past two years, the Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive ecological assessment, combining desk-based research with extensive field surveys. These include two years of breeding and wintering geese surveys, as well as data collection on protected species such as otters, water voles, bats, and fish habitats.</p> <p>Wherever possible, we will avoid areas identified as resting, roosting, commuting, or foraging sites for protected or notable species, and take into account sensitive seasonal periods to minimise disturbance.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant has developed a Nature Positive Strategy (NPS), which outlines how biodiversity will be measured, monitored, and enhanced</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
		throughout the project. This strategy will inform the creation of a Nature Positive Plan (NPP), detailing the specific measures to be implemented, tracked, and reported across the project lifecycle.
Statutory Consultation and Engagement	Concern that residents near the proposed substation have not been contacted.	<p>Ensuring that all stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on our proposals is important to us and we are committed to making consultation accessible and visible to everyone. During each round of statutory consultation, we implemented comprehensive promotional campaigns that exceeded statutory requirements.</p> <p>This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverts and public notices in the Buchan Observer and Press & Journal in the weeks leading up to the consultation launch and events; • Digital adverts on the Buchan Observer's website; • Updates via the MarramWind website and social media channels; • A two-week radio advert on Original 106, the local radio station; • Posters displayed in local public buildings; • Emails and letters sent to statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, including Community Councils, Councilors, Members of Parliament (MP), and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP); <p>Leaflets hand-delivered to properties within and neighbouring the project boundary.</p>
	Concern that questions raised at previous consultations had not been answered at this one. Concern that this is a 'tickbox' exercise	<p>We are committed to meaningful engagement and transparency throughout the development of the Project. Following each round of statutory consultation, we have produced a "You Said, We Did" document to respond to the feedback received. Nearly 300 people from Aberdeenshire, representing a range of backgrounds and interests, participated and provided valuable input. This feedback has directly influenced project decisions, including the refinement of onshore substation site and landfall site selection—such as the decision to discount Sandford Bay as a landfall option.</p>

Topic	Nature of comment	The Applicant's response
		All feedback from our statutory consultation activities in 2024 and 2025 will be presented in a Pre-Application Consultation Report, covering both onshore and offshore elements of the project. This report will detail how stakeholder input has been considered and will be published as part of our consent application.

MarramWind

